

# New Regional Library

Presentation to Indian Affairs Committee

September 24, 2023 - Tammi Moe

# My story...

**TO HELP PRESERVE A CULTURAL HERITAGE SPANNING THOUSANDS OF YEARS, Tammi Moe travels distances spanning thousands of miles.**



**FOR TAMMI MOE, HISTORY IS A PASSION.** Since 2005, she has been leading Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar's efforts to create a visual research archive of Qatar's cultural history. When complete, this one-of-a-kind archive will be a valuable tool for researchers, scholars and students around the world. But in the meantime, Tammi continues to travel the globe collecting information and assembling one of the most extensive records ever created of the country's history.

Qatar Foundation is proud to be home to leaders like Tammi Moe. Together, we are making Qatar a center of knowledge that is helping the entire world move forward. Learn more about Tammi's work and discover the people of Qatar Foundation at [qfachievers.com](http://qfachievers.com).



## Tammi Moe focuses national spotlight on Octavia Fellin Public Library

Staff Reports

**C**HICAGO – When the American Library Association announced this year's 10 winners of the coveted I Love My Librarian Award on Jan. 7, Gallup's Octavia Fellin Public Library Director Tammi Moe was among them. Honorees are exceptional librarians from academic, public, and school libraries who were nominated by patrons nationwide for their expertise, dedication, and profound impact on the people in their communities.

Through forging partnerships with community organizations and city departments across Gallup, Moe expanded the library's reach beyond its walls. Under her leadership, the library has offered educational and thought-provoking programming covering historically-sensitive topics to the city's majority-indigenous American community with a presence at a variety of local events.

American Library Association President Patty Wong congratulated the



Octavia Fellin Public Library Director Tammi Moe

winners of the 2022 I Love My Librarian Award winners.

"Even in these unprecedented times, our nation's librarians continue to empower their patrons, promote inclusion in their space and collections, and provide essential services for their communities," Wong said.

ALA received more than 1,300 nominations from library users for this year's

**TAMMI MOE**  
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019

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## Distinguished Public Service awardees

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

**T**he Governor's New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Awards has selected 10 winners, including a Lifetime Achievement winner, the local founder of an international model to deliver and extend high-quality health care and other critical resources to the world's most vulnerable populations.

Dr. Sanjeev Arora of the University of New Mexico Hospital created Project ECHO in 2003, with an initial goal of helping thousands of New Mexicans with hepatitis C who were unable to get care.

Echo has expanded worldwide to cover more than 60 disease areas and complex issues, with 258 academic hubs and around 600 projects in 34 countries. The ECHO "hub-and-spoke" model links expert specialist teams at an academic hub with primary care clinicians in communities through "teleECHO" programs, according to Arora.

The project goal is to reach



Dr. Sanjeev Arora is a Lifetime Achievement winner in the Governor's Distinguished Public Service Awards.

1 billion people around the world.  
This year's other award winners, alphabetically, are:  
■ David Campbell of Rio Rancho.

■ John Heaton of Carlsbad.  
■ Joe Mauderly of Albuquerque.  
■ Tammi Moe of Gallup.  
■ Debbie Moore of Las Cruces.  
■ Alicia Ortega of Pojoaque

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Governor's NM Distinguished Public Service Awards banquet

**WHEN:** Nov. 13, a Wednesday, beginning at 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Marriott Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Rd NE

**COST:** \$75 per person, \$750 for a table of 10

**TICKETS:** visit [nmdpsa.eventbrite.com](http://nmdpsa.eventbrite.com)

**MORE INFO:** [www.nmdpsa.com](http://www.nmdpsa.com), or contact Sherman McCorkle at [sherman@smccorkle.org](mailto:sherman@smccorkle.org)

Pueblo.

■ Kyle Rhodes of Farmington/Bloomfield.  
■ Eliseo "Cheo" Torres of Albuquerque.  
■ Pat Vincent-Collawn of Albuquerque.

The awardees will be

See PROGRAM >> 4

**The Legislature of the State of New Mexico**  
FIFTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION, 2022  
The New Mexico State Senate,  
Having Learned of the Contributions of  
**TAMMI MOE**  
Does Hereby Extend its Appreciation; and

WHEREAS, Gallup Director of Libraries and Museums, Tammi Moe, has been chosen as one of ten recipients of the "I Love My Librarian Award", presented by the American Library Association; and

WHEREAS, Tammi was recognized for increasing community engagement at the Octavia Fellin Public Library; and

WHEREAS, the award winners were selected out of more than one thousand three hundred nominations submitted by library users nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Tammi has worked to broaden the library's programming and service reach beyond the library walls to attract Gallup's majority Native American population; and

WHEREAS, Tammi created partnerships with other departments and community groups in Gallup to expand the library presence at festivals, health fairs, career days and other events; and

WHEREAS, under Tammi's guidance, the Octavia Fellin Public Library has focused its programming on socially relevant issues, generational experiences and opportunities for open dialogue; and

WHEREAS, programs have addressed a wide range of historically sensitive community topics through instructive installations, displays and programs; and

WHEREAS, Tammi's leadership has been described as kind, supportive, engaging and thoughtful by one of her nominators for the I Love My Librarian Award;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that appreciation be extended to Tammi Moe for continuing to empower patrons, promote inclusion in the library's space and collections and provide essential services to the Gallup community.**

Signed and Sealed at The Capitol, in the City of Santa Fe.

*Mimi Stewart*  
Mimi Stewart, President Pro Tem  
New Mexico State Senate

*Lenore M. Naranjo*  
Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk  
New Mexico State Senate



# Yesterday...



## APRIL CITY UPDATE

**Octavia Fellin Public Library (OFPL) -  
100 Years in the Making**

By Betty Martin

The public library has been the cornerstone of the Gallup community for the last century. Those 100 years have seen many changes in location as well as advanced services, resources, and innovative programming. The story begins in January 1920, when the Philanthropic Educational Organization Sorority (P.E.O.) donated fifty books for placement in the Gallup Community House. The P.E.O. had been working toward creating a library for several years, and it became a reality in 1922 when the library moved to a larger space in the basement of Gallup Central School at 315 West Hill Ave. Now it was considered the Gallup Public Library, and while the use of the library was free, a \$1.00 deposit was charged for a library card. Members of the local P.E.O. chapter volunteered their time to look after it. A benefit tea and book "showers" was held to expand the collection, and the entire community was encouraged to attend. Other local organizations started to make monthly contributions to purchase books. In 1926 Gallup Town Council appropriated \$500.00 to the library and paid a local woman \$10.00 a month to keep the library open from 3:00-5:30 PM three days a week. In September of the same year, Gallup's Town Board and several local organizations made plans to erect a new library building on the old city jail site at 111 West Hill Ave. \$1,500.00 was raised through events staged by local clubs. The new library would belong to the public and would be supervised by the Town Trustees. The new building was erected, and the formal opening was held on April 26, 1927.

The City Council voted to officially assume responsibility for the Gallup Public Library on May 29, 1936. Octavia Fellin came to Gallup to visit her family in 1947. She volunteered at the library for a proposed two months, after which she intended to go to California, where a position with the San Francisco Public Library was waiting for her. In October of that same year, Octavia was officially named Librarian of the Gallup Public Library, and her 2-month visit turned into a career that lasted 43 years. That year, the town of Gallup appropriated \$4,000.00 in its budget, and the county provided \$1,000.00, a 45% budget increase to accommodate for the extension of library services to McKinley County. A letter from the Library Board Chairman, C.E. Gurley, was mailed to every service organization in Gallup requesting financial support that would go toward an expansion program for the library. Octavia was up for the challenges she faced as the new head of the Gallup Public Library and successfully created a space that has continued to flourish for the past 75 years.

Octavia began to campaign for a new library building in 1949; because the old building was woefully inadequate; for example, the library only had an outhouse. The City Council issued a \$65,000.00 bond to construct a new facility in 1950, and it passed by a 4-1 margin. The Chamber of Commerce contributed \$13,500.00 to create an exhibition space in the proposed building for its Southwest Indian Art collection. The new Gallup Public Library opened on December 22, 1951, along with the Museum of Indian Arts. The Library's positive impact on the community is apparent because there was a need to expand the building less than 20 years later. The remodeled and expanded library opened in 1969, nearly doubling in size. A performing arts wing with a stage was added in 1985. The City officially changed the Gallup Public Library to the Octavia Fellin Public Library (OFPL) to honor Octavia upon her retirement in 1990. Due to overwhelming need, the City of Gallup purchased and remodeled a bank building at 200 West Aztec to create what is now the Children's Branch in 2003. Octavia passed away in 2013 but is still remembered very fondly by the Gallup community.

The City Council funded a library building feasibility study in 2013 to assess structural problems in the current building and identify possible sites for a new state-of-the-art building. The City Council approved an area north of Route 66 between 2nd and 3rd Streets on February 9, 2021. A conceptual design is pending. Once known as the Gallup Community House, OFPL has evolved in many ways since its story began in 1920 and has shown a steady increase in use throughout the last century.

The library is now a City of Gallup department, and McKinley County residents receive services for free while contiguous county residents and those living in Arizona pay a nominal fee. OFPL is the only public library for McKinley County and the Southeast District of the Navajo Nation. Not believing the economic condition of its region should ever limit a library, OFPL seeks community partnerships and soft funding opportunities, always striving to meet and exceed the needs of the people it serves. OFPL is the cornerstone of our community, bringing together people, information, and ideas in a safe space. Our community is the quintessential American "salad bowl" with diverse cultures, ethnicities, religions, backgrounds, and viewpoints celebrated distinctly. This diversity is apparent in the resources and innovative programs OFPL has made available to the people.

OFPL is on a new trajectory and has changed as an institution to reflect our community's needs. We actively work to create collections, workshops, and interactions rooted in people's empowerment. The collective trauma in our community cannot be underscored enough. This guides our responsibility in being a positive and trustworthy institution. The library's resources, services, and programs are substantial, considering our limited funding, staff, and space. Services have expanded to include enhanced research support, beginning to advanced technology classes, a partnership with Google, a MakerSpace, a Seed Library, online access to digital collections such as Ancestry, Kanopy, Overdrive, and Creativebug. In light of the pandemic, we solicit programming ideas from the public via social media so that individuals can suggest content that proves to be relevant to our community. As the world around us changed, the OFPL team adapted and built something new. We work together to keep our community connected. Regularly scheduled programs such as Crafty Kids, Creative Corner, Tech Time, We Read, We Talk-Book Club, Storytime with Anne, and Spring into STEM, have been transformed into virtual programs and made available on our website [ofplonline.com](http://ofplonline.com) and social media [@galluplibrary](https://www.instagram.com/galluplibrary). Special guests enrich our digital programs by providing talks, Zumba instruction, and cooking demonstrations, to name a few.

The Octavia Fellin Public Library's mission is to nurture and enrich our community, explore ideas and information, honor local heritage, create new traditions, and empower the people to engage with each other and the world. Our mission is an integral part of planning for the future of OFPL and has proven to be a successful tool used to measure both its successes and failures in order to enrich the community.

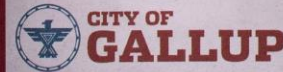
OFPL and City staff worked tirelessly to renovate the main library during the Covid closure. New flooring and fresh paint throughout, a new information desk, meeting room tables, chairs, new study carrels, and even wireless printing. Although there have been several improvements to the physical space this year, it does not alter the fact that OFPL outgrew the current facility more than two decades ago. The Gallup community was proud of their new library in 1951, and 70 years later, it's time to be proud of a new library building once again.



Gallup's first custom built public library building, opened April 27, 1927



Gallup Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, and Museum of Indian Arts, opened December 22, 1951



Mayor Louie Bonaguidi  
Councilor Linda Garcia  
Councilor Michael Schaaf  
Councilor Yogash Kumar  
Councilor Fran Palochak





# Today...

## Gallup tries again to build a new library

By **Beth Blakeman**  
Managing Editor

An undeveloped lot owned by the City of Gallup, south of Maxwell Street between Second and Third Streets, could become the new location for the Octavia Fellin Public Library.

The library is considered one of the city's most

significant cultural institutions and a crucial element of developing a vibrant arts and cultural district. Out of 27 redevelopment projects in a collaborative vision of the City of Gallup, members of the community, Gallup Main Street, and the Gallup Business Improvement District voted it as the most important project.

The Gallup City Council addressed the subject of a new library at its Feb. 9 meeting and considered several of the issues that have kept it in the planning stages for the past 15 years.

In her presentation, Tammi Moe, director of the library, said the current library needs space, more meeting rooms, expanded services for youth, conference and group study rooms, more staff, and parking.

District 3 Councilor Yogash Kumar expressed concerns that the city-owned location



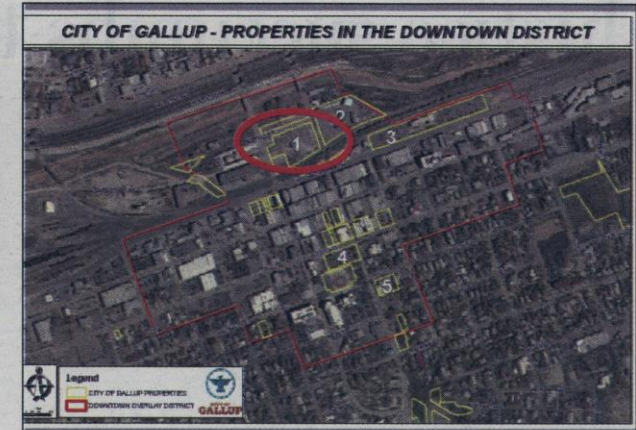
Tammi Moe, director of the Octavia Fellin Public Library. **Photo Credit:** Tammi Moe

at Maxwell Street might fail to draw many people, and that the people who visited would be the same people time and again.

He said he had envisioned seeing the city use that property for another purpose, a conference or a convention center.

District 4 Councilor Fran Palochak was reluctant to spend taxpayer money for a second conceptual design at a cost of \$32,840, when the first design in 2013 had a price tag of \$45,000.

Moe said the cost of the programming and concept design



City of Gallup-owned properties include a site now being considered for a new regional library. Site number 1 on this map is located between Second and Third Streets. **Image Credit:** City of Gallup

is listed in the library's capital outlay request for the 2021-22 fiscal year budget.

Some discussion at the council meeting centered around making the library a regional facility designed to meet the needs of the county, as well as the city.

"There's not a library within about 150 miles every way," Palochak said. "There's no place for them [users] to go,

but here."

The council and the mayor approved the site selection pending a conceptual plan.

Moe said the vote gave her the go-ahead to pursue funding for the new library outside the city for what she called "one of the busiest libraries I've ever been in."

**LIBRARY**  
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# Today...

## Independent

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1987-2021

### Continuing virtual library services is essential

When the pandemic first hit, the Octavia Fellin Public Library adapted by moving online. They launched curbside services, made physical events virtual, and invested in e-newspaper and magazine subscriptions.

Now that the pandemic has eased from its winter peak, the library is beginning to reintroduce in-person elements such as browsing the physical collection, using library computers, and planning physical events like storytimes.

Despite this reintroduction, the library has not abandoned the virtual model completely. In fact, the virtual model will probably stay past the pandemic due in part to how far library events can reach now. This is not to say that in-person events will go away, but just that there will be more virtual or hybrid events than pre-pandemic.

The reach these events can have is part of why this is a positive development. Two recent programs highlighting Diné cooking were hits for the library, each drawing over 1,000 views from across the country.

Placing Gallup on the digital map, not just the physical one, is essential for a town rooted so heavily in tourism. If we are not online, we do not exist to a large segment of the world. Building a strong, community focused digital footprint is what needs to happen. At the moment, the library seems to be the only city institution to realize this.

*“We hope the library continues to understand the important role they play as a community beacon and uses this knowledge when deciding how to best proceed post-pandemic, whenever that may be.”*

Arguably, another one of the most important benefits of continuing online events for the foreseeable future is that it shines a spotlight on Navajo culture.

One of the biggest problems on the Navajo Nation is lack of internet, which not only keeps many of the Diné from accessing the platform but also prevents them from being as visible on the platform as they can be, considering the Navajo are the largest Indigenous group in the country.

Luckily, the library has also taken steps to circumvent this accessibility issue by checking out its collection of internet hotspots to chapter houses so communities have at least one guaranteed location with reliable internet.

But as for the library's programs themselves, it is no coincidence that some of the most popular library programs with the furthest reach are Navajo-centered. Not only does virtual content make itself more accessible for those in our area with the internet but unable to travel but also, it makes itself accessible for communities outside the southwest.

The early success of the library's virtual program shows that there is an audience of people who want to learn about Diné culture. Hosting virtual programs with visible Diné also reinforces that Indigenous culture is alive, well, and distinct from one another, which is invaluable knowledge to possess. Native Americans are not a monolithic group and presenting more Diné centered content will only emphasize this point.

We applaud the library for doing what it can to ensure accessibility and visibility during this time. We hope the library continues to understand the important role they play as a community beacon and uses this knowledge when deciding how to best proceed post-pandemic, whenever that may be.

In this space only does the opinion of the Gallup Independent Editorial Board appear



Sept. 2023

Tammi,

from all of us...

Jack + Janice Bradley  
Ruth Rhoad  
Barbara Kozelicki  
Chris Lambert  
Nancy Lambert  
Chuck + Jenny Van Drunen  
... and other neighbors

We all wanted to express our appreciation for all your support in making the BBQ for our law enforcement + city workers possible. The space outside the library was perfect and having security was very helpful. Thank you for all your work in helping to make Gallup a safe and welcoming community!!

Sincerely, East Hill Neighborhood Coalition



**Read all about it:**  
Join a  
**Grow with Google event**

**OCTAVIA FELLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**MARCH 22ND**

#GrowWithGoogle g.co/GrowNewMexico

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 20, 2019

Contact: Peter Schottenfels  
[schottenfels@google.com](mailto:schottenfels@google.com) / 646-832-6785

**GROW WITH GOOGLE COMING TO NEW MEXICO**  
Google's Economic Opportunity Initiative Aims to Foster Skilled Workforce of the Future in New Mexico

**NEW MEXICO** – Today, Google announced that it is coming to cities and towns in New Mexico as part of the tech company's Grow with Google initiative to help create economic opportunity in communities across the United States. Google will kickstart this work locally by hosting free, one-day events in three libraries to help job seekers, small business owners, students, educators and entrepreneurs improve their digital skills.

"The local library is an important gathering place and key resource for promoting digital literacy for folks across New Mexico, especially in small and rural communities. I welcome Google's initiative to partner with libraries across our state to provide the training and education our businesses, students, and entrepreneurs need to thrive in a 21st century digital economy. New Mexico can be a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, and the 'Grow with Google' tour is critical to ensuring that New Mexicans are well-prepared for in-demand careers in growing high-tech industries as well as understand the resources available through the library," said Senator Udall.

- New Mexico tour dates, cities and locations include:
- March 18 in Albuquerque, The Public Library Albuquerque and Bernalillo County
    - 10:30AM-5:30PM
    - 8081 Central Ave NW, Albuquerque, NM 87121
  - March 20 in Las Cruces, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library
    - 10:30AM-5:30PM
    - 200 E. Picacho Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88001
  - March 22 in Gallup, Octavia Fellin Public Library
    - 10:30AM-5:30PM
    - 115 West Hill Ave, Gallup, NM 87301

"New Mexico is a center for innovation, entrepreneurship and manufacturing. By bringing the 'Grow with Google' tour to the state, we are making a commitment to help develop a skilled workforce that can meet the needs of New Mexico's growing economy," said Erica Swanson, Google's Head of Community Engagement.

In recognition that libraries are increasingly centers for digital skills learning, Grow with Google plans visit libraries in every state, partnering with them to deliver digital skills training directly to jobseekers and small businesses in their community. We will also train library staff and nonprofit leaders on a range of Grow with Google's free tools and curriculum they can use on a daily basis.

Google staff will lead hands-on workshops about online marketing for small businesses, search engine optimization, email basics and coding. Attendees can also sign up for one-on-one training with Google

**WORLD  
ON THE MOVE:**  
250,000 Years of Human Migration™

"World on the Move: 250,00 Years of Human Migration was developed by the American Anthropological Association, together with the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and Smithsonian Exhibits. It is administered by the American Library Association's Public Programs Office."

Exhibit July 14, through August 12, 2023 at the Rex Museum

**Artist Installation:** "The Flower of Friendship & Fred Harvey's Indian Detours," curated by Teri Fraizer. (Rex)

**Opening Reception:** Jul 14 at 6:00 PM. "Breaking Bread Gallup," exploring culture through food. (Rex)

**Community Portrait:** Have your portrait taken during the exhibit and become part of Gallup history. (Rex)

**Book Club:** Jul 22 at 2:00 PM. "Santiago's Road Home," meet award-winning author Alexandra Diaz (Rex)

**Lecture & Reception:** Aug 6 at 2:00 PM. "Moving To and Through Gallup: Stories of Migration," Dr. Matthew Mingus & Dr. Bruce Gjeltema of UNM (El Morro Theatre)

**Lecture & Reception:** Aug 11 at 5:30 PM. "Italy, Gallup, and the American Dream," local author John Lewis Taylor (OFPL Main Library)

**Artist Talk & Reception:** Aug 12 at 5:30 PM, "The Zuni Migration Story," Zuni Artist Lakin Epaloose (TBA)

**Map Making Workshop:** Aug 12 at Arts Crawl, "Map Your Journey," Dine Artist Tash Nez (Event Center)



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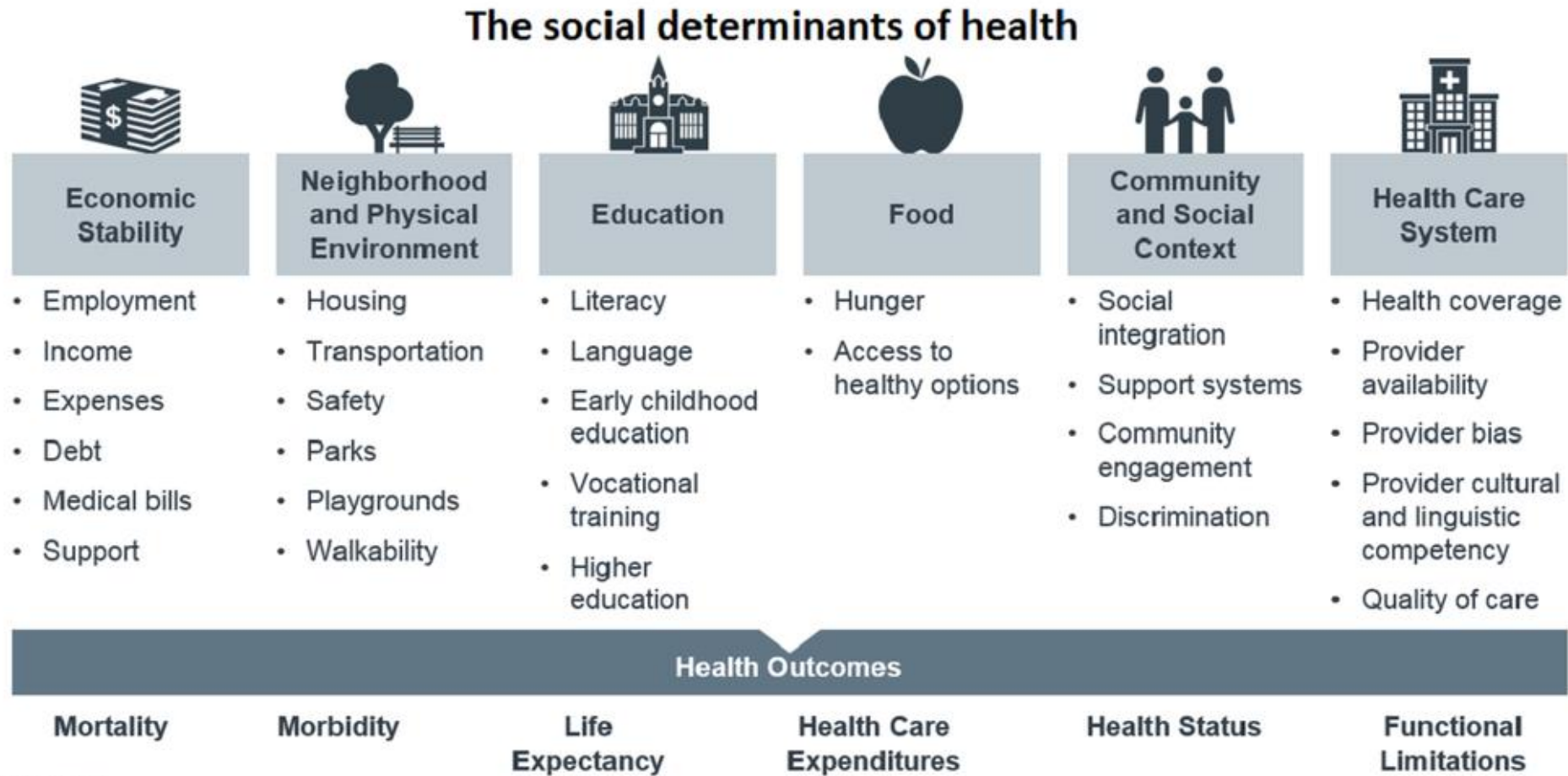


# OFPL Data Recap...

- The Gallup Public Library is over 100 years old!
- 40,000 registered users, 51% reside outside of Gallup in McKinley County
- 100,000 books, audio books, and movies
- 30,000 downloadable e-books and audio books
- Over 500 programs annually
- We Read, We Talk Book Club has 70 members
- OFPL MakerSpace with a dedicated makers educator offering access to 3D printers, laser engraver, Cricut, Kiln, and more
- Public Computers, 24/7 Wi-Fi



# Consider...Social Determinants of Health



# Dismantle Systemic Racism

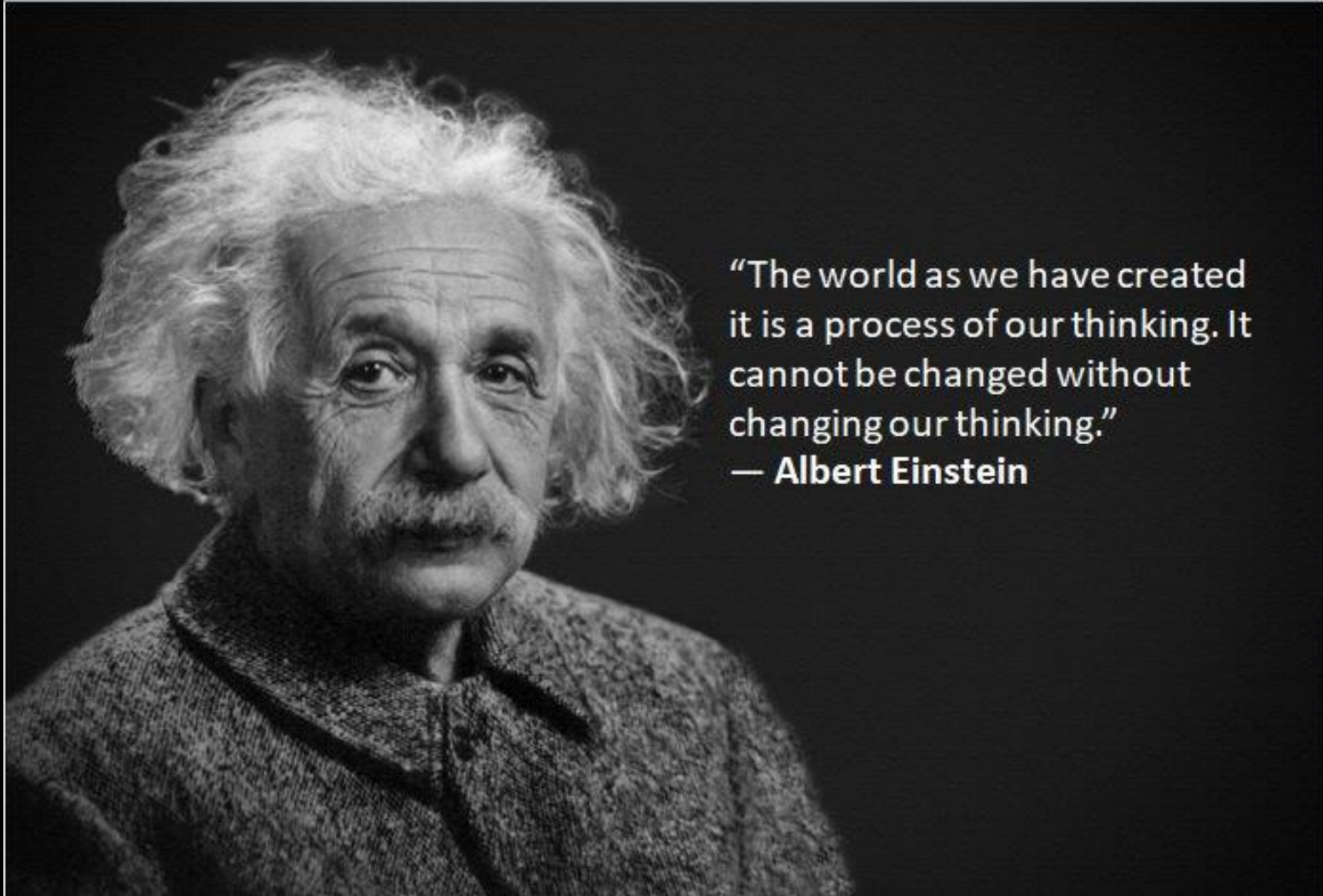




# Where are we in the process?

- Facility update presentation to City Council – 2010
- Feasibility Study by Godfrey & Associates – 2013
- Gallup Downtown Redevelopment Plan – 2015
- Conceptual Design by Huitt-Zollars for 4 level library, rejected by LAB due to deficiencies – 2017
- Library is listed in City's top 5 priorities for Capital Outlay projects – 2019
- Friends of the Library was formed as a 501(c)3 – 2020
- City Council adopts resolution to support safety improvements at downtown RR crossing, a prerequisite for obtaining Railroad Quiet Zone – 2020
- LAB recommends City-owned site btw 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> / Railway – Maxell for location for new regional library. Location is approved by CC – 2021
- Executive Planning Committee (EPC) formed – 2021
- EPC meets with Molzen-Corbin Architect – 2023
- Presentations by LAB members to City Council, Navajo Nation Chapters/Council, IAC
- Library Journal Design Institute Challenge – 2023
- Concept design, site analysis & soil testing...
- \$1.3 million needed for blueprints and shovel ready project...
- \$25 million Seek funding through private, local, state and federal government...

# Next steps for me...



"The world as we have created  
it is a process of our thinking. It  
cannot be changed without  
changing our thinking."  
— **Albert Einstein**