



Providence **Community** Library
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES



Annual Report
2012—2013



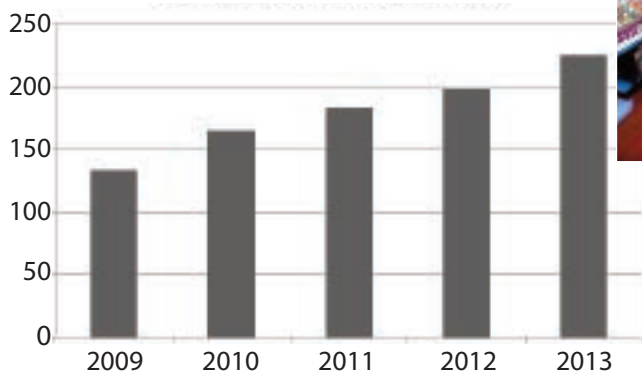


The Year — BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Libraries	9
Number of Staff	70
Number of Patrons	59,107
Library visits	706,494
Size of Collection	407,069
Total Circulation	532,800
Number of Programs	4,269
Program Attendance	57,298
Public Computer Sessions	222,171

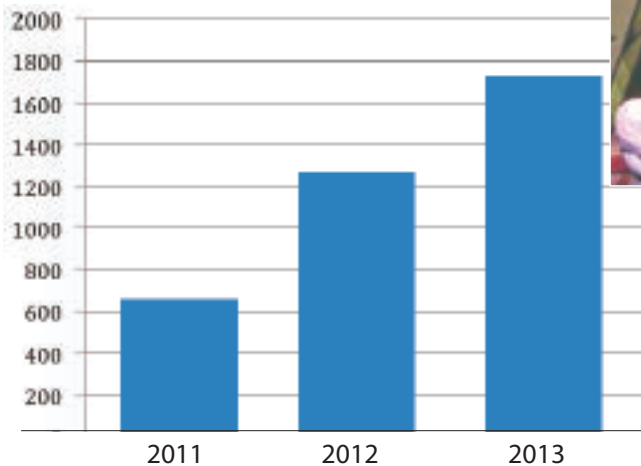


Computers for Public Use



It is critical that free high-speed access to the digital world is available to everyone. That's why PCL constantly adds computers for free public use. We now have 225 (70% more than when we started four years ago) and we're going to keep adding more! PCL also is one of the first libraries in the country to allow patrons to "check out" wifi hotspots, and has also invested in iPads for patrons, and has increased purchases of digital books. PCL leads the way with these and other technological innovations!

Summer Reading Participants



Far too many students lose reading skills during the summer vacation months. PCL's Summer Reading Program combats this problem by encouraging kids to read all summer long. Through a series of fun and innovative programs and a good number of incentives (a young Knight Memorial reader won the grand prize – a trip to Disney World!) student participation in PCL's Summer Reading Program has ***tripled in just two years!***

LAURA MARLANE

Executive Director



Schools teach children what we adults believe they need to know. Libraries show children how to discover knowledge for themselves. And that's what you can see on the faces of children in our summer reading and story programs. You can see the joy of discovery and the pride of learning on their own.

Think back to your own first visit to a library. When you first stepped through those open doors, you entered a new and very different world. A world of knowledge and ideas. A place where everyone, no matter their age or income or formal schooling, met on an equal footing to share their journeys and explorations. A place where you could hear the sound of minds at play and at work.

We all still need that world. But our children need it most of all.

And thanks to our great city's commitment to an educated citizenry, and the support of wonderful people like you, we can all still find that world of knowledge and learning at your library, Providence Community Library.

While other cities abandon libraries, Providence mobilized a rare partnership of government, private funders and individual donors to continue our long tradition of making knowledge freely available to all throughout our city.

We've needed to change our methods to keep that promise in an age of digital information, new demands on education and new constraints on funding. I'm very proud of the ways our staff has responded to these needs.

Together with our patrons, our team has embraced new technology, meeting the ever-increasing demand for access to computers and the internet at all our libraries. We've created free WiFi hotspots so that anyone in or near a library can connect using their own devices. Downloads of electronic books have become our fastest-growing service. We'll even loan you a reader!

Most critical of all, we've stepped up to help Providence students. We've taken the lead in fighting summer "learning loss," working closely with schools to select the best summer reading books and have them available for all. Our libraries have developed summer programs, often in partnership with community artists and performers, to keep young minds active and engaged – and ready to learn in September.

This Report shares more of the ways we continue to meet our traditional role in a transformational era. Through challenges and uncertainty, you've helped us find our way to this moment, and I know that you and other caring citizens will always find a way to help us continue. Thank you very much.

Most critical of all, we've stepped up to help Providence students. We've taken the lead in fighting the summer "learning loss..."

Providence Community Library has been invaluable to the Providence School Department during the past four years, supporting our work in so many ways – from providing professional development to our school librarians to purchasing books that our students need outside of school hours. PCL has worked with our schools to create summer reading lists to help students stay abreast of school reading requirements and has spent countless money and energy to ensure families, teachers, and students are able to access the many resources needed to be successful. Our continued relationship will only enhance what PCL has already generously offered to our students, families and teachers. We are proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of professionals.

— KIMBERLY LUCA, Providence Public School Department, Supervisor of Humanities and Literacy





“Our young patrons at South Providence Library braved tremendous downpours to attend our programs, read all the books on their summer reading lists (and then some!), and have called our library their home all summer long.”

— BETTY NUNES, Children Specialist



PHOTO BY JORI KETTEN



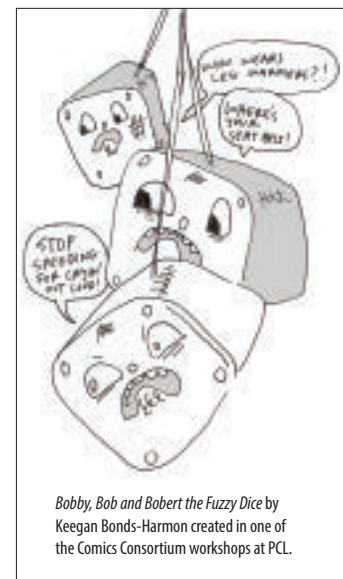
Our youngest learners are introduced to the wonders of reading.

- At Cradle to Crayons (held at all nine libraries) children ages 0-3 discover new books, songs and rhymes to share. Their parents and caregivers are introduced to parenting and child-raising experts and learn about raising healthy, happy readers.
- Children from 3 to 5 years old have their own Pre-school Story Time programs where they are read stories, play interactive games, and learn crafts.
- At Rochambeau Library toddlers enjoy Zumba for Toddlers – Spanish music, songs and movement.
- Meeting Street School collaborated with South Providence Library to offer Shake, Toddle and Roll, a program that combined groups of Meeting Street’s special needs children and children from the South Providence Cradle to Crayons program.



When school lets out PCL is the place to go!

- All over Providence kids learn how to draw and write their own comics and then publish their works in issues of the Comics Consortium Showcase. This year Comics Consortium students focused on stories involving seat belt safety as part of a RI Department of Transportation education initiative.
- With Hip-Hop 101 kids study poetry, writing and performing as they learn to write and perform their own rap songs.
- CyberKids teaches children a variety of digital subjects, from the basics of computer use and internet safety to video editing, game design, and even how to build a bridge!
- After school kids flock to PCL’s libraries for help with their homework from PCL staff and volunteers including students from local colleges.
- In the summer kids take part in PCL’s Summer Reading Program. In three summers, the number of participants tripled to nearly 1800! The more books kids read the greater the chance to win great prizes (and the greater the chance to eliminate the “summer slide” that happens when they don’t read). One young Knight Memorial Library reader won the statewide grand prize trip to DisneyWorld!



Bobby, Bob and Robert the Fuzzy Dice by Keegan Bonds-Harmon created in one of the Comics Consortium workshops at PCL.



PCL partners with the Providence Public School Department to elevate student reading levels.

- PCL works hand-in-hand with the Providence Public School Department and the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet to support the education of Providence youth. Currently, 47% of PPSD fourth grade students are not reading at grade level, a solid indicator of future struggles. PCL is actively working to reduce this number.
- PCL collaborates with PPSD Library Media Specialists and PPSD staff to create Summer Reading Lists aligned with PPSD's curriculum.
- Each summer PCL invests in enough new books on the Summer Reading List to make sure all students are able to borrow and read the books they want or that are required.
- PCL has provided Professional Development trainings to the PPSD Library Media Specialists and created partnerships with their local libraries.

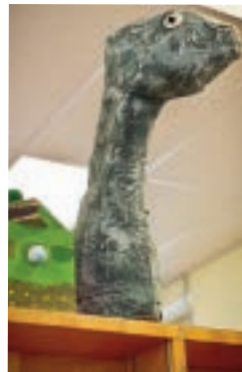


- PCL's Friends of Knight Memorial Library, created a pilot program tutoring over 50 PPSD students from Gilbert Stuart Middle School to better prepare them for the NECAP exam.
- PCL collaborated with PPSD and other Providence organizations, in the design and operation of a

pilot project, Kids Bridge *Plus*, an educational support for incoming kindergarten students to be ready for school, based on the successful Kids Bridge program of Inspiring Minds.

A farting dinosaur helps kids read.

At PCL's Washington Park Library neighborhood children are given a unique incentive to read. Any child who read five books could make the library's new mascot, a flatulent dinosaur, fart – noisily. More than 130 students have read enough books to have this fun, prehistoric experience. Five kids have read more than 50 books each and have been rewarded with their own fart machines!



“Make no mistake — the activities of PCL, particularly its work with the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet to achieve grade-level reading and its own summer reading program which aims to prevent summer reading loss, are critical to the education and success of Providence's children.”

— Providence Mayor ANGEL TAVERAS



“PCL is a core partner of the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet and has demonstrated its belief in the ability of organizations to more greatly impact our city's children when they align efforts and use a common agenda. PCL is known for its intentional collaborations with partners across the city in support of better results for our kids and families.”

— REBECCA BOXX, Director, Providence Children and Youth Cabinet





*“La vida no tiene sentido si no comparto con los demas lo que puedo hacer y dar.”
(Life has no meaning if I don't share with others what I have to offer.)*

—HIPOLITO REYES,
Volunteer GED Class Instructor

Latino programming expands to meet a growing need in Providence.

- PCL trained volunteers to teach ESL classes, and those volunteers assisted more than 100 adults in learning the English language at both beginner and intermediate levels.
- As a result of our Spanish-language GED classes, 21 students passed the GED exam at CCRI and were awarded GED diplomas (up from twelve graduates the prior year).
- Over 100 students took advantage of PCL's Spanish-language computer classes where they learned basic computer skills and Microsoft Office products.
- Partnering with Providence Plan's Ready to Learn initiative, PCL conducted workshops in Spanish for home day-care providers, teaching them how to use library resources and how to create fun, educational programs for the children in their care.
- Cuentos Bilingues provided bilingual storytelling and activity programs for children age 6–10.
- Bienvenidos Latinos, the PCL Latino Friends group, has helped create many workshops and cultural events throughout the year.



People of all ages and interests enjoy cultural events at PCL.

- Festival Ballet Providence workshops
- Classical concerts with Community MusicWorks
- Jazz, Folk and Rock Concerts
- RI Museum of Math and Science workshops
- Professional performers for the Summer Reading Program
- Movies for Kids and Families
- PCL Latino Film Festival
- Rhode Island Black Storytellers
- Author Readings
- Book Clubs in English and Spanish
- Peace Flag Project workshops
- Hispanic Heritage cultural events
- Black History month events



PCL Friends advocate, support and make a difference.

- PCL's Friends Groups support their local libraries by raising money for books, supplies and programs and by advocating for the protection of neighborhood libraries.
- Friends of Rochambeau hold their popular semi-annual book sales and sponsor numerous cultural events throughout the year.
- Friends of Knight Memorial Library conduct monthly book sales and held an extremely successful fundraiser to help the reconstruction of the library's majestic staircase.
- Friends of Fox Point hosted a celebration of the Fox Point Library's 100th birthday.
- All nine Friends Groups held events to support their libraries and provided invaluable assistance to PCL's annual February Card Drive during school vacation week. Books Are Wings gave free books to the children and nearly a half-ton of food was collected for the RI Community Food Bank.



"The NECAP tutoring program at Knight Memorial Library provided Gilbert Stuart students invaluable experiences that have prepared them well for the upcoming school year. Reading the wonderful reflections students wrote about the benefits of the program were a pleasure to read. It was wonderful to hear that so many students were excited about their learning and the amazing teachers they worked with at Knight Memorial Library."

— EDWARD HALPIN, Principal,
Gilbert Stuart Middle School



YES, you can check PEOPLE out!

Providence Community Library, partnering with Barrington Public Library and East Providence Public Library, brought the *Human Library* to Rhode Island for the very first time. Based on the international model founded in Denmark in 2000 the March 3 event, subtitled "*What's your prejudice?*" allowed 180 readers to interact with 40 human books – members of the community with whom they might not otherwise have contact, or who they might have preconceptions about but want to understand.

"WHAT an amazing experience - thank you, thank you! Not only did I thoroughly enjoy being a 'Human Book' but my daughter "took out" five books and learned so much. She couldn't stop talking about her books :) Every town needs a Human Library!"

— MITRA K. SHAVARINI, EdD, Lecturer International Center for Ethics,
Justice & Public Life & Women's & Gender Studies Program. Brandeis University



"At Washington Park we have added packages of seeds to our library's circulating collection: The David St. Germain Seed Library— part of a national movement of seed libraries at public libraries. This is the first and only seed library in RI but hopefully it will break dirt for others!"

— DYLAN LITTLE, Library Manager

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President, Board of Directors



It has been an honor to serve this past year as president of the Providence Community Library Board of Directors. The PCL Board is charged with determining policies for the organization and with ensuring that PCL has the proper resources – financial and otherwise – to carry out its mission.

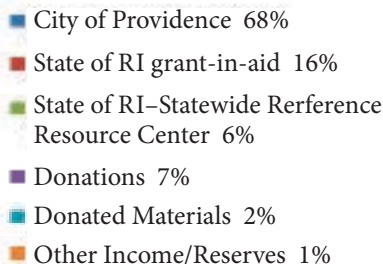
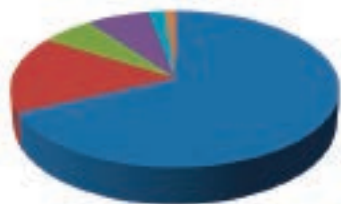
PCL provides free, accessible library services to improve and enrich the lives of the people of Providence. Our community libraries serve as vibrant hubs within the neighborhoods of Providence, providing programs and services that respond to the needs of the community.

Our board members reflect our community. We represent all the people of Providence, with members appointed by the Friends groups of each of PCL's nine libraries, by the Mayor, City Council and the Governor, as well as elected at-large community members. Our meetings are open to you, the public that we serve.

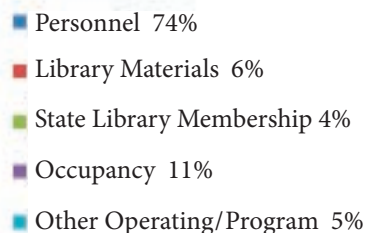
Financial Information

Snapshot of the Providence Community Library finances (unaudited) for fiscal year 2012-2013 (July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013)

Resources: \$4,927,257



Use of Resources: \$4,927,257



I love to help PCL in any way I can; it's my home away from home. I'm thrilled that I was able to get PCL a grant from my employer, Cox Communications, because it is the least I can do to give back to the place that has helped me become who and what I am today. At a time when my resources were very limited, the public library provided me with the knowledge and resources I needed to succeed.

In my early teens I came across a quote by Henry Thoreau: "A truly good book teaches me better than to read it. I must soon lay it down, and commence living on its hint... What I began by reading, I must finish by acting." The library provided the gate for me to start acting upon improving my life and that of my community.

— ANNY WHETZEL, ESL Volunteer, PCL Supporter and Cox Communications employee

Providence Community Library SUPPORTERS

Providence Community Library wishes to thank the hundreds of donors who helped make our fourth year possible and successful (gifts made from July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013).

\$1,000,000+

City of Providence
State of Rhode Island (library grant-in-aid and for the Statewide Reference Resource Center)

\$250,000+

The Champlin Foundations (for renovations to Smith Hill Library)

\$20,000+

RIDOT Office of Highway Safety
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\$10,000+

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“My family was less than fortunate while I was growing up. Before there were public computers, I wrote my essays on my mom’s old college typewriter. Even when we acquired a desktop, there was never internet access nor a printer. I depended on Mount Pleasant Library for all my research. Thank you for being there.”

—DESIREE D., Mt. Pleasant patron



(continued next page)

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... and the many readers who
have given their treasured
books to our libraries.



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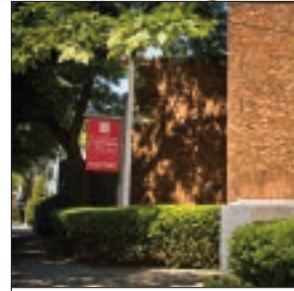
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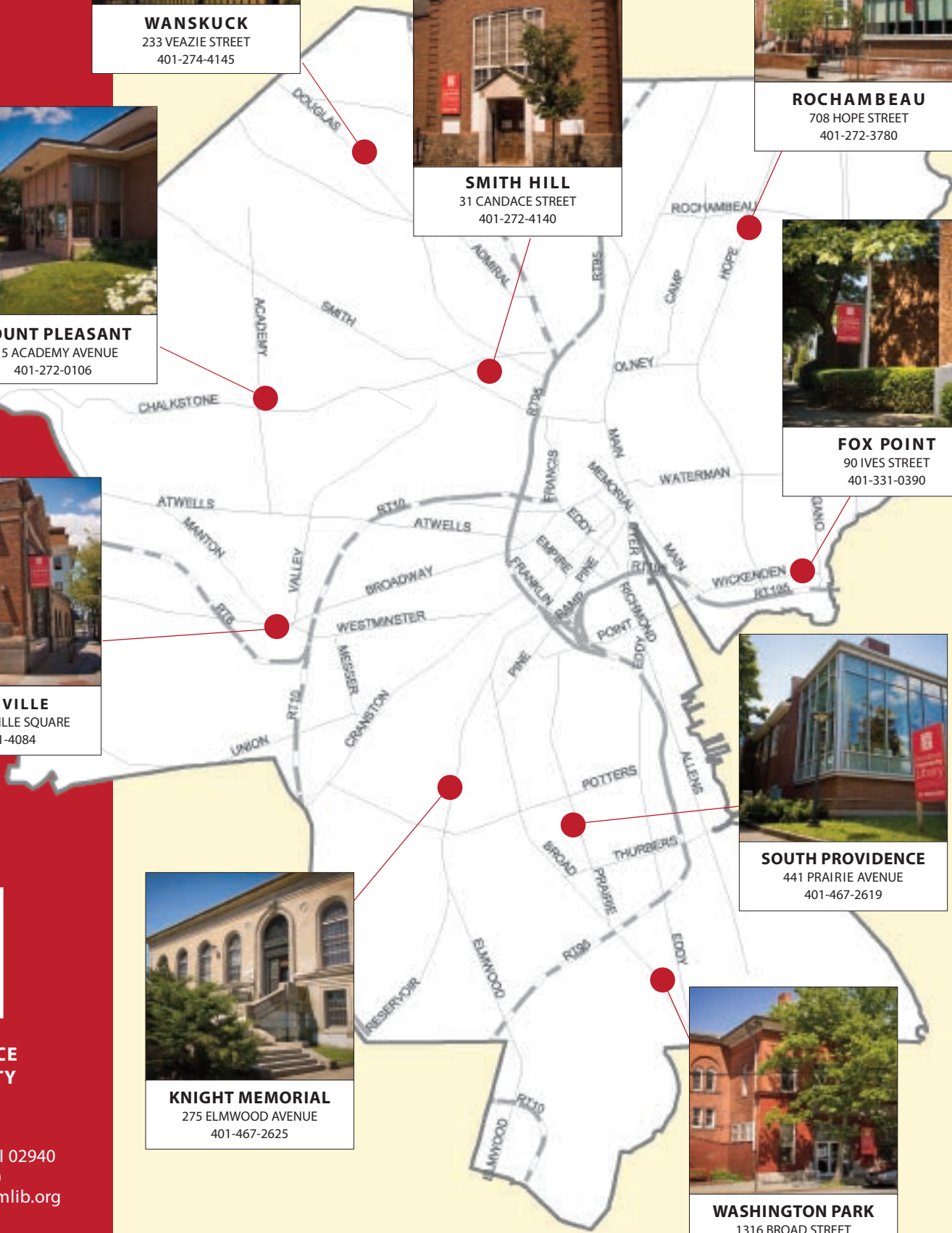
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