



# CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY IMPACT REPORT 2022

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



In 2022, the library renewed our commitment to providing our core services as we continued to recover from the pandemic. We were able to offer a full slate of in-person programming for adults, children, teens, and families including our popular story-times, summer reading program, and for the first time in several years, the Summer Concert Series at the William Hall Library.

As we continued to build back to pre-pandemic levels, all of our major usage metrics increased from 2021, including visits to the library, print circulation, and program attendance. This summer, the library launched a redesigned website to streamline access to our most popular services. We also added exciting new digital services including online access to the popular *Consumer Reports* database.

As political polarization continues to affect public discourse across our nation, we as a library will continue to uphold our core values including the freedom to read, and reaffirm our commitment to the intellectual freedom of our patrons.

As I complete my tenth year leading the Cranston Public Library, I am proud of all we have accomplished, and we will continue to provide a positive customer-focused experience for everyone who walks through our doors or visits us online. I thank you for supporting us and for supporting the unique and essential role the library plays in the Cranston community.

EDUARDO GARCIA

### LIBRARY FUNDING

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2022 (July 2021-June 30, 2022) was \$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.

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 -June 30, 2023) is \$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.

### 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)

Front Cover: Teens had help with their Egg Drop Challenge from the Cranston Fire Department Station #4. They built protective landing devices for the eggs which were then dropped from a fully extended ladder truck.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Seated, Left: 101-year-old WWII Navy Veteran and Cranston native Don Mellor. Don shared his experience aboard the U.S.S. Hopewell (DD - 681) during the *Life Aboard a U.S. Destroyer in World War II* program at Central.

### **ADULT SUMMER READING**

"Beyond the Beaten Path" brought our patrons out of the library and into nature and sometimes brought nature into the library. "Fun with Geocaching" taught participants about the "scavenger hunt" nature of geocaching and showed them how to search for a geocache on library grounds using an app. Craft projects on Maker Mornings included the Take & Make projects moss terrariums, nature journals, and mini map magnets.

### **VISITING AUTHORS**

Our visiting authors came from near and far to present virtual and in-person programs. Cranston native Al Crudale, author of *Voices of Italy: Italian Language Newspapers and Radio Programs in Rhode Island*, drew the largest in-person crowd of the year when 78 patrons came to hear him speak. Other popular author events included Sandra Moyer and Janet Cullen Ragno who thrilled patrons with their talk about two local favorite books, *Cranston Revisited* and *Cranston Through Time*, hiking enthusiast and journalist John Kostrzewa and Dr. Michael Fine shared the benefits of hiking in *Walking for Your Health*, author Wendy Z Lewis taught us *Three Small Ways to Live Your Biggest Life*, and John Gillooly, author of *Friday Night Thunderbolts*, shared the untold story of Cranston East football. We also had virtual presentations on *The Garden Tourist's Florida* and the British rock and roll invasion, among others.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



### HEALTHY FAMILIES AT THE CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

With a \$30,000 grant from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, we created our new Healthy Families initiative. Programming focuses mainly on adult health; last year we held 26 events on topics such as stress reduction, healthy eating, brain health, and low-impact exercising like Tai Chi and walking. A unique goal of this grant was our increased ability to provide health information in languages other than English. The installation of touchscreen Health Information kiosks at Central and William Hall Library adds a modern way for library users to search for trusted, up-to-date health information from curated sources.



### ONECRANSTON HEZ

An exciting partnership evolved last year with OneCranston's Health Equity Zone. The HEZ's resident-driven mission gives Cranston residents opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in a healthy way. Together, we co-hosted over 25 events, from storytimes to community conversations to flu shot clinics.

*"Probably one of my favorite places!*

*This place is almost as lovely as their staff."*



2022 saw the return of two special events at the William Hall Library. The Free Summer Concert Series sponsored by the Cranston Parks & Recreation Department was back, with bands like Whiskey Rhode, Bandemonium All Star Jazz Band, and the Toe Jam Puppet Band entertaining the community on the front lawn. In November we held our popular Friends of the Library Used Book Sale. Thousands of fiction and non-fiction books, as well as CDs, DVDs, children's books, and cookbooks were available for purchase at the event, with all proceeds going to support library resources and programs. In March, a group of library staff members attended the Public Library Association Conference in Portland, Oregon where the library accepted the 2020 Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize.



From *Make Your Own Pancake Breakfast* to *Solar Oven S'Mores* Youth Services staff offered 20 cooking, baking, and tasting programs in 2022.

### **TEEN ENGAGEMENT**

This year, 144 teens completed more than 1,000 hours of community service through the library by helping with summer reading programs, participating in Teen Team and book clubs, completing community service projects, writing for the Teen Blog, and more. Some of our projects included creating over 500 holiday cards for the Senior Center, stickering books for Reach Out and Read RI (an organization that provides free books to families through their primary care doctor), and baking and packaging homemade treats for Help the Homeless RI.

### **AUDIO-ENABLED BOOK COLLECTIONS**

The library introduced a new type of media to children's collections this year: audio-enabled books. These books have playback devices built in, so children can press a button and listen to the story. This new technology supports their growth as readers and adds a little magic to the picture book experience. Over 100 of these books are now available at Cranston Public Libraries -- although they are almost always checked out!

### **YOUTH SUMMER READING**

Popular programs like *Spy Secrets* and *Space Jars* encouraged children to read different genres, from mystery to science fiction. Youth Services staff increased the number of in-person programs offered this summer, while continuing to offer options for kids who were unable to attend in-person programs, including an online reading challenge, and kits with activities that could be done on demand.

# CPL BY THE NUMBERS

These statistics reflect July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Cardholders: **27,383**

Audiovisual circulation: **101,167**

Other physical circulation: **822**

Interlibrary Loan (ILL):

Provided to other libraries: **66,101**

Print circulation: **342,488**

Electronic materials circulation: **103,131**

Total circulation of physical items: **444,477**

Received from other libraries: **98,005**



Library Visits: **182,675**

Hours open: **11,132**

In-person programs: **743**

Delivery to homebound patrons: **5,125**

Reference transactions: **40,300**

Notary Services: **844**

In-person program attendance: **10,569**



Electronic Materials circulation: **103,131**

Virtual Programs: **94**

Public computer usage: **26,029**

Website visits: **244,796**

Databases & online services usage: **13,309**

Virtual program attendance: **2,788**

Wi-Fi sessions: **38,720**

"It's like coming home each time I'm here. The staff is warm, friendly and very helpful. It's one of Cranston's treasures."



## 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

### CRANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jack Tregar	Chair
Regina Spirito	Vice Chair
R. Drayton Fair	
Michael Goldberg	
Dr. Taino Palermo	
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



**CRANSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**

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