

Summer Review 2022

Outreach/Programming

140 teens and adults participated in our Summer Reading Bookopoly program. Forty people attended the Summer Reading Wrap Party where tickets were drawn for prizes. We had eight patrons who won prizes, which were \$25 gift cards to local businesses.

279 in June, 320 in July, 108 in August; a total of 707 patrons enjoyed our Live Music with the Library Summer Concert Series. The June concert was outside the library, patrons of all ages played beanbag toss, sung, danced, and make chalk art creations. The July concert at Eagle Square was during our heat advisory, so staff were armed with free ice-cold water for concert goers. At all of the concerts, staff passed out herb seed CPL bookmarks and raffled off a CPL backpack cooler. We received a lot of feedback from patrons saying they really enjoyed the varied locations of the concerts.

The library held two Opinion Writing Workshop programs this summer in partnership with the Concord Monitor, with twenty-nine people attending the first and twenty attending the second.

Staff also partnered with the Concord YMCA and Concord Parks and Recreation for book discussions. The Parks and Rec program starts with a guided hike on a city trail, the group then discusses the chosen book at a resting area at the top of the trail, before descending. There will be more book talks in partnership with both organizations in the fall.

Staff participated in several outreach events throughout the city this summer. At Market Days, staff provided storytimes, temporary tattoos, library information, and swag on the State House Lawn. At National Night Out, staff helped hand out free books and herb seed bookmarks, gave out temporary tattoos to kids, and talked to people about the library and library programming. Staff again attended the Multicultural Festival. They signed up and renewed library cards for forty patrons at the event. They also handed out information on our resources and CPL herb seed bookmarks. Staff also provided a rock painting craft for kids at the event. Staff also attended several back-to-school nights at local elementary schools to sign the whole family up for library cards and provide them with information on our resources.

Special Collections and Reference

Reference staff assisted Concord TV in their documentary on the Community Players with research and digital archival material. Staff also completed thirteen research requests for Concord Historical Society over the summer. We received three more requests for true-crime podcasts for research regarding cold cases in Concord.

Staff and volunteers scanned nine binders from the 1970s-1990s on the Women's Golf Association at Beaver Meadow. These were not only used in Concord TV's documentary on Beaver Meadow, but will soon be made available digitally for patrons to research.

Technology:

Over the summer months, Chromebooks were replaced at both the Main Library and Heights Branch. The new devices have received positive feedback from patrons and staff. We also added two new MAC computers in the Teen Zone that feature software for multimedia editing and creation. The IT department has received an order of computers to replace our adult PCs for the public at the main library, these will be deployed in the near future.

Looking forward to the fall months, department heads and supervisors will begin testing and training on the use of BlueCloud Circulation. This is the web-based version of our staff client, designed to be easier to use and maintain. We plan to roll out the new online module to the rest of the staff during the winter months, with trainings being planned for the MLK Jr. in service day.

The eBike Bookmobiles have been a major focus of our summer as well. We worked closely with our vendors on delivery, vinyl wrapping, final assembly, etc. Unfortunately, there were many delays, but we are extremely close to being able to launch the program. In addition to bringing books, craft kits, and important community and library information, we'll be bringing a wireless hotspot and iPad to bookmobile events so that patrons can register for cards, borrow materials, and receive demonstrations of our online resources.

Youth Services

The summer reading program was extremely popular this year. This summer we put on 55 active programs for kids birth through teen, led a family/all-ages program, and prepared/distributed 520 Take and Make kits. We had 295 kids register on paper and 81 register online. They earned 113 Concord Kids Read book bags and were pleased to see that many kids were still using the bags they worked for last summer. Kids earned 696 patches this summer--each patch represented 5 hours of reading. Compared with summer 2021, we gave away fewer tote bags (mainly because we had a strong group of returning patron participants who were using their bags from last year), but gave away more than double the number of patches. Both circulation and visits to the Children's Room were up from last year. The reintroduction of toys and interactive games in the department in summer 2022, led to increased and longer visits by patrons.

- This summer we had two new library technicians training and working in the department and we transitioned a 28-hour employee to a full-time staff member. As part of this, we redistributed our programming and collection development workloads as well as regular department duties.

- During the summer we actively began planning the fall (Sept./Oct.)/back-to-school calendar of events, which is quite full.
- We gave away 147 books at National Night Out—almost all within the first hour and a half, and prepared over 300 more books for giveaways associated with the upcoming Book Bikemobile program.
- We worked with the SAU8 Family Center to host a program for families at the Heights Branch and also attended their Back-to-School evening at Keach Park where we met hundreds of people—parents and children—mostly immigrants and new-to-Concord families.

Technical Services:

In June/July/August we cataloged 3,188 items and ordered 1,489 items. For those three months, we've requested 361 items through ILL and 761 items have been requested from us.

During the month of June, the department was very busy with end of the year purchasing and processing. We wrapped up the fiscal year in early July and successfully rolled over our ILS to FY23. After our rollover, we updated our collection development funds and began processing orders for the new fiscal year. One new collection of note is our "Library of Things." A variety of musical instruments, helpful gadgets and tools (i.e. metal detector, vehicle code reader, etc.), games, and other non-traditional items are included in the collection. The collection gives patrons a chance to borrow and try out an item, before they buy it, or to use the item for a short-term project without needing to buy it for themselves. Technical services will be cataloging and processing the "Library of Things" collection, along with new collections of Wonderbooks and Lit Kits.

Finally, Technical Services staff have been refining and contributing to library procedures, participating on hiring panels, engaging in library programming, and filling in on public service desks, throughout the busy summer months. It has been a challenging stretch to staff the main library and branches while also offering robust summer reading programming. The staff has performed admirably during this time.