

Hotel McCoy offers rent-free space to South Tucson bookstore

TUCSON, Ariz. (KGUN) — Syrena Arevalo-Trujillo has sold books at pop-up shops around Tucson for the past two years. Now, she finally has her own store to call home.

"When people walk in, I want them to feel like they've stepped into South Tucson," said Arevalo-Trujillo.

Bright colors, art and books are found in every corner of her new shop. Arevalo-Trujillo put the finishing touches on a lifelong dream, Tuesday.

"There's a lot of history in here as well. Even just the stuff that is on the walls," said Arevalo-Trujillo.

The store's walls belong to [Hotel McCoy](#). The hotel is giving select small businesses the space to shine. They are allowing them to turn one of their rooms into their own. Arevalo-Trujillo's store, "[Barrio Books](#)", will be the hotel's first launch.

"Hotel McCoy was actually looking for a bookstore, or someone who was willing to run a bookstore," said Arevalo-Trujillo.

Arevalo-Trujillo gets to run her store rent-free. It's a gift from the hotel to the business, who may not have otherwise been able to open their doors during a year like 2020.

"My inspiration is all the people that want to escape the pandemic. I want them to escape into books," said Arevalo-Trujillo.

Arevalo-Trujillo shares a special connection with her collection of books. Each book was picked to highlight Hispanic culture.

"It's about a lot more than just books. It's about culture and history of South Tucson," said Arevalo-Trujillo.

Barrio Books will open at Hotel McCoy on January 2, 2021.

Hotel McCoy is located at 720 W Silverlake Road.