



CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY **IMPACT REPORT** 2021



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



2021 was a year of transition. As we continued to recover from the pandemic, the Library gradually increased our services as conditions improved. Finally, in late May, the last Covid restrictions were lifted and for the first time in over a year the library was at full operations. Our team was ready to help our returning patrons access the library in multiple ways. We were able to provide a full slate of programming over the summer and into the fall with a mix of indoor, outdoor, and virtual programs.

We increased our digital offerings, created new outdoor spaces at the Central Library and Auburn branch, and held programs to help people find employment.

As we look to the future, we are planning for new and exciting library services for our entire community. We recently completed our strategic plan. This plan outlines our vision for the library over the next five years. We thank everyone who provided input and invite you to read the plan by scanning this QR code.



EDUARDO GARCIA

LIBRARY FUNDING

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2021 (July 2020-June 2021) was \$3,739,835. In fiscal year 2021, the library received a 3.7 % increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$3,060,001. The library received \$638,334 in state grant-in-aid.

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2022 (July 2021-June 2022) is \$3,816,205. In fiscal year 2022, the library received a 1.64% increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$3,110,127. The library received \$664,578 in state grant-in-aid.

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Cranston Public Library Association (CPLA) is a non-profit foundation founded in 2010. The Cranston Public Library Association secures contributions to help fulfill the mission of the Cranston Public Library. Funds are made available to the Cranston Public Library for the support of public services, programs, and capital needs.

CPLA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3), making all contributions fully tax-deductible. To make a donation to the CPLA, please call 401-943-9080 x100 or visit cranstonlibrary.org/support

CPL BY THE NUMBERS

These statistics reflect July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Statistics reflect library usage during COVID restrictions

Cardholders: 29,823

A/V circulation: 115,537

Library Visits: 139,987

Print circulation: 327,535

Electronic materials circulation: 96,993

Reference transactions: 43,325

Interlibrary Loan (ILL):

Provided to other libraries 73,161

Received from other libraries 108,579

Databases and online services usage: 13,309

In-person programs: 51

Virtual Programs: 413

Asynchronous virtual programs: 62

In-person program attendance: 1399

Virtual program attendance: 3930

Asynchronous virtual program views: 1280

Public computer usage: 18,601

Website visits: 244,796

Hours open: 11,015

Wireless sessions: 30,947

Items delivered to homebound patrons: 7158

Notary Services: 269



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH SERVICES

ANIMAL SCOUTS SUMMER READING PROGRAM

During the summer, the library offered 6 different "Animal Scout" kits for kids, which contained all the materials and instructions for 3 fun animal activities. Kids who completed the activities earned custom "Animal Scout" badges. Youth Services staff put together and handed out 700 kits, and more than 300 children participated. More than 500 children and teens also used the Beanstack app to report their reading for the summer. Together, they read 251,397 minutes.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Youth Services began offering outdoor storytime in April 2021, and quickly expanded to offering outdoor programs for all ages over the summer. A grant from Senator Hanna Gallo allowed staff to purchase voice amplifiers, outdoor seating, parachutes, and sand and water tables. Staff also had to develop a policy for heat and air quality advisories, learn how to set up and take down 20 foot canopies, and find a way to serve wider age ranges. All together, Youth Services offered 74 outdoor programs for young people with a total attendance of 1,018.

ER BOOK BOXES

In November, the Central Children's department added 21 Book Boxes to the Early Reader collection. Each ER Book Box contains six titles for children who are learning to read, making it easy for kids and parents to select a stack of books that build literacy skills. The six books share common characters, topics, and letter sounds so that children can increase their familiarity with certain combinations of sounds and ideas. They are packaged in a convenient plastic case with an insert that lists the titles. This project was paid for by the Merrick Fund at CPLA.

VIRTUAL COOKING SKILLS CLUB

Building on over a year of experience with virtual programming, Youth Services Librarian Edna Hutchins offered a very successful 6-week family cooking program on Zoom. This program had a high level of family engagement and excellent attendance. Before the program began, ten families received a kit with child-safe cooking tools and some non-perishable ingredients. Each week, they received a shopping list over email, and then everyone cooked 3 recipes together on Tuesday evenings. Children learned skills like measuring, chopping, tasting, and substituting ingredients.



TEEN COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year, teens completed more than 700 hours of community service through the library. This is especially remarkable because the library did not offer in-person community service opportunities until September. Teen Librarian Alyssa Taft responded to the incredible demand for these opportunities by increasing the Teen Team meetings to twice a month and offering monthly drop-in programs called Service Saturdays. At a series of Teen Team meetings this fall, teens reflected on their role in the community and then met with five local female elected officials to share ideas and learn about civic engagement. Then at a Service Saturday in November, teens made 300 holiday cards for seniors, which were distributed by the Cranston Senior Center with their Thanksgiving gift baskets.

ADULT SERVICES

ADULT SUMMER READING

This year's program was called *The Art and Science of Reading*. Patrons could enroll online using the Beanstack app and complete challenges electronically to earn badges towards eligibility for raffle prize drawings. Paper tracking slips were also provided upon request.

Badges were earned by attending in-person or online programs, calling *On the Line with CPL*, listening to the *Down Time with Cranston Public Library* podcast, participating in a Take and Make or Maker Morning craft event, reading books from a wide selection of reading list suggestions and submitting reviews, and watching international film or concert DVDs.

Some of the most popular events included *Gardens by Design* with Oliver Chamberlain; *Artists' Gardens in New England* with Jana Milbocker; *Walking Rhode Island: A Guide to Hiking in the Ocean State* with John Kostrzewa, *In Conversation with Madeleine Henry*, author of *The Love Proof* and our Hummingbird Feeder, Hand Sewn Journal, and Blackout Poetry Maker Mornings. Total attendance across all 13 Adult Summer Reading events was 277. Five events were virtual and eight events were in-person.

ON THE LINE WITH CPL

On the Line with CPL is a weekly service that allows patrons to dial a dedicated phone number and listen to a poem recorded by CPL staff. In 2021, 39 recordings were posted and 388 calls to the service were tabulated.

TUESDAY TUNEUP

Tuesday Tuneup programs occur on the first Tuesday evening of the month and explore a different health and wellness topic at each meeting. Programs included *Heart Healthy Eating*, *Clearing the Clutter* with Ronni Eisenberg, and many different Meditation programs.



READING ACROSS RHODE ISLAND

Cranston Public Library values the voices of the entire community. In this spirit, we welcomed patrons and community members to *Join the Remix!* in antiracist dialogue and action through a series of meetings and activities. Reading Across Rhode Island (RARI), the one book, one state community reading program brought to us by the Rhode Island Center for the Book, chose as its title *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi. CPL launched *Join the Remix!* as a partnership of Cranston Public Library, OneCranston Health Equity Zone (HEZ), and Cranston Public Schools.

Patrons were encouraged to read *Stamped* and related works, make use of a variety of antiracism resources provided on a dedicated website (<https://cranstonlibrary.org/remix>), attend one of three virtual book discussion meetings, create and share reaction videos, and participate in a virtual Town Hall moderated by CPL Trustee Larry Warner. Thirty-nine patrons participated in the book discussions and virtual Town Hall.

VISITING AUTHORS

CPL was fortunate to book 13 author events both virtually and in person this year. The February event, *In Conversation with Janet Skeslien Charles*, author of *The Paris Library*, was presented in partnership with Barrington Books and was our most-attended event of the year. The March event, *Jennifer Smith Turner Discusses Her Novel Child Bride*, was presented in partnership with NAACP Providence. In total, 425 patrons attended the Visiting Author events.

DOWN TIME PODCAST

Our weekly podcast, *Down Time with Cranston Public Library*, published a weekly episode for the entire year. Growing from a pandemic lockdown project, we've been honored to host conversations with our colleagues from libraries around Rhode Island as well as authors and community partners. In order to maintain a regular production schedule, we have grown our creative team. This has helped generate ideas for episodes, coordinate with guests, and assist with recording and editing episodes. Some of our most popular conversations from 2021 include the creative team behind the Boston Kids Comic Fest, suggestions for beach reads, and local author Connelly Akstens talking about her new memoir. Listen and subscribe to Down Time anywhere you find podcasts.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

TEEN SPACE @ CENTRAL

A renovation of the teen space at Central was completed this year and included new shelving and new flexible seating. The bright colors visually delineate the space for our teen patrons and the flexible seating encourages teens to configure the space in ways that work for them. New storage cabinets, study tables, and laptops were installed in the teen study room off of the teen space. This study room can be used by teens for programming, studying, gaming, and more!



CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF

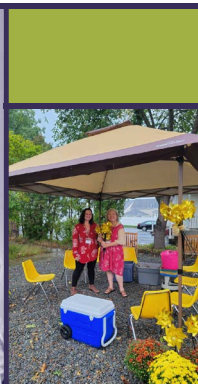
Edward Garcia	Library Director
Julie Holden	Assistant Library Director
Nereida Zayas	Business Manager
Corrie Alves	Coordinator of Technology
Dave Bartos	Coordinator of Adult Services
Emily Brown	Coordinator of Youth Services
Karen McGrath	Auburn Branch Librarian
Nancy Gianlorenzo	Knightsville Branch Librarian
Tayla Cardillo	Oak Lawn Branch Librarian
Robin Nyzio	William Hall Library Branch Librarian
Dana Santagata	Head of Circulation Services
Sarah Bouvier	Library Communications Manager

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1. CENTRAL LIBRARY

140 SOCKANOSSET CROSS RD,
CRANSTON RI 02920
401.943.9080

**2. EDWARD COSTA MEMORIAL
ARLINGTON BRANCH**

@ MICHAEL TRAFICANTE SENIOR
ENRICHMENT CENTER
1064 CRANSTON ST,
CRANSTON RI 02920
401.944.1662

3. AUBURN BRANCH

396 PONTIAC AVE,
CRANSTON RI 02910
401.781.6116

4. KNIGHTSVILLE BRANCH

1847 CRANSTON ST,
CRANSTON RI 02920
401.942.2504

5. OAK LAWN BRANCH

230 WILBUR AVE,
CRANSTON RI 02921
401.942.1787

6. WILLIAM HALL LIBRARY

1825 BROAD ST,
CRANSTON RI 02905
401.781.2450



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LIBRARY**

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