



## Annual Report 2017–2018

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Providence **Community** Library  
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES

# The Year — BY THE NUMBERS

Libraries	9
Staff	66
Patrons	44,838
Library visits	601,292
Total Programs	5,653
Total Program Attendance	64,461
Library Circulation	313,998
eZone Circulation	48,072
Computer Lab use	128,190
WiFi Use	54,797
Web Visits	513,769
Reference Questions	45,891
Meeting Rooms Used	682
Meeting Room Attendance	5,668

## Financial Information

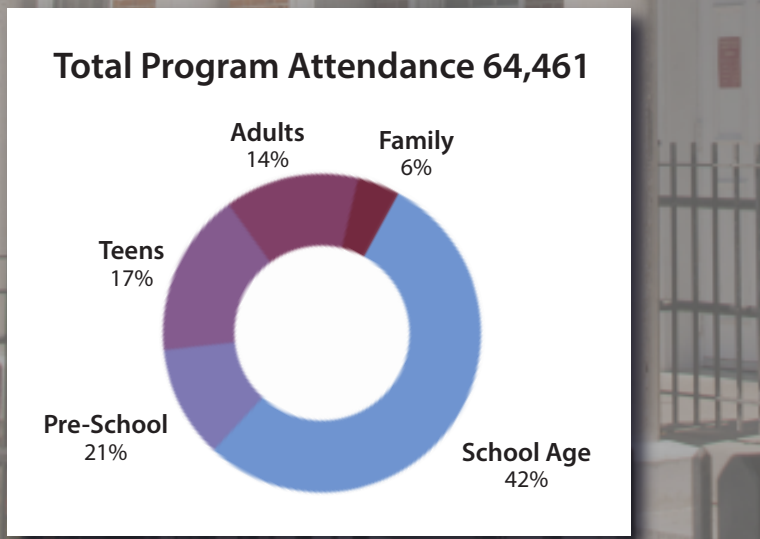
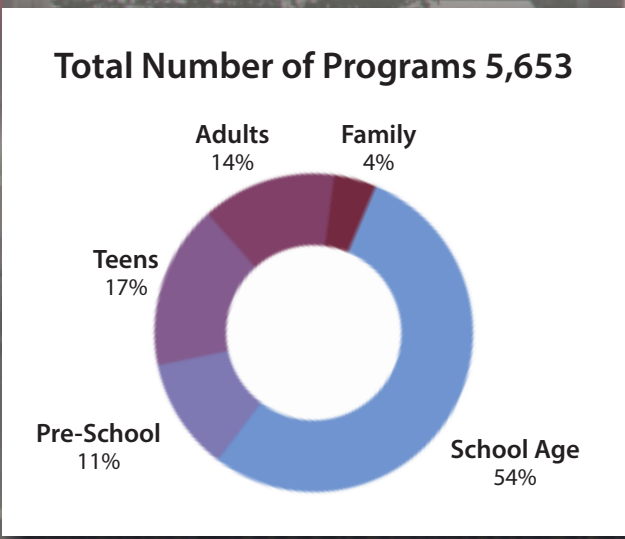
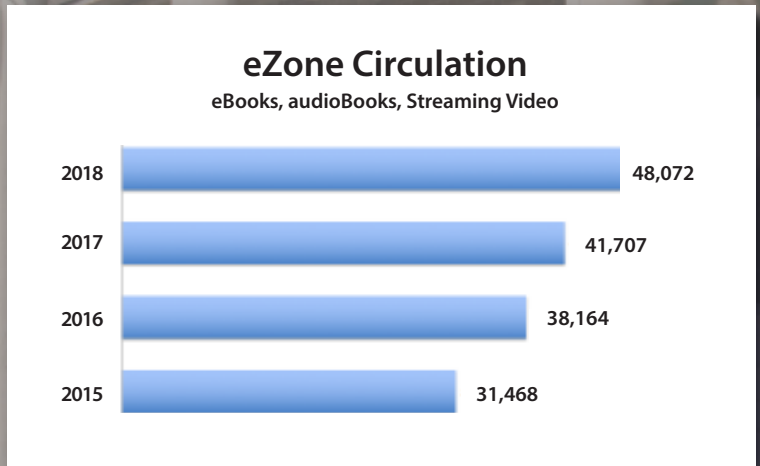
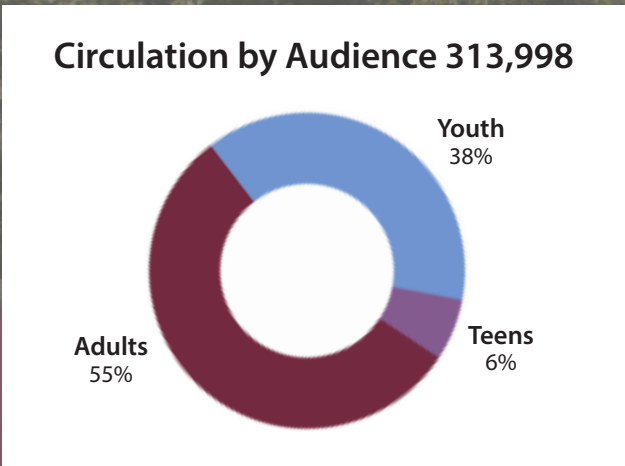
Snapshot of the Providence Community Library operating finances (unaudited) for fiscal year 2017-2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

**Resources: \$5,479,700**

- City of Providence 73%
- RI State Grant-in-aid 15%
- Donations/Grants 8%
- Other Income 2%
- Donated Materials 2%

**Use of Resources: \$5,479,700**

- Personnel 73%
- Occupancy 12%
- Other Operating/Program 6%
- Library Materials 5%
- Library Consortium Membership 4%





## CHERYL SPACE **Library Director**

I am proud to present highlights of 2017-2018, including some of the programs and resources created through new initiatives and partnerships that will provide increased access to learning opportunities for Providence residents:

- PCL eliminated fines on all youth materials, erasing a significant barrier to borrowing books and other resources for pleasure and learning;
- Through our partnership in the PVD Young Makers Initiative (page 5), PCL has unleashed creativity and industry among kids and teens in every neighborhood;
- The Passport to Summer Learning, in conjunction with our Mobile Library and Summer Reading Program (page 4), continues to provide encouragement for all students to read and learn over the summer, wherever they may be;
- New mini-libraries (page 4), installed by PCL in six Providence Recreation Centers, will provide year-round access to high-quality library materials outside of school;
- Through our collaboration with the City of Providence, we are thrilled that the new municipal ID (page 7) will serve as a library card and encourage holders to visit the library and to connect to all of the free services and resources we provide.

As PCL looks forward to its tenth birthday, the Library remains steadfast in its mission to adapt to the ever-evolving needs of Providence residents, both inside and outside our walls.



## CYNDIE WILMOT **President, Board of Directors**

I look back on 2017-2018 as a period of innovation and achievement for PCL. Our Mobile Library reached out to young readers, making a positive and measurable difference to their reading scores. Our language programming and GED certificate preparation classes continue to transform lives. The PVD

Young Makers Initiative looks set to add new dimensions to our afterschool programming and exciting new Virtual Reality programs provide new approaches to learning through technology. The world is changing and so is PCL!

I thank the Mayor and City Council for their continuing support, Providence Public Schools for their enthusiastic collaboration, as well as generous funders, such as the Champlin Foundation, which recently gave PCL a generous grant of \$544,800 to renovate the exterior of Knight Memorial Library.

I applaud the PCL staff who support and enrich the lives of our patrons on a daily basis. These talented people, under the leadership of new Library Director, Cheryl Space, will implement the goals of PCL's new strategic plan. The future is in capable hands!

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*BELOW Cutting the ribbon on a brand new teen/ community space at Mount Pleasant, made possible by a Community Development Block Grant allocated to PCL by City Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan.*



# Cultivating Meaningful Partnerships

Providence Public Schools, the Mayor and the City of Providence, Providence Public Library and United Way of Rhode Island are some of the partners that help PCL meet the literacy and learning needs of a diverse population.



## The Big Red Bus

Thanks to a grant from United Way of RI, PCL's Mobile Library once again transported books, technology and WiFi, life-sized games, arts and craft activities, shade tents and outdoor furniture to ten neighborhood schools and five Recreation Centers in Providence, delivering summer learning to students and families, right to their doorsteps.



## Fighting the Summer Slide in 2017

- 662 summer reading programs at PCL locations
- 110 outreach programs at the Mobile Library
- 16,500 reading hours recorded by students
- 903 PPSD students earned stamps for their Passports to Summer Learning
- 51% of participants who read for 20 minutes a day over the summer exceeded their expected growth in reading skills, as compared to the 41% who read for less time – a significant gain.

**LEFT** A new mini-library at Joslin Recreation Center—one of six installed at Providence Rec Centers—encourages year-round reading by providing access to high-quality, diverse books, games and magazines, made possible by Better World Books.

**BELOW LEFT** Reading a story to a Ready for Kindergarten group at Alfred Lima Sr. Elementary. In 2017, the Mobile Library delivered the school readiness program to five PPSD elementary schoolyards.

**RIGHT** Monica (left) is one of several PPSD teachers who travel with the Mobile Library during the summer to help students practice numeracy skills.



# Creativity Through Technology

**PVD Young Makers** launched in Spring 2018, is a collaboration between the City of Providence, FabNewport, Providence Community Library, Providence Public Library, Rhode Island Museum of Science and Art, and Young Voices. Assisted by FabNewport and PCL staff, kids immerse themselves in the creative process and receive badges as proof of new skills acquired using a vinyl cutter, laser cutter, sewing machine, 3D printer, Dash robot and heat press.

**Virtual Providence** trains teens to create immersive videos of educational and cultural experiences associated with the summer reading program and Passport to Summer Learning. Kids who can't travel to the library, Zoo or the State House can enjoy a virtual trip through a VR headset! The project is supported by a Studio Rhode Next Generation Library Challenge grant and funds from the Zenovation Fund of United Way of Rhode Island.



*ABOVE* Since April 2017, teens have built 50 brand new PCs for our public computer labs by participating in PCL Computer Builders workshops, acquiring valuable skills for the future job market.

*FAR LEFT* A student concentrates on her PVD Young Makers sewing project.

*ABOVE LEFT* PVD Young Makers and Virtual Providence staff brought creativity to the PVD Fest.

*LEFT* All eyes on the 3D printer!

*BELOW LEFT* Virtual Providence films at Roger Williams Park Zoo.

*BELOW* The 360 degree camera records a summer reading program educator for a virtual video.



# Discovery and Enjoyment



**ABOVE** Dancing with Big Nazo creatures at October's Alternative ComicCon at Olneyville.

**RIGHT TOP** Artist and illustrator Cathren Housley builds a board game design at Washington Park, funded by a grant from the RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA); **RIGHT 2nd** Rhode Island Poet Laureate, Tina Cane, presents a creative workshop at Smith Hill Library, inspiring young poets to approach their writing in new ways; **RIGHT 3rd** Another fabulous evening of Jazz at Mount Pleasant; **RIGHT 4th** Winners of PCL's Bilingual Story Writing Contest receive their prizes at the Día Day Los Niños/Día De Los Libros celebration.

**BELOW LEFT** PCL celebrates National Puzzle Day with events at Mt. Pleasant, South Providence and Rochambeau, featuring the jigsaw creations of RI artist, Sarah Jane Lapp; **BELOW CENTER** The Chess Club at Washington Park gets ready to play, guided by instructor Sam LaFortune, and Carlos, a work-study student from Johnson & Wales University; **BELOW RIGHT** Kids play games, create their own comics and learn screen printing techniques at a Providence Comics Consortium workshop, funded in part by RISCA.

PCL's resources open doors to new learning and leisure opportunities – and all for free!



# Lifelong Learning

## More than Half of Adult Learners in RI are Latino and Language Courses are in Great Demand

In 2017-2018, 150 students attended our free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. Thirteen students completed their Spanish-language GED certificates, with many more on the way to success. Additionally, PCL's Learn Spanish classes were filled to capacity.

## Supporting Small Businesses, Job Seekers, and Financial Literacy

Working with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity (ODEO) and the Rhode Island Commerce Association, PCL presented workshops for new and growing businesses about how to obtain minority business certifications and business micro-loans. PCL partnered with Providence Public Library to bring the Workforce Development Learning Lounge to South Providence, providing digital assistance to adults looking to acquire skills, ranging from online job search to basic computer use to reading, writing, and math. PCL's *Money Smart* workshops, sponsored by Santander Bank, were taught by local experts, and tackled a range of personal money management themes during National Financial Literacy Month.



*A book club meets at Mount Pleasant. Our book clubs are a popular and informal way to make new friends, expand knowledge and experience other perspectives.*



*Rosario Pren, who has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren, gave an inspiring talk at PCL's GED graduation ceremony about the fact that it's never too late to accomplish anything - no matter your age, culture, or circumstances!*

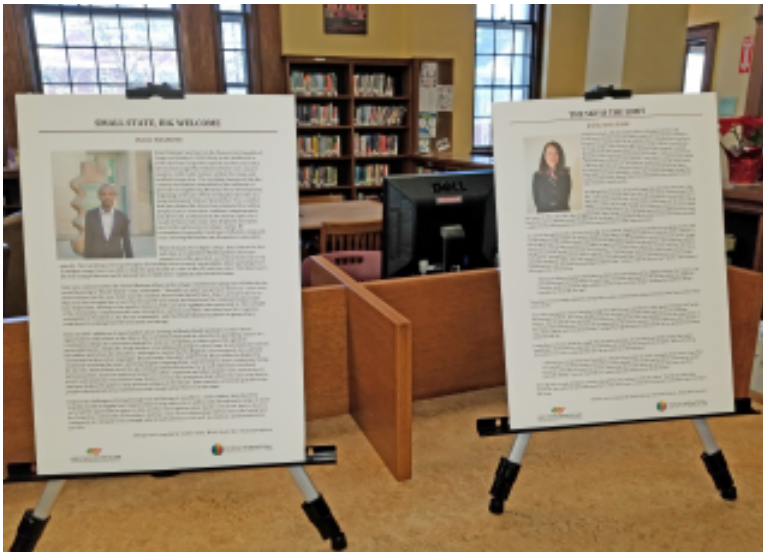


*An ESOL class celebrates another great year of learning at Knight Memorial.*

# Welcoming Libraries in Vibrant Neighborhoods

## We Want Everyone to Be at Home at PCL!

**RIGHT** A young mother uses her IDPVD card to access materials at the Mobile Library. The new municipal ID card – which also serves as an Ocean State library card – provides proof that the holder lives in Providence; **BELOW** The Welcoming RI exhibit, an initiative of Dorcas International of Rhode Island, toured five PCL locations. The storyboards told the moving personal stories of immigrants who have sought new beginnings in the Ocean State.



**ABOVE** Julius Seabright of Food 4 Good makes vegetarian shepherds pie at the weekly market outside Olneyville Library.



**ABOVE** Local herbs, honey and flowers on sale at Sankofa World Market at Knight Memorial Library. **RIGHT** The Legal Literacy Initiative brings technology and WiFi, library services and legal resources to everyday places in Olneyville, such as the laundromat, in partnership with Libraries Without Borders and funding from the United Way of Rhode Island.





# Thank you, Supporters of Providence Community Library

*PCL proudly acknowledges all donations made July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. Every dollar we receive means a lot and helps provide more programs and services, access to technology and free arts and cultural events. A donation to PCL is a donation to the future of Providence.*

## **\$3,000,000+**

City of Providence\*

## **\$500,000+**

Champlin Foundation  
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*Twelve stories up—this fundraiser is not for the fainthearted! Thanks to 32 brave rappellers and many supporters, \$52,000 was raised when PCL went Over the Edge at the Regency Plaza Apartments. Top prize: Pam Steager, who raised \$2,755! ABOVE Board member Matthew Lawrence gets ready for takeoff!*

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\* These amazing donors have contributed to PCL each year since PCL began operating Providence's neighborhood libraries on July 1, 2009.

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