

Impact Report 2019



CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S MISSION

The Cranston Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and strengthen the community.

We strive to provide:

- Library services that are known and valued by the community, resulting in broad use by the public
- An engaging cultural and lifelong learning center for the community
- Services and collections that are readily accessible and easy to use and that are relevant to community needs
- An enthusiastic, well-trained and highly capable staff that works well together to provide quality service to all library users
- Facilities that are inviting and well maintained
- Technology that expands and enhances service
- Timely and accurate information that informs and empowers the public
- Defense of intellectual freedom and the confidentiality of each individual's use of the library
- A close working relationship with other libraries, community agencies and organizations that fosters cooperation, making the most efficient and effective use of taxpayer resources
- A variety of early childhood programs that bring families together and foster a love of reading
- A relevant collection of print and non-print materials that meet the developmental needs of Cranston's youth
- Collaboration and support for parents and teachers as schools adopt the Common Core state standards
- Programs for preteens and teens
- The annual Summer Reading program which focuses on making reading and literacy-related programs fun and accessible for children of all ages to help avoid summer reading loss

OCEAN STATE LIBRARIES

The Cranston Public Library has been a member of the Ocean State Libraries cooperative network for over 35 years. In addition to benefiting from a shared system database, our membership entitles our patrons to the diverse range of materials located at 70 other libraries across the state. A robust telecommunications network allows for high-speed Internet access at all CPL locations, and the unique sharing of resources, services, and training continues to provide our staff and our patrons with an exceptional library experience.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year the library continued to focus on bringing people together and building community. With our work as part of the OneCranston Working Cities Challenge Initiative, the library embraced the changing demographics in our population and worked to increase social cohesion and a sense of community among and between the residents of our growing city.

The library has eagerly welcomed our new immigrant communities by celebrating their culture and working to provide services to address their needs. We demonstrated that the library can be an important safe space for civic engagement and can play a vital role in the community by hosting a series of community conversations this past year around important issues. Examples of this include a First Amendment and the Free Press panel discussing the importance of a free press in this era of “fake news”, a climate change conversation with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, and a screening of the documentary American Creed with a community conversation to continue the discussion on racial equity and what being an American means to everyday people. There will be more of these community conversations in 2020.

We also recognize that there are a growing number of Cranston residents that face economic and educational disparities. For many residents the digital divide is still a barrier to access. We continued to offer access to free computers, wifi, technology classes and one-on-one help for residents of all ages. This year 1,980 people received technology help at the library by attending one of our computer classes, Open Tech Time, Learning Lounge or Rhode Coders computer coding classes. We launched our grant funded virtual reality lab this year, so that library users can learn about and experiment with this new technology for free. Look for more VR programming in 2020.

The library has fully embraced the growing diversity of our city and is trying to help address these disparities. We’ve updated policies to address equity, diversity and inclusion in an effort to codify our commitment to making the Cranston Public Library a welcoming and safe space for everyone.

We believe the library can play an important role in making Cranston a more socially cohesive and resilient community. Whether that means removing barriers to access such as last year’s fine free initiative or hosting important training events such as the Rhode Island Foundation funded racial equity training for Cranston government and community leaders, we are living up to our mission: “to bring people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and strengthen the community.”

Edward Garcia

Library Director
Cranston Public Library

LIBRARY FUNDING

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2019 (July 2018-June 2019) was \$3,542,614. In fiscal year 2019, the library received a 4.3% budget increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$2,867,987.

The library received \$599,627 in state grant-in-aid. The remainder of our operating budget came from fines and fees.

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2020 (July 2019-June 2020) is \$3,624,006. In fiscal year 2020, the library received a 2.9% budget increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$2,950,671.

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Cranston Public Library Association (CPLA) is the nonprofit fundraising affiliate of the Cranston Public Library. CPLA assists the library by providing programs and services that exceed the level of tax-based funding, including free and discounted museum passes, summer reading programs and high-quality community programming. CPLA also assumes fiduciary responsibility for gifts and bequests to the library.

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

To view the CPLA annual report please visit: cranstonlibrary.org/CPLA/annualreport





LIFELONG LEARNING

This year, 1,980 people received technology help through one of our library computer classes or other technology programs such as Open Tech Time, Rhode Coders computer coding classes or a one-on-one appointment with one of our technology librarians.

Through our longstanding partnership with the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI) 108 students took part in one of our adult learners programs. CPL offered ESL classes at the Auburn branch and William Hall Library and conversation classes at the Central Library. Registered students represent 28 different countries including Dominican Republic, China, Syria, Guatemala, Ukraine and Vietnam. 47% of the students improved one Educational Functioning Level (EFL) in reading (equal to two grade levels in improved reading).

Forty-four students participated in our Citizenship classes at the Auburn branch and William Hall Library. Twenty-three of those students passed the citizenship exam and became U.S. citizens. This year we also offered a Microsoft Office Training class for ESL Learners. This program was funded by a legislative grant from Senator Josh Miller. Twenty students completed the class.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

This year the Cranston Public Library utilized funding appropriated for capital projects to further update the Knightsville Branch basement program room.

The project included installing brand new flooring, fresh paint on the walls, energy efficient LED lighting, and new ceiling tiles.



CPL BY THE NUMBERS

These statistics reflect July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



387,784

Library Visits

34,784

Library Card Holders

550

Free Notary Services
provided to
the public

11,158

Hours Open

68,721

Public Computer
Sessions

71,254

Public Wireless Sessions

153,731

Website Visits



51,379

Reference Questions
Answered



Interlibrary
Loan

86,057

Items sent to other libraries

107,875

Items borrowed from
other libraries

176

Teen Volunteers

832

Community Service
Hours





28,079

People attended a
Library Program



7,652

Items delivered
to homebound
residents



1,461

Total Library
Programs

547

Community
Programs and
Meetings hosted



CIRCULATION

644,296

Physical & Digital
items borrowed

EZONE

DIGITAL DOWNLOADS

2013: 11,933
2014: 33,977
2015: 41,036
2016: 49,252
2017: 49,716
2018: 57,334

2019: 69,865

COLLECTION

199,563 Books

41,350 Periodicals

16,885 CDs

23,486 Movies

281,521 Total Items

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH SERVICES

A UNIVERSE OF STORIES

This summer's reading program kicked off with an "Astronaut Academy" at the William Hall Library, and ended with a "Moon Landing" at Central. The theme was "A Universe of Stories," and between Planetarium programs and "Stories under the Stars," kids could fill out mission logs describing 5 days of reading. For each log they submitted, they were entered in a raffle to win prizes like a telescope, Lego space shuttle, or glow-in-the-dark globe. Total attendance at the more than 100 youth programs offered during the summer was 4,434.

ROBOT FRIENDS

The youth services staff brought coding and robotics programming to the youngest elementary school students through a legislative grant from Senator Hanna Gallo. Funds were used to purchase a fleet of Dash robots, and youth services staff created engaging coding challenges, like navigating obstacle courses, bowling, dancing, and creating art with robots. The program was offered for grades K-2 at three branch libraries in 2019, and is coming to the Central library in 2020.

NEW LARGE PRINT AND PLAYAWAY COLLECTIONS

Some young people with reading difficulties find it easier to read large print books, or to simply plug headphones into a Playaway and listen to the book being read aloud. Inspired by a patron who was looking for large print books for a third grade girl with dyslexia, youth services librarian Elise Petrarca sought funding to create large print and Playaway collections at the William Hall and Central Libraries. The collections include popular modern series like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Land of Stories*, *Harry Potter*, and *Percy Jackson*. This collection was funded by the Joseph B. Merrick Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation and legislative grants from Speaker Nicholas Mattiello and Senator Josh Miller.

HARRY POTTER WEEK

A summer programming highlight was Harry Potter Week, which featured themed programs that transcended age ranges and locations. Youth Services staff planned and implemented an escape room, trivia contest, potions class and more. The week culminated with the annual Quidditch Tournament at the William Hall Library. Total attendance was over 100 people.





LEGOS & LUNCH

During the summer, the Knightsville Branch hosted its third annual Legos & Lunch program. The children made Lego creations while eating free lunches provided by Aramark. This popular program was held twice weekly for seven weeks and provided 533 free meals.

ADULT SERVICES

ADULT SUMMER READING

With funding provided by The Friends of The Cranston Public Library, the 2019 CPL Adult Summer Reading Program was a great success. Participants were invited to submit mini-reviews of any book, movie, author event or other library program as entry into the raffle. 158 individuals submitted 712 raffle entry forms which was an increase of 932% over last year's submission total. Summer Reading program events included authors Dr. Michael Fine, Juliet Games, Albert Badre, and Jon Land, as well as other educational programs like Keep Your Cool with Estate Planning, and a college admission workshop presented by Roger Williams University.

GARDENING PROGRAMS

The Spring Forward series of gardening programs taught patrons how to create their best garden yet. This popular series included programs on Raised Bed Gardening, Square Foot Gardening, and Container Gardening, all led by URI Master Gardeners.

COOKBOOK CLUB

In October, the Central Library launched its newest book club, Cookbook Club. Each month, the group reads the selected cookbook, and then meets to share tasty recipes from the book.

Cookbooks the group has read include *Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking* by Marcella Hazan, *In the Kitchen With a Good Appetite* by Melissa Clark and *The Pioneer Woman Cooks: A Year of Holidays: 140 Step-by-Step Recipes for Simple, Scrumptious Celebrations* by Ree Drummond.

VIRTUAL REALITY LAB

The V-Lab was introduced in June to provide library patrons with the opportunity to experience different types of virtual reality (VR) technology. The mobile lab includes 30 Google Expedition headsets that are ideal for classroom and learning environments, and four Oculus Quests headsets that provide a standalone, immersive VR experience.

Response to the V-Lab has been enthusiastic, and people of all ages have come to the library's VR showcase events to try out the new technology. Some popular experiences include walking a plank off a highrise building, petting a baby dinosaur, and playing VR versions of popular games such as Beat Saber and Job Simulator.

Library staff have brought the technology out into the community, attending Cranston National Night Out with the Cranston Police Department in August. Students at Stadium School got to see the national landmarks they were studying in class close up, and seniors visiting the Cranston Senior Center were taken on a virtual field trip to sites including the San Diego Zoo.

The project was made possible in part by a grant from the RI Office of Library and Information Services using funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and by funding from the Mary Ann and Walter Slocomb Fund at the Cranston Public Library.

AUTHOR EVENTS

The library hosted many author events including Ann Hood, author of *Kitchen Yarns*, Jill Farinelli, author of *The Palatine Wreck: The Legend of the New England Ghost Ship*, and Juliet Grames, author of *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

YOU ARE HERE

After taking part in the EXCITE Transformation for Libraries training, library staff created a series of sessions for new Americans called You Are Here to address their needs. Sessions included Banking Basics, RI Licenses and IDs, and Emergency Services.





L to R; Senator Jack Reed, CPL Director Ed Garcia, and Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden at the Future of Libraries panel discussion. Dr. Kathryn "Kit" Matthew, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

FIRST AMENDMENT AND THE FREE PRESS

This past June, the library partnered with the New England First Amendment Coalition to offer a panel discussion entitled "First Amendment and the Free Press." The panel featured local journalists and legal scholars and had an informed discussion on the first amendment and free press in this era of alternative facts and fake news.

NATIONAL LEADERS VISIT CRANSTON

The Cranston Public Library received national attention this year when Senator Jack Reed brought both the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Dr. Kathryn "Kit" Matthew and the Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden to visit the Central Library.

Dr. Matthew and Senator Reed hosted a "town hall" event in April where they heard about the innovative programs happening at Rhode Island public libraries.

In November, Dr. Hayden and Senator Reed took part in a Future of Libraries panel discussion with CPL Library Director Edward Garcia and other librarians from across the state. A fireside discussion between Senator Reed and Dr. Hayden celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Veteran's History Project also took place. CPL staff also recorded several interviews with Cranston veterans to add to the collection at the Library of Congress.

SENATOR WHITEHOUSE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On February 19 CPL welcomed Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Grover Fugate, Executive Director of the Coastal Resources Management Council for a lively discussion about the threats we face from climate change in Rhode Island.

RACIAL EQUITY TRAINING

As a result of our continuing work on building social cohesion with the OneCranston Working Cities Challenge Initiative, the library received a \$8600 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to host racial equity training for Cranston leadership. Close to 50 attendees representing Cranston government and community agencies took part in this all day workshop led by the Racial Equity Institute from North Carolina.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Library staff members that were hired or promoted between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019



Dave Bartos
Coordinator of Adult
& Information Services
Hired February 2019



Martha Boksenbaum
Auburn Branch
Youth Services Librarian
Hired October 2018



Sarah Bouvier
Library Communications Manager
Hired March 2019



Tayla Cardillo
Oak Lawn Branch Librarian
Hired December 2019



Christine Hall
Cataloging & Reference Librarian
Hired December 2018



Renee Mitchell
Circulation Assistant
Hired November 2018



Dana Santagata
Head of Circulation Services
Promoted January 2019



Kim Sevigny
Technical Services
& Circulation Assistant
Promoted January 2019



Alyssa Taft
Teen Librarian
Hired January 2019

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS



Martha Boksenbaum, Auburn branch youth services librarian was appointed to the American Library Association's Graphic Novels and Comics Round Table conference committee.

Zach Berger, Adult Services Librarian was named the Chair of the Library of Rhode Island Resource Sharing Committee.

Assistant Director Julie Holden began her first of two years as Rhode Island Library Association President in June.

Library Director Edward Garcia was appointed the Chair of the Cranston Census Complete Count Committee.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



3,616
Facebook Followers
382,067
Total Reach



1,321
Twitter Followers
128,252
Total Impressions



966
Instagram Followers



**CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATION & STAFF**

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

**CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Jack Tregar	Chair
Regina Spirito	Vice Chair
Julie Colangelo	
Roberta Costa	
Mary Ann Slocomb	
Frederick Miller	
Fred Raisner	

**CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Michael Goldberg	President
Jessica D'Avanza	Treasurer
Suzanne Borstein	
Angela Bucci	
Gene Emery	
Mary Ann Slocomb	
Alisson Walsh	
Edward Garcia	Executive Director



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



CRANSTONLIBRARY.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/CRANSTONLIBRARY • @CRANSTONLIBRARY

