



Providence **Community** Library
OUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES

A young girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a pink shirt and purple shorts, is sitting on asphalt. She is surrounded by various colored chalks (yellow, orange, red, green, blue) and has just finished drawing a colorful, abstract shape on the pavement. A book titled "BIG WORLD" is visible in the bottom left corner.

Annual Report
2016—2017

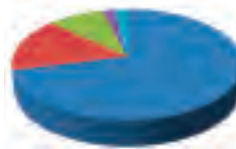
The Year — BY THE NUMBERS

Libraries	9
Staff	66
Patrons	51,183
Library visits	662,817
Total Programs	5,731
Total Program Attendance	68,501
Library Circulation	329,370
eZone Circulation	41,707
Computer Lab use	157,192
WiFi Use (October-June)	33,236
Web Page Views	480,823
Reference Questions	45,149

Financial Information

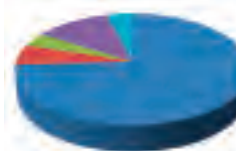
Snapshot of the Providence Community Library operating finances (unaudited) for fiscal year 2016-2017 (July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017).

Resources: \$5,261,606

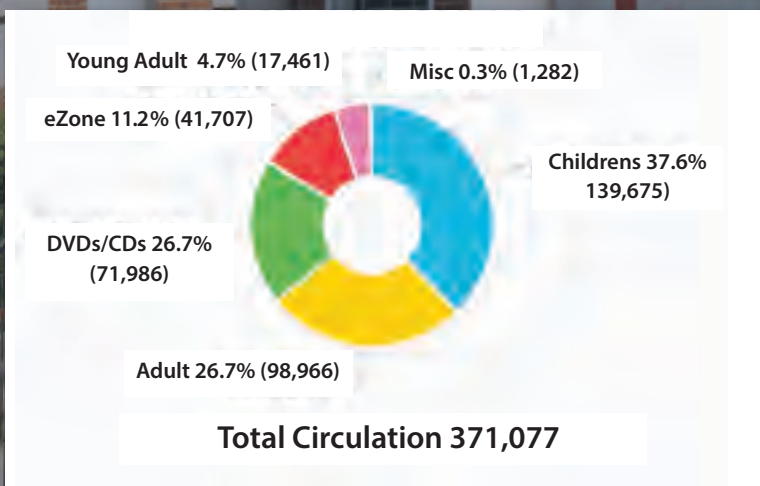
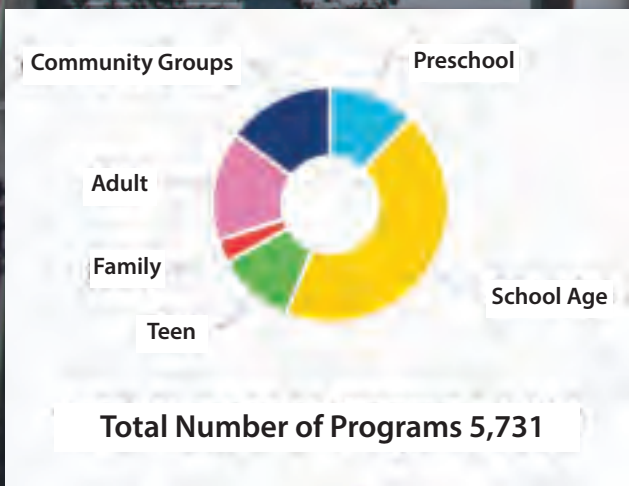
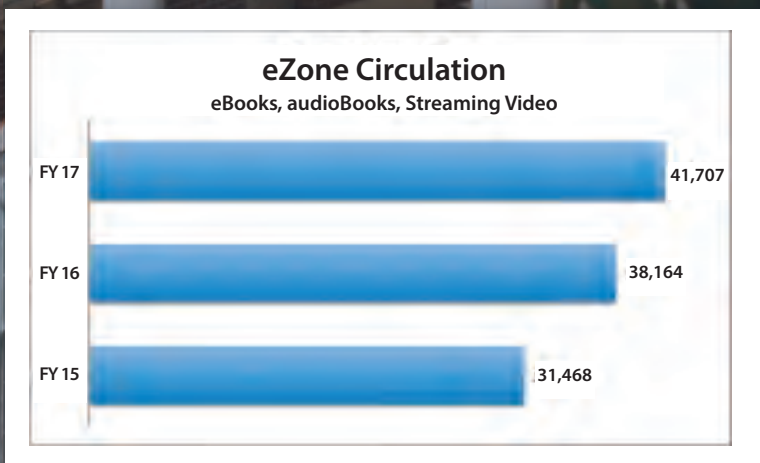
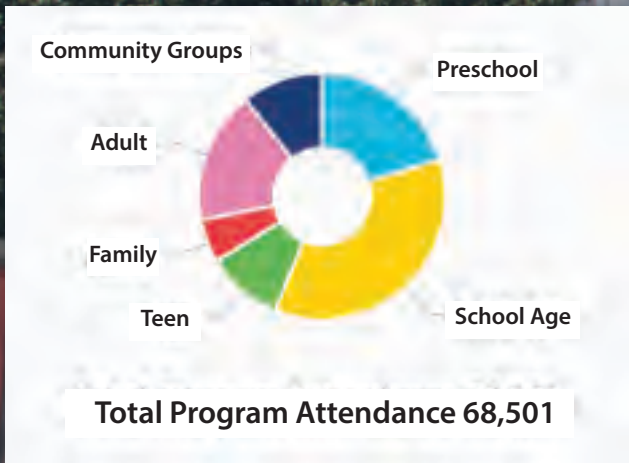


- City of Providence 71%
- State of RI grant-in-aid 16%
- Donations and grants 9%
- Donated Materials 2%
- Other Income 2%

Use of Resources: \$5,261,606



- Personnel 74%
- Library Materials 6%
- Library Consortium Membership 4%
- Occupancy 12%
- Other Operating/Program 4%





JEFFREY CANNELL **Library Director**

My first year as Library Director was both enjoyable and inspiring!

It was *enjoyable* to get to know Providence in all its vibrant, creative and cultural diversity; and *inspiring* to learn how many lives are touched and transformed by this Library's materials, services, programs, as well as by the hard work of its dedicated staff. I am grateful to the City of Providence and the State of Rhode Island for their continued understanding of the important part that PCL plays in the fabric of the city.

Among many highlights of the year, I will briefly mention just two: the tremendous impact that our new Mobile Library project, *Summer Reading in the Schoolyard*, had in its first year of operation, visiting schoolyards and recreation centers around Providence; and the joyful response we received from the local neighborhood as Olneyville Library re-opened after a year of extensive repairs and renovations. You can read about these successes, and more, in this report.

As I write, PCL has commenced a strategic planning process, beginning with a community discussion tour of all nine library locations. Together with feedback from other community organizations, individuals and businesses, PCL will incorporate ideas from these discussions into our services and programs over the next year or so. We are determined to serve Providence in the most productive way possible and help the city and its citizens toward a safe, culturally rich and rewarding future.



CYNDIE WILMOT **President, Board of Directors**

I am honored to to serve on the PCL Board, both as President and representative from the Olneyville Library. I first got involved with PCL in 2009 when I read that some of our libraries faced closure.

To deprive communities of their libraries made no sense, particularly in areas of the city where households had few books, no home computers, and where many parents found it difficult to assist their children with homework because they did not speak English as a first language. During summer, children's progress in reading suffered through a lack of access to resources. The free educational and recreational services and programs provided year round by our libraries seemed to me to be key to the future success of those children.

Thankfully, many people in Providence felt the same as I did. As PCL approaches its second decade, the dedication, enthusiasm, and tenacity of PCL staff and volunteers continues to help our communities to thrive. That determination was very much in evidence as staff, volunteers, Friends group members, neighbors and local businesses pitched in to help Olneyville reopen after being closed for a year due to flooding.

Thanks to Mayor Elorza and Providence City Council members for their ongoing support, to Champlin Foundation for their generosity in providing funds to repair our libraries, and to all our wonderful donors who help us achieve our mission.

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“This makes me feel like the world is good again—”

Longtime Olneyville Friend and patron, Jenine Bressner, on Olneyville's re-opening.

“My favorite thing was that you’d be coming here just across the street and it’s easier to be reading because you see the bus every Tuesday.” Young Mobile Library user

Summer Reading in the Schoolyard

In summer 2016, PCL launched this ambitious new project to extend our work through the existing Summer Reading Program. The project is funded by a 3-year grant from the United Way of Rhode Island.

Every week for 8 weeks, PCL’s specially equipped Mobile Library visited ten public elementary schoolyards and five recreation centers. It carried new, high-interest paperback books for kids from preschool to 6th grade; technology, computers and WIFI; shade tents, furniture and life size games.

Children completed tasks on City-issued Passports to Summer Learning and enjoyed special performances from entertainers; they received breakfast and lunch, too, if they needed it. Every day, up to 25 kids played math games with dedicated Providence elementary teachers. Of course, LOTS of reading was done as well!

- Over 600 people visited the Mobile Library each week;
- 2,716 books were checked out;
- 137 new library cards issued;
- 199 youth from City Recreation Department day camps borrowed books.

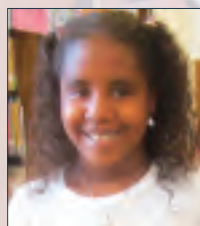
Our Summer Reading All-Stars

- Maria Victoria Mateo, 6615 minutes
- Eduardo Godoy, 6168 minutes, *pictured above right.*
- Juleiny Benjamin, 6140 minutes, *pictured right.*

That’s 100+ hours of reading per student! 145 other students completed 13 or more hours of reading.

The Leaders Library Card Challenge

The partnership among PCL, Providence Schools, the Mayor’s Office and Providence Public Library, continued to reap dividends. In April-May 2016, 1,300 new cards were issued, and from July 2016 to June 2017, PCL librarians created 383 brand new library accounts. Those 383 new cards triggered 930 checkouts, with students’ whole families making repeat visits to the library. Proof positive that this important initiative is working, as we work towards the goal of providing every Providence public school student with a library card!



“Alt-ComicCon introduces youth to people and organizations who work creatively in the fields of technology, art and pop culture. We hope they’re inspiring youth to pursue artistic endeavors and possibly consider a career in creative arts.”

Emily LeMay, Youth Services Librarian

- PCL introduced new play groups that utilize Providence Talks’ ground-breaking teaching model and “word pedometer.” In a public setting, this group is co-facilitated by children’s librarians and trained staff from partner agencies Family Service of RI, Meeting Street, and Children’s Friend. Families are encouraged to get involved with the library and transition to our other PCL early childhood programs, *Cradle to Crayons* and *Ready for K!*
- Wanskuck Library and Providence College partnered to produce two successful clubs promoting self-confidence, understanding and anti-bullying themes: *Discover Your Superhero* and *Wonder*. Presented by Dr. Kendra Brewster, Assistant Professor of Public & Community Service Studies at Providence College and assisted by Providence College students, the clubs featured art and literacy-based activities based on popular children’s books.
- Volunteer students from Providence College and Brown University’s Department of Hispanic Studies provided homework help and support at several libraries.
- Alt-ComicCon transformed Mount Pleasant Library into a mini convention hall. Local youth got a ticket-free taste of RI ComicCon as Big Nazo stole the show with its amazing creature creations, Providence Comics Consortium exhibited comic books created by kids at its workshops and other exciting displays and activities were provided by Providence Roller Derby, the Dirt Palace artists’ collective and Providence City Arts for Youth. Everyone received free donated comic books to take home at the end of the day.



ABOVE A Providence College student helps a patron with homework.

BELOW Alt-ComicCon, bustling with activity.



Preparing Youth for Tomorrow, Today

It's no secret that countless job openings require progressively more advanced technology skills and training. At PCL, young patrons learn from our staff and tech-savvy interns and build real computers from scratch!

- PCL recruited five high school interns to teach digital and media literacy skills to their younger peers through the Media Smart Libraries program. The interns taught animation at South Providence, coding at Washington Park, social media and online safety at Knight Memorial and about films that highlight social change at Rochambeau. Media Smart is a joint initiative of University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, the Providence Children's Film Festival and the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services.


- Created by PCL's IT Manager, David Sok, the week-long *Computer Builder* workshop features two hours of instruction a day and concludes with the hands-on build of a new computer. A successful pilot program at Olneyville Library produced eight new computers and we exhibited at the Rhode Island Robot Block Party exhibition at Brown University. These innovative workshops have attracted statewide attention.



- PCL was proud to partner with Providence Children's Film Festival (PCFF) and offer three events that provided young patrons at Knight Memorial, Wanskuck and Washington Park with free access to PCFF short film screenings, stop-motion and animation workshops. Our young patrons relished the chance to become their own creative media makers at these very popular events.

ABOVE Assisted by staff, teens concentrate on the task of assembling multiple computer parts at a Computer Builder Workshop. **ABOVE RIGHT** Young film makers work on stop-motion animation at a PCFF workshop. **BELOW RIGHT** Media Smart Interns work with the Video Game Club at Washington Park.





Over 40% of the people of Providence are of Latino origin and many do not speak English as a first language. Meeting the cultural, language and learning needs of Spanish speakers is a high priority for PCL.

Supporting the Latino Community

- PCL's Spanish-language General Equivalency Diploma (GED) program won the 2016 RI Literacy Award, which recognizes literacy partnerships within the state library community. PCL's program is one of few in RI and is the only one free of charge.
- Our Spanish-language GED participants achieved great results!
 - 118 students participated in the 2016 -2017 program;
 - 13 students obtained their GED certificates;
 - 105 students passed between one and four of the tests required to get the certificate.
- Over 120 people participated in our English as a Second Language (ESL) program during 2016-2017. Now in its sixth year, our ESL program would not exist without the 22 dedicated volunteers. Meanwhile, our popular Learn Spanish classes continue to accrue waiting lists.
- Colombian teacher Nader Molina Figuera, a recognized expert in the art of folk dance, taught a month-long series of workshops at South Providence Library.
- The 2016 *Feria del Libro y las Artes de Providence* once again attracted crowds and featured a host of writers, visual artists, musicians and dancers, plus *Feria Artisanal* (Latin American Artisans' Fair).
- Our annual *Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros* celebration featured prizes for winners of our bilingual story writing contest, plus a bilingual performance of Shakespeare, to coincide with an exhibition of Shakespeare's First Folio at Brown University.

“Hipólito personally called me to encourage me to come back to class. He does way more than any other teacher I have ever had. Because of his encouragement, I got my GED certificate – and I had been ready to drop out!” JAVIER GRULLÓN, GED STUDENT

PHOTO: GED graduating class of 2016-17, with teachers Emilia Perez and Hipólito Reyes, right.



“People who live, work and play in the neighborhoods of Providence’s South Side needed a vehicle to express information to help keep up with local news and events.”

ROD BURKETT, REGIONAL LIBRARY MANAGER

Libraries are the heart of our neighborhoods. We listen to residents and take action to improve their lives.

- PCL launched SouthPVD.org, a new online forum that provides a voice for neighborhoods located on the South Side of Providence. The site provides up-to-date information and permits community organizations to upload details of local resources and events in Elmwood, South Elmwood, Upper and Lower South Providence, the Reservoir Triangle, Washington Park and the West End.

- By accepting non-perishable food donations in lieu of fines on overdue items, we were able to deliver more than 1,000 pounds of food to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank following Amnesty Week. PCL also supported collections of baby diapers for *Project Undercover* and sanitary products for homeless women at Amos House.



- We presented our biggest ever program of Money Smart workshops, partnering with local experts from Santander Bank (program sponsor), Bank of America, Rhode Island State Police, the Student Loan Authority, Apella Capital, WD & Associates, Providence Housing Authority Bank of America and Eco-Depot. Speakers provided guidance on opening a bank account, building and repairing credit, buying a first home, planning for education or retirement, understanding benefits and healthcare, recycling, and guarding against cyberthreats. The workshops received recognition from the Rhode Island Library Association and were well appreciated by over 425 participants.



ABOVE LEFT SouthPVD.org website received 4,000 page views in its first four months; ABOVE RIGHT Unloading donations at the Rhode Island Food Bank. BELOW LEFT 20 patrons attended a workshop, Navigating Medicare, during Money Smart Week. BELOW RIGHT RI State Treasurer Magaziner answers teen questions during another Money Smart Week workshop on Cyber Security.

Thank you, Supporters of Providence Community Library

Providence Community Library proudly acknowledges all donations made between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. PCL receives less than 90% of its funding from the City of Providence and the State of RI. In difficult economic times, our resources are stretched, so every dollar we receive means a lot – and goes straight to maintaining

PCL's collections, providing diverse programming, access to computers and technology training, as well as free cultural and arts events. Our libraries are open to everyone, regardless of income or background. PCL provides potentially life-changing possibilities for our patrons. **A donation to PCL is a donation to the future of Providence.**

\$3,000,000+

City of Providence

\$500,000+

State of Rhode Island

\$100,000+

The United Way of Rhode Island

\$20,000+

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TOP LEFT Joan Gelch and Morris Weintraub, at our June fundraiser, have generously supported PCL with annual donations since 2009. TOP RIGHT Emily LeMay and Matthew Lawrence, hosts of January's Spelling Bee at AS220. BOTTOM Eve Broffman, Tammi Barlow, Kim Fraser, Angela Wiszek and Elena Chiaradio from event sponsor IGT attend PCL's fundraiser.

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

\$100+

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

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A young competitor sizes up the green at our mini-golf fundraiser.

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 Melvin and Janet Zurier

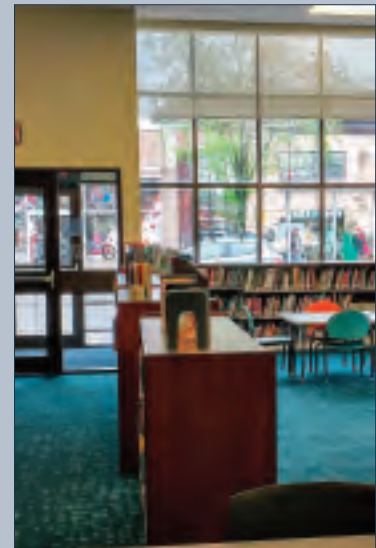
Maintaining Our Buildings

PCL is responsible for the upkeep of its libraries, some of which are historic buildings. Despite limited funds, we seek tirelessly to improve them with upgrades that make whole neighborhood proud!

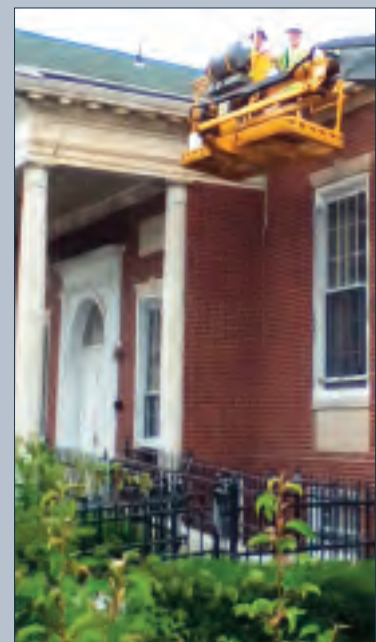


Mount Pleasant Library has a brand new look with a re-painted facade and a completely reconstructed front entrance, plus a new fire alarm system, thanks to the support of Councilwoman Jo-Ann Ryan. Coming soon: a new teen space!

A completely revamped **Olneyville Library** re-opened its doors in May after suffering extensive flood damage in April 2016. Repaired and refurbished, Olneyville now boasts new carpet, fittings, custom-made moveable furniture and brand new computers, built by Olneyville youth (see page 6). Thanks to all the local residents and businesses who raised \$10,000 in 2016 to help with the costs!



At **Wanskuck Library**, we replaced the roof and gutters and renovated the outside of the building, thanks to a \$457,000 Champlin Foundation grant, and supplemental funding from Henry and Peggy Sharpe and Sarah Sharpe and John Powley. Inside, the ceiling was restored, the entire library painted and a new fire alarm system and ADA compliant restroom installed. Many thanks to City Councilmen David Salvatore and Nick Narducci for their support!



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

Everyone in Providence has a library!



WANSKUCK
233 VEAZIE STREET
401-274-4145



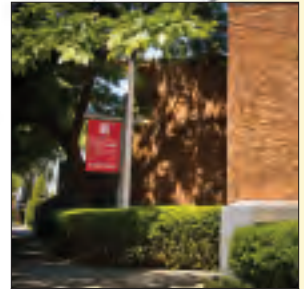
SMITH HILL
31 CANDACE STREET
401-272-4140



ROCHAMBEAU
708 HOPE STREET
401-272-3780



MOUNT PLEASANT
315 ACADEMY AVENUE
401-272-0106



FOX POINT
90 IVES STREET
401-331-0390



OLNEYVILLE
ONE OLNEYVILLE SQUARE
401-421-4084



KNIGHT MEMORIAL
275 ELMWOOD AVENUE
401-467-2625



SOUTH PROVIDENCE
441 PRAIRIE AVENUE
401-467-2619



WASHINGTON PARK
1316 BROAD STREET
401-781-3136



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