

# ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022



***“The Library, with its many cultural and educational offerings, is a powerful force for social and economic mobility.”***

-NHFPL Board Member, Andrew Giering



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# MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR AND NHFPL BOARD PRESIDENT

As we reflect on the past year, we do so with mixed emotions. With so many connections and collaborations thriving across our system and city, we cannot help but feel a swell of joy and hope. Concurrently, we mourn the passing of former City Librarian and Director, John Jessen. John embodied the ideals of public librarianship – commitment to service, engagement in community, and a passion for and learning. His leadership shepherded critical facilities renovations and expanded library access citywide. His tenure communicated to patrons that the NHFPL truly is “their Library.”

While we grieve, we honor John’s memory and carry forward in our daily work the commitment that he embodied to the Library and all of those it serve. Staff continue to offer creative hybrid and virtual programs to minimize constraints on learning, so that patrons with growing lists of responsibilities can participate as much as possible. Virtual resources, including an expanding catalog of ebooks and digital media, and reference assistance by phone, email, and chat ensure that services are as available as they can be for all patrons, including those with physical limitations or without transportation. The Library also continues to offer Chromebooks and hotspots for loan, as well as one-on-one computer assistance to those that need either or both. Dismantling barriers to access and ensuring equity will continue to be a focus for the Library in the years to come.

At the NHFPL, we take great pride in being a beacon of learning and a community hub where people can gather, share experiences, bridge differences, and work together for a better future. The Dixwell Neighborhood Festival celebrating the opening of the renovated Stetson Branch is one memorable illustration of how joyful this work is, with neighbors dancing, singing, and hula hooping to the beat of a new, bright tomorrow. We are excited to sustain this kind of community warmth at all our beautiful branches.

The coming year brings new opportunities and challenges. The resilience and responsiveness of the NHFPL, its dedicated staff, our vibrant partners, and the public will remain essential. Thank you all for the important roles you play in the life of our Library.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen".

Maureen Sullivan  
Interim Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren".

Dr. Lauren Anderson  
NHFPL Board President

## NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *Ex-officio*

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Mayor of New Haven

### *Aldermanic Representative*

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Maureen Sullivan  
Interim Director

### *Lee Cruz*

Dr. Dolores Garcia-Blocker  
Andrew Giering  
Claudia Merson  
Irene Logan  
Jeanette Sykes

### *President*

Dr. Lauren Anderson

### *Vice-President*

Shana N. Schneider

### *Treasurer*

Susan L. Lamar



## REMEMBERING JOHN JESSEN

John Jessen was a dedicated public servant and a passionate champion of our public libraries. He was always quick with a smile, a joke, and a “can-do” attitude when called upon to lead. Since taking charge of the New Haven Free Public Library in 2019, John demonstrated so many attributes we all strive to emulate as leaders. First and foremost was his humble and kind service to others. John was committed to our libraries being a welcoming place and resource for all New Haven residents, and his professional and personal impact on the New Haven Free Public Library system will live long past his years of service.





# COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND INCLUSION

## PROVIDING SPACE FOR SOLVING COMMUNITY CHALLENGES



In the summer of 2021, the Library partnered with the city to host Civic Space sessions. These sessions were open forums where exploration, innovation, and citizenship discuss the city's challenges and potential solutions. Residents from across the city gathered at **Ives Main Library** and the **Wilson Branch** to give public input on how to best spend incoming federal funds from the American Rescue Plan. Suggestions included providing better job opportunities for young adults, increasing multilingual services for immigrants, improving infrastructure, and providing more equitable distribution of social services. Speaking from personal experience, participants worked in small groups to workshop ideas which were later collected and reported by the city.

## DIGITAL EQUITY AND CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

Access to reliable internet and technology is increasingly critical to completing daily tasks and participating in society: for education, accessing unemployment benefits, applying for small business loans, locating food assistance programs, and keeping abreast of current public health information. The Library has long served as a critical technology access point for students, families, jobseekers, and people with unstable housing or experiencing homelessness. Following the rapid transition to remote education, virtual meetings, and online applications for jobs and government benefits, the Library's connectivity expanded to reach those who would otherwise be cut off and disconnected.

Library buildings have transformed into neighborhood hotspots, projecting our Wi-Fi signals out in a three-block radius from **Ives Main Library** downtown, **Mitchell Branch** in Westville, and **Wilson Branch** in the Hill. And in every neighborhood across the city, the Library is bringing internet access into patrons' homes with new Chromebook computers and mobile Wi-Fi hotspots available to borrow for free with a library card.

## BUILDING A ROADMAP FOR CULTURAL EQUITY IN NEW HAVEN



Deputy Director Luis Chavez-Brummell speaking at the release of the Cultural Equity Plan.

The Library was proud to have our Deputy Director, Luis Chavez-Brummell, be an initial contributor to the New Haven Cultural Equity Team which released the New Haven Cultural Equity Plan early in 2022. This plan provides a roadmap

to lift the voices and perspectives of artists and creatives who identify as Black, Brown, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, Disabled, Neurodivergent, Queer, Immigrant, Young, Elderly, Poor, and English Language Learners. The plan also hopes to shape economic development in the coming years by encouraging the creation of economic opportunities and more accessible funding for people who have not traditionally had access.

Equity and inclusion continue to be at the forefront of the Library's mission and vision for ourselves and our city as we plan for years ahead.

## OUR VISION

*Now and tomorrow, the New Haven Free Public Library will transform lives and contribute to creating a strong, resilient, and informed community where everyone can thrive.*

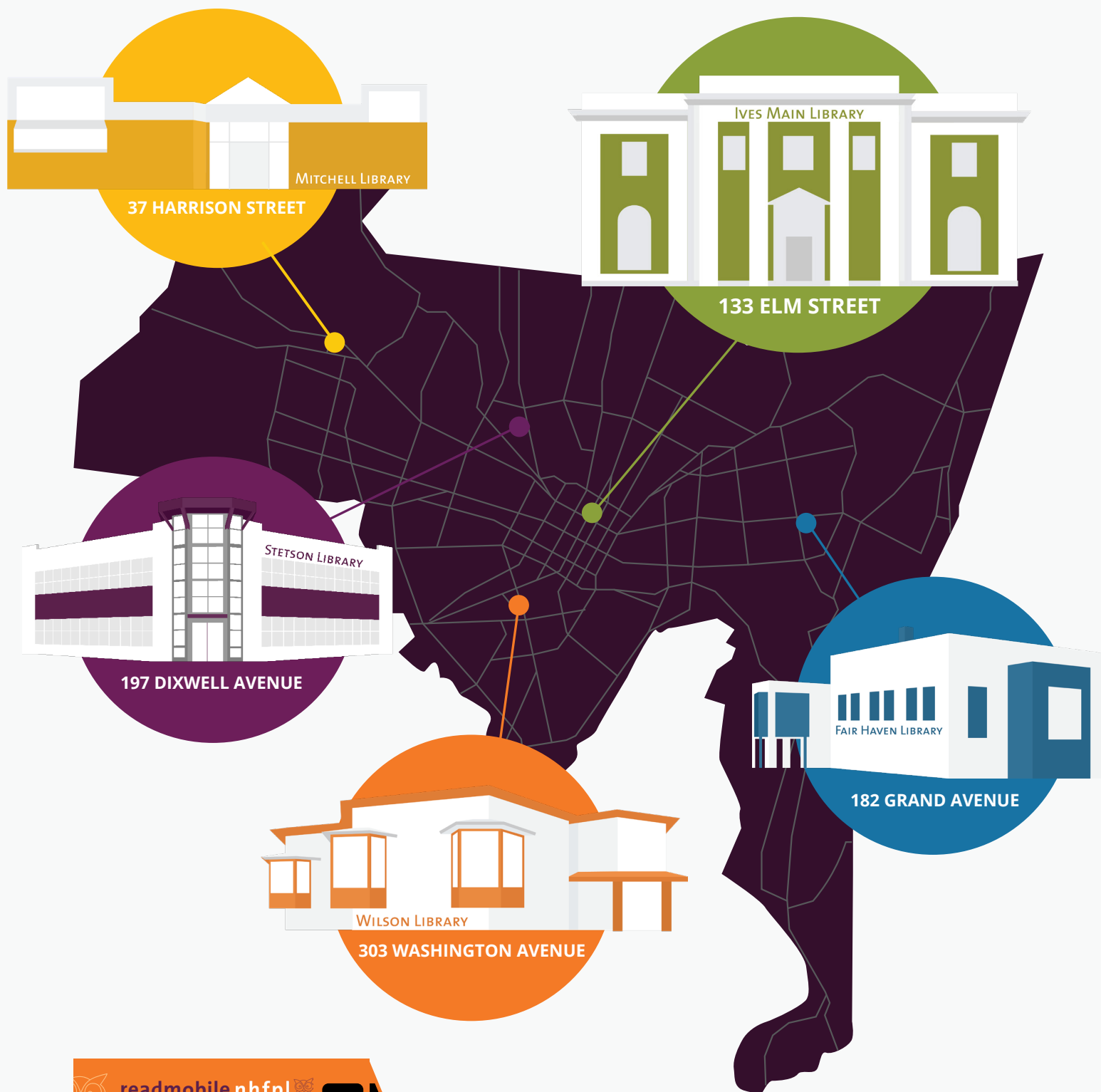
## OUR MISSION

*The New Haven Free Public Library fosters lifelong learning, inspires curiosity, and builds community through shared access to resources, experiences, and opportunities for all.*

## OUR VALUES

*Advance Literacy  
Foster Learning and Achievement  
Provide Access to Knowledge  
Empower Economic Success  
Inspire Exploration  
Promote Connection and Collaboration  
Deliver World-Class Service*

# LIBRARY SYSTEM AND STATS



A library on wheels traveling around New Haven visiting early learning centers, schools, and community events.



## TECHNOLOGY USE



ACTIVE LOGINS  
COMPUTERS + WIFI



HOTSPOT + CHROMEBOOK  
CIRCULATION



DOWNLOADS OF EBOOKS,  
MEDIA, AND DATABASE USAGE

## PROGRAMS

1,486 PROGRAMS



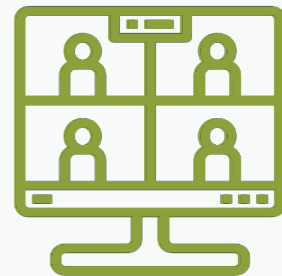
19,677  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE



4,260  
ADULTS



15,417  
YOUTH +  
FAMILIES



337  
VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

## COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES



ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET  
**\$4.02 MILLION**  
*.66% of City General Fund*

490,314  
TOTAL USER VISITS



# ADVANCE LITERACY



## READY FOR THE GRADE

A partnership between public libraries and the **NewAlliance Foundation** and **Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts**, the REAdy for the Grade summer reading program at the **Wilson Branch** prevents summer learning loss in rising 1st – 4th graders with one-on-one tutoring, group reading lessons, and family activities. Family participation is integral to the success of the program, and REAdy for the Grade engages parents, caregivers, and siblings in activities to support young readers at home, cultivate a culture of reading, and nurture whole family literacy.



REAdy for the Grade ends in celebration with a magic show.

The 30 children participating were identified as at-risk for decreases in their reading level over the summer – summer learning loss or “summer slide” – as well as from families with demonstrated economic need. Children still participated in group reading lessons, one-on-one tutoring sessions, and weekly family activities. Students were invited to participate in the Library’s system-wide summer learning programs and activities, which were happening virtually and taking advantage of outdoor spaces around the city. All 30 participants received the support they needed to maintain or enhance their reading skills and learned how to take full advantage of library services.

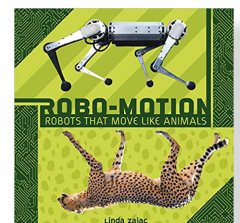
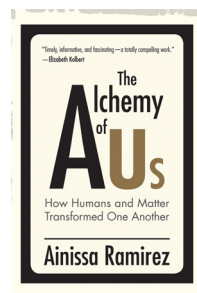
## GIRL SCOUT NEIGHBORHOOD LITERACY KIOSKS ARE TRULY GOLDEN

The **Wilson** and **Mitchell Branches** both gained new Community Literacy Kiosks stocked with giveaway books and other literacy resources free for the taking. The kiosks were a generous gift to the Library and the culmination project of **Maggie Nardini’s Girl Scout Gold Award**.



## MEET THE AUTHOR! THE CHILDREN’S AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR SERIES

The Children’s Author and Illustrator Series from **Young Minds and Family Learning** shined a spotlight on new and favorite creators from Connecticut. Community members listened to book readings, asked questions, and did activities based on the books. The series kicked off with local author **Doe Boyle** (*Hear the Wind Blow*, *Blink!*, and *Heartbeat*) and featured two fantastic scientist authors, **Linda Zajac** (*Robo-Motion: Robots That Move Like Animals*) and **Ainissa Ramirez** (*The Alchemy of Us*, *Newton’s Football*, *Save Our Science*)!







# FOSTER LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

## EXPLORING MUSIC IN THE HEART OF THE HILL

The music room at the **Wilson Branch** is an upbeat and energetic space with open access to a keyboard, guitars, ukuleles, a mandolin, and an accordion along with instructional materials. Whether you are a beginner looking for pointers and a tutorial, or an expert that is looking for a space to practice with other music lovers, all are welcome!

The music room also holds an ever-expanding vinyl collection and a record player. Throughout the year the Wilson Branch has hosted themed listening sessions for holidays and heritage months featuring rock, pop, blues, jazz, folk, punk, and more.



Kids enjoy trying out different instruments at an open session.

## TOP 10 TITLES IN CIRCULATION FICTION

*Last Thing He Told Me* by Lara Dave  
*Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty  
*Beautiful World, Where Are You* by Sally Rooney  
*The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles  
*The Paper Palace* by Heller Cowley  
*Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr  
*Harlem Shuffle* by Colson Whitehead  
*The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich  
*The Heart Principle: The Kiss Quotient* by Helen Hong  
*The Guncle* by Steven Rowley

## SHARING CREATIVE CAREER PATHS WITH MICHAEL JAI WHITE AND JAIGANTIC STUDIOS

Actor and director **Michael Jai White** shared his story at the **Stetson** and **Wilson Branches** to inspire young, aspiring creatives to consider opportunities in the film industry and to share his vision for his newly opened **Jaigantic Studios** in New Haven. Returning to Connecticut to support the creative community, White said, “My whole thing is if I could find people who are local to hype up, that’s what I’m going to do because I’m from Connecticut and I want to brag about it.” Around 70 people attended, asked questions about the studio’s plans, and learned about potential job opportunities and internships.



Michael Jai White and his team talk with local residents about opportunities with Jaigantic Studios

## NONFICTION

*Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* by Anderson Cooper  
*Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang  
*This is Your Mind on Plants* by Michael Pollan  
*The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood & Family* by Ron Howard  
*Lost & Found: A Memoir* by Kathryn Schultz  
*Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach  
*The Premonition: A Pandemic Story* by Michael Lewis  
*Renegades: Born in the USA* by Barack Obama  
*Think & Grow Rich* by Napoleon Hill  
*Left on Tenth - A Second Chance at Life* by Delia Ephron

# PROVIDE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE



## THE BOOK PEDALER PROMOTING READING AND RIDING THROUGHOUT NEW HAVEN

**The Book Pedaler** is the newest addition to NHFPL's outreach services making it even easier to bring the Library right to your local neighborhood! This project was made possible by a generous grant from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** as part of the American Rescue Plan Act and administered by the **Connecticut State Library**. The book bike's inaugural ride helped to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Farmington Canal Trail, Hillfest, and Riverfest in Fair Haven! Since then, we have been hitting the road bringing free books, programming, and fun giveaways to the community. Keep an eye out for the blue bike rolling into your area soon.



The Book Pedaler and Library staff at the Farmington Canal Trail festivities.

## ARTS AND CULTURE BONANZA - DRAMA WORKSHOPS, SALSA CLASSES, WATERCOLOR CLASS, FRENCH HORNS, BOMBA DANCE, AND MORE!

In partnership with the **City of New Haven Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism** with special funds from the American Rescue Plan, NHFPL worked with local creatives to provide vibrant and educational programming for residents of all ages. Through this fund, the Library offered over 30 programs across the city inspiring lifelong learning. A celebration of cultural equity in the arts, events ranged from theatre workshops culminating in a performance of *The Reason Why: Ida B. Wells' Truth Telling Campaign* to music and dance with salsa dancing, Movimiento Cultural's Bike to Bomba performance, or Horn Hangout concerts.

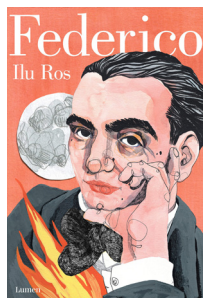


A Horn Hangout Concert at Ives Main Library.

## COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS! LINKEDIN LEARNING RETURNS AND NEW EXPANSION OF OUR SPANISH COLLECTION

Have you checked out our collection lately? We updated our Spanish collection with new bestsellers, health and fitness books, and specialized titles for creatives and entrepreneurs. The African Diaspora collection in the newly renovated **Stetson Branch** is specifically curated to celebrate and reflect the cultural heritage of the community. And in response to popular demand, we have reintroduced LinkedIn Learning!

LinkedIn Learning, previously known as Lynda.com, provides thousands of online courses to learn in-demand skills from real-world industry experts.







# EMPOWER ECONOMIC SUCCESS

## MAKE TO SELL PROGRAM GIVES BOOST TO NEW BUSINESS OWNERS

The **Make to Sell** program was created with the idea of helping local entrepreneurs who had an idea for an online business get them off the ground. A specially crafted series of programming was taught by **Ives Squared** staff and local experts. Each participant was assigned a personal “coach” to assist them through the process and connect them with resources within the New Haven economic ecosystem as needed. Two cohorts completed the four-month process in the past year and each session concluded with an opportunity for participants to sell and showcase their products in an onsite bazaar. With products ranging from baked goods to apparel, and specialty greeting cards to lotions and candles, there was something for everyone.



Dimitri Cotman of Z.Nith participating in the Holiday Bazaar.

## INSPIRING TEEN ENTREPRENEURS IN IVES SQUARED



The YEP! cohort in the Ives Cafe.

The **Young Entrepreneurship Program**, commonly known as **YEP!**, works to develop the next generation of entrepreneurs and strengthen relations between universities and the cities. In partnership with YEP!, **Ives Squared** hosted a Day of Entrepreneurship helping high school students learn the first steps to owning a business. Students came and participated in fun activities centered around starting a venture, connected with Yale students studying business, and heard from inspiring entrepreneurs from across the country!

## SUPPORTING JOB SEEKERS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Winter Job Fair hosted at **Ives Main Library** was a great success with over one hundred applicants and 8 local employers taking part. With Library staff on hand to assist with resumes and applications and employers conducting interviews on-site, several participants were hired on the spot. It was a bustling day supporting the employment needs of our patrons and our local businesses.

Supporting job seekers and those in need is a core element of what the Library provides the community. One participant commented on what the Library has meant to him on his journey to find employment and permanent housing:

“ I didn’t have skills in computers. I came down here. It helped me improve my skills in typing. Good help to get through different situations. And I just want to say, thank you for being open during the pandemic. Even when I went to work with the Census, you guys provided me the computer to apply. I wouldn’t have been able to work for the Census in 2020 without the library.”

# INSPIRE EXPLORATION



## ONE CITY ONE READ: A CITYWIDE DISCUSSION OF OCTAVIA BUTLER'S *PARABLE OF THE SOWER*

The Library was proud to partner with the **International Festival of Arts and Ideas** and the **Yale Schwarzman Center** on the citywide **One City, One Read** celebration. Bringing together community partners from every neighborhood in the city, the One City, One Read celebration explored the timely themes of Octavia Butler's novel *Parable of the Sower*. Through book discussions, film festivals, concerts, and performances of the operatic adaptation by Toshi Reagon, New Haven residents discussed the prophetic nature of this work and the related challenges of our society today.

As part of the celebration, it was also our privilege to host an author talk with Tochi Onyebuchi. Onyebuchi is a local, bestselling, and award-winning author. He was joined by NHFPL Board President, Lauren Anderson in a conversation centering around his works with highlights from his latest book, *Goliath*, set in the future of New Haven and exploring themes related to current challenges in the city.



Library Board President Lauren Anderson and Tochi Onyebuchi engage in a lively discussion of Tochi's newest book *Goliath*.

## CELEBRATING INDIAN CULTURE: LEARNING ABOUT HOLI, HENNA, AND SARIS

**Mitchell Branch** offered multiple opportunities for children and families to learn about Indian culture with a celebration of Holi, and a story time and craft explaining the custom and history of wearing a sari. At the celebration of Holi, henna artist Jamilah Zebarth gave a brief presentation on the origins, history, and uses of henna and attendees were invited to toss colored powder, or Gulal. Community members were invited back later in the year for a story time about how a sari is worn and a craft where children designed their own sari from colorful tissue paper.



## EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS *INSIDE* THE LIBRARY



Bringing the wonders of Connecticut nature indoors was the thrill for patrons during this four-week series at **Ives Main Library** featured **Certified Master Wildlife Conservationist Paul Colburn** and local experts from **New Haven Bird Club**, **Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue**, and **White Memorial Conservation Center**. In these interactive sessions, individuals learned the importance of biodiversity in Connecticut, from the smallest animals to the largest bears, and gained basic birdwatching skills. Live animal meet and greets with Lavender the opossum and other rescue wildlife from the White Memorial Conservation Center made these programs wildly magical.

The **Critter Caravan** is always a big hit with the whole family, and their visits to **Fair Haven Branch** this year were no different. This hands-on nature program provides a welcoming and inclusive environment to learn about exotic mammals and reptiles using all the senses. Families saw and touched chinchillas, snakes, a giant rabbit, and other exotic animals while learning facts about wildlife and their habitats.





## PROMOTE CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION



A recent Long Wharf Theatre Micro Branch for their Dream House production.

### SHOWTIME AT THE LIBRARY BRINGS DRAMA AND EXCITEMENT TO LEARNING

This year saw the return of many in-person events and programming, and excitingly our partnerships with **Long Wharf Theatre** and **Shubert Theatre** were no exception. Each performance in the 2021-2022 season for Long Wharf Theatre had an accompanying micro branch curated in partnership with theatre staff featuring books matching the themes of each show and conveniently located at the box office. The **Stetson Branch** hosted Shubert Theatre's Celebration of Jazz event featuring the musical talents of the band Chill, members of Thelonius Monk's family, and Monk Youth Jazz students. The event brought audience members of all ages to their feet with joyful dancing.

### WELCOMING A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR WITH LUNARFEST



NHFPL partnered with **Yale-China Association** and many other community organizations to bring the **Lunarfest 2022** celebration to our community. Lunarfest is a citywide festival to ring in the Lunar New Year and create an inclusive space for the Chinese community to connect and share their heritage and traditions with New Haven. Individuals could pick up a postcard designed by artist Natalie Wang containing a special Year of the Tiger message, make a tiger run with a 4-frame animation kit designed by the Eli Whitney Museum & Workshop, attend a movie and discussion for The Farewell exploring themes of love, family, and intergenerational communication, and many other events.

Participating in the creation of the Lunarfest 2022 mural truly exemplified the intercommunity spirit of the festival. Designed by local artist **Kaitlin Tan Fung**, each piece was individually decorated by different community partners. It was then reassembled to create a collective community artwork. After the festival, the mural could be seen on display at the **Ives Main Library**.

### LATIN AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES USE ART TO BRING LIGHT TO SOCIAL ISSUES AT FAIR HAVEN

The **Fair Haven Branch** was at the heart of art as community voice, featuring such projects as. **Sarahi Zacatelco's** display for the Day of the Dead and a Christmas tree designed in tribute to essential workers. Zacatelco helped to co-organize several community-centered events such as a community art project with **Israel Sánchez** and **Joel Celi** to recognize Latinx COVID-19 workers which was displayed at the Library. Additionally, the first **Oaxaca 2021 Connecticut Expo** brought together Indigenous female artisans to highlight their vibrant and skillful creations. The Expo was also a way to celebrate and preserve a piece of their heritage and share its importance with the community.



Sarahi Zacatelco with a banner for a community art project recognizing COVID-19 workers.

Fair Haven also hosted **Women Who Fight**, an exhibition based on the second International Gathering of Women in the Caracol of Morelia, Chiapas, Mexico. The three-day event was hosted by the Indigenous Zapatista women where they celebrate the work being done to end violence against women and create a temporary safe gathering space for women who continue to experience violence. The photography exhibit was constructed by New Haven activist Vanesa Emely Suarez in an effort bring the deep emotions and impact of the event back with her to women who could not attend.

# DELIVER WORLD-CLASS SERVICE



## EXPANSION OF ONSITE SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT WITH LIBERTY COMMUNITY SERVICES



Liberty Community Services Program Director Silvia Moscariello and former Library Director John Jessen at the announcement press conference.

With grant support from the **Institute of Museum and Library Science**, the Library was able to dedicate over \$45,000 in new funds to our critical partnership with **Liberty Community Services**. Liberty specializes in housing and social support services for New Haven's most vulnerable populations and provides nearly 500 people a year at **Ives Main Library**. This grant secured a full-time social worker at Ives and expanded the program to provide a part-time social worker at our **Wilson** and **Fair Haven Branches**.

## VITA SERVICES PROVES VITAL FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The **Volunteer Income and Tax Assistance (VITA)** program returned for in-person service this year! With IRS-trained volunteers, VITA provides free tax preparation services to low and moderate-income individuals and families. With sites at **Ives Main Library** and the **Wilson Branch**, their services help hundreds of citizens each year.

## GETTING WORLDLY WITH THE NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY PASSPORT OFFICE



A family brings their daughter to get her first passport.

Research an international trip and get your passport now in one convenient stop at the New Haven Free Public Library! In February, the **Ives Main Library** was designated as an official passport facility, providing services such as processing for new U.S. passports or passport cards, photographs for both U.S. and international passports, and expedited service. Services are available in both English and Spanish. We are proud to offer increasing accessibility to vital services in our community.



A crowd gathers on the last day of in person VITA tax filing at Ives.

## VITA BY THE NUMBERS

**1,057** tax returns filed

**\$176** average cost to file taxes at a commercial location saved by each person

**\$2,289,858** amount refunded to filers



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

African American Cultural Center at Yale	Ely Center	New Haven Peoples Center
African Healing Drum	Fair Haven Community Health Care	New Haven Police Department
Albertus Magnus College	Fair Haven Community Management Team	New Haven Pride Center
Amistad Committee, Inc.	Freddy Fixer Parade Committee	New Haven Promise
Arts Council of Greater New Haven	Garden Club of New Haven	New Haven Public Schools
Arts Midwest	Gateway Community College	New Haven Reads
Artspace	Gather New Haven	New Haven Rising
Artsucation Academy Network	Girls Who Code	New Haven Symphony Orchestra
Atwater Senior Center	GLSEN	New Haven Youth and Recreation
Beaver Hills Community Management Team	Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce	New Haven Works
Believe In Me	Greater New Haven Peace Council	New Hytes
Bereavement Care	Greater New Haven Youth Engagement Team Initiative	Newhallville Community Management Team
Black Student Union at Yale	Greater New Haven LGBTQ Youth Taskforce	Newhallville Learning Corridor
Blockwatch 303	Green Elm Construction	NXTHVN
Boys & Girls Club	Griffin Hospital	People Get Ready Bookstore
Bradley Street Bike Co-op	Harris and Tucker Daycare	Pequeñas Ligas
Candid	Highville Charter	Planned Parenthood of Southern New England Inc.
CDS Music	Hill North Community Management Team	Project Longevity
Census 2020 New Haven Complete Count	Hill South Community Management Team	Project MORE Reentry Welcome Center
Chapel Haven	Hood Hula	Public Humanities at Yale
Chatham Square Neighborhood Association	HomeHaven	Push To Start
Christian Community Action Inc.	Hopkins School	S.P.O.R.T. Academy
CitySeed	Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)	Save the Sound
Citywide Youth Coalition	International Festival of Arts & Ideas	SCORE New Haven
Clifford Beers Clinic	JUNTA for Progressive Action	Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ)
Collab	Kehler Liddell Gallery	Shubert Theatre
Columbus House	KNOWN Coworking	Solar Youth
Comcast Internet Essentials	Krative	Southern Connecticut State University
Community Action Agency	Leadership, Education, & Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)	Southern Connecticut State University Hilton C. Buley Library
Community Economic Development Fund	Liberty Community Services	Spanish American Merchants Association
Community Foundation for Greater New Haven	Literacy Coalition of Greater New Haven	Taproot Foundation
Concepts for Adaptive Learning	Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven	TLC Daycare
ConnCAT	Livable City Initiative	Town Green Special Services District
ConnCORP	Long Wharf Theatre	Travelers on a Mission
Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS)	LULAC Head Start	University of New Haven
Connecticut Bar Association (Legal Advice Clinics)	MakeHaven	Urban Grants 4 Us
Connecticut Children's Museum	Marrakech	Urban League of Southern Connecticut
Connecticut Department of Housing	Mary Wade Home	Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
Connecticut Library Consortium	Midwest Tapes	Westville Village Renaissance Alliance
Connecticut Mental Health Center Foundation	Millennials Making Boss Moves	Westville/ West Hills Community Management Team
Connecticut Public Radio	Morse Summer Music Academy, Yale School of Music	Windham-Campbell Literature Prizes
Connecticut State Library	Music Haven	Women of the Village
Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center	National Endowment for the Arts	Women's Business Development Council
Creative Arts Workshop	Neighborhood Music School	WYBC Radio-Yale Broadcasting
CT Humanities	New Haven Adult Education	Yale Affinity Groups
CT Murals / Rise Up Group	New Haven Board of Alders	Yale Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library
CTNext	New Haven Board of Alders Black and Hispanic Caucus	Yale Center for British Art
Daily Nutmeg	New Haven County Bar Association	Yale-China Association
DataHaven	New Haven Documentary Film Festival	Yale New Haven Health
David Geffen School of Drama at Yale University	New Haven Early Childhood Council	Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
DEFA Film Library-UMass Amherst	New Haven Ecology Project/Common Ground	Yale Police Department
Design Brigade	New Haven Family Alliance	Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health
District Arts and Education	New Haven Fire Department	Yale Repertory Theatre
Divine Creations	New Haven Food Policy Council	Yale School of Art
Dixwell Community Management Team	New Haven Health Department	Yale School of Medicine
Downtown/Wooster Square Community Management Team	New Haven Healthy Start	Yale School of Nursing
Dwight Hall	New Haven Home Ownership Center	Yale Schwartzman Center
East Rock Community Management Team	New Haven Innovation Collaborative	Yale Department of Music
Economic Development Corporation of New Haven/ Regional Economic Xcelleration (REX) Development	New Haven LGBTQ Youth Task Force	Yale Summer Cabaret
Elephant in the Room	New Haven Museum	Yale University Art Gallery
Elm Community Insight	New Haven Peace Commission	Yale University Press
		Youth at Work
		Youth Continuum



# STETSON BRANCH GRAND OPENING



## THE STETSON BRANCH FINDS A NEW HOME AT THE Q HOUSE!

This year was truly a year of celebration in the reopening of the newly renovated Willis K. Stetson Branch of the Library. The Stetson Branch, having first opened its doors in 1917 and being the second branch of the New Haven Free Public Library, has historically played a critical role in the support of the community. Becoming the defacto community center when the original Q House was closed due to funding in 2003, the Stetson Branch now enjoys its new home as an anchor to the newly constructed and revitalized Q House.

Thanks to generous community donors and the fundraising efforts of the NHFPL Foundation, over \$2 million dollars was raised to bring the vision of this 21st century library to life. The renovated Stetson features a unique and expanded African Diaspora collection, state of the art technology, spacious community meeting and tutor rooms, a maker space, and breathtaking art displays featuring community artists and celebrating prominent Black leaders. With a 60% increase in space, investments in cutting-edge technology, and new resources for everyone—children, families, teens and adults—the new Stetson Branch is better-equipped to meet the evolving needs of the New Haven community and serve as a new center to learn, collaborate, and celebrate our heritage.

In June, in partnership with the International Festival of Arts and Ideas and the New Haven Department of Arts, Culture, and Tourism, the Dixwell Neighborhood Festival marked the official Grand Opening of the Stetson Branch. The courtyard of Q House bustled with dance, music, art, and laughter. Hula hooping, book giveaways, small business vendors, local bands, and a fashion show filled participants with joy during this celebration of community.

