

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022



The Winans Family
Collaborative Working Area

“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.



Maureen Sullivan
Interim Director



Dr. Lauren Anderson
NHFPL Board President

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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-Brummel, 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.

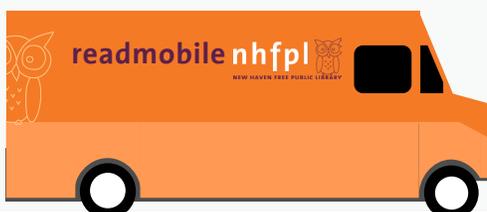
OUR MISSION

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



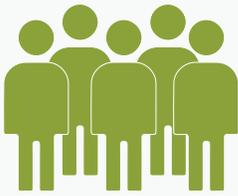
HOTSPOT + CHROMEBOOK
CIRCULATION



DOWNLOADS OF EBOOKS,
MEDIA, AND DATABASE USAGE

PROGRAMS

1,486 PROGRAMS



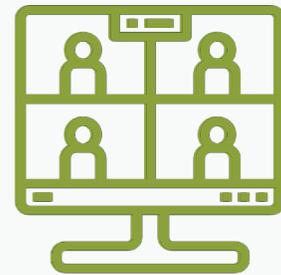
19,677
TOTAL ATTENDANCE



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 VISIT:



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.

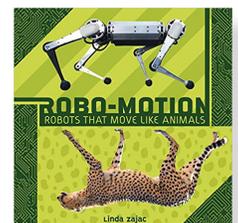
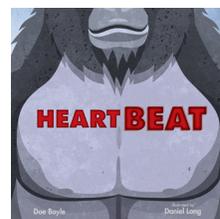
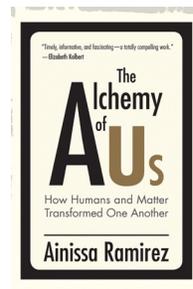
GIRL SCOUT NEIGHBORHOOD LITERACY KIOSKS ARE TRULY GOLDEN

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.



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

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.

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

