Rediscovering Libraries
New Beginnings

Community Libraries of Providence

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022
What a year! It’s lovely to pause and take a moment to celebrate the return to in-library activities and the launch of many new programs and initiatives, some of which were a year in the planning. In early 2022, we helped library users get up, get moving and get together with a very successful series of health and wellness programs, supported by funds from National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health. In late spring, supported by another generous grant from the R.I. Office of Library and Information Services using funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, we expanded our original 2021 Conectando initiative, offering an even wider range of workshops for Spanish speaking residents, as well as exciting creative residencies at three libraries. It was thrilling to see such transformative programming unfold.

A generous allocation of federal ARPA funds from the City of Providence has enabled CLPVD to take first steps toward a long-cherished goal: to expand library hours. The ARPA allocation also funds the hiring of new staff, who will take our library work in exciting new directions. Our staff are always trying something new, producing wonderful surprises and great results. I thank all of them for making 2021-2022 such a memorable year, and CLPVD such a very special place.

2021-2022 has been an important year. In April, we became Community Libraries of Providence. In our very first week as CLPVD, we hosted a library awareness tour, led by State Representative David Morales.

Eventually, this helped all R.I. public libraries receive 100 percent of the State Aid that they deserve, for the first time since 2009. We thank Rep. Morales and the state and city leaders who helped make the increase a reality.

Operating a successful community library system truly “takes a village.” We continue to find ways to improve our programming and increase the hours we are open to the community. CLPVD is blessed with an amazing staff and there are others who also give generously of their time and funds to make sure that everyone in our neighborhoods has a library. Our local library Friends Groups organize book sales, sponsor holiday parties, attend programs and volunteer to do numerous tasks. Our Board of Directors - several members of which are also Friends - give generously of their time, serve on Committees, decide policy and provide strategic direction to the library. We welcome new members to the Friends Groups at every community library and the Board is always on the lookout for future members. Finally, thanks to all the donors who give to CLPVD so generously. I encourage you to get involved!
Our Stats At A Glance

Staff .............................................. 69
Patrons .......................................... 31,623

LIBRARY USE

Locations ........................................ 9
# of visits ..................................... 308,882
Computer lab use ............................ 30,029
Meeting room sessions ..................... 136
Meeting room attendance ................. 3,910

CIRCULATION

Physical ......................................... 299,113
Digital ............................................ 111,806
Total ............................................. 410,919

ONLINE USE

Web Visits ................................. 311,617
WiFi Use .................................... 70,113

ASSISTANCE

Reference/Questions .................... 50,167

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

# of programs .......................... 4,795
Attendance ................................. 42,751

Our Resources & Use

Snapshots of Community Libraries of Providence’ operating finances (unaudited) for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Resources:
Sources of Funding
$5,769,000

Use:
Areas of Expense
$5,769,000

The Big Picture

People were ready to return to their libraries and the numbers prove it! While the pandemic was not over and library users remained rightfully cautious, in-person visits increased by 80,000 over 2020-2021 and some individual libraries bounced back almost to pre-pandemic attendance levels.

We are a critical provider of reading material for Providence children. We play an important role in supporting education in Providence, as many students have limited access to school libraries. Children's materials make up half of the books and other physical materials checked out from our libraries. Adult readers continue to show increasing preference for digital formats, particularly audiobooks.

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<tr>
<th>FY 22 CHECKOUTS</th>
<th>PHYSICAL MATERIALS</th>
<th>DIGITAL MATERIALS</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>128,207</td>
<td>89,528</td>
<td>217,735</td>
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<td>Teen</td>
<td>22,743</td>
<td>8,127</td>
<td>30,870</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids</td>
<td>148,163</td>
<td>14,151</td>
<td>162,314</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>299,113</td>
<td>111,806</td>
<td>410,919</td>
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Community Libraries of Providence (CLPVD) is a Rhode Island not-for-profit corporation exempt from income taxes as a public charity under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. CLPVD manages the operations of the nine neighborhood libraries in Providence.
Facilities News

A Real Rhody Honor!
Preserve Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission awarded Community Libraries of Providence the 2021 Community Award, in recognition of its dedication to providing library services in welcoming facilities throughout Providence. The award honored not only the ongoing work at Knight Memorial Library but also the historic buildings at Smith Hill and Wanskuck. Thank you to the City of Providence and City Councilors, funders and contractors who work with us to maintain, repair and restore our buildings for Providence.

Lawn Appeal
As the recipient of a 2021 $30,000 AARP Community Challenge grant, we were able to activate the front lawn area of Knight Memorial Library to make it more welcoming and inviting. We planted new garden beds, installed new bins and benches (designed and constructed by the Steel Yard), added a friendly, multilingual banner and an ADA-compliant accessible walkway. With the addition of lawn and board games, Knight Memorial was ready for outdoor fun events!

Take a seat at Wanskuck!
Wanskuck Library’s new story time benches from The Steelyard are public art!

The curved seating was designed by Public Projects artist Steve Buduo and fabricated by Steve and Ashley Littlejohn. Delightful!

We’re Always Improving!

New External Signage. Every library got a facelift during National Library Week 2022, when we unveiled our new name and brand look!

New Circulation Desks at Smith Hill and Fox Point, thanks to support from Councilman John Goncalves (Fox Point) and Ocean State Charities (Smith Hill).

Knight Memorial received air conditioning units, made possible and with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Outdoor Classroom Plans. Thanks to generous funding from the Summit Neighborhood Association and the Library’s Friends group, Rochambeau is building an outdoor classroom and meeting space. The exciting project is on track for completion in fall 2022.
Digital Services & Technology News

Community libraries help people get online.

We were happy to see people return to our computer labs! The increase in public computer use has been matched by an uptick in public WiFi sessions. Last year, we installed access units to extend strong WiFi signals into the community, thanks to a $60,000 CDBG grant.

Equipment Upgrades & New Lines

With funding provided by the RI Office of Library and Information Services through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, Smith Hill and Wanskuck libraries had their computers replaced and touchscreen devices have been installed in Children's labs throughout the library network. A grant from the FCC's E-rate program, which helps schools and libraries to obtain affordable broadband, has enabled us to re-cable library areas and install new lines.

Digital Navigation

We partnered with Providence Public Library to provide One-on-One Assistance for Adults to Develop Digital Skills in English or Spanish at Mount Pleasant and Knight Memorial Libraries. Participants learned about basic computer skills, internet navigation and privacy and security online. The program was presented by Providence Public Library with funding provided by the RI Office of Library and Information Services through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Hot on Connectivity

Thanks to the Emergency Connectivity Fund, available through the American Rescue Plan Act, we have replenished our hotspot collection. More than 60 of these in-demand devices are now available for checkout across our libraries.

Coming soon - a brand new CLPVD website!

We look forward to launching a completely redeveloped website this fall, thanks to ARPA funds from the City of Providence. In addition to a great new look featuring all our new COLORS, will have new content on interesting topics in the ‘Learn’ section of our user-friendly site, our FREE services and events will be easier to find and all relevant information will be translated for our Spanish speakers. We can’t wait!
Thanks to all the donors and participants who support our fundraising campaigns and special events throughout the year. Your generosity makes a difference!

The transition from Providence Community Library to Community Libraries of Providence was an important step. Where better to introduce our new colors to Providence than PVD Fest? Library staff (and their dogs!) and PVD Young Maker interns, together with artists-in-residence at Mount Pleasant, Festum Teatro, proudly paraded through downtown Providence with banners that showed off our new name and library colors. Director Cheryl led the way, on the new book bike!

We were so happy to see so many friends and library users in the crowd, and hear them shout, “we love the library!”

Our third rappelling fundraiser, was our first in-person event in three years. Restrictions were necessary because of COVID, but, once again, we challenged our fundraisers to “be our hero” and they stepped up to the task, in mask and cape! Thanks to sponsors IGT, Regency Plaza, Adler, Pollock & Sheehan, PC, Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI, WD & Associates, Providence College, Mutual of America, SPIN, Chestnut Realty, Homelight and First Student for making it such a memorable event.

With the support of 234 donors, CLPVD raised $25,660, surpassing the totals of previous events and beating this year’s target of $24,000 in 24 hours. Special thanks go to Board member Sarah Morenon, our 401 Gives team captain; fellow Board fundraisers Gayle Gifford, Jordan Day, Lynn Zagoudis-Eastgate and Amy Rosa; plus Team Grace and the Friends of Wanskuck Library, which ran an inspiring 401 Gives social media campaign, featuring quotes from the Friends community.

Three cheers for Pam Steager, who has gone over the edge three times for the library!

Rep. David Morales, a superhero for libraries as he led a successful campaign to raise State Aid for all RI public libraries.

Our 2022 summer campaign featured “Story Time Sundae,” a fun way to select summer reading, created by Rochambeau librarian Sammi Tulungen.

I support WANSKUCK LIBRARY because...
I want my son to love reading as much as I do!

Our 2022 summer campaign featured “Story Time Sundae,” a fun way to select summer reading, created by Rochambeau librarian Sammi Tulungen.
Ms. Toni teaches a summer reading group to build lighthouses at Olneyville.

Summer Reading in the Park
Summer Reading in the Park was CLPVD’s outreach program in 2021 for children at five Providence parks, offering hands-on literacy, mathematics and movement activities to children. Thanks to an ARPA fund grant from the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services, the mobile library van toured parks again in 2022.

KIDS
- 1533 children participated
- 7200 weekly activity kits distributed over 8 weeks
- 313 programs (virtual and in-person) with 9268 in attendance

TEENS
- 79 teens participated;
- 102 activity kits distributed
- 41 programs (virtual and in-person with 314 in attendance.

New Kits Help Kids Get More Out of Library Visits
Sensory-friendly library bags contain items and information that help young library users, who are sensitive to light, sound, bright colors, or other stressors, to feel more comfortable in our spaces. The bags, as well as new dyslexia support materials, were made possible thanks to funding from the National Library of Medicine’s 2022 Collection Equity Award.

A Family Approach to Math Skills
Thanks to a Comprehensive Community Development Grant from RIHousing, Mount Pleasant and South Providence were able to offer Math in the House, a fun, confidence-building program for students in 3rd and 4th grades. Groups met in-person, once a week, for 7 weeks and participating families were issued with a laptop and hotspot for use at home. Financial literacy information, and guidance on how to buy a home, was provided to parents. Student Gaudi, pictured with his mom and staff member, Garrett Locke, won a Dell device to take home at the end of the program.

Math in the House prizewinner, Gaudi, pictured with his mom and staff member Garrett Locke

Providence Talks in our Children’s Spaces
This groundbreaking initiative to boost early childhood vocabulary continues at four Community Libraries of Providence, in partnership with Federal Hill House. Parent-educators model and practice strategies and the playgroups are easily accessible to our neighborhood families. The best part: they instill a love of libraries in the tots and free books are provided each week!
**Streaming: The Year Online**

In 2021-2022, demand for streamed programs remained strong, as we transitioned back to in-person library activities. CLPVD’s popular YouTube Channel is here to stay!

**PCL READS is now Communities Read**

New name, same great program! Hosted by different CLPVD libraries each month, Communities Read explores diverse book choices and writers and tie-in activities. Recent featured writers have included Mariahaddessi Ekere Tallie, Padma Venkatraman, Mary-Kim Arnold, Patricia Rubertone and bestselling author, T.J. Klune.

**Sharing a Diversity of Content Online**

Our YouTube channel is a growing library of video content that reflects the diversity of our programs. Go there to find story times, crafts, FUNDA FEST storytelling performances, oral histories from our community exhibits, and much more.

**Master model maker Mr. Alan of Smith Hill invites us into his workshop for another creative episode.**

**Our Top Streaming YouTube Videos with 300+ Views**

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<td>Winter Sowing: Native Plants &amp; How to Propagate Them</td>
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<td>Know Before You Grow: Understanding Site Risks for Gardening</td>
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<td>Model Building - Mirage F1 C by Airfix</td>
<td>332</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>TJ Klune: PCL READS Author Talk</td>
<td>301</td>
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**SEEDLINGS: Growing Gardens - and Gardeners!**

CLPVD teamed with the Providence Seed Library, URI Cooperative Extension’s Master Gardener Program and Brown University Superfund Research Center to present a six-part virtual series of workshops about food justice and gardening. Hundreds of viewers watched as successive episodes guided experienced and novice gardeners alike through the different stages of the growing cycle. Among our most popular streamed programs ever, the series was the perfect complement to the Providence Seed Libraries available at all locations.
**Latino Program Highlights**

**Día Day Celebrates 20th Anniversary**

Latino Programs Coordinator Carolina Briones has led Día Day celebrations in Providence libraries for 20 years, and now some of the first children who participated are parents themselves. Vanessa Zuleta, a winner from the very first Día Day celebration, was invited back to the 2022 event at Knight Memorial. Pictured with Carolina and the Día Day books she wrote as a first grader, Vanessa spoke about the importance of the library as a place for children to socialize and make friends. This year’s event and free book giveaway was funded by the RI Office of Library & Information Services using funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

**National Hispanic Heritage Month**

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a favorite time of the year at many of our libraries. Olneyville invites the neighborhood to its annual celebration, which features tasty food, music and dance. More than 80 people attended in 2021!

**Feria del Libro y las Artes de Providence**

Feria brought a host of authors and artists to Providence in 2021, but mostly via Zoom. Shey ‘Rí Acu’ Rivera Ríos led a roundtable event of Rhode Island-based Latino artists which attracted almost 40 participants. A joyful, in-person celebration at Knight Memorial featured a family workshop from Teatro ECÁS and a performance by Raíces. Our thanks go to event partners Providence College, Rhode Island Center for the Book and Pawtucket Public Library and for funds from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as a generous grant from City of Providence Department of Arts, Culture + Tourism.

**Mother and Daughter Grads**

In another story spanning generations - a mother and daughter celebrate graduation together! Useni Valerio (in red) completed her GED with Community Libraries of Providence, in the same year her own daughter graduated from Cranston East High School. We love to make special things happen for families!
**Health & Wellness**

**We helped PVD get active!**

CLPVD introduced some exciting health and wellness-related programs in early spring providing free health resources and programs such as yoga, tai chi, art therapy and stress management.

The programs encouraged people to be more physically active and mindful of their physical and mental health - and they included a little science, too. Libraries offered workshops about internet safety as well.

“New YOU in 2022” was made possible thanks to a grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health.

**Bikes & Books Community Ride**

We worked with our friends over at the Providence Streets Coalition in March to organize a Bikes & Books Community Ride. About 30 riders cycled a 12-mile route, utilizing new urban trails. The riders made stops at Rochambeau, Fox Point and Knight Memorial Libraries, and helped stock several Little Free Libraries along the way. It was so much fun we did it again on July 1, visiting Smith Hill, Wanskuck and Mount Pleasant on our Bikes & Books Birthday Ride.

**Tea & Company**

*New You in 2022* included a tea ceremony program, presented in partnership with Amber Jackson of The Black Leaf Tea & Culture Shop. Free take-home Salud tea kits, available from all libraries, put everyone in the mood for a virtual conversation about community, culture and tea.

* Dancing with master teacher Nader Molina Figueroa at Washington Park.
Makers & Creators

Creating Opportunities for Small BIPOC Businesses

CLPVD was thrilled to receive a $100,000 Papitto Opportunity Connection grant to fund a small business lab, furniture and equipment at Knight Memorial Library. The project will be led by CLPVD's new Entrepreneurship Specialist, Khamry Varfley, who is herself a small business owner. During February's Black History Month, Khamry moderated a Women in Business panel event and she also organized Maker Marketplace events at Rochambeau Library.

Blessing Gbemisola, Marie Loua and Lexus Fernandez discussed building and leading their businesses and the importance of the Black Dollar, with Khamry at lectern.

Makers Creating Art, Building Community

Queer Umbrella Group teens raised money for future Queer Umbrella activities by raffling gift baskets and selling their maker art, including pottery, at PrideFest 2022. Groups meet at Rochambeau and Washington Park.

All our libraries have busy maker spaces. Wanskuck restyled its space and has a thriving PVD Young Makers program.

“WE focused our PVD Young Maker interns on utilizing their specific strengths to make unique programs...we fostered, mentored and empowered the teens to grow programs out of their interest and enthusiasm.”

Amy Rosa, Lead Librarian, Teen & Adult Services, Washington Park Library
Partnerships to Help the Community

Our libraries do more than provide materials and programs. Our buildings are seasonal Heating and Cooling Centers, exhibition halls and meeting spaces, college classrooms and community centers. Thanks to all these and other partners who help us deliver our mission!

**COLLEGE UNBOUND**

Thanks to a generous grant from the United Way of RI’s Olneyville Fund, we ran a successful pilot program with College Unbound, a fully accredited college that serves adults who are non-traditional college students. Learning Circles, developed by Peer to Peer University and facilitated by library staff, enabled participants to explore themes such as How to Talk about Race and the Art of Storytelling and earn college credits toward a Bachelor degree - all for FREE. Students met in-person at Olneyville Library or joined online.

**SPIN Bikes and Scooters**

As an equity partner working in support of the City’s micro mobility initiative with SPIN Bikes and Scooters, we hosted fairs to allow people (and space aliens from Big Nazo) to try out e-scooters and pick up free helmets and bike lights. SPIN cards are available in libraries, to help community members get easy access to the initiative. Our successful partnership with Rhode Island Bicycle Coalition continued and we supplied sets of free bike lights to cyclists.

In April, PCFF and library staff transformed Mount Pleasant and South Providence into library cinemas (complete with popcorn!) hosting several of the best films from the 2022 Providence Children’s Film Festival.

Chess instructor Sam LaFortune shows off free bike lights at Washington Park.
Partnerships to Help the Community

Sharing Neighborhood History

The original traveling walk-through historical exhibit moved from South Providence to Fox Point Library and was completely updated with new oral history videos featuring community members from the Fox Point neighborhood. The exhibit is created through the collaborative efforts of the CLPVD Exhibits Committee and Board member Caleb Horton, City Archivist for the City of Providence and will next move to Washington Park.

Keeping our Neighbors Warm

Knight Memorial was one of the few community providers of the RI Department of Health’s walk-in COVID rapid antigen testing during the winter surge and experienced long lines. All our libraries continued to support communities by supplying test kits and masks, as well as Crush Covid takeaway bags, which contained items to encourage every eligible library user to get vaccinated. Knight Memorial Library also helped the City of Providence get the word out about the Guaranteed Income Pilot Program, by hosting two information sessions and a recruitment drive. The first payments were received by selected families in October.

Dawn, a representative from LIHEAP, was a welcome visitor at many libraries. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps residents pay heating bills during the cold months with cash grants. With Dawn’s help, many of our library patrons were able to apply.

Housing & Legal Help

Smith Hill Library partnered with the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness to provide legal and housing advice. Specialists were available to help with housing questions and an attorney offered a 20-minute consult to answer legal queries.
The Conectando Initiative has transformed our approach to providing resources and events for Spanish-speaking residents in neighborhoods served by Knight Memorial, Mount Pleasant, Olneyville, South Providence and Washington Park Libraries. Workshops in sewing, cooking, dance, creative writing, gardening, citizenship and business skills have brought new people into our library community! The initiative was made possible in part from a grant from the RI Office of Library & Information Services using funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the 2022 grant utilized ARPA Funds.

**Connecting People Through Workshops**

Poet and artist Sussy Santana leads a writing workshop at Washington Park.

Sewing workshops, such as this one at South Providence, were in huge demand, and a great way to make new friends.

Year 1 - 2021
- $48,200 in grant funding
- 69 Programs presented in Spanish
- 741 people in total attendance
- 20 Spanish-speaking artists and educators engaged
- 740 new Spanish and bilingual books added to library collections
- 13 focus groups held with a total of 104 participants
- 1 bicycle bookmobile created and built by the Steel Yard & Mission Electric

Year 2 - 2022
- $50,000 in grant funding
- 40+ new workshops, plus support for Día Day children’s event
- 3 creative residencies at 3 libraries
- 1 part-time bilingual outreach specialist hired with partial funds
In 2022, Conectando expanded to include Arte y Vecindario, creative residencies at Knight Memorial, Mount Pleasant and South Providence Libraries. Arte y Vecindario was the concept of consultant Hernán Darío Jourdan and The Ministry of Future Access, an arts organization established to explore, document and share resources related to creative practices and collective learning.

“Mr. Alfonso dedicated his time to engaging patrons of all ages to participate in the making of the murals. Mr. Alfonso took a personal interest in teaching, guiding, and assisting participants on the project.”

Avelina Rocchio & Melissa Rivera, Knight Memorial staff

“| Workshop | Date | Location |
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<tr>
<td>Dances with Raíces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardening/New Voices</td>
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To register for a workshop:
- Call Carolina Briones at 401-467-2700 ext. 1608
- Email Carolina at cbriones@clpvd.org
- Contact a Library staff member at the Front Desk

All above workshops held at:
Olneyville Library
1 Olneyville Square
401-421-4084

“I admire John and Yessica for being willing and able to cultivate the children's artistic and musical abilities in such a short amount of time. They truly impacted their lives and made such a positive imprint at Mt. Pleasant Community Library.”

Karina Veras, Youth Services Librarian
Library Staff:
Amy Rosa, Lead Librarian, Teen & Adult Services, arosa@clpvd.org
Kevin Veronneau, Youth Services Librarian-in-Training, kveronneau@clpvd.org
Lyndsy Cioci, Clerk, lcioci@clpvd.org

What makes Washington Park Library so Special?

We ♥ outdoor programs. We have a large patio area and use it often from Spring to Fall! Join us for community gardening, Latin dancing, kids’ theater, special events and even the odd game of pickleball!

Our community garden. High school interns built raised garden beds to grow plants from seed to harvest. Our PVD Young Makers work on the community garden every week.

Our American Girl® Doll Collection. It’s true! You can check out and take home a doll and accessories, just like a book.

Available Here
- Public computers
- Printers & Scanners
- Copy & Fax
- WiFi
- Study/reading space
- Water fountain
- Children’s imaginative play space
- Composting facility
- Community garden
- Outdoor space

ACCESS
- All-gender restroom
- Diaper changing station
- Sensory-friendly library aids

ASSISTANCE
- Reference & general help
- Reader’s Advisory
- Technology/digital help
- Off-site library services
- Heating & Cooling Center
News to Shout About!!

**Pickleball is fun!** The library hosts a weekly Pickleball program for children every Monday. It’s a great way to get kids outside and involved in a healthy, educational, and de-stressing program.

**Play in a Day** is an initiative by local playwright/performer Elizabeth Keiser. Working with siblings, guardians, teachers and others, kids share the art of storytelling as they bring their own plays to life.

Get Involved!

Join the Friends of Washington Park, an active group of supporters. Make friends, raise funds, support programs and receive regular news about your favorite library. Email Bob Medeiros, bobhoop9@gmail.com for more information, or contact Amy Rosa for volunteering opportunities.
Library Staff:
Dr. Nate Ramos, Bilingual Community Education Coordinator, nramos@clpvd.org
Emily LeMay, Lead Librarian, Teen & Adult Services, elemay@clpvd.org
Edilberta Trejo, Youth Services Specialist, etrejo@clpvd.org
Carolina Briones, Latino Programs Coordinator, cbriones@clpvd.org

What makes South Providence Library so Special?

Summer reading engagement. Staff work hard to keep kids reading and engaged in the library during the summer. Thanks to partnerships with Kidsbridge, Inspiring Minds and year-round outreach to local schools, South Providence accounts for thirty percent of CLPVD’s summer readers.

Sharing responsibility. Earth Day is always a special event. Our neighbors pitch in and help clean up the grounds and plant new seedlings. People make connections and families work together as they help improve the library space.

Students who want to learn more. Sewing workshops are very popular in South Providence. This year, our Conectando participants couldn’t wait to sign up for the next level of advanced skills.
News to Shout About!!

Supporting Sustainability. We partnered with 15 Minute Field Trips and Rhody Grows Hope with CC4ES to help our library users learn how to save seeds, regrow food scraps, and to repurpose everyday containers so they can have a garden at home.

The library is family. Children that grow up spending time in the library always remember the caring staff that nurture their progress. Ms. Edilberta was thrilled to receive a visit from two library users, who are now college students! She was thrilled to learn about their success.

Hand in hand. Children made lovely wreaths made of multicultural hand shapes in honor of Black History Month.

Get Involved!

Join the Friends of South Providence, an active group of supporters. Make friends, raise funds, support programs and receive regular news about your favorite library. Contact Anita Bench, AnitaBench@gmail.com for more information, or Nate Ramos for volunteering opportunities.
What makes Smith Hill Library so Special?

We know our community well. Many parents who grew up under Mr. Alan’s supervision now bring their own kids to enjoy the library. We work with organizations that make a difference. Recently, we partnered with the Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness to provide housing navigation and legal clinics.

Our work with youth and schools. We supplement classroom learning and curricula and provide a host of creative programs. Ms. Jennifer received a citation from Mayor Elorza for her contribution to the Mayor’s Coalition on Behavioral Health.

Our generous Friends organize wonderful events! The December Toy and Clothing Giveaway brings out the crowds as Smith Hill Friends and neighborhood partners provide holiday cheer and warm winter clothing to Smith Hill residents.
News to Shout About!

Our Wall of Hope and Light. Cathren Housley, multi-disciplinary artist & illustrator, is working with us on a large-scale cloth mosaic for display in the main entrance room. The project celebrates the many communities that live in Smith Hill and is funded by the City of Providence Department of Art, Culture + Tourism and RISCA.

We have a new service desk, thanks to Ocean State Charities. It’s a big upgrade and it’s beautiful! We also have a collection of sports equipment you can check out with your library card. Want to play some hoops? We have basketballs!

New books, new glades. We reorganized our picture books by Glades, a system that is helpful to very young readers. Ms. Ayesha was also kept busy buying books, thanks to a generous Senate grant. Check out the new Manga collection!

Get Involved!

Join the Friends of Smith Hill, an active group of supporters. Make friends, raise funds, support programs and receive regular news about your favorite library. Contact Althea Graves, President, altheagraves38@gmail.com or contact Alan Gunther about volunteer opportunities.
Library Staff:
Aimee Fontaine, Systems Coordinator, afontaine@clpvd.org
Lee Teverow, Adult Services Librarian, lteverow@clpvd.org
Kelly Parlin, Teen Librarian, kparlin@clpvd.org
Sammi Tulungen, Youth Services Librarian, stulungen@clpvd.org
Cheri Melvin, Lead Clerk, cmelvin@clpvd.org

What makes Rochambeau Library so special?

A community that loves to read - and reads a lot! One of the busiest public libraries in Rhode Island, with more than 14,000 visits every month, staff at Rochambeau strive to provide excellent service and personalized reader’s advisories.

An inviting environment in which to study, work and relax. Recently, we created a dedicated Maker Studio, added a new Teen Space and re-opened the original entrance of the historic building. As a small touch, we added a coffee maker!

A thriving cultural center. Our patio concerts provide open-air entertainment, we host art and photography exhibits on the main floor and offer diverse, year-round programs for all ages.

Available Here
Public computers
Printers & Scanners
Copy & Fax
WiFi
ADA accessible Community Meeting room
Study/reading space
Exhibit space
Maker Studio
Teen Space
Water fountain
Coffee & tea
Outdoor space
Outdoor classroom

ACCESS
ADA compliant:
restroom
elevator
ramp
All-gender restroom
Diaper changing station
Free period products for youth
Sensory-friendly library aids

ASSISTANCE
Reference & general help
Reader’s Advisory
Technology/digital help
Free Notary Public
Off-site library services

Heating & Cooling Center
**News to Shout About!**

**Storytime in the Sunshine!** This weekly event is open to kids of all ages and their caregivers. Come for the picturebooks, songs and fun and stay for the company!

**We support our LGBTQ community** through our Queer Umbrella group, annual PrideFest booth and story times. Thank you, LaDiva Jonz, for being the star of our Holiday story event, at which we also collected gifts for kids in need.

**A New Outdoor Classroom** Thanks to generous funding from the Summit Neighborhood Association and the Friends of Rochambeau, a landscaped outdoor classroom and meeting space will open Fall 2022.

**Get Involved!**

Join the Friends of Rochambeau, an active group of supporters. Their Spring and Fall book sales are huge events! Make friends, raise funds, support programs and receive regular news about your favorite library. Contact Kathleen Rourke, President, kathy_rourke@verizon.net for more information, or Aimee Fontaine for volunteering opportunities.
What makes Fox Point Library so special?

Home from Home. Patrons have told the staff that they like the fact that Fox Point Library is a “cozy” library. They enjoy seeing plants and visiting with the friendly staff and the library pet.

A special outdoor space. Our courtyard is a unique place to spend time. Patrons enjoy using the library’s WiFi in a pleasant environment, featuring a community mural with trees and plants. Others use the space for reading, meetings, or simply to eat lunch. It’s a great location for outdoor programming.

Crafty as a Fox. Our staff are very interested in arts and crafts and they enjoy sharing their personal expertise with patrons. Ms. Donna’s long-running Chronicles of Yarnia handicraft group continued online throughout the pandemic. Check out Ms. Carla’s videos on TikTok!
News to Shout About!

Meet Marcus! This summer, Fox Point enlisted a new staff member, Marcus. The Timneh African Grey parrot lives with clerk Donna Woodworth by night, but by day, he spends his time socializing with patrons.

Reading in the wild. Our Youth Services Librarian, Carla Rennick, designed a wonderful display for the summer reading materials. Her ranger’s station promoted the summer reading’s camping and wildlife theme.

Seeds for Success. Fox Point’s seed program attracted many patrons. Gardening materials and seeds were provided for kids. Watching children get excited about planting for the first time was rewarding for the staff.

Get Involved!

Ask in the library for current information about Fox Point Friends, or contact Julie Sabourin for volunteering opportunities.
Library Staff:
Gale Yallop, Systems Coordinator, gyallop@clpvd.org
Avelina Rocchio, Adult Services Librarian-in-training, arocchio@clpvd.org
Melissa Rivera, Youth Services Specialist, mrivera@clpvd.org
Christine Williams, Lead Clerk, cwilliams@clpvd.org
Natalie Velez, Community Support Specialist, nvelez@clpvd.org
Khamry Varfley, Entrepreneurship Specialist, kvarfley@clpvd.org

What makes Knight Memorial Library so Special?

Our beautiful building. Piece by piece, we continue to restore and upgrade this historic building. Portable air conditioning units were funded and made possible by The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Thanks to an AARP Community Challenge Grant, we added an access ramp to lawn, outdoor seating and bins and planted new flower beds.

Our dedicated staff. We are committed to going the extra mile to support the community and take time to help patrons with forms, job applications, resumes and letters. We’re excited to offer business services through our new Entrepreneurship Center, funded by the Papitto Opportunity Connection, and community-centered services through our Community Support Specialist, made possible and funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Summer bounce house. Our Noches latinas events were a great experience and were enjoyed by Spanish and non-Spanish speaking patrons alike. Seeing the happiness on the faces of the children playing in the bounce house was a particularly joyful moment.
Knight Memorial
a Community Library of Providence

News to Shout About!

A Sweet Story. We were so happy to host the summer Mobile Murals project led by artist-in-residence, Alfonso Acevedo, who encouraged patrons of all ages to participate in the making of the murals. Our neighbor, Candy Store owner Mrs. Teresa, was surprised and touched to see her own store depicted in one of the murals!

A Horse called Charlie. The Providence Police Department Mounted Unit paid a welcome visit. Everyone enjoyed meeting Officer Doug and police horse, Charlie, and learning about horses and the work of the unit.

Hats off to Women’s Health. A group of exceptionally well-dressed ladies attended Ms. Christine’s special gathering, which also featured a sumptuous spread of tea and sweets and a discussion of women’s health.

Get Involved!

Join the Friends of Knight Memorial, an active group of supporters. They hold regular flea markets and book sales. Contact Deborah Schimberg, President, deborah@gleegum.com or Gale Yallop for volunteering opportunities.
What makes Olneyville Library so special?

Supporting Our Neighbors. We connect residents with the resources they need; during COVID, that meant vaccination clinics, test kits and over 10,000 masks. As a Providence Cooling Center, we provide relief from the heat; on an exceptionally hot weekend this summer, in partnership with the Providence Emergency Management Agency, we opened on a Sunday.

University@ the library. Olneyville was the pilot site for Learning Circles through Peer to Peer University as a means to gain college credits. Thanks to funding from United Way of RI’s Olneyville Fund, CLPVD is partnering with College Unbound, an accredited educational institution, that provides an affordable route to earning a Bachelor’s Degree.

Growing Interest. Conectando gardening workshops, presented in partnership with the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council and Olneyville Neighborhood Association, attracted so many people that it was clear that Olneyville wants to do a lot more gardening!
News to Shout About!

Celebrating our Heritage. The library held a very special event in celebration of the 2021 Hispanic Heritage Month. We had a special folklore performance by the group “Raices.” Jorge Elorza, the Mayor of Providence and Oscar Vargas, our City Council representative, joined us. We had 85 people in attendance!

Celebrity Sighting! Olneyville was visited by the amazing AEW wrestler Thunder Rosa in her role as an educator. Everyone enjoyed learning about Dia de los muertos and watched a screening of Pixar’s Coco. Thunder Rosa received a citation from Rep. David Morales!

Cupcake Visit. We always look forward to author visits and we had a party when children's writer Latoya White came to celebrate the publication of her first book, Ava’s First Day at the Diner.

Get Involved!

Join the Friends of Olneyville Library. Make friends, raise funds, support programs and receive regular news about your favorite library. Contact Cyndie Wilmot gingergirl3@icloud.com or contact the library for volunteering opportunities.
What makes Mount Pleasant Library so special?

**Adult Maker Nights.** Mount Pleasant has popular open studio hours for grown-ups. Participants can use our laser cutter, vinyl cutter, sublimation printer, or sewing machines to create beautiful, original arts and crafts.

**Helping Providence grow.** “Gardenbrarian” Lee Smith’s virtual and in-person programs about gardening, sustainability and food justice are a feature of the library. Community members also cultivate a plot at the Davis Park Community Garden.
News to Shout About!

Art & Food. This year, we celebrated the completion of our first community painting with a community cookout! We thank our library users for making the painting and cookout such a success.

Kid's Cinema. During the April school vacation week, the library teamed with the Providence Children's Film Festival to set up a movie theater inside the library and screened some of the best short movies from the 2022 Festival.

Carnival & Parade. We were proud to host Festum Teatro's creative residency as part of the 2022 Conectando initiative. Their workshops provided fun and excitement and gave young, bilingual participants more confidence to speak Spanish.

Get Involved!

Join the Friends of Mount Pleasant, an active group of supporters. They hold Fill-a-truck and other fundraisers throughout the year. Make friends, raise funds, support programs and receive regular news about your favorite library. Contact Audrey LaForge, President, AJL59@cox.net, or Dhana Whiteing for volunteering opportunities.
What makes Wanskuck Library so Special?

A Library of Things. You can borrow all kinds of items with your library card at Wanskuck! We have sewing machines, baking tins, battery chargers, backpacks & binoculars for nature walks, a telescope, CD players, gemstone kits, even a bubble maker for parties!

Taking the library to the community. We pay regular visits to the DaVinci Center to provide seniors with convenient access to library materials, offer them introductions to technology, such as hotspots, and teach them how to listen to audiobooks.

Open to Creativity. Our Open Maker Studio is readily accessible and youth are always making something such as art, jewelry, tee shirts, and more.
**News to Shout About!**

**Bike Stop.** CLPVD’s Bikes & Books Birthday Riders made a stop at Wanskuck! Our library Friends group and PVD Young Makers provided activities and hospitality and the RI Bicycle Coalition donated 50 bike lights to distribute to cyclists.

**Chess Masters.** We offered regular story times throughout the year and kid’s clubs, such as Chess and Dungeons & Dragons. Our children’s area is an inviting place and many students spend after-school hours with us.

**Sleeping Turtle,** a Native American speaker, educator and musician who specializes in the Psychedelic Flute, an instrument that evokes peaceful atmospheres and thought-provoking textures, presented thoughtful and moving programs at the library.

**Get Involved!**

Join the Friends of Wanskuck, an active group of supporters. Make friends, raise funds, support programs and receive regular news about your favorite library. Contact Patricia Raub, praub86@gmail.com or Denise Brophy for volunteering opportunities.

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**Available Here**

**LEARNING:**
- Afterschool & homework help
- ESL & language classes
- School & class visits
- GED coaching in English

**THINGS TO DO**
- Book Clubs
- Kids programs
- Teen Programs
- Adult Programs

**COLLECTIONS**
- Books
- Audiobooks
- DVDs
- Games & puzzles
- Newspapers & magazines
- Makerspace equipment
- Free Seed Library

**DIGITAL COLLECTIONS**
- eBooks
- Hoopla: streaming media
- Kanopy: streaming movies
- CLPVD YouTube Channel

Also available:
- Hotspots
- Take-home art/STEM Kits
- Library of Things