

## Outlook 2019: Kimberly Johnson: The Tulsa-City County Library system is centers of innovation

Mar 3, 2019



**Kimberly Johnson:** "We're going to raise the visibility of the library. I want to get to people who haven't been using the library. If they have not come to us, we want to go to them. We want people to know what we have to offer."

**Read her story: Kimberly Johnson takes Tulsa libraries into the next century with joy**

Photo credit: MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

**BUY NOW** Employee Eric Tackett tells Ra Library in downtown Tulsa. Mr. JOEY JOHNSON/Tulsa Wor

Last year, a man came into the downtown Central Library and visited our new AEP/PSO Foundation Digital Literacy Lab. He worked with staff one-on-one to learn the ins and outs of some of the lab's video editing technology and then took video editing courses using the free online learning tools the library offers.

He visited the lab nearly every evening after his regular day job for months. He spent hours learning, honing and then perfecting his video editing skills on the library's state-of-the-art technology.

Today, that man owns a video production company in Tulsa. He's even made it a point to come back to the library and offer free video editing classes to other aspiring videographers. This is just one of the many examples of how your neighbors are growing, changing and enhancing their quality of life at the Tulsa City-County Library.

I can't speak for other library systems, but in Tulsa, our library system continues to innovate and transform. We have grown and evolved by embracing new technologies and a customer-centric service model. We remain a prominent player in the county's continuum of learning and inspiration by providing books, magazines, movies and music that people want in the ways they want them — both traditional formats and online with our continuously updated digital collection, new website and library app.

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We offer high-tech spaces like our Digital Literacy Lab complete with iMacs, digital drawing tablets, tape and VHS converters, video cameras, a green screen and even flight simulators. Our Audio Lab gives customers access to a sound booth, instruments and recording equipment so they can live out their passion for music or share their stories through podcasts, CDs and more. Creator-focused spaces like our Makers Space at Central Library offers customers hands-on learning with tools like 3D printers, laser engravers, screen-printing and even sewing machines. We also offer 3D printing at four regional libraries throughout the county, all in an effort to make this technology more accessible to Tulsa County residents.

In 2019, Tulsa County library customers can expect to see more exciting features as we work to adapt our services to meet the needs of our community.

Increasing convenience and accessibility is always front of mind for the library as we look at expanding services like our new curbside delivery program, currently available at our Hardesty Regional Library and Schusterman-Benson Library locations. This service lets library customers pull right up to the library, call a number and have their materials brought directly to their vehicle, just like local restaurants and retailers. We've seen such a positive response to the service that we'll be adding more locations for curbside delivery later this year.

Some of our youngest library users will get to experience our new Reading Roadshow this year, a state-of-the-art vehicle loaded with library materials.

The Reading Roadshow serves preschoolers and their caregivers at 22 different sites around Tulsa County, delivering library experiences to early childhood preschools or day care centers in underserved communities.

While we'll be working hard to bring new and exciting services to Tulsa County, TCCL knows that reading is the foundation of all learning, and books are the cornerstone of what we do. That's why TCCL is also working to reduce wait times on new and popular titles in 2019. If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for our WOWbrary digital newsletter so you'll be one of the first to know what's new in the world of literature.

This year is sure to be another exciting year for the Tulsa City-County Library. We are and will continue to serve as a sustainable, sustaining resource by advancing and promoting local creativity, preserving our collective history, advancing technologies, supporting small businesses and nonprofits, and providing a much-needed, comfortable place in the community where everyone may enrich their lives. If you don't already have a library card, you're really missing out. Be sure to head over to our website and sign up for one today.

Kimberly Johnson is in her 20th year with the Tulsa City-County Library. As chief executive officer, she leads 24 branch locations in 10 cities throughout Tulsa County.

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**Tulsa World Career Fair**  
March 7, 2019, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Central Park Hall at Expo Square: It's so hard to get your fo...

**Taste of the City**  
March 28, 2019, 4-9 p.m., River Spirit Casino Resort: Join us for a night of cooking, shoppi...

**Blazing Hot Bingo**  
\$1800 in cash prizes given away.

**FEATURED**  
**All-World Awards**  
June 22, 2019, 5-8 p.m., Marriott Southern Hills: The All-World Sports Awards banquet is an ...

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