

*Celebrating ten years
2009–2019*



Annual Report 2018–2019



Providence **Community** Library
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES

The Year — BY THE NUMBERS

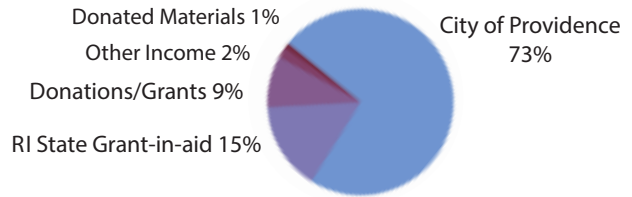
Libraries	9
Staff	67
Patrons	42,501
Library visits	657,391
Total Programs	6,814
Total Program Attendance	85,869
Physical Circulation	391,111
Digital Circulation*	60,636
Total Circulation	451,747
Computer Lab use	112,657
WiFi Use	95,330
Web Visits	412,043
Reference Questions	43,558
Meeting Rooms Used	968
Meeting Room Attendance	9,834

*Includes Ocean State Libraries eZone & Kanopy

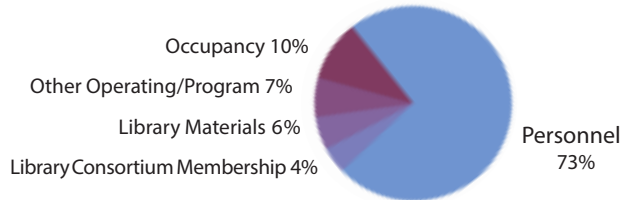
Financial Information

Snapshot of the Providence Community Library operating finances (unaudited) for fiscal year July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

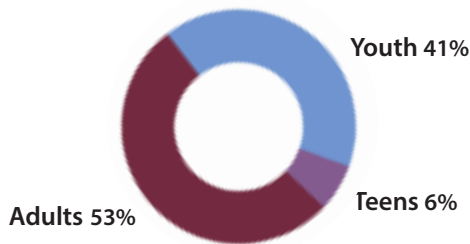
Resources: \$5,440,528



Use of Resources: \$5,440,528

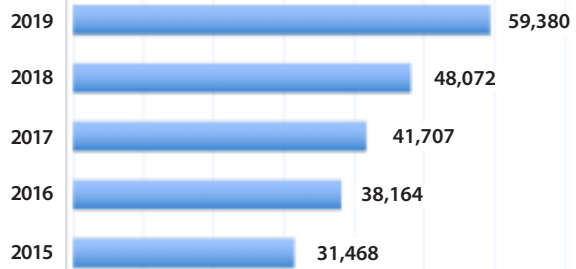


Circulation by Audience 451,747

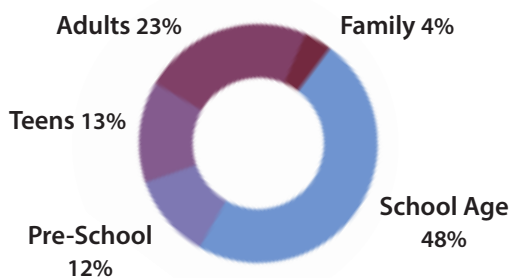


eZone Circulation

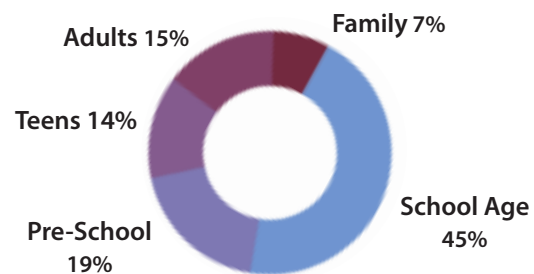
eBooks, audioBooks, Streaming Video



Total Number of Programs 6,814



Total Program Attendance 85,869



Students at three elementary schools including Alfred Lima, (pictured on cover) were given five free books each to keep and to read every day over the summer. PCL will monitor to see if the book giveaway has an effect on their reading results. The books were purchased with funds from United Way of RI.



CHERYL SPACE **Library Director**

As we begin a very special tenth anniversary year, PCL has many reasons to celebrate! The PVD Young Makers initiative produced an explosion of positive, youthful energy at all locations. The maker spaces have attracted a lot of interest from parents and older residents and several locations have responded by adding adult maker sessions to their weekly program lineups. A generous \$45,300 grant from OLIS enabled PCL to equip a traveling Everyplace Makerspace with maker tools and materials, providing a creative compliment to the PCL Mobile Library, which has received renewed funding from the United Way of Rhode Island.

Providence Talks groups brought dozens of young families into our library spaces for the first time, while a new Teens Read card increased the appeal of the Summer Reading Program for middle school students. The addition of *Kanopy* to PCL's digital services provided cardholders with instant streaming access to 30,000 movies and other quality content. With an updated strategic plan in place and the injection of fresh ideas and energy from a new Director of Philanthropy and several new library managers and staff, we look forward to the future!



PATRICIA RAUB **President, Board of Directors**

Providence Community Library is ten years old, and I feel privileged to have served on its Board of Directors for that entire time. I look back upon a number of achievements since 2009.

All of our libraries have continued to thrive. We have renovated and made improvements to several libraries, including Smith Hill and Wanskuck and have begun the restoration of Knight Memorial. Olneyville, which was flooded a few years back, is now in better condition than ever.

We created an innovative school preparedness program, *Ready For K!*, now available at all PCL locations. Our Big Red Bus visits elementary schools and recreation centers throughout the city, as part of our extensive summer reading program. We were the first library to lend hotspot devices; we established coding and technology classes, offer free GED in Spanish classes as well as computer builder workshops that teach the next generation how to build fully functional devices.

These and other accomplishments would not have been possible without the commitment of our staff, board, community partners and donors. This past year, under the leadership of our new Library Director, Cheryl Space, has been especially productive, and I look forward to her continued guidance as we enter our second decade.

Demand for our services continue to grow! For 2018-2019, library usage was up from the previous year:

- 25% increase in circulation
- 9% increase in walk-in patrons
- 42% increase in meeting room reservations
- 20% increase in number of programs
- 74% increase in meeting room attendance
- 33% increase in program attendance
- 74% increase in wifi usage

Board of Directors

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BELOW *Library Manager Amy and young library users enjoy cake and kazooos on PCL's tenth birthday.*

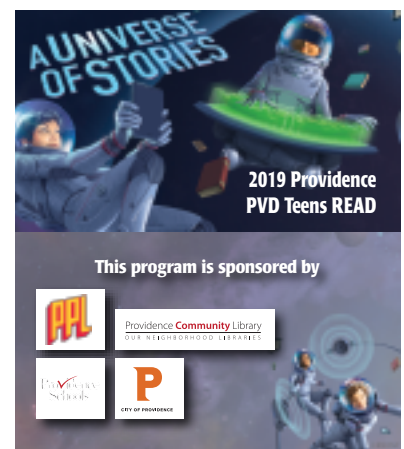


Dynamic Partnerships



Providence Community Library once again teamed with Providence Public Library, Providence Public Schools and the PVD Mayor's Office to produce the *Passport to Summer Learning*. About 2,400 youth participated in the summer reading program in 2018, an increase of approximately 1,000 readers from the previous year. PCL's mobile library visited school sites on its regular weekly schedule and offered 153 outreach programs to 2,677 youth, including students enrolled in day camps at the City's recreation centers.

Providence Talks play groups were a highlight of the year at PCL. Trained staff from Federal Hill House worked with staff to implement a curated version of innovative early learning and coaching model. The programs were effective in reaching new families, which often transitioned to other library activities when the groups ended.



TOP OF PAGE Mayor Jorge Elorza and son Omar attend Providence Talks at Washington Park Library.

ABOVE RIGHT New PVD Teens Read card that encourages middle school students to complete 20 hours of reading and to explore PVD Young Makers activities around the libraries.

LEFT Professor Susan Smulyan explored the connections between art and education at her presentation in the Long Story Short series of micro-courses at South Providence Library. This exciting collaboration between PCL and the Dept. of American Studies and the Center for Public Humanities at Brown University was supported by a grant from the American Studies Association.

PCL Out in the Community

As more organizations request on-site visits, outreach is an increasingly important part of PCL's mission.



ABOVE PCL's new EverySpace Makerspace takes PVD Young Makers out of library buildings and into the community. The truck is equipped with a vinyl cutter, 3D Printer, Surface Pro devices, Dash Robots, 360-degree cameras, printer, sewing machines, a 4K laser projector and screen, STEM sets, building kits and a giant tent, funded by a generous \$45,300 Studio Rhode grant from the RI Office of Library and Information Services.

ARRAN FRENCH, Everyplace Makerspace/FabNewport

Kids love access to technology that they would not otherwise experience. They love to see the 3D printer working. The Everyplace Makerspace completely opens up their minds, as many don't realize that such technology exists.



ABOVE PCL staff was invited by Arnell Milhouse and CareerDevs Computer Science University to bring PVD Young Makers to WaterFire's Tech Night. Visitors created designs using maker tools and experienced videos made by PCL's teen interns for Virtual Providence.

BELOW Dhana and Siv of Mt. Pleasant Library make regular visits to the nearby Hillcrest Village apartments, where they set up a community room to function like a library...

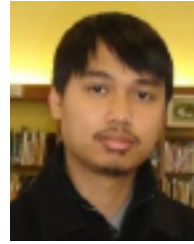
"...Hillcrest staff told us 'We really need this service and the residents are always waiting and so grateful.'" DHANA WHITEING



ABOVE PCL had a booth at the RI PrideFest for the first time! With themed book raffles, crafts, and fun activities, library staff interacted with over 200 attendees and spread the message that the library is a welcoming and safe space for the LGBTQ+ community!

Technology Innovators

PVD Young Makers has transformed our libraries into hubs of youth leadership and creative innovation. In our first year, 7,618 visits were made to PVD Young Makers by 2,319 youth, including 460 superusers, who made five or more visits!



DAVID SOK, PCL IT Manager The goal is not just to provide access to equipment but to spark creativity in such a way that it will make students want to come back for more.



LEFT Met School students build fully-functional computers—a distinctive red color—at South Providence Library during the Computer Builders workshop. Under IT Manager David Sok, youth have built these and fifty other devices that have already been installed in computer labs throughout PCL, all inscribed with the names of the youth builders!



ABOVE Introductory, intermediate and advanced level software developers attend a CareerDevs Computer Science University coding session at Rochambeau Library.

ARNELL MILHOUSE, CareerDevs PCL and CareerDevs have a history of bringing rigorous STEM and computer science education/workforce development to Rhode Islanders. I look forward to helping more technology professionals begin or advance their careers.



ABOVE Maker space teen interns prepped their own work uniforms at a training to support middle school students at Summer

Afterzone PVD Young Makers Camps held at four PCL libraries. The free camps were presented in partnership with the Providence After School Alliance with the support of AmeriCorps, Providence Journal Summer Fund, FabNewport, City of Providence, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and Providence Community Library.

“A huge shoutout to all of the teens for their dedication, presence, and mentorship!”

FRANCESCA DEL PRETE
PVD Young Makers Youth Services Specialist



*PCL added the popular on-demand film streaming service **Kanopy** to its digital services, giving library users access to 30,000+ of the world's best films, documentaries, etc. including the Kanopy Kids collection.*

SANDY OLIVIERA I love books, kids and people: what could be a better place to work than the library! It's all about the community, the people, and servicing whatever needs show up — in a loving environment.



Fox Point Library

Fox Point is a hive of activity for youth both during and after school: 14 classes from neighboring Vartan Gregorian Elementary School visited during school hours, while after school, youth flocked to participate in PVD Young Makers workshops, open studios, regular “crafternoons” and STEAM-based programs. Fox Point’s Book Club for adults, formed in 2011, is still going strong.



ABOVE Student Isaiah’s first handmade cushion, complete with fox design.



ABOVE National Library Week display shows off work by “handy foxes!”

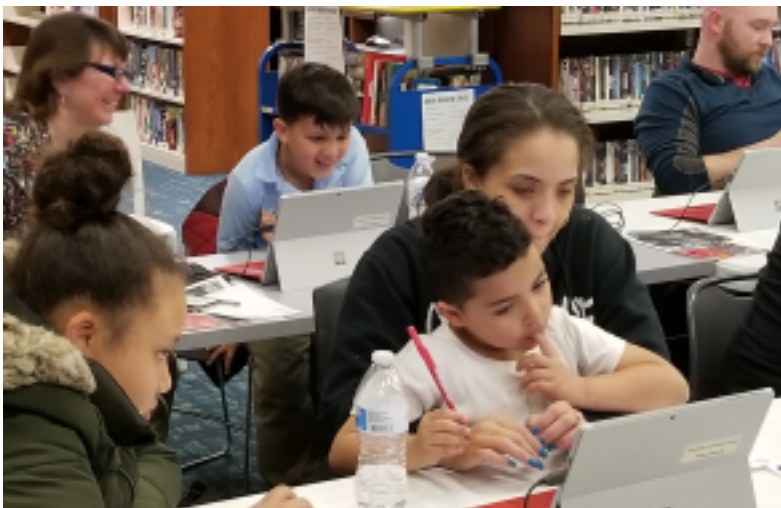
RIGHT Author Daniel Kenner visited Fox Point in October to promote *Room for Grace*, a book about his late mother’s struggle with cancer. Maureen was a teacher at Vartan Gregorian and she worked closely with the library. Many of her colleagues and former students attended the event.

Olneyville Library

Olneyville is all about energy—from patrons, from arts organizations, and from other neighborhood afterschool programs. Developing deeper relationships with community partners is a vital focus for this small but active library. Thanks to a \$53,200 CDGB grant, the building has been revitalized.



JOSEPH MORRA This year, we brought in the *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance* program to help patrons file taxes—free of charge! We also created programs with the Providence After School Alliance, the Manton Avenue Project, the Wilbury Theatre Group and Providence Talks, to name but a few!

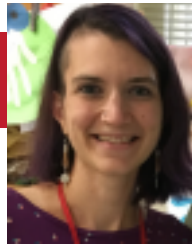


LEFT Patrons enjoyed music, performances and food supplied by local restaurants at Olneyville’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

LEFT Thanks to Family Code Night, Olneyville parents and their kids got to learn coding – together! This is part of a statewide initiative and collaboration between URI’s Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and FamilyCodeNight.org, with funding from Infosys Foundation USA.

Washington Park Library

Recently established Thursday-night programs such as *Costumes in the Age of Downton Abbey*, aromatherapy, an adult coloring club, open makerspace studio time, and folded book-art workshops have brought in new adult patrons. The reinvigorated Friends' group has invested generously in its library and donated an American Doll, with accessories, which is now on loan for patrons!



AMY ROSA From animation to animals, circus to chess, dancing to crafting, makerspace to parties, board games to writing, and ballet to fortnite... we do it all at Washington Park Library!

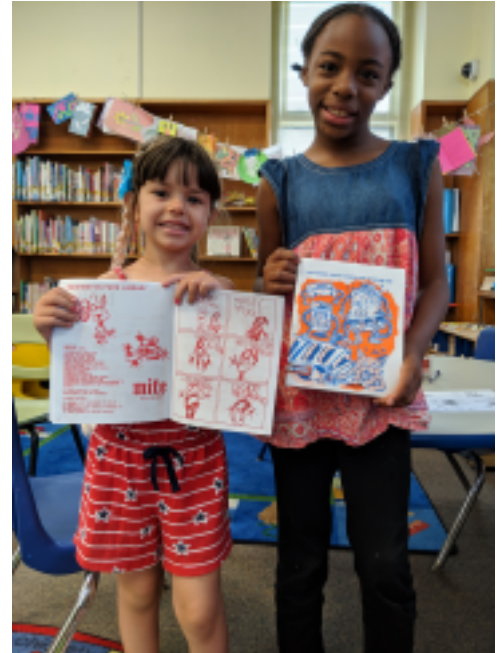


ABOVE Washington Park's first Fortnite online game tournament was filled to capacity with 25 competitors.

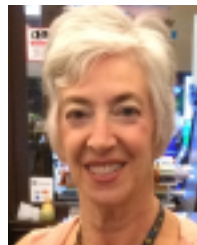


LEFT Library Manager Amy and Keith of FabNewport with fairy garden creations made at Washington Park and displayed at an exhibition at the Roger Williams Botanical Center.

RIGHT Kids proudly show the comics they created.



DENISE BROPHY Volunteers are so essential allowing us to offer much more. Often when kids arrive at Wanskuck, they ask 'Where is Miss Inez (our sewing volunteer)?' They can't wait to start sewing with her!



Wanskuck Library

Wanskuck is a center of lively after school activity. PVD Young Makers is hugely popular and a fruitful partnership with Providence College has generated successful youth programs.



ABOVE Wanskuck hosted a distinguished panel of experts from the New England First Amendment Coalition as it discussed The First Amendment and the Free Press. The panel consisted of Boston Globe's Edward Fitzpatrick, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Mike Stanton, WPRI 12's Tim White and Dr. Paola Prado of Roger Williams University.

BELOW When Kenrick (pictured with family) needed to obtain a GED certificate, he worked to pass the tests with PCL's GED coach, Carolyn Brown. Kenrick subsequently enrolled at CCRI for a business studies degree. "Miss Carol has been one of my biggest blessings, with all the advice she gave me, for the way she believed in me, and supporting me to not give up."

BELOW Young students worked with fashion designer Candace French during a 5-week sewing course to design, create and model their own Kimonos.





GARRETT LOCKE Two sisters designed amazing houses and figurines at our 3D printing workshop. Their grandmother also attended the workshops and she said how impressed and happy she was that this sort of thing is available at their library.



Mount Pleasant Library

Mt. Pleasant has added to its lively mix of arts and cultural programming, like the Board Game Night which has attracted the 30 plus crowd, and the new Garden Club giving patrons the chance to get outside and grow their own food.

The new teen space is having a positive impact on young library users. When not in use for PVD Young Makers, it is a venue for the library's book clubs or general community meetings. The new ADA-compliant restroom on the first floor will further boost accessibility to the building.



TOP Mt. Pleasant's annual jazz event attracts outstanding local talent. The latest concert featured Tish Adams and Candida Rose with Joe Potenza on bass, Gino Rosati on guitar and Vinnie Pagano on drums. As always, this was a real crowd-pleaser!

ABOVE Garden Club members meet twice a week at Davis Park Community Garden to grow cucumbers, peppers, onions, collard greens, kale and more.

RIGHT Artist Cathren Housley presents her RISCA-funded board game workshop in the new teen space.



Smith Hill Library

Smith Hill Library is part of the fabric of the neighborhood and continues to provide critical access to technology and internet, hosts popular programs and events, such as the Friends of the Library Holiday Bazaar and plays a leading part in the organization of the annual Smith Hill Block Party.



ALAN GUNTHER The kids who were around when I first arrived are now parents themselves. They come in and joke, “Hey, you still here? You gave me a hard time back then!” They tell their kids to listen to staff and follow directions, because they trust us. They see the library as a safe place and want their kids to spend time here.



RIGHT Smith Hill hosted More Hours for PCL in March, launching PCL’s ongoing advocacy campaign to extend library hours across the city.

LEFT Ms. Jennifer went to several public schools to give programs, including Where I Live, Urban America and Careers. They

were a perfect fit with the schools’ social studies curriculum and encouraged students to visit the library.



RIGHT More than 100 people attended Smith Hill History Day and the honorary renaming of Candace Street to include “Mary C. Jones Way.” The late Miss Jones was a beloved community member, activist, and long-time staff member of Smith Hill Library.



ETHEL STEWART We supported a homeless family: we watched them grow, get housing, food, and clothing ...one family member is going to college now. We go past the job and respond as human beings who can sympathize and help. We assist in countless ways.



South Providence Library

This Southside gathering place has a huge impact on the local community, providing a variety of programs as well as attention to the diverse needs of its individual library users.



ABOVE Edilberta provides interest and stimulation for local senior center users with a class featuring 30 minutes of Zumba exercise followed by a craft.



ABOVE Rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of neighborhood supporters who gathered to weed and plant new seedlings at South Providence’s annual Earth Day celebration.

Knight Memorial Library



Knight Memorial's caring staff responds to requests from recent immigrants for resources in languages that include Spanish, French, Creole, Vietnamese and Arabic. Its active Friends group runs the Southside's only bookstore and sponsors community events, which this year included concerts and a cheese making demonstration.



GALE YALLOP We have six schools within walking distance and several social service agencies nearby. We provide a safe place for new immigrants and we work hard to serve people who face challenges such as home-lessness, domestic violence and addiction.



ABOVE TOP Knight Memorial's spectacular Game of Thrones-themed display, the winning entry in a PCL-wide contest during National Library Week.

ABOVE BOTTOM PCL's Spanish-language GED Class of 2019 celebrated their graduations in the auditorium.



ABOVE Providence Preservation Society (PPS) awarded artist Walker Mettling a grant to produce a hardcover art book about the library building and the project was the subject of a PPS Sites and Stories Explored walking tour in October.

TOP OF PAGE PCL renovated the roof and exterior shell of the historic building and updated the electrical and fire systems, thanks to generous grants from the Champlin Foundation. Knight Memorial was added to Providence Preservation Society's Endangered Properties List in 2018.

Rochambeau Library

This year, Rochambeau expanded its language classes to include Italian, Chinese and Hebrew, in addition to its existing English as a Second Language (ESL) and extremely popular *Learn Spanish* courses. A Dorcas International event, *Immigrants and Refugees of Rhode Island* drew a large crowd as did the co-hosted series: *Conversations About Race*.



ABOVE Youth services staff piloted 'glades,' a method of organization for children's picture books. Glades sort books by subject or theme, using easy-to-understand signs with simple words and graphics.

BELOW A huge crowd came to see Ms. Naomi Chomsky present a Drag Queen Story Hour. So many enthusiastic families attended that Rochambeau held two consecutive readings!



JUDANNE HAMIDZADA Rochambeau is a great community spot. When we open the doors, patrons of all ages are outside, ready to access technology, popular programs such as storytime and language classes, or to use our public meeting rooms.



ABOVE Miss Viola Swamp, Miss Frizzle and a Hobbit visit the Children's area during National Library Week (otherwise known as Ms.Sammi, Ms. Laken and Ms. Kelly).



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PCL gratefully acknowledges all donations made July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. Every dollar we receive MATTERS 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+

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Ratk Siv Veronneau went Over The Edge!

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We returned to the Regency Plaza Apartments for our second rappelling fundraiser on May 4. Fifty brave edgers went Over the Edge raising \$71,535. ABOVE Councilwoman Nirva LaFortune, who raised \$2,145, was the top individual fundraiser. LEFT Our corporate sponsors included Pariseault Builders, who sent three people Over the Edge!

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