



CRANSTON  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

IMPACT  
REPORT

20  
24



# 2 Letter from the Director



As I reflect on the past year at the Cranston Public Library, I truly appreciate the continued trust and engagement that you, our community, have shown in supporting our mission. This year has been one of growth and resilience as we navigated the evolving needs of our patrons and sought new ways to foster a love of reading, learning, and connection. We remained committed to our mission and core values and thanks to your support remained one of the busiest public libraries in Rhode Island. We made significant strides in fulfilling our strategic goals.

As you'll see on the following pages, we expanded programs and services, including increasing the amount of Story Hours for older children, many of which were held on Saturdays and evenings. Almost 10,000 people attended one of our Storytimes or Story Hours this year! Our collaboration with local organizations continued to be a cornerstone of our success. This year, we partnered with the OneCranston Health Equity Zone, Cranston school librarians, the Cranston Senior Center and the Cranston Parks & Recreation department, among others, to host programs and initiatives that aligned with our mission to strengthen our community.

The Cranston Public Library was recognized for the work of our Communications Manager Sarah Bouvier and our Youth Services Team with two CORE PR Xchange Awards from the American Library Association. We hosted Senator Jack Reed this past March for his annual Women's History Month panel discussion. We were also honored to host the President of the American Library Association Emily Drabinski this past June for the start of her cross country tour of libraries.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to introduce new programs and initiatives, continue enhancing our collections, and further strengthen our role as a community hub for learning, creativity, and connection.

On behalf of the entire staff and board of trustees, I extend our sincere thanks to each of you for your continued support and engagement. We are proud to serve you the residents of Cranston and look forward to another great year in 2025!

EDUARDO GARCIA

## Our Mission:

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

## Our Values:

**Access** - We provide free and equitable access for all. We actively seek to remove barriers so everyone in the community can use the library.

**Community** - We engage with our community and partner with others to foster cooperation and provide services and collections that meet evolving community needs.

**Intellectual Freedom** - We champion the exploration of information and ideas. We protect the privacy and confidentiality of all library users.

**Learning** - We celebrate the power of literacy and lifelong learning. The library is a place where people of all ages can pursue their interests and improve their understanding.

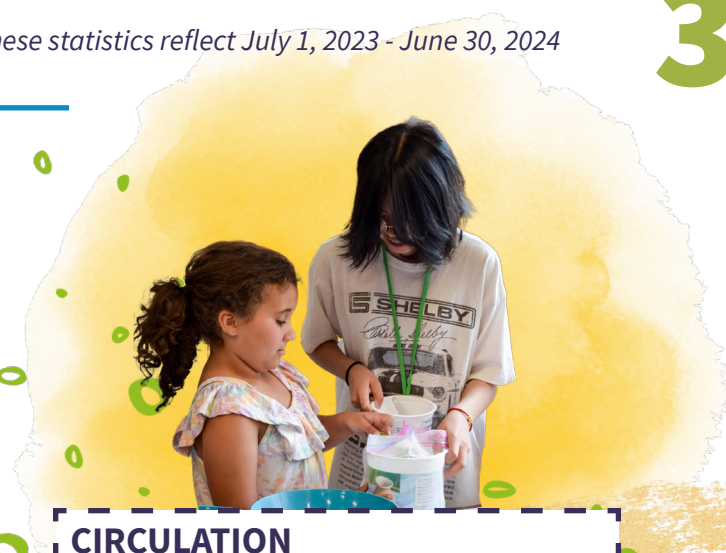
**People** - We provide exceptional and responsive customer service. We invest in our staff and cultivate an environment of growth, support, and teamwork to best serve our community.

# CPL by the Numbers

*These statistics reflect July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024*

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Cardholders	34,050
Library Visits	235,123
Library Programs	1,264
Program Attendance	25,241
Hours Open	11,840
Reference Transactions	45,032
Public Computer Sessions	27,805
Wi-Fi Sessions	51,437
Website Visits	513,000
Free Notary Transactions	1093
Community Room bookings	582



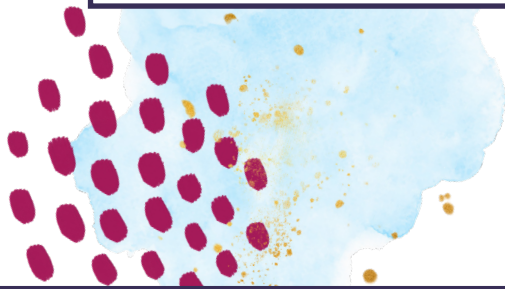
## CIRCULATION

Print Circulation	352,346
Audiovisual Circulation	82,510
Other Physical Circulation*	2,757
<b>Total Physical Circulation</b>	<b>433,116</b>
Electronic Materials Circulation	125,684
Database & Online Services Usage	14,554
Circulation of Adult materials	337,168
Circulation of Children's materials	166,526
Circulation of Teen materials	27,097

\* kits, cool tools, museum passes

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Provided to Other Libraries	63,661
Received from Other Libraries	94,181





# 4 Highlights

## Computer Classes and Technology Help

Every month the library offers free computer classes and technology help as part of its value to encourage lifelong learning. This year, over 200 patrons attended 45 computer classes to improve their digital literacy skills. These classes included topics ranging from computer basics, cybersecurity, Microsoft Office, and Google apps. In addition to classes, the Central Library and William Hall Library also assisted 576 attendees with learning how to use their own technology, continuing their learning from computer classes or working on media preservation projects during Open Tech Time.

## ESL and Citizenship Classes

The Cranston Public Library has partnered with the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI) for over thirty years to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship classes at the Auburn branch and the William Hall Library. This past year 45 students enrolled in citizenship classes at Hall and 15 of those students became U.S. citizens! 134 students from 28 different countries enrolled at ESL classes at Auburn over the course of the last year.

## Branch7

The library's new outreach van was successfully deployed to 7 outdoor events between April and October. With the help of teen volunteers, Branch7 brought library card registration, book checkouts, and games and crafts for children to Doric Park, Sprague Mansion, and the HEZ Farmer's Market at the Bain Track.







## Crafting Brings People Together

Over this past year, over 200 adults came together for an hour of crafts. Groups of friends, moms & daughters, husbands & wives all came in to create something together and share an hour of time. Many of the projects utilize old books, from book page wreaths to a book birdhouse or a book turkey! Bead earrings and bracelets were two popular sessions as well. The 'sold-out' project of the year was Needle Felting with local artist Stacey Grant of Poke-It! Needle Felting.

## Volunteers Help the Community

The William Hall library coordinates the twice-yearly Project Linus Blanket Day. Project Linus Blanket Day brings in volunteers from around the community to knit, crochet, or quilt blankets for the benefit of children experiencing trauma, and was one of the biggest successes of the year. This program perfectly complements our ongoing Knit & Crochet drop-in programs that meet weekly at Auburn and William Hall, where participants share tips and resources.

## Memory Care Kits

This year, the library began circulating “Memory Care Kits” at the Central Library, Arlington branch, and the William Hall Library. Memory Care Kits contain items that assist library patrons who are experiencing memory loss and dementia, including Alzheimer’s. Kits are available for library card holders to check out for three weeks. This project was made possible in part by the RI Office of Library and Information Services and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.









# Highlights

## Teen Volunteer Program

Most young people in Cranston need to complete community services hours for confirmation, honor society, or high school graduation. In response, Teen Librarian Alyssa Taft has built a volunteering program that allows hundreds of teens to complete their hours at the library, while building relationships and developing life skills. Teens assist with children's programs, outreach, and displays, in addition to sometimes working on projects for other organizations, such as making holiday cards for the Senior Center. This year, our 330 teen volunteers, representing over 20 different schools, earned more than 3,000 hours in community service time. In addition to volunteering at programs and events, Teen Volunteers made over 450 holiday cards for the Senior Center and wrote 94 reviews for the Teen Media Blog.

Alyssa keeps a database with teens' hours and experiences, and coaches youth services staff on managing teens, so that teens build real skills and make meaningful contributions.

## Awards

The Cranston Public Library received two Core PR Xchange Awards from the American Library Association (ALA) for its 2023 Impact Report and 2023 Youth Summer Reading Video - Make Some Noise!

Assistant Director Julie Holden was recognized with the 2024 Outstanding Librarian Award from the Rhode Island Library Association.

Julie was also a recipient of an ALA James Patterson Bonus in recognition of the amazing work she provides to the community.

Teen Librarian Alyssa Taft was named The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS) Recent Alumna of the Year for 2024.





# 8

## Highlights

### Book Group Expansion at CPL

Sharing the love of reading is central to the Cranston Public Library's mission to bring people, information, and ideas together. In 2024, our ten monthly book groups read a combined total of 89 books, inviting 839 attendees to meet and discuss a wide variety of titles.

We also welcomed our newest book group this year: Deep Dive Book Group at the William Hall Library. This book group reads three books by a single author, one title each month, for a closer look at what makes this author so appealing. And our long-running program, the Reading in the Hall Book Group, which has been gathering at Hall since 2006, held its 200th meeting celebration in October.

### Music in the Air at William Hall

The William Hall Library hosted multiple concerts this year. Our Spring Concert Series was held March through June and featured four different bands ranging in style from big band to jazz to classical guitar. The very popular Cranston Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series, held on the front lawn in July and August, featured rock, big band, and folk musicians as well as favorite children's bands Toe Jam Puppet Band and Cool Banana Wig.







## Summer Camp Fair

In February, Central Library hosted our first Summer Camp Fair, in partnership with the OneCranston Health Equity Zone. Attendees had an opportunity to explore more than a dozen summer camp options, from art camps to sports camps, and everything in between.

Over 220 parents, caregivers, and kids stopped by this drop-in event, and feedback was extremely positive. Families appreciated having so many camps in one spot because they often feel overwhelmed when trying to do it all via online search and enjoyed being able to speak to camp representatives face-to-face. We plan to make this an annual event.



## Candidate Forums at the Library

The Cranston Herald and the Cranston Public Library partnered to bring two public forums for the 2024 election season. The first event held at the Central Library on August 26 was a Republican mayoral primary debate between Mayor Kenneth Hopkins and State Representative Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung. The second forum was a State Senate District 28 Democratic candidate forum with the five candidates vying for the nomination held on August 29 at the William Hall Library.

## Eclipse Party

On April 8th, the Cranston Public Library hosted a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party at William Hall upon the rare occurrence of a Total Eclipse with approximately 90% visibility in Cranston. Over 650 people came to William Hall to pick up free viewing glasses, watch the eclipse on the lawn, and do eclipse-themed activities. Martha Boksenbaum, youth services librarian at William Hall, attended the Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries training provided by NASA, and organized this massive community event.





# 10 Highlights

## Summer Coloring and Activity Book

This summer, library staff created a professionally printed coloring and activity book, with custom illustrations by youth services librarian Zaidee Everett, based on the theme "Time Travel Adventure." In addition to online reading tracking and a color-by-number school brochure, the library offered a book of unique puzzles that counted towards the summer reading raffle. The coloring and activity book was released the second week of July, and all 400 copies were handed out by the end of the month.

## Summer Programs for English Language Learners

The population of multi-language learners in Cranston Public Schools has doubled in the past 8 years, so this summer, youth services staff designed programs especially for them. These 8 programs, on topics ranging from "Archeology Dig" to "Future Science Lab", were held at different locations, did not require registration, were open to all ages, and consisted of hands-on activities. The flyer was translated into Spanish, which 80% of the MLL population speaks, and families could request an interpreter at these events. In total, 227 people attended these programs. These programs were funded through a grant from the Rhode Island Office of Library & Information Services (OLIS).

## Free Book Fair at Sprague Mansion

This is the second year that the summer reading kick-off was held at Sprague Mansion, as part of the library's outreach to the census tract with the lowest rate of youth library cards. Over 400 people attended the event, which was a collaboration with the Cranston Historical Society, Cranston Fire Department, the Cranston Family Center, and Cranston school librarians. Branch7 was featured at the event, as well as a musical guest, refreshments, and a book giveaway where children got to choose from titles that aligned with their summer reading assignments. 195 free books were given away at the kickoff, and these books were partially funded by the HEZ and the Cranston Public Library Association (CPLA).



## Summer Reading Sponsors:

- Cranston Public Library Association
- Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services
- BankNewport
- The Big Cheese & Pub
- Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation
- Cranston Family Center
- Cranston Fire Department
- Cranston Historical Society
- OneCranston Health Equity Zone
- Rotary Club of Cranston



## 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

Michael Goldberg	Chair
Regina Spirito	Vice Chair
Jennifer Cowart	
R. Drayton Fair	
Lisa Kirshenbaum	
Diane Schaefer	
Jack Tregar	

### Cranston Public Library Association

#### Board of Directors

Jessica David	President
Angela Bucci	
Gene Emery	
Kate Felder	
Michael Goldberg	
Lisa Kirshenbaum	
Alisson Walsh	
Edward Garcia	Executive Director

### Library Funding

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for the fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) was \$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.

The Cranston Public Library operating budget for fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) is \$4,121,523. In fiscal year 2025, the library received a 2.93% increase from the City of Cranston, with an appropriation of \$3,280,466. The library received \$801,676 in state grant-in-aid.

### Cranston Public Library Association

The Cranston Public Library Association (CPLA) is a separate 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](http://cranstonlibrary.org/support-library)*





**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!



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