



# IMPACT REPORT 2023



CRANSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



This year our focus was to bring our services beyond the walls of the library. In creating our most recent strategic plan we identified a need to provide outreach and library services to underserved areas of the community. With this in mind, we offered outdoor programming across the city, many in non-library settings. Our summer reading kick-off was held for the first time at the Sprague Mansion and the Cranston Fire Department station directly across the street. In partnership with the OneCranston HEZ the library participated in the weekly farmer's market at the Bain Middle School and held outdoor storytime programs across the city including at Garden City. Of course we also continued our longstanding and popular summer concerts on the lawn at the William Hall Library.

We also found ways to expand our services digitally. For over a decade, CPL has offered one-on-one technology help and digital skills classes free to the public at the Central Library as well as ESL and citizenship classes at the William Hall Library and Auburn branch. This year CPL offered a full schedule of digital skills training in both English and Spanish at the Cranston Senior Enrichment Center with a grant from the Public Library Association and in partnership with the digital navigators at the Providence Public Library. Usage of our digital services also increased this year as library patrons accessed ebooks, audiobooks, and databases remotely.

The path for increased outreach services brought us late in the year to our acquisition of Branch7, our new outreach van. Branch7 will allow us to bring library materials, programming and other resources to our users in their neighborhoods and across the city. As we finish up another successful year working to connect with the community, be on the lookout in 2024 for Branch7 and other library initiatives both inside our library buildings and across Cranston!

EDUARDO GARCIA

### LIBRARY FUNDING

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) was \$3,891,500. In fiscal year 2023, the library received a 1.2% increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$3,150,219. The library received \$699,781 in state grant-in-aid.

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for the fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) is \$4,026,055. In fiscal year 2024, the library received a 1.17% increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$3,186,998. The library received \$797,557 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-library](https://cranstonlibrary.org/support-library)



# CPL BY THE NUMBERS

*These statistics reflect July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023*



|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Cardholders              | 31,514  |
| Library Visits           | 207,903 |
| Library Programs         | 1,052   |
| Program Attendance       | 18,449  |
| Hours Open               | 11,756  |
| Reference Transactions   | 41,444  |
| Public Computer Sessions | 27,467  |
| Wi-Fi Sessions           | 47,704  |
| Website Visits           | 273,519 |
| Free Notary Transactions | 957     |



## CIRCULATION

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Print Circulation                 | 339,969        |
| Audiovisual                       | 90,416         |
| Other Physical Circulation        | 2,731          |
| <b>Total Physical Circulation</b> | <b>433,116</b> |
| Electronic Materials Circulation  | 109,993        |
| Database & Online Services Usage  | 34,192         |

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Provided to Other Libraries   | 67,349 |
| Received from Other Libraries | 94,147 |



Scan the QR code to view our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### VISITING AUTHORS

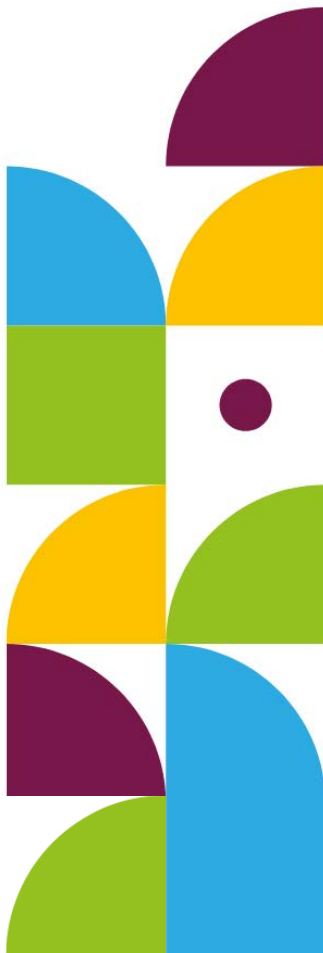
The Central Library hosted 15 Visiting Author events this year, drawing 349 patrons to hear readings and lectures on topics as diverse as *Walking Rhode Island*; *Understanding the War in Ukraine*; *Spring into Poetry: Three Poets Read*; *The Funniest Moments in Film*; *On Medicine As Colonialism*; *The King-Makers of Providence*; *Finding Common Ground: Author Peter Shinkle and Councilor John Donegan Discuss Uniting America*; and *Barnflower: A Rhode Island Farm Memoir*.

### A CELEBRATION OF IRISH DANCE

The Central Library hosted a kick-off to St. Patrick's Day with a Celebration of Irish Dance. The event began with a reading of the book *Flying Feet: A Story of Irish Dance*. After the story, dancers from the Kelly School of Irish Dance delighted the standing-room-only crowd with their performance of traditional Irish dance. The performance was followed by a mini-lesson for the audience.

### HEALTHY FAMILIES AT THE CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

This year, 129 patrons attended a variety of Healthy Families programs on such topics as *Addressing Alzheimer's: Causes, Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatment*; *Women and Alzheimer's Disease: Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together*; *Food Is Medicine Cooking Demo Series*; and several "learn how to meditate" virtual sessions.





## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

The Central Library's book discussion groups, covering fiction, nonfiction, mystery, and more, continue to be a strong draw for patrons. Over the course of 38 meetings, 384 attendees participated.

## SUMMER READING

In order to increase equity in summer reading access, the library held this year's summer reading kick-off at Sprague Mansion, in the neighborhood with the lowest rate of youth library card ownership. Partnering with the OneCranston HEZ, the Historical Society, and the Fire and Police Departments, the library offered a free book fair, lawn games, a resource fair, and dinner (grilled by Fire Station 3!) at this evening event. More than 450 people attended and 216 books were given away to kids who could use the titles to meet the public school's summer reading requirements.

The kick-off was followed by 9 weeks of programming, including outdoor concerts on the lawn at the William Hall Library, free lunches for children at Knightsville's popular "Legos and Lunch" program, and storytimes at the Gazebo in Garden City. Other highlights included an egg drop competition in which a librarian went up in the Fire Department's ladder truck to test designs built by teens. All together, the library offered more than 250 programs in nine weeks, in addition to giving away activity kits and offering online reading challenges for both youth and adults.

Library staff also made it a priority to connect with people outside of the library. At the OneCranston HEZ's weekly free farmer's market at the Bain track, staff and teen volunteers brought a variety of library experiences to people who might not visit one of our buildings. They handed out summer reading activity kits, registered people for library cards, recorded book reviews for the podcast, and gave away free books. This year, the community could truly participate in summer reading even if they couldn't make it to one of the library's physical locations.



## HIGHLIGHTS

### STORYTIME EXPANSION

The library has run successful, high demand weekday morning storytimes at multiple locations for decades, but this year, we expanded access in two ways: 1) We offered morning storytime at the Knightsville branch, bringing storytime closer to people living in the Northern part of the city, and 2) we tripled the number of evening and weekend storytimes to accommodate parents and caregivers who work during the day. These new offerings have been as successful and popular as our morning preschool programs and have increased the total number of families who benefit from this essential library service.

### AI CAMP

To meet the demand for free STEM and coding programs with qualified, expert instruction, the library partnered with the URI Artificial Intelligence Lab to pilot two AI Camp programs at the Central Library for grades 4-8. One week-long camp was run in the summer and a similar curriculum was offered during afterschool hours over three weeks in the fall. Both camps were high quality, but the summer camp stood out for its popularity and the number of URI Computer Science students who were interested and available to teach the course for free.







## SOLAR ECLIPSE

This year the library was active in the Star Net Community, sending a staff person to their SEAL (Solar Eclipse in Libraries) training, offering seven unique STEM programs for children and adults, and providing solar eclipse glasses to the public. These services culminated with two outdoor Annual Eclipse viewing parties on October 14 at the William Hall Library lawn and the Bain Middle School field.

## AUBURN PATIO PROJECT

In October the Cranston Public Library completed the installation of an outdoor patio at the Auburn branch. The patio features stone pavers, refreshed landscaping, and new benches. The space will be used for outdoor programming including the very popular outdoor storytime. The project was funded by the Auburn Public Library Association and the Peterson Family Memorial Trust, with work being completed by Chirico Construction.

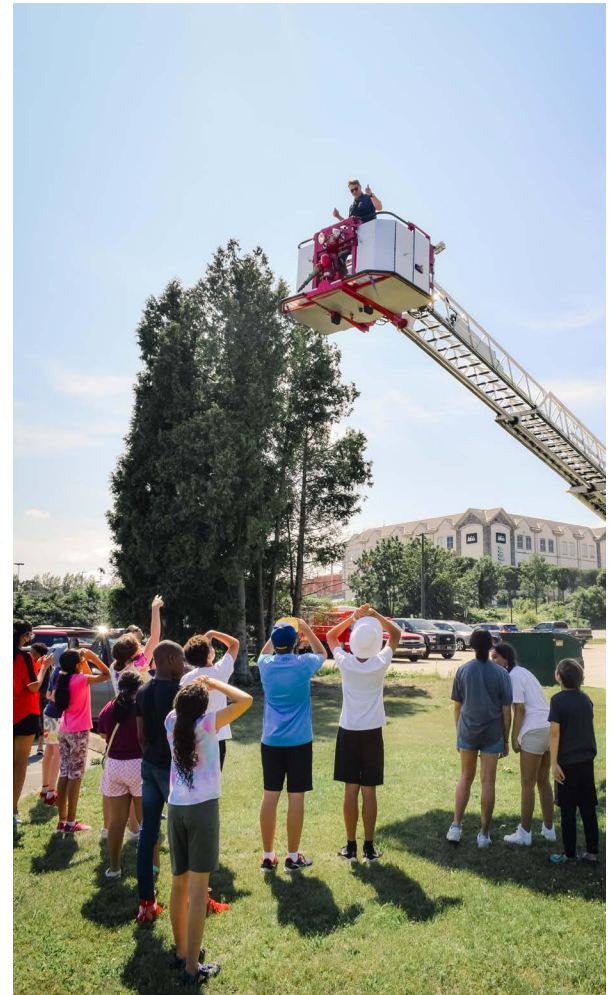


## HIGHLIGHTS

### TEEN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

In 2023, 235 teens earned over 2,000 hours of volunteering with Cranston Public Library. These numbers represent a 63% increase in the number of teens volunteering and a 100% increase in the number of hours earned when compared to 2022. Our teen volunteers were instrumental in the success of our Summer Reading Kickoff event and our year-round schedule of children's programs. This year we expanded the teen volunteer's role in the library, inviting them to outreach events such as the OneCranston HEZ farmers market, allowing them to participate in program planning, and having them solely execute certain children's programs such as Play Date. Our ultimate goal has been to allow our enthusiastic, diverse, and welcoming teen volunteer team to become the face of the library. Even with the significant increase in our volunteer program, what the teens would like to see more of in the library is even more opportunities to get involved.

The success of our teen volunteer program hinges upon the strong relationship between the public library and the schools, as most of our teen volunteer recruitment is done through outreach presentations at the middle and high schools. Thousands of teens interacted with the library through outreach events at their schools, whether they were formal presentations, info tables outside of the cafeteria, or the much-loved Bring Your Own Book Club at the Cranston High School East library. This year especially, we truly tried to meet the teens where they were whenever possible.





## NEW HOURS AT KNIGHTSVILLE

The Knightsville branch began new hours of service in April. This change was implemented to help the library better serve the growing preschool population in the northern part of Cranston and has allowed the library to expand morning storytime services, providing valuable early literacy programming at times that work best for preschool families.

## TAYLA CARDILLO NAMED GSLIS RECENT ALUMNA OF THE YEAR FOR 2023

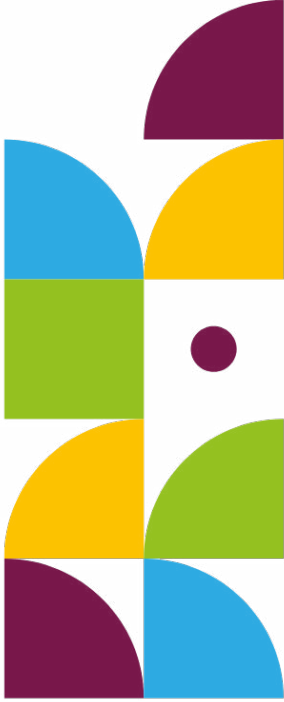
Oak Lawn Branch Librarian, Tayla Cardillo was named the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS) Recent Alumna of the Year for 2023. Tayla graduated from GSLIS in 2019 and has worked for the Cranston Public Library since December 2019.

## ELENA RIOS NAMED A 2024 ALA EMERGING LEADER

Youth Services librarian Elena Rios was selected by the American Library Association (ALA) to participate in its 2024 class of Emerging Leaders (EL). The EL program is designed to enable library staff and information workers to participate in project planning work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity early in their careers. Elena is the fourth CPL staff member to be named an Emerging Leader.



## HIGHLIGHTS



### BRANCH7

In November, the library introduced our newest effort to provide services to the community — Branch7. Our new community outreach van, Branch7 will increase our ability to provide access to essential library services to underserved neighborhoods.

Branch7 will visit different locations and events across the city, bringing library services, materials, and programs to neighborhoods that are not near the library's other physical branch locations.

Outfitted with storage, filled with materials, and equipped with WiFi, patrons will be able to sign up for library cards and check out books, right from the van.

*This project was made possible in part by a grant from the RI Office of Library & Information Services using funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*





**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             |
| Zach Berger       | William Hall Library 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 |
| Jennifer Cowart  |            |
| R. Drayton Fair  |            |
| Michael Goldberg |            |
| Diane Schaefer   |            |
| Dr. Larry Warner |            |

**CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Michael Goldberg | President          |
| Angela Bucci     |                    |
| Jessica David    |                    |
| Gene Emery       |                    |
| Lisa Kirshenbaum |                    |
| 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

**7. BRANCH7**

SEE YOU SOON!



CRANSTONLIBRARY.ORG



SCAN CODE TO SIGN-UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER