



50TH ANNIVERSARY

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
1968-2018

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Edward Garcia, Library Director
Julie Holden, Assistant Director

CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

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.

OUR 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

LIBRARY FUNDING

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2018 (July 2017-June 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 our operating budget came from fines and fees. The library also received **\$530,000** in funds for capital projects.

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2019 (July 2018-June 2019) is **\$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 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. 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

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



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

This year as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Cranston Public Library system, we continued our work to create welcoming spaces and to remove barriers for young people to use the library.

Several major building projects were completed during 2018 with more budgeted for the beginning of 2019. At the Central Library a new roof was installed and a much-needed renovation of our public restrooms was completed. At the Oak Lawn branch the basement level program room was renovated and returned to operation following a flood from 2010.

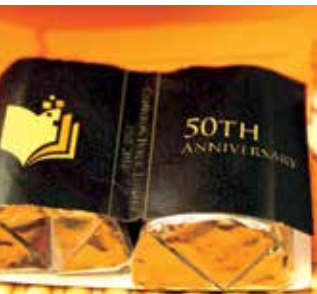
This past June the library launched Fine Free on children's and teen materials. We believe that fines should not be a barrier for a young person to use the library. Our efforts have already shown results with a 47% increase in the number of participants in our Summer Reading Program and almost a 50% increase in the number of children who completed the program this year! Thank you to the Library Board of Trustees, Mayor Fung and the City Council for believing in our vision.

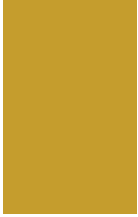
I also want to thank all those who supported the library and provided us with additional funding this year. The Cranston Public Library Association supported programming at the library throughout the year. The Champlin Foundation's \$54,000 grant funded several new programs including our historic newspaper digital archive and will be funding a renovation of the Knightsville branch program room slated to begin in January 2019. We want to thank Senator Josh Miller, Senator Hanna Gallo, and Speaker Nicholas Mattiello for their legislative grants, which helped support ESL classes, children's programs, and research databases.

We had another great year of growth at the Cranston Public Library with our amazing staff working hard to provide exemplary service and respond to community needs. On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees thank you for your support and we look forward to 2019!

Edward Garcia
Library Director
Cranston Public Library

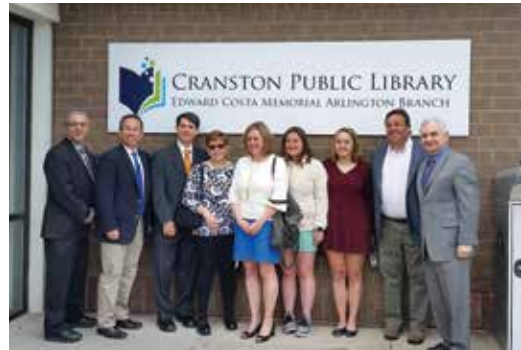
PHOTO: The three directors of Cranston Public Library, left to right, 1968-1994 James Giles, 1995-2012 David Macksam, and 2012-present Ed Garcia





50th Anniversary Celebration BRANCH OPEN HOUSES

In 1968, the public libraries of Cranston united to form one citywide system. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Cranston Public Library with several open houses at each of our library branches. Festivities included raffles, scavenger hunts, refreshments, crafts, a balloon artist at Knightsville; ghost hunters, a history talk and jiu-jitsu demonstration at Oak Lawn; an architectural presentation at William Hall; and use of a 100 year-old embossing stamp at Auburn. The Arlington branch was re-named to honor former trustee and long-time library advocate Edward Costa.







CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ABBREVIATED HISTORY

- 1888** Auburn Public Library opens on Wellington Avenue with 500-1000 volumes
- 1895** Arlington Library opens in district hall with 500 volumes
- 1896** Oak Lawn Library opens in former school house
- 1897** Edgewood Library moves to Norwood Avenue
- 1907** Arlington Library moves to Cranston Street
- 1927** William Hall Free Library opens, replaces Edgewood Public Library
- 1927** Knightsville Libray opens in a store front
- 1932** Thornton Library opens on Plainfield Pike
- 1962** Knightsville Library moves to Cranston Street
- 1965** City Council commissions Shaffer study on library development
- 1966** Cranston Public Library officially founded; Oak Lawn first to join
- 1968** CPL officially formed from 6 libraries; James Giles appointed first library director
- 1977** Thornton Library closes
- 1983** Central Library opens as administrative center of CPL
- 1987** Arlington Library closes; reopens as Arlington Reading Room in new senior center
- 1989** Hall Library renovated
- 1990** Oak Lawn expands with addition
- 1991** New Auburn building constructed
- 1993** Central gets new addition
- 1995** David Macksam appointed new library director after Giles retirement
- 2012** Ed Garcia appointed new library director after Macksam's retirement
- 2013** Reading Room renovated into new Arlington Branch Library with new technology
- 2014** A \$1.2M bond passed to complete major projects throughout libraries
- 2015** The "C-Lab" opens at Central
- 2017** Renovated children's room opens at Central

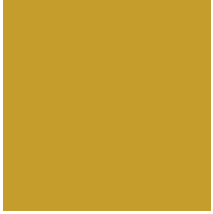


James T. Giles Community Room

Cranston Public Library Director, 1968-1994

Dedicated April 5, 2018 with appreciation for his leadership during the creation of the Cranston Public Library system





James T. Giles Community Room Dedication

Prior to the formation of the Cranston Public Library in 1968, there were six independent neighborhood libraries, beginning with the Auburn Library in 1888. The Cranston City Council commissioned a study in 1965 to craft recommendations for library development in the city. Based on this report, and in accordance with RI law, the City Council established the Cranston Public Library and appointed James Giles to be its first library director. He led the organization for 26 years, and we honored him with a ceremony to dedicate the James T. Giles Community Room at the Central Library. Senator Jack Reed, Mayor Allan Fung, other dignitaries, current and former library staff, trustees and family came together to honor him.



Building Community



LEGOS AND LUNCH

For the second straight year, the Knightsville branch hosted the Legos and Lunch program. The children made LEGO creations while eating free lunches provided by Aramark. This program was expanded from one to two days a week and ran for 13 weeks during the summer. The library provided 487 free lunches.



CANDIDATES FORUMS

The Cranston Public Library and the Cranston Herald partnered to bring two public forums to the Central Library before the 2018 election. The first forum featured citywide candidates for the City Council. The second featured candidates for ward seats on the City Council and candidates for School Committee.



EXPLORE CAMBODIA

A TalkStory grant from the Asian Pacific American Library Association allowed the library to host a series of programs about Cambodian heritage, in partnership with the Center for South-east Asians. This four-week family program focused on the geography, language, and arts of Cambodia, using the library's laptops, 3D printers, and collection of Khmer books. The program culminated in a performance by the Cambodian Society Dance Troupe.





Buildings Upgrades

The Cranston Public Library utilized funding appropriated for capital projects to further update our library locations. We upgraded all the lighting at the Auburn branch to energy efficient LED lights. At the Central Library we installed a new roof and also renovated the public restrooms for the first time since the building's construction in 1983. The program room at the Oak Lawn branch was renovated following a basement flood from several years ago.



ENCOURAGING



SUMMER READING

This year, 995 young people signed up for the rock-music-themed summer reading challenge, a 47% increase over last year. The popular “VIP Pass” program gave kids access to a secret “backstage party” at the Central Library on a Thursday evening after the library closed to the public.



BOOKLIT

The library’s mobile reading hot spot went on the road for the first time this year. Booklit is composed of a rolling bookcase of high-interest books and a set of benches that can be taken anywhere, indoors or out, to encourage on-the-spot, in-the-moment public reading. This year, Booklit traveled to the Rhode Island Kids Reading Across Rhode Island Kick-off at the Statehouse, the YMCA’s Ok-Wa-nesset summer camp, and an evening event for families at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. This program was funded by The Rhode Island Foundation and Mary Ann & Walter Slocomb Fund.



YOUNG READERS

THE ROOSTER GAMES

At the first annual Cranston Rooster Games, more than 80 third through fifth grade Cranston Public School students converged on the library to compete in a trivia-style competition based on the 2018 Rhode Island Children's Book Award nominees. A team from Barrows School won the coveted giant rooster trophy at this collaboration between the library and Cranston Public School librarians.



NATURE EXPLORERS

Young patrons of the William Hall Library have benefited from a sustained partnership between the library and the Nature Swap program at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Taking advantage of the gorgeous outdoor space at William Hall, the youth services librarian there has hosted 10 Urban Nature Explorer family programs, connecting children with the natural world through readalouds, outdoor play, and the opportunity to trade natural objects they find for skeletons, geodes, and turtle shells at the Nature Swap.



REMOVING



MATTIELLO GRANT

A generous legislative grant from Speaker Mattiello allowed the library to purchase soft seating and toys for two branch children's areas. This is part of a continuing initiative to make all locations more welcoming to young children and their families.



FAMILY CODE NIGHT

On December 11, 2018, more than 30 families attended the first-ever Family Code Night at a public library in Rhode Island. Infosys Foundation awarded a grant to URI's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies to offer Family Code Night events at public libraries across the state, so CPL teamed up with the Cranston Family Center to recruit participants for the inaugural event. The library also hosted a training and media event to highlight the importance of introducing children to coding and computer programming.



BARRIERS



Cranston Public Library's children's and teen materials are now

FINE & WORRY FREE
for Young People

FINE FREE & WORRY FREE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

During a 2017 drive to sign up Cranston Public School students for library cards, staff discovered that many young people already had library cards but couldn't use them because of fines and fees. In fact, almost a third of library cards belonging to young people in Cranston were unusable. Library staff studied the problem, learning from library systems that had reduced or removed fines. Then, with the goal of encouraging families to use the library without fear, the Library Director sought support from the Board of Trustees and Mayor Fung to stop charging overdue fines on children's and teen materials.

In June 2018, Cranston became the first public library in Rhode Island to make all children's and teen materials fine free. The Providence and Warwick libraries soon followed. Young people must still return overdue materials before they can check out something new, but when they bring Cranston children's and teen materials back late, they do not need to worry about paying a fine.

Lifelong Learning



This year, **1043** people received technology help through one of our library computer classes or other technology programs such as Open Tech Time, Rhode Coders 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 and citizenship classes at the Auburn branch and William Hall Library and conversation classes at the Central Library. Registered students represented **38** different countries including China, Dominican Republic and Syria. **29** students completed the citizenship classes, passed the citizenship exam and became naturalized citizens.



CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

401,869

Visits to the
Library

69,680

Reference
Questions
Answered

350

Free Notary
Services
Provided for
the Public

11,256

Hours Open

69,919

Public
Computer
Sessions



CIRCULATION

561,182

Physical & digital items
borrowed

68,585

items loaned to other
libraries

PROGRAMS HELD

345

Pre-School Programs

164

School Age Programs

59

Teen Programs

641

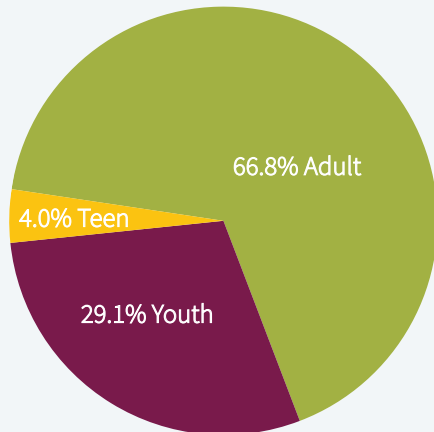
Adult Programs

146

Family Programs

1,355

Total Programs



CIRCULATION BY AUDIENCE

BY THE NUMBERS

65,892

Public WiFi Sessions

35,384

Library Card Holders

5701

Items delivered to homebound residents

172

Teen volunteers

955

teen community service hours

EZONE CIRCULATION
eBooks, Audio Books, Streaming Video
2013: 11,933
2014: 33,977
2015: 41,036
2016: 49,252
2017: 49,716
2018: 57,334



618

Community Programs & Meetings Hosted

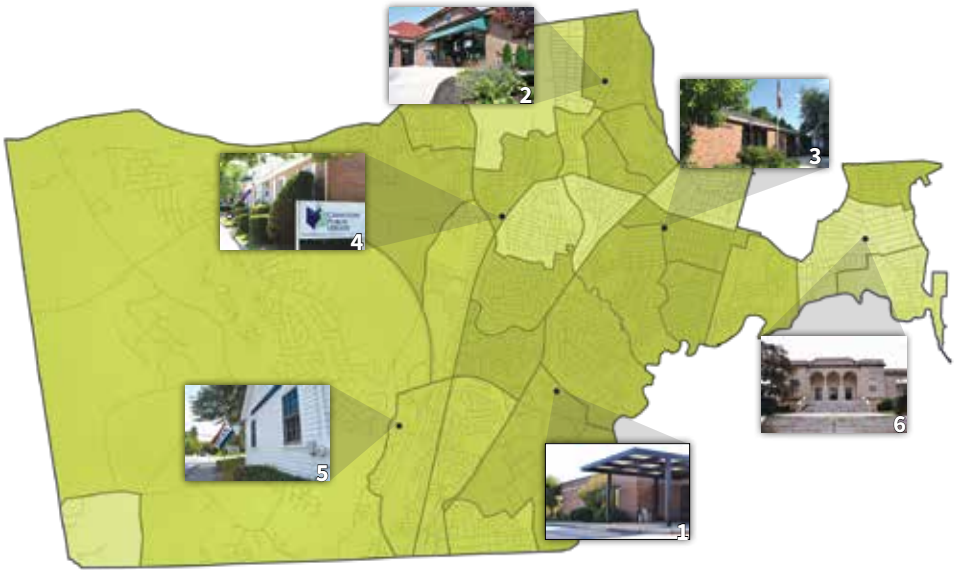
12,574

Children attended youth programs

26,993

People Attended a Library Program

COLLECTION
205,478
Books
33,350
Periodicals
16,784
CDs
21,955
DVDs
277,567
Total Items



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

