



Rupa Venkatesh
Assistant City Manager
City of Fort Collins
300 LaPorte Ave.
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

November 11, 2025

**RE: Poudre River Public Library District Board Appointment recommendations:
Alyssa Acevedo and Jaclyn Menendez**

Dear Ms. Venkatesh,

Poudre Libraries has **two (2) openings on its Board of Trustees**: both are mid-term vacancies of varying term lengths. One seat was vacated by Anuja Riles who stepped down this past August due to other time commitments. The remainder of Riles' term runs through March 2026. The second seat will be vacated by Josh Fudge after December 31, 2025 due to his election to Fort Collins City Council. The remainder of Fudge's term runs through March 2028.

The Board received 103 applications and interviewed six excellent candidates. The Board of Trustees would like to recommend the following for Library Board appointments:

1. **Alyssa Acevedo** to complete Anuja Riles' unfinished term, beginning January 12, 2026, and ending March 31, 2026. Per the Board of Trustees Bylaws, Acevedo can be considered for reappointment to two, full 4-year terms after March 31, 2026.
2. **Jaclyn Menendez** to fill Josh Fudge's unfinished term, beginning January 12, 2026, and ending March 31, 2028. Per the Board of Trustees Bylaws, Menendez can be considered for reappointment to one additional, 4-year term after March 31, 2028.

Ms. Acevedo is a teacher at Rocky Mountain High School and is working toward a master's degree in city planning, both urban and rural. She believes that it is "important for everyone in the Fort Collins community to have equitable access to information, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities." Acevedo envisions a Library District that will keep evolving with our changing environment by continuing to be "an inclusive, innovative, and accessible community hub...Gaps in access and representation will slowly close as the Library District continues to partner with local schools and community organizations, representing all people in our city."

Ms. Menendez believes the community's most pressing needs are "strengthening connection in an increasingly digital world and ensuring equitable access" to resources. She is an adjunct professor

at CSU and workplace psychologist who recently served as a board member on the City of Fort Collins' Disability Advisory Council.

The Library Board of Trustees respectfully requests that the City of Fort Collins City Council Members approve these appointments at its earliest convenience. We hope to seat the new members at our January 12, 2026 regular meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Corey Radman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Corey Radman, President, Board of Trustees

enclosed: Copy of Acevedo online application; Copy of Menedez online application

cc: Larimer County Board of Commissioners

Alyssa Acevedo

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Personal Summary

I am currently a social studies teacher at Rocky Mountain high school, I mainly teach Geography. My masters focused on city planning, both urban and rural. In my degree I have done some extensive research on Fort Collins comprehensive plan and the vision for the city's future. I think these attributes could be helpful to the board. As a person I am self-driven, ambitious, and a motivated person in all that I put my mind to. Some hobbies of mine include creating art, going into nature, and traveling. Lastly, I am proud of my culture as I am Apache Native American and Hispanic, this has been the foundational drive in building my career and guiding my research in my degrees.

Why do you want to become a member of the Library District Board of Trustees?

As I am finishing my masters program, I am looking to join a group to be part of my community. I think it would be a great opportunity for me to make positive and lasting change in our community while working with a community. This would be the first board I have joined, so I think it would be a great opportunity to try!

What do you consider to be the most important community needs? How can the Library District help meet those needs?

I believe that it is important for everyone in the Fort Collins community to have equitable access to information, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities. The city has been growing quickly and it is important that new residents, current residents, and the youth have accessible spaces to learn, connect, and feel supported. The Library district can help meet those needs by expanding outreach, digital literacy, and inclusive programming. Books are not the only focus of the Library District, they also bridge technology gaps, provide multilingual resources, and foster civic engagement. Providing opportunities for the youth and residents help strengthen the Library District's role as a cornerstone for education and connection.

What is your vision for the future of the Library District? What opportunities or challenges exist?

My vision for the Library District is that it will keep evolving to our changing environment by continuing to be an inclusive, innovative, and accessible community hub that connects people to books and other resources. Gaps in access and representation will slowly close as the Library District continues to partner with local schools and community organizations, representing all people in our city.

Describe any relevant experience that would make you a fit for the Board. This can include, but is not limited to, work/professional experience, volunteer service, previous roles on boards or committees, unique skills or training, and special interests.

As I stated earlier in the application, my research from my masters degree will help with the content piece of being a member of the Board. I also think being an educator in the community makes me a good fit for this position as I am passionate about education and equitable access to resources. At my high school, I am the Key Club advisor where students reach out to the community for volunteer opportunities, we are partnered with Kiwanis and work closely with them. I also am the sponsor for World Affairs Challenge, where I guide students to tackle a global issue in their local community. Also, I am very young and I think it would bring a useful and unique perspective to the Board.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime (except minor traffic offenses that resulted in only a fine)? If yes, please explain.

No.

Jaclyn Menendez

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Personal Summary

I'm a long-time resident here in Fort Collins, and I couldn't feel more grateful to call this town home. I came to CSU for my PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology back in 2010, and I wrote my dissertation on ways to encourage workplace accommodation discussions for folks with disabilities. Since then, I've been a board member with the City of Fort Collins, serving on the Disability Advisory Board for two consecutive two-year terms. I'm deeply passionate about engaging with community, and serving as a channel for those whose voices would otherwise go unheard. In my spare time, I love reading, rock climbing, hosting spelling bees with my friends (they are good sports about it!), and teaching at CSU as adjunct faculty in the psychology department. I have an amazing husband named Daniel and a sweet pup named Popcorn.

On a purely book-related note: I owe so much of my life's successes to the early and consistent exposure I had to my community library. My favorite books include *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Lonesome Dove*, *Still Life With Woodpecker*, *The Carpetmakers*, and *Matilda*. On the weekends, I love to visit the Old Town library and buy a few books from the used book section, then distribute them out to the "little libraries" around neighborhoods on my bike.

Why do you want to become a member of the Library District Board of Trustees?

I want to become a member of the Library District Board of Trustees because access to books for all community members is the most powerful tool for positive change in the world today! My lifelong passion is to make the good things in this world accessible to everyone. It would be an honor and a privilege to help further this mission at the library.

What do you consider to be the most important community needs? How can the Library District help meet those needs?

I believe Fort Collins' most pressing community needs are strengthening social connection in an increasingly digital world, and ensuring equitable access to the great resources we have here. The Library District is uniquely positioned to address both because it's one of the few public institutions that truly serves all: it reaches a broader cross-section of our community than almost any other place in town. I see real opportunities in this breadth: partnering with schools to bring library cards and resources directly to students who might not otherwise access them, creating intergenerational programs that bring teens and seniors together around shared interests like technology or storytelling, and ensuring our branches serve as genuine gathering spaces where a parent between jobs, a kid after school, and a retiree can all find what they need under one roof.

What is your vision for the future of the Library District? What opportunities or challenges exist?

My vision is for the Library District to become more efficient at connecting your excellent programs to the people who need them most, while staying nimble enough to evolve with changing community needs. The biggest challenge seems to be competition with a world where everything can happen from someone's couch, making it harder to give people a reason to show up or actively engage in learning. But the opportunity is just as real! There's growing hunger for authentic community and trusted institutions, especially here in Fort Collins. The Library District already has tremendous goodwill that no app can replicate. I see us leveraging that by streamlining how we promote and deliver programs to reach beyond our usual patrons, experimenting with partnerships that meet people where they are, and adapting our spaces and services while staying anchored to what libraries do best.

Describe any relevant experience that would make you a fit for the Board. This can include, but is not limited to, work/professional experience, volunteer service, previous roles on boards or committees, unique skills or training, and special interests.

Professional experience: As an adjunct professor and workplace psychologist, I stay current on trends that impact different generations and industries. This gives me a unique lens to translate the strategies that businesses use for recruitment/retention/engagement, and identify parallels for the library. I've also written for a craft beer magazine for the past decade, which keeps my passion for reading and writing sharp.

Volunteer service: I've spent four years on a City Council board, which has prepared me for the expectations and responsibilities of this role. I understand the work it requires and am genuinely eager to serve! I am also curious to see if some of the issues we have faced in the Disability Advisory Board have some parallel to the challenges facing the library: services being underutilized, no-to-low marketing due to lack of funds, strong motivation but scattered execution, etc. I'd be excited to share what worked (and what didn't) from that experience.

Unique skills/training: As a first-generation college graduate and a second-generation Cuban-American, I take pride in modeling for younger generations that someone with my background can hold professional positions and, yes, be a total nerd about libraries and learning.

Special interests: My husband is the dean for an alternative high school here in town, where he works tirelessly to help students foster a love of learning and increase their literacy. I would be thrilled to lean on him where appropriate to get his perspective on challenges for this demographic and ways that the library might better reach this population. Additionally, growing up with a family member who has a disability taught me that everyone, regardless of their starting point or the obstacles they face, has a fire inside to learn and grow. I consider it my life's purpose to keep that fire lit for as many people as possible.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime (except minor traffic offenses that resulted in only a fine)? If yes, please explain.

No.

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