



CRANSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

## **CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION & STAFF**

Edward Garcia	Library Director
Julie Holden	Assistant Director
Barbara Hayden	Office Manager
Emily Brown	Coordinator of Youth Services
Beth Johnson	Coordinator of Adult & Information Services
Corrie MacDonald	Coordinator of Technology
Stefanie Blankenship	Oak Lawn Branch Librarian
Adrienne Gallo Girard	William Hall Library Branch Librarian
Karen McGrath	Auburn Branch Librarian
Nancy Gianlorenzo	Knightsville Branch Librarian
Linda Archetto	Head of Teen Services
Barbara Angelone	Head of Circulation Services
Katy Dorchies	Community Engagement Manager

## **CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Jack Tregar	Chair
Regina Spirito	Vice Chair
Julie Colangelo	
Roberta Costa	
Rosemary DaSilva	
Frederick Miller	
Fred Raisner	

## **CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

COVER IMAGE BY NAT REA PHOTOGRAPHY

## OCEAN STATE LIBRARIES

The Cranston Public Library has been a member of the Ocean State Libraries cooperative network for more than 30 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.

### 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

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2017, we strove to make certain that the library will continue to be what it always has been: a safe, reliable space where Cranston residents can learn, explore, and discover.

Nowhere is our investment in the future so evident as in the ways we invested in young people. This year, we completed the renovation of a new, award-winning Children's Room at the Central Library. This two-year project re-imagined youth services at the library, with a space that encourages tactile play and imagination.

We also partnered with Mayor Fung, Superintendent Nota-Masse and Cranston Public Schools for the Leader Library Card Challenge/Fresh Start campaign to get a library card in the hands of each student in Cranston. With this partnership, we worked to remove the barriers that deter young people from using the library by waiving fines and simplifying the card application and renewal process. Fresh Start was a great first step towards making the library as accessible as possible, and we're looking forward to more opportunities to remove barriers and encourage library use by all.

Mayor Fung and the Cranston City Council invested more funds in the library, recognizing the vital role we play in the future of our community. In an effort to ensure that the library continues to be a safe space for all, we added full-time security at the Central Library. For the third straight year, we increased service hours by opening the Auburn Branch on Thursdays. Funds were also added to continue upgrading our technology and expanding our print collection because, even as more and more information moves online, our patrons have continued to borrow physical books in large numbers.

2017 was a stellar year at the Cranston Public Library with our staff working harder than ever to provide exemplary customer service and help with the informational, educational and recreational needs of our patrons. As we look towards 2018, we will continue to focus on improving our facilities, increasing engagement with young people, and addressing barriers that restrict access to all the library has to offer.

As I enter my sixth year as the Director of the Cranston Public Library, I am honored to continue to lead our amazing staff as we strive to provide the residents of Cranston with the best possible library system.

**Edward Garcia**

Library Director

Cranston Public Library

## LETTER FROM THE TRUSTEES

My older son was twelve years old when he became interested in computers, and it became clear that technology would be an important part of his life. (He's now a Software Engineer).

To encourage my son's interest, we bought him a computer game, *Archon*, that was a chess-like game using Greek mythological figures. Inspired by the computer game, my son was determined to learn more about Greek mythology. So, off to the library we went, where he found many excellent books on the subject.

This memory always serves to remind me, not only of the unique capacity of technology to inspire, but also of the important role libraries play in the lives of children.

I believe one of the most important responsibilities of a public library is providing a space that a child wants to return to. So, when I heard that Cranston Public Library was planning to renovate the Children's Room at the Central Library, I was pleased. And when I saw the result of the renovation, I was thrilled. The new room is a bright, inviting space, complete with cozy reading nooks—nooks in which I can easily imagine my own son curled up, reading about griffins and minotaurs.

Of course, the tale of a computer game's ability to inspire research is just one example of the power of technology, and we don't have to look very far to find more. For example, when Cranston Public Library began offering coding classes this year, the adults who attended had the opportunity to advance their careers and, by extension, improve their lives.

When I look back at 2017, I see the investments that Cranston Public Library has made in the community's future—from a new space for our youth, to new learning opportunities for adults—and I'm reminded of why I'm so honored to play a role in this organization.

To another great year on the books at Cranston Public Library,

**Jack Tregar**

Board of Trustees, Chair  
Cranston Public Library

**209,071**  
BOOKS

**33,150**  
PERIODICALS

**16,520**  
CDS

**20,904**  
MOVIES



## COLLECTION

**559,595**  
ITEMS BORROWED

**49,716**  
EZONE ITEMS  
DOWNLOADED

**65,354**  
ITEMS LOANED TO  
OTHER LIBRARIES



## CIRCULATION

**70,200**  
REFERENCE  
TRANSACTIONS



**400,274**  
LIBRARY VISITS

**10,813**  
HOURS OPEN



**45,879**  
WIRELESS SESSIONS

**73,556**  
PUBLIC COMPUTER SESSIONS



**38,711**  
CRANSTON CARDHOLDERS



# CPL BY THE NUMBERS

**385** CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**76** TEEN PROGRAMS

**132** FAMILY PROGRAMS

**597** ADULT PROGRAMS

**1190**  
LIBRARY PROGRAMS



**24,295**  
PEOPLE ATTENDED  
LIBRARY PROGRAMS



**65**  
COMPUTER  
CLASSES

**369**  
ATTENDEES



**349**  
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS  
HOSTED AT THE LIBRARY



**4953**  
ITEMS DELIVERED TO  
HOMEBOUND RESIDENTS



**164**  
LEARNING LOUNGE  
PARTICIPANTS

**535**  
OPEN TECH TIME  
PARTICIPANTS

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## FAREWELL, LONGTIME FRIENDS



**LINDA GILL** Retired in August 2017, after 30 years of employment



**MARYANNE BERRY** Retired in September 2017, after 40 years of employment

## WELCOME, NEW FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBERS



**ALLIE GREGORY** Hired in January 2017 as Youth Services Librarian at the Auburn Branch



**SUE MCCLINTOCK** Hired in August 2017 as Cataloging Librarian at the Central Library



**ZACH BERGER** Hired in September 2017 as Reference Librarian at the Central Library



## STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Youth Services Librarian **Allie Gregory** was one of 30 New England librarians to be accepted into **New England Library Leadership Symposium** (NELLS) 2017. The Symposium took place at the Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover, MA in August. The purpose of this annual symposium is to foster the mentoring and development of leaders in state and regional library associations. NELLS is conducted by the New England Library Association.
- Youth Services Coordinator **Emily Brown** was one of 75 educators invited to attend **Picademy** in Providence in June. This two-day conference is held four times a year in the United States and gives educators from across the country the opportunity to design and demonstrate a real world application for Raspberry Pi microprocessors.
- Library Director **Edward Garcia** was awarded a **Hassenfeld Family Foundation Rhode Island Public Service Fellowship** to attend a one-week program on “Creating Collaborative Solutions” at the Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education. The Hassenfeld Family Foundation Rhode Island Public Service Fellowship was established to support promising leaders working in public service in Rhode Island
- Assistant Director **Julie Holden** was elected Vice President/President-elect of the Rhode Island Library Association.
- Youth Services Librarians **Emily Brown, Elise Petrarca, and Gail Stokes** received **Media Smart Certification** from the Media Smart Libraries program—a 15-month leadership program designed by URI’s Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Media Smart Certification required participants to attend professional development workshops and submit evidence of projects and personal reflection.



# WELCOME TO THE NEW CHILDREN'S ROOM



IMAGE BY NAT REA PHOTOGRAPHY



BEFORE / NO FILTER OR PHOTO EDITING

## THE NEW CHILDREN'S ROOM AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY IS NOTHING SHORT OF A WONDER—

but there's no need to take CPL's word for it. Just ask *Library Journal*, the national library industry magazine that featured the space in its "Library Architecture 2017" issue; or the American Institute of Architects RI Chapter, who awarded the library their 2017 Merit Award.

From the cubby-like (and affectionately nicknamed) "hex wall," to the colorful drum lights that hover above the reading area, the once dark and outdated room has made a complete transformation. But the change didn't happen overnight.

### FUNDING

Cranston Public Library was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Champlin Foundations for the renovation. City of Cranston impact fees and other library funds covered the remaining costs.

The renovation was the first of its kind since the building's construction in 1983, and completing it was no hasty process. By the end, the entire endeavor took two years of planning, six months of construction, and \$550,000 in funding. However, despite periods of set-backs and project delays, the goal of the remodel was



AFTER / NO FILTER OR PHOTO EDITING

always clear: to adapt the room to better meet the needs of Cranston’s children.

“We wanted to redesign the room to reflect the way kids use the library today,” said Youth Services Coordinator Emily Brown.

“Young people come to the library for so many different reasons: to find the perfect book, to play, to learn, to socialize. When we spoke with our patrons, we realized that all of these activities were important to the public, so we wanted to create a space that made them all possible.”

Library administration envisioned a Children’s Room that was a magical destination—a place to stay and play, read, or learn, for awhile—and so the earliest plans were built around the common fantasy children’s book theme of “portals.”

With this inspiration, LLB Architects helped CPL find a way to blend the vision with the practical. They developed blueprints that featured a new office for the Youth Services Department staff; a renovated program room, connecting to the teen program room; and additional square footage allocated to public areas, which would

**INSPIRATION:  
CLASSIC PORTAL-  
THEMED BOOKS  
& STORIES:**

*Alice In  
Wonderland*

*Chronicles of  
Narnia Series*

*A Wrinkle in Time*

*Harry Potter  
Series*

*The Wizard of Oz*

*Where the Wild  
Things Are*

## ROOM FEATURES



### Keyhole Doors

*The keyhole design of the Children's Room's new double doors inspires visitors to unlock their imagination.*



### "Hex Wall" Cubbies

*Built by Cole Cabinetry in Cranston, RI, these child-sized reading spaces encourage independent reading.*



### Portal Lights

*Manufactured by Lumetta of Warwick, RI, these drum lights embody the theme of the room. Image pairings are inspired by classic portal-based children's stories.*



### Play Wall

*Library visits are even more fun with the play wall, which includes a variety of puzzles for the youngest library patrons.*

be devoted to encouraging spontaneous reading and play.

In early 2017, Chirico Construction Co. Inc. began bringing the plans—which called for carpet removal, light fixture replacement, and both electrical and network rewiring—to life. In June, the keyhole-styled doors opened to the public for the first time and the community was invited to enter the “portal” to its new Children’s Room.

At the Grand Opening, attendees were invited to participate in a scavenger hunt, which revealed many of the hidden treasures of the room—including images from those stories which inspired the “portal” theme, cozy furniture, and secret reading nooks.

In the time since the unveiling, the magic of the new space has continued to reveal itself. The doors separating the Children’s Room from the rest of the library provide visitors with a sense of privacy and security. The very young explore puzzles on the play wall, beginning readers and caregivers read stories together on couches and oversized chairs, and students and gamers find their

way to computers in the back of the room.

The finished project, the room itself, is a beautiful example of what can be accomplished when we invest in our community's future, and all of us at CPL look forward to seeing the continued benefits in years to come.



**GRAND OPENING** (Top) Rep. Lancia, Mayor Fung, and Councilmen Farina, Paplauskas, and McAuley join Library Director Ed Garcia for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Children's Room Grand Opening Event.

# YOUTH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Each year, CPL's Summer Reading Program is comprised of two primary goals:

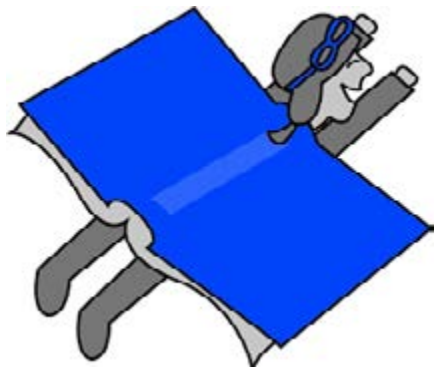
1. To act as an incentive program (or "reading challenge") that encourages young people to read all summer long, and
2. To provide special, family-oriented programming, that is funded in part by the Office of Library and Information Services.

In 2017, the Summer Reading Program was founded on the theme "Build a Better World." Reading records, which are used to track reading progress in the incentive program, could also be folded into cubes.

As participants read, they completed cubes and returned them to the library. For each cube received, CPL donated one dollar to the literacy charity Books Are Wings. The incentive to read, in this case, was the opportunity to contribute to the community.



**FARM FRESH** Kids learn how to select and prepare healthy, fresh food at the Auburn Branch during this program by Farm Fresh RI.



**BOOKS ARE WINGS** During this year's Summer Reading Program, participants read to raise funds and books for the literacy nonprofit Books Are Wings. At the end of the program, CPLA donated \$500 and 50 books to the organization.



In order to visualize impact, the cubes were collected at the Central Library and used to build a giant robot—a master builder—in front of the doors to the Children’s Room.

Participants who read at least six books were also rewarded with coupons for discounted admission to the Rhode Island attractions around the state, bookplates with their names in library books, small prizes, and dining coupons.

By the end of the seven-week Summer Reading Program, CPL had offered 157 free cultural and educational programs to the community, signed up 676 young people, and raised \$500 for Books Are Wings.

*We’d like to thank the following organizations and offices for making this year’s Summer Reading Program possible: the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Cranston Public Library Association, BankNewport, Collette Foundation, Bob’s Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation, Pawtucket Credit Union Charitable Foundation, Cranston Municipal Employees Credit Union, B.Good, Pinkberry, Sundaes, Chipotle, Texas Roadhouse, Rock Spot Climbing Gym, and Time Capsule Comics.*



**WE STICK TOGETHER** Visitors at four branches built community posters by adding a few stickers each visit over the entire summer.



**CLEVER DISGUISE** Creative Chica Jennifer Rolfsema paints a sweet penguin on the face of a young patron at the Oak Lawn Branch.



**FROM TORTOISE TO HARE** Bwana Iguana introduces visitors at the William Hall Library to one of his four-legged friends.

## TAKING FLIGHT

During the Summer Reading Program, Cloud City Drones (Warwick) gave Cranston teens an introductory lesson on drones. Twenty-four teens learned about this increasingly popular technology, while accessing a unique demonstration of both drones and quadcopters.



**LIFT OFF** Chris Williams of Cloud City Drones demonstrates drone controls at William Hall Library. (Photo courtesy of the Cranston Herald.)

## VENTURING OUTDOORS

Over the summer, the William Hall Library hosted an Outdoor Storytime for children ages 3-6. Every week, the participants read from a variety of stories with an outdoor or nature theme, before participating in a craft or activity. Storytime met outdoors, under a big tree in the front of the building—a picturesque storytime location!



**THIRSTY?** William Hall Library Youth Services Librarian, Elise Petrarca, waters flowers with storytime participants during Outdoor Storytime.

## READING GROUPS

This year, Cranston Public Library's Youth Services Department continued to build its list of reading groups for children. By structuring the reading groups around state award nominee lists—and with three staff members on award nominee committees—CPL is active in building a statewide community of readers.



**UP FOR DISCUSSION** Youth Services Librarian Edna Hutchins meets with the Fantastic Book Club at the Central Library.

## LEARNING GARDENS

With the support of a \$750 grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund, teen volunteers at the Central Library, the Oak Lawn Branch, and the William Hall Library built, planted and maintained three learning gardens in the summer of 2017. Each location had the opportunity to select its own variety of plants, ranging from herbs to standard vegetables, and gave library users of all ages the opportunity to learn about gardening.

## ESCAPE ROOMS

This year, the Teen Department rolled out its first round of Escape Room programs for grades 6+.

For each program, CPL staff decorated a room in the library and developed a narrative based on a literary theme (for example, “comic books,” or “classic whodunits”). Once inside the room, teens used teamwork to solve a series of puzzles. The puzzles, in turn, unlocked various containers, eventually revealing the key to unlock the door to the room.

Seven Escape Room events were attended by 115 teens.



**GETTING THEIR HANDS DIRTY** Volunteers at the Central Library (Top, Middle) and William Hall Library (Bottom) build and plant learning gardens.

## FRESH START

This school year, the Cranston Public Library, the Cranston Public School Department, and the Mayor's Office teamed up to make sure that every student in Cranston has a working library card with the "Fresh Start" initiative.

Mayor Allan Fung, Library Director Edward Garcia,

and Superintendent Jeannine Nota-Masse accepted the Leaders Library Card Challenge, launched by President Obama in 2015. The resulting program, Fresh Start, took place in September.

The goal of the program was to eliminate some of the barriers young people encounter when using the library. Resolving fines, replacing lost or expired cards, or even signing up for a card for the first time requires a trip to the library; however, Fresh Start made it possible to accomplish any of these by simply filling out a form.

Fresh Start forms were distributed by public school librarians during open houses across the city, and were made available to homeschooled students via the Cranston Public Library website.

The forms were used to:

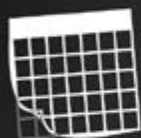
- issue a new library card
- waive fines
- update contact information
- reset PIN
- replace a lost library card

In just one month, nearly 1100 library cards were issued or updated, and nearly \$3000 in fines were waived with applications coming in from every public school in the city.



**GOT LIBRARY CARDS?** (Left to Right) Library Director Ed Garcia, Superintendent Jeannine Nota-Masse, and Mayor Allan Fung proudly present library cards to promote the Fresh Start Initiative

# FRESH START RESULTS



## 1 Month

to get every student  
in Cranston a working  
library card

APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM  
EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE CITY:

# 1097

issued or updated library cards



# \$2919

in fines waived

- Arlington
- Chester Barrows
- William Dutemple
- Eden Park
- Edgewood Highland
- Garden City
- Gladstone
- Glen Hills
- Oak Lawn
- Orchard Farms
- George J. Peters
- Edward S. Rhodes
- Stadium
- Stone Hill
- Daniel D. Waterman
- Woodridge
- Hope Highlands
- Hugh B. Bain
- Park View
- Western Hills
- Cranston High School East
- Cranston High School West

ALL THANKS TO A COLLABORATION BETWEEN MAYOR ALLAN FUNG,  
CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS & CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

# ADULT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## NASA EXHIBIT

In July, the Chandra X-ray Observatory brought NASA's "Here. There. Everywhere." exhibit to the library. The exhibit illustrated how familiar phenomena on Earth and across the universe are connected by basic physical laws. For one month, 12 standing, brilliantly illustrated panels encouraged library visitors to explore shadows, wind, electric discharge, bow waves, lensing, and the collisional excitation of atoms.



**BLINDED BY SCIENCE** One of the 12 banners installed at the Central Library during the "Here. There. Everywhere." NASA exhibit.

## HOLOCAUST PROGRAM

In October, the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center brought more than 60 visitors to the library for their lecture on the topic, "The Holocaust: How Could it Happen?" The lecture was presented by noted Holocaust educator, Carl Feldman.

## HAUNTED HISTORY

The past and the present collided at the Oak Lawn Branch for a second time this November, as Ocean State Paranormal joined library staff to present the earthly and supernatural histories of



**SCARED OF THE DARK?** Oak Lawn Branch Librarian Stefanie Blankenship gives a nighttime tour of the Oak Lawn Branch property.

the library branch. Seventy visitors of all ages attended this increasingly popular program.

### **READING GROUP**

With enough participants to justify three separate meetings each month, Cranston Public Library continues to host one of the largest adult reading groups in the state, with an annual attendance of 467. To date, 60 individuals are signed up to participate in 2018.



**CALMING COLORS** Adults visit the Auburn Branch on Fridays and take advantage of the opportunity to start the weekend with soothing coloring.

### **COLOR & CALM**

In January, the Auburn Branch launched CPL’s first coloring program for adults, “Color and Calm.” Originally a biweekly Friday program, the event’s schedule expanded due to high attendance rates and community demand. At least 10 attendees visit the Auburn Branch each Friday for the chance to unwind with a coloring book, tea, and light refreshments.

### **RHODE CODERS**

This year, the Cranston Public Library worked with the Providence Public Library to provide two coding course series for adults at the Central Library. The series, known as “Rhode Coders Club,” covered the basics of some of today’s most popular computer coding languages, including HTML, CSS and Javascript.

*Rhode Coders Club also works with State and Federal organizations to help facilitate exploration of computer programming/coding for all Rhode Islanders.*

**“BEFORE THE RHODE CODERS, I HAD ZERO EXPERIENCE. NOW I AM A HIGHLY MARKETABLE WEB DEVELOPER. THANK YOU, AGAIN, TO ALL THOSE THAT MADE THIS PROGRAM AVAILABLE.”**

**CHRISTIAN MIGNACCA  
FULL-STACK WEB DEVELOPER**

## CRANSTON DISCOVERY NETWORK

The City of Cranston, the Cranston Historical Society, and the Cranston Public Library unveiled a new project in 2017: the Cranston Discovery Network. Funded with a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, the Cranston Discovery Network features 12 informational signs at historical sites throughout the city, encouraging a self-guided walking tour of Cranston's history. The first sign was unveiled at the Sprague Mansion on April 19.



**EXPLORING HISTORY** Representatives from the City of Cranston, the Cranston Historical Society, and the Cranston Public Library unveil the first of 12 signs in the Cranston Discovery Network. *(Photo courtesy of the Rhode Island Foundation.)*

## WELCOME, BOOKLIT

In July, the Rhode Island Foundation announced the 30 recipients of this year's Community Grants. Cranston Public Library was awarded \$10,000 in grant funds for the development of a pop-up reading spot.

The mobile library cart—custom-built by UniProject and since named Booklit—will bring library resources into the community by transporting books and seating to playgrounds, bus stops, farmers markets, shopping centers, and other community events and programs.



**ON THE MOVE** Booklit, a traveling pop-up reading spot, will hit the streets in 2018.



## LEGOS & LUNCH

During the Summer Reading Program, Cranston Public Library worked with Aramark to provide free lunches to children under 18 years of age during a fun, drop-in Lego challenge program at the Knightsville Branch. Over the course of the five-week program, 250 lunches were served.

## EDGEWOOD GARDEN CLUB'S SENSORY GARDEN

The Edgewood Garden Club unveiled their latest garden installment—a therapeutic sensory garden—at the William Hall Library in July. The plants in the garden were selected for their scent, color and texture, and include perennials, such as lamb's ear, sage, lavender, and clematis. Mayor Allan Fung, Councilman Steve Stycos, and other officials and club members were in attendance at the dedication.



**GROWING TOGETHER** The Edgewood community gathers for the unveiling of the Edgewood Garden Club's Sensory Garden at the William Hall Library. (Photo courtesy of the *Cranston Herald*.)

## WORKING CITIES / ONECRANSTON

The Cranston Public Library is one of the founding organizations of OneCranston, a community initiative funded by a \$500,000 Working Cities grant from the Federal Reserve of Boston. Per grant requirements, the OneCranston initiative will bring public, private, and nonprofit organizations across the city together to address some of the challenges we face as a growing, diverse, suburban city.

With a focus on supporting low-income communities, communities of color, and a growing immigrant population, OneCranston's 2018 goals include: providing members of the community opportunities to connect and collaborate with one another to improve their neighborhoods; addressing "opportunity gaps" for youth; increasing access to employment and post-secondary opportunities; and identifying and addressing issues that contribute to socioeconomic disparities. *Look for more coming from OneCranston in 2018!*

## **RHODE ISLAND FAMILY LITERACY INITIATIVE**

2017 marked the 19th year in a partnership between Cranston Public Library and the Rhode Island Family Initiative (RIFLI). The partnership brings classes in both English language learning and citizenship preparation to adults in Cranston.

### **ESL CLASSES**

One hundred thirty four students attended beginner and intermediate English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the William Hall Library, the Auburn Branch, and at Gladstone School.

Of these participants, 41% improved their language skills by one EFL level (or two grade levels). Eight students acquired new employment, and two began courses of study at CCRI and RIC.

Students came from 38 countries including the Dominican Republic, China, Guatemala, Cambodia, and Syria.



**NAVIGATING THE LIBRARY** RIFLI students complete a library scavenger hunt at the Auburn Branch. The activity helped familiarize students with library services.



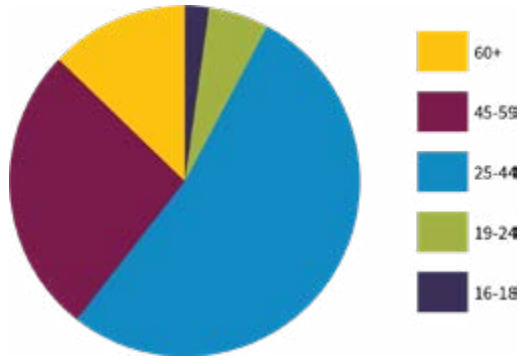
**A TALE TO TELL** Storyteller Len Cabral surprises a RIFLI class with an evening of entertaining stories.



**HELPING OUT** When possible, RIFLI provides childcare and homework assistance to students' families during ESL and Citizenship classes. As seen here, children also often work and play together until their parents are finished with their studies.

## CONVERSATION CLASSES

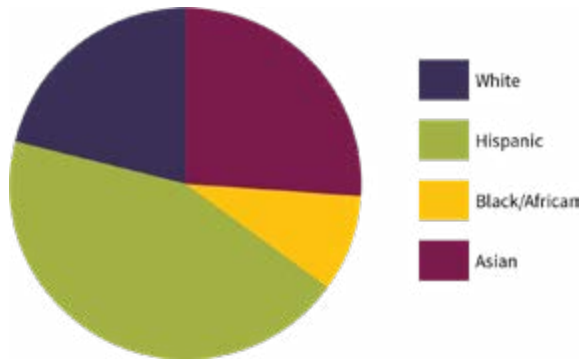
For the second year, ESL Conversation classes were offered at the Central Library. Participants developed conversational fluency by discussing topics of interest, ranging from current events to cultural aspects of the US and learners' countries. Ten classes were offered in 2017, with 81 participants.



**ESL CLASS ENROLLMENT:  
STUDENT AGES**

## CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

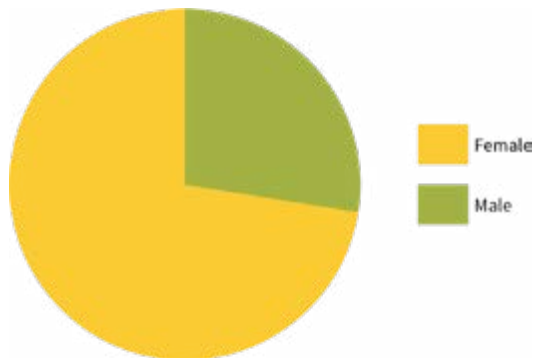
Citizenship Classes were held at the William Hall Library on Saturdays. Due to popular demand, an additional class was added on Thursdays in Spring 2017.



**ESL CLASS ENROLLMENT:  
STUDENT ETHNICITIES**

Run by three long-time RIFLI volunteers, these classes helped guide 38 students toward US citizenship.

By the end of the fiscal year, 21 students became citizens.



**ESL CLASS ENROLLMENT:  
STUDENT GENDERS**

## NEW COLLECTIONS

### COOL TOOLS

In January, the Central Library introduced Cool Tools, a new collection to its shelves. The Cool Tools collection is comprised of a variety of tools—including a stud finder, thermal leak detector, and more—available for check-out by cardholders. The purchasing of the tools was funded by a grant from the Taco/White Family Foundation. All items are available to cardholders 18+ years of age for one-week loan periods. Tools must be returned to the location from which they were borrowed during open library hours.



**COOL TOOLS** Now you can borrow a stud finder, a thermal leak detector, a ghost hunting kit, a Roku and more from Cranston Public Library!

## BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

### UPDATES AT AUBURN

We continued our efforts to increase branch service hours by opening the Auburn Branch on Thursday afternoons. This was the fourth location in two years to see increased hours. The Auburn Branch also received new computer furniture to replace 20+ year old furniture and better utilize public space. *Coming 2018: New interior, energy-efficient lighting!*



**FRESH LOOK** The renovated interior of the Knightsville Branch.

### UPDATES AT KNIGHTSVILLE

Improvements at the Knightsville Branch continued this year as we removed asbestos tiles, installed new carpeting and tile flooring, added new computers, and new furniture. *Coming 2018: A renovated program room, new front steps and a new book drop!*

### UPDATES AT WILLIAM HALL

With an \$83,000 Champlin Foundation grant, a new chiller and automatic control system were installed for the William Hall Library's HVAC system.

### GOATSCAPING AT CENTRAL

In July, 30 goats from Laurel Hill MicroFarm's Herd of Hope visited the Central Library to "goatscape" overgrown brush in the upper lot. The visit, an affordable and effective alternative to traditional landscaping, drew significant public interest.



**GOAT CHOW** The Herd of Hope, hard at work eating away unwanted brush.

# LIBRARY FUNDING

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2017 was \$3,336,344. In fiscal year 2017, the library received a 5.7% budget increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$2,641,970. The library received \$595,274 in state grant-in-aid. The remainder of the library's operating budget came from fees and fines. The Library also received \$305,000 in funds for Capital Projects.

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2018 was \$3,427,461. In fiscal year 2018, the library received a 4% budget increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$2,749,715. The library received \$582,746 in state grant-in-aid. The remainder of the library's operating budget came from fees and fines. The library also received \$530,000 in funds for Capital Projects.

## CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Cranston Public Library Association (CPLA) is the nonprofit fundraising arm 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.

Recently, the governance of the Friends of the Cranston Public Library was assumed the by CPLA. In doing so, the need for two separate Boards of Directors was eliminated and library fundraising efforts have streamlined support into one entity.

*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](http://cranstonlibrary.org/support).*

# LIBRARY SUPPORTERS

## DONORS & SUPPORTERS

The Cranston Public Library and Cranston Public Library Association seek donations and grants throughout the year to fund additional programs and improvements to the library.

The following is a list of selected supporters (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017):

### \$100-\$200

Chris & Susanna Barnett  
Nancy Howard  
Rosemary DaSilva  
Leonard Poyant  
Bob's Discount Furniture  
Charitable Foundation  
Daria Bruno  
Alice I. Sullivan Foundation  
Gregory Dorosko  
Angela Bucci  
Debra Pjojian  
Barbara Haupt  
Alice Hoogasian  
Carol Paligian & Robert Boghosian  
Barbara Davis  
Kathryn McGowan  
Hearing Loss Association  
of Rhode Island

### \$200-\$500

Cranston Municipal Employees  
Credit Union  
Senator Hanna Gallo,  
Legislative Grant  
Pawtucket Credit Union  
Charitable Foundation  
Jessica Fede  
William Hall Library  
Board of Trustees

### \$500-\$1500

BankNewport  
Alan Shawn Feinstein

### \$1500-\$3500

Auburn Library Association  
Senator Josh Miller,  
Legislative Grant

### \$3500-\$5500

Mary Ann & Walter Slocomb  
Oliver S. & Jennie R. Donaldson  
Charitable Trust

### \$5500-\$10,000

Rhode Island Foundation

### \$10,000+

Champlin Foundation

### IN-KIND DONATION:

Gamm Financial,  
Sponsors of Shred-It Day

**... AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED  
TEEN TEAM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIBRARY**



### 1. CENTRAL LIBRARY

140 SOCKANOSSET CROSS RD,  
CRANSTON RI 02920 401.943.9080

### 2. 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

