

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023



“Our libraries are incredible centers of learning, enrichment, connection, and community for our residents. Whether you’re looking for a great read, exploring a new topic or interest, needing to access critical resources, or wanting to connect with your neighbors at any number of community events, New Haven’s public libraries are the place to go.”

-The Honorable Justin Elicker,
Mayor of the City of New Haven

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the City Librarian and NHFPL Board President..... 2

Remembering John Jessen..... 3

Library System and Stats..... 4

Year in Review, 2022-2023

Advance Literacy..... 6

Foster Learning and Achievement..... 7

Provide Access to Knowledge..... 8

Empower Economic Success..... 9

Inspire Exploration..... 10

Promote Connection and Collaboration..... 11

Deliver World-Class Service..... 12

Commitment to Equity and Inclusion..... 13

Community Partners..... 14

NHFPL Foundation

Message from the NHFPL Foundation Board President..... 15

Annual Campaign..... 16

Our Donors and Supporters..... 17

Mardi Gras Returns in Person 20



Authors Tochi Onyebuchi and RF Kuang discuss Kuang's book, *BABEL*, at the Atticus After Dark book release event in the Ives Main Library

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR AND NHFPL BOARD PRESIDENT

The loss of John Jessen last Spring left many of us feeling unmoored. Now, as we hang his portrait on our walls and honor his memory, we also look ahead to the promise of a brighter future for the Library and the community we serve. Indeed, we have much to celebrate from this past year, including a diverse set of programs and activities for residents of all ages and opportunities to partner with other New Haven groups and organizations. We are especially proud of our City Librarian search results and the appointment of Maria Bernhey as our new City Librarian and Director, effective July 1, 2023.

Maria is a seasoned librarian and administrator with a proven track record of success. She has held leadership positions at libraries in New York City prior to assuming her role as Public Service Administrator at NHFPL. She is also a passionate advocate for libraries and their role in the community who brings a wealth of experience to her new role. Maria will be the third internal candidate in the history of the NHFPL to be appointed to the role of City Librarian and Director. We know that she will be a great asset to our community.

In addition to Maria's appointment, we celebrated several other wins. We expanded our digital collections to include the Palace Project, a new app that integrates our Overdrive content with statewide ebook and e-audiobook content, increasing patron access to thousands of free ebooks and e-audiobooks, available 24/7. We upgraded the technology available to the public, including computers at our branches and the addition of 31 new hotspots added to our circulating collections at all locations. Through strong advocacy efforts, we celebrated the Board of Alders approval of a new full time librarian position at our Wilson Branch for Young Minds. We also welcomed passionate new staff members to multiple locations and celebrated diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging with several systemwide initiatives including PrideFest, Living Black History, One City One Read, and a 2-day all-staff workshop.

We are grateful for the support of our community. Your donations and volunteer hours make it possible for us to provide essential services to New Haven residents. We are committed to serving our community and making the New Haven Free Public Library a vibrant and welcoming place for everyone.



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
The Honorable
Justin Elicker
Mayor of New Haven

*Aldermanic
Representative*
The Honorable
Jeanette Morrison

President
Dr. Lauren Anderson

Lee Cruz
Shana N. Schneider
Claudia Merson
Irene Logan
Jeanette Sykes

Vice-President
Andrew Giering

Treasurer
Susan L. Lamar

Interim Director
Maureen Sullivan

ANNOUNCING NEW CITY LIBRARIAN, MARIA BERNHEY

We're proud to announce NHFPL's own Maria Bernhey as our tenth City Librarian and Director! Maria joined the NHFPL team in April 2022 as Public Services Administrator overseeing our four neighborhood branches as well as systemwide Young Minds and Family Learning. A passionate advocate for libraries and their role in the community, Bernhey brings more than a decade of experience in the library field to the position, including a variety of branch manager and leadership roles at the New York Public Library.

Maria is the third internal Director and City Librarian appointment in the Library's history, and the second in a row since 1929. We look forward to what's in store under her leadership!





REMEMBERING JOHN JESSEN

CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF A LIFELONG COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

We wrapped up the fiscal year by remembering an old friend. On June 30, colleagues and community members gathered in the **Café at the Ives Main Library** for the big reveal of our late Director John Jessen's portrait. The crowd—comprised of staff, partners, and library regulars all sharing fond memories of John—truly represented a cross-section of the New Haven communities John was devoted to serving.

The event began with the welcome message from **NHFPL Board President Dr. Lauren Anderson**, after which we heard remarks from John's colleagues, and from community members whose hearts he touched. Erika Jessen spoke to the podium to share her pride for a husband who had such an impactful effect on the community he loved so much.

John's sons, Jack and William, had the honor of unveiling the portrait, which was commissioned by the Jessen family and painted by local artist and Jessen family friend **Frank Bruckmann**. All who attended remarked on how accurately the artwork captured he essence of John spirit. His kind eyes and charming smile will shine upon us as we take our next steps into the future.



Mayor Justin Elicker shares his thoughts about John.



Erika Jessen shares remarks about her late husband's love of New Haven.



William (left) and Jack (right) Jessen unveiling their father's portrait.



The completed artwork of John Jessen.

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



2 libraries on wheels to travel around New Haven, visiting early learning centers, schools, and community events.



TECHNOLOGY USE



ACTIVE LOGINS
(WIFI & PUBLIC PCS)



808

HOTSPOT AND CHROMBOOK
CIRCULATION

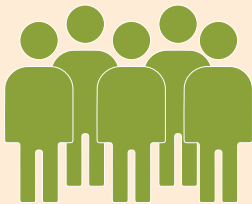


61990

DOWNLOADS OF EBOOKS, MEDIA,
AND DATABASE USAGE

PROGRAMS

1,745 PROGRAMS



27,521

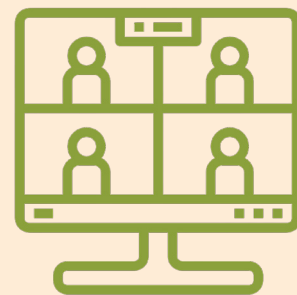
TOTAL ATTENDANCE



6,863
ADULTS



20,658
YOUTH +
FAMILIES



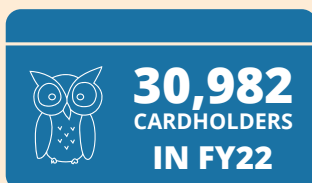
36

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES



ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET
\$4.2 MILLION
0.66% of City Operating Funds



800,196
TOTAL USER VISITS



473,372
ONLINE



326,824
IN-PERSON



ADVANCE LITERACY



SYSTEMWIDE STAY AND PLAY

Stay and Play is a long-running weekly program held systemwide. The program is for children ages birth to 5 and their caregivers. It promotes social interaction, language development and introduces early literacy skills through stories, songs, puppets, movement activities, and play time!

At the **Fair Haven Branch**, long-time volunteer **Nohra Bernal** has hosted the program and released her second bilingual book for kids in early 2023. About once a month **Read to Grow** has led the program with guest **Viviana Nunez**, connecting families with early childhood literacy practices.



Stay and Play hosted the Fair Haven Branch.



Stay and Play at the Stetson Branch.

Partnering with local schools, daycares, and families, the **Stetson Branch** has provided nearly 100 programs advancing literacy to our Dixwell/Newhallville service area from 2022 to the present. Stay and Play has been offered for a growing number of diverse families at **Stetson**, where partners such as **Cornell Scott Hill Health Center** and the Shubert Theater led storytimes centered around important themes and concepts, including personal health, literacy, and the arts.

LITERACY FOR ALL AGES

The **English Conversation Club** at the **Fair Haven Branch** is a long-running, informal weekly program run by their volunteer **Susan Hackett**. Patrons can drop in for a brief time or stay for the entire length of the session to practice their English. Attendees come and go throughout the year, but the program has always had participants from around the world.

Susan is an engaging facilitator who puts participants at ease. She has been excellent at explaining the nuances in American culture, holidays, idioms, and other concepts that can be challenging for new English speakers. The lasting impact of the club on regular attendees has been strong and impactful.

FIND WHAT YOU NEED ON THE PALACE APP!

NHFPL partnered with the **Connecticut State Library** and **The Palace Project** to make it even easier for readers to find what they're looking for. *The Palace app* integrates our **Overdrive** content with statewide ebook and audiobook content, providing library cardholders with increased access to thousands of free titles available 24/7. The Palace app includes titles purchased by the Connecticut State Library along with **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)** content and **New York Public Library (NYPL) Instant Classics**, all browseable in one simple app. It also offers users the ability to easily search for titles and authors, borrow items with a single click, and download them for offline use. The app is available for free on iOS and Android devices for New Haven library cardholders.

READY FOR THE GRADE

A partnership between public libraries, the **NewAlliance Foundation**, and **Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts**, the **REAdy for the Grade** summer reading program at the **Wilson Branch** and the **Stetson 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. In 2022, **REAdy for the Grade** was resumed with full onsite programming at the **Wilson Branch** over the course of seven weeks and was launched at the **Stetson Branch** with programming over six weeks. Students were also invited to participate in the Library's system-wide summer learning programs and activities. 100% of children who attended programming maintained or improved their reading skills!



FOSTER LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

YALE PRISON PROJECT

The **Wilson Branch** invited the **Yale Undergraduate Prison Project (YUPP)** to host their pardoning workshops in their community program room. The Pardon Program, a student-led initiative of YUPP, provided direct assistance with the absolute pardon application process for re-entering individuals in Connecticut. YUPP introduced interested applicants to the pardoning process and paired them with volunteers to assist them through the process. They covered eligibility, the virtual application, and specific advice for every applicant.

Wilson staff were able to support the program as needs arose and saw a substantial increase of traffic related to pardons, especially in scheduling one-on-ones with folks needing support in navigating the digital portal to submit applications. The program helped over 30 people begin the pardoning process since the beginning of January 2023. These efforts opened new housing and employment opportunities to formerly incarcerated CT residents.

YOUTH AT WORK IN LOCAL HISTORY

Youth at Work participants from the Dwight neighborhood were found in the Local History Room at the **Ives Main Library** in July 2022. They researched information related to two neighborhood planning projects in advance of a Fall “charette,” a way of involving everyone. The projects were sponsored by Dwight neighborhood organizations including Greater Dwight Development Corporation and Dwight Central Management Team.



“BOOK A LIBRARIAN” FOR THE HELP YOU NEED

Computer instruction has returned at **Ives Main Library’s** computer classroom, including *Computer Basics for Beginners*, a 90-minute class geared toward digital natives who do not have access to computers at home, and *Intro to Computers for Older Adults*, which reframes the beginner class information to an audience that did not grow up with technology or is less familiar with it.

Ives Main Library’s one-on-one computer help service—which returned to Ives post-Covid in 2021—allows library users to book a session with a Reference staff member to address the patron’s individual needs. This service saw incredible growth, helping over 100 patrons with their technology-related needs, including 40 with recurring appointments.



Ives Adult Services’ Digital Inclusion Librarian Jeffrey Williams, providing one-on-one computer help to a patron.

TOP 10 TITLES IN CIRCULATION

FICTION

Book Lovers by Emily Henry
Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus
Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin
The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid
Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng
Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel
Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley
Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
Horse by Geraldine Brooks
Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult

NON-FICTION

I’m Glad My Mom Died by Jennette McCurdy
Spare by Prince Harry
The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama
Atomic Habits by James Clear
Somebody’s Daughter by Ashley Ford
Educated by Tara Westover
The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck by Mark Manson
Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi
Finding Me by Viola Davis

PROVIDE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE



VEGA DISCOVER MAKES IT EASY TO FIND MATERIALS

The Library launched **Vega Discover** as our online catalog in March 2023 after migrating from Encore. Upgrading to Vega has allowed the online catalog to do much more than simply find materials.

Vega enables easier, more efficient searching with roll-ups, which show multiple editions of items (including online content from our apps) in one search result. It also provides convenient check-out of Hoopla and Overdrive eBooks and audiobooks right from within the search platform.

NEED INTERNET ACCESS? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED, NO MATTER YOUR HOME LIBRARY LOCATION

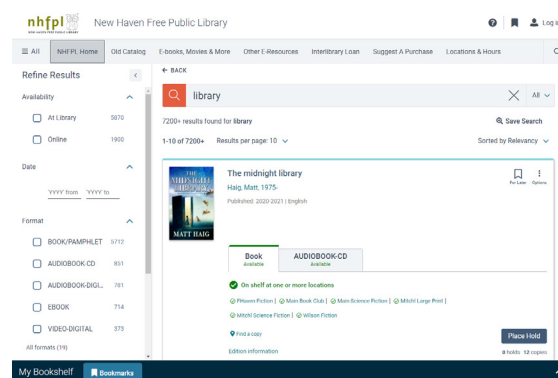
To further strengthen our mission and enhance the overall experience of its patrons, the IT department replaced public computers systemwide and worked in tandem with the Technical Services department to expand the number of circulating hotspots.

Upgraded computers offer a smoother browsing experience and improved performance, allowing patrons to conduct research, access online courses, and engage in self-directed learning more efficiently. The ease of use and accessibility of these computers encourage patrons to explore diverse topics and expand their knowledge base, aligning with the library's commitment to fostering a culture of lifelong learning.

Additionally, the NHFPL IT and Technical Services teams catalogued and deployed a new batch of 31 hotspots across all locations, providing internet access from anywhere for the three-week circulation period. The provision of hotspots empowers individuals with the tools to bridge the digital divide, allowing them to access the vast resources available online.



The NHFPL IT team holding Hotspots.



The new Vega Discover online catalog.

MOBILE MAKERSPACE BRINGS S.T.E.A.M. TO MITCHELL LIBRARY

The **Mitchell Branch** has partnered with the **SCSU Buley Library Makerspace**. Through this partnership, **Kevin Redline** has run programs on Wednesday afternoons once a month for the past couple of years. Some of the programs he has facilitated are:

- *Dash & Dots*, a program about coding and robotics.
- *Button Buddies*, sewing on buttons.
- *Button Fun*, creating pin-backed buttons.
- *Makey Makey Experiments*, exploring the basics of electricity.
- *Mars Explorers*, learning about Mars through games and puzzles.



Kevin Redline teaching a Mars Explorers program.



EMPOWER ECONOMIC SUCCESS

FINANCIAL LITERACY AND BUSINESS ACUMEN FOR TRADITIONALLY OVERLOOKED POPULATIONS

Systemwide, we advanced our mission to build community through shared access to resources, experiences, and opportunities for all. **Laquanda Smith** facilitated a series of workshops at the **Stetson Branch** over financial literacy for women of color. Two groups of women participated in four weeks of workshops that took place twice a week.

Ives Squared and the **Fair Haven Branch** partnered with the **Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF)** and **SCORE** in the late spring of 2022 to present a four-part business fundamentals series entirely in Spanish. They hosted classes on creating a business plan, financials and accounting, small business loans, and marketing.

IVES SQUARED EMPOWERS CREATIVES AND ENTREPRENEURS

Ives Squared's In-Residence programs thrived during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. **The Entrepreneur-In-Residence (EIR)** and **Creative-In-Residence (CIR)** embody the spirit of creativity and innovation that is central to the New Haven Community. The EIR draws upon their experience and professional network, guiding emerging entrepreneurs and nonprofits in the development and launch of their concepts, and creates an active community of inquisitive professionals. The CIR helps connect library users to local creatives, artists, and makers within the New Haven community, bringing the Ives Squared makerspace to life by sharing skills and knowledge.



EIR Rosalind "Roz" Zavras



A logo design program in Ives Squared's Tinker Lab

We were lucky enough to have **Rosalind 'Roz' Zavras** as our EIR and **Vicky Blume** as our CIR. Roz is a non-profit operations expert with over 15 years of experience building operational infrastructure for global and local social impact organizations. Vicky is a local artist and web designer who has been working within the New Haven artistic ecosystem for over eight years. During their tenure from September to December 2022, they worked with 49 different individuals in one-on-one appointments and hosted 16 well-attended programs!

FREE TAX HELP AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) expanded services to three of our five locations this fiscal year. This year, Ives' VITA services filed 1427 tax returns, a 35% increase from last year. VITA services at the **Ives Main Library** helped approximately 39% of the 3,685 total clients assisted by the **Greater New Haven VITA Coalition**. **Wilson Branch Library's** VITA volunteers served 280 clients, while **Mitchell Branch Library's** new VITA site, served 35. In total, VITA sites at the New Haven Free Public Library system saved patrons an estimated \$552,600+ on tax preparation assistance during our 2022-23 fiscal year.

VITA BY THE NUMBERS

1,742 tax returns filed

\$300 average cost to file taxes at a commercial location saved by each person

\$3,121,600 amount refunded to filers



PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR GROWTH AT A BRANCH NEAR YOU

The **Wilson Library Garden Exchange and Pollinator Celebration** program was made possible by the coordination between the library and the **Truman Street Garden**, the **Huneebee Project**, **Urbanscapes Native Plant Nursery & CPEN**, **Urban Resources Initiative**, **Victor DeMasi at Yale Peabody Museum**, and musician **Cliff Schloss**. The event featured live music while attendees learned about beekeeping, the importance of pollinators, starting seeds, and native perennials. Over 100 orange milkweed seedlings grown at the library were distributed to residents, and participants were able to give and receive plants, pots, and garden tools. The event helped connect Hill residents, library patrons, advocates, researchers, and gardeners around the themes of food security, wellness, and environmental stewardship.



Wilson Branch Library Pollinator Celebration

A critical community partnership between **Gather New Haven** and the **Fair Haven Branch** has brought **Folly Delgado's** bi-monthly DIY Gardening programs to life. These events have helped folks in the area get interested in gardening with tips, know-how, and ways to save money. Gather New Haven addresses food insecurity with a network of gardens and farms throughout the neighborhood and promote economic benefits of getting involved with urban agriculture.

TEEN TALK WITH JUAN CASTILLO AND WYBC RADIO

Teen Talk is a Broadcasting Training Program that teaches and trains high school students in hosting and interviewing skills for radio and television. The size-week program is held at the **94.3 WYBC** studios and the **Stetson Branch**. It is sponsored by the **Yale Broadcasting Company**, **The Walter Lockett Foundation**, and the **Stetson Branch Library**. This year Teen Talk was administered virtually using **StreamYard**. Trainees are required to interview people from the community and produce a topic for a roundtable discussion. Training is provided by 94.3 WYBC personalities. All the interviews are aired on 94.3 WYBC and the videos are posted to social media. The Teen Talk program serves as a link to the youth in the community with the radio personalities who serve as mentors.



Gorman Bechard (far right) with library staff.

NH DOCS MAKES DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING ACCESSIBLE

The NHFPL is proud to celebrate eight years of partnership with filmmaker **Gorman Bechard** to host the **New Haven Documentary Film Festival (NH Docs)**. The festival has grown to attract films from all over the country and even from Israel. The trends in documentaries tend to reflect what is happening worldwide – be it climate change or changes in urban city neighborhoods.

The festival featured fifty-seven films over the course of eight days at the **Ives Main Library**. Several of the filmmakers and directors appeared in person for Q&A sessions with their audience. This included a three-panel presentation with local filmmakers **Steve Hamm** and Gorman Bechard. On Seniors Day, large groups of seniors arrived by bus from all City senior centers and were greeted with welcoming remarks by **Interim Library Director Maureen Sullivan** and were provided tours of Ives Main Library. Following a special luncheon for the seniors, the group attended and enjoyed that day's lineup of film screenings.



PROMOTE CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION

STETSON BRANCH LIBRARY JAZZES IT UP AT THE Q HOUSE

Stetson Branch Library has always been a cornerstone for the Dixwell and Newhallville communities, so its anchor placement in the Dixwell Community “Q” House is very apt. Stetson staff spent the last first in their new location cementing the branch’s role as a community gathering point by offering even more of the creative, collaborative events they’re known for.

Since 2018, one of Stetson’s most highly anticipated events of the year has been their annual holiday concert. A collaboration with Grammy nominated producer and jazz artist **Chris “Big Dog” Davis**, this annual holiday concert is so popular that it has standing room only each year! Big Dog’s concert collaborations at Stetson expanded this year to include August’s **Jelly Roll Jam** in partnership with **Long Wharf Theatre**, an effort celebrate the life of Jelly Roll Morton while promoting the play *Jelly’s Last Jam*, which was running at the LWT. The performance featured award-nominated singer **Maysa** and the “Queen of Gospel Energy,” **Dawn Tallman**.

Continuing their rich ongoing relationship with the **Shubert Theater**, Stetson Branch Library collaborated with the Shubert and **the Monk family**, relatives of famous jazz artist Thelonius Monk, to present a night of jazz. Stetson’s partnership with the Shubert Theatre makes theater accessible to neighborhood families through free programs featuring stories, activities, and engagement. Each program’s theme relates to the theater performance happening that month. Programs have centered around *Step Afrika*, *Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood*, *The Blue Man Group*, *Hip Hop Nutcracker*, and more. The Shubert shares gifts for each family and free tickets or discounted tickets for the family shows at the theater.



Chris Davis and Barbara Fowler performing at the Holiday Concert.



The Shubert Theater and the Monk family Jazz collaboration.

EXPLORE ART, MUSIC, AND MORE AT MITCHELL BRANCH LIBRARY

Johnes Ruta has procured most of the art that is exhibited in the **Mitchell Branch** Program Room. He recruits the artists, helps them hang their work, and often hosts a “meet the artists” panel while their art is displayed. He then helps them to de-install, taking full responsibility for the art while it’s being displayed at Mitchell. Several shows held were:

- *In Need of Light*, featured Jane Gilman Fleischner and Larry Morse, in August 2022.
- *Latitudes of Myth* featured Magda Mraz and Kathleen Demeo, in December 2022.
- *Spontaneous, Permeative* featured Mariellen Chapdelaine and Joseph Fekiets, in May 2023.

The **Mitchell Branch** has also been in partnership with the **Westville Village Renaissance Alliance (WVRA)** for many years. They are always the location for their **Westville ArtWalk** kickoff. The 2023 Artwalk Festival kickoff included live music, painting, and jewelry making featuring local artists. The Mitchell Branch has also helped them host their **Hi-Fi Pie Festivals** and concerts on Monday evenings in **Beecher Park** during the summer.



Elizabeth Donius addresses the crowd at the Artwalk Kick-off.

DELIVER WORLD-CLASS SERVICE



IMPROVED ACCESSIBILITY AND STREAMLINED CIRCULATION

The **Ives Main Library** improved the accessibility of the physical collection. The New Book area was rearranged to allow multiple patrons the ability to allow more privacy while browsing. The display areas have greater visibility and are consistently refreshed to highlight the best sellers and titles of interest. Entry into the stacks of the general collection of non-fiction and fiction titles was also rearranged to allow more space for browsing and inspection of topic areas.

The Library has created a streamlined circulation process through offering self-check for the independent visitor with staff readily available to respond to inquiries and perform legacy services such as check ins/check outs, new library cards, and holds management.



IVES SQUARED AT THE NEW HAVEN NIGHT MARKET

Ives Squared visited the **Night Market** both in Fall 2022 and again in Spring 2023. In the Fall, staff shared what they love about Ives Squared (IS) with approximately 700 visitors, many of whom created beaded bracelets while stopping at the IS table. 26 patrons opened new library cards at this event.

In the Spring, visitors created stamped bookmarks. 60 of an estimated 500+ visitors to the IS table created new library card accounts. A constant flow of people of all ages visited during both events. Patrons were thrilled to see the Library participating in the Night Market!



A participant holding up the bookmark they designed.



The Ives Squared bookmark table at the Night Market.



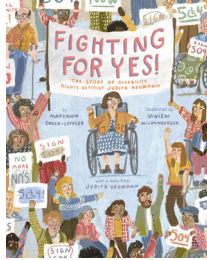
Participants at the Ives Squared table for the Fall 2022 Night Market.



COMMITMENT TO EQUITY AND INCLUSION

THE NEA BIG READ HONORS DISABILITY PRIDE

The Library was proud to continue our annual collaboration with the **International Festival of Arts and Ideas** and the **City of New Haven's Office of Services for Persons with Disabilities** as participants in the **NEA Big Read**, an initiative of the **National Endowment for the Arts** in partnership with **Arts Midwest** that broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.



In 2023, we explored the topic of disability in its many forms, and celebrated disabled authors and activists with our micro branches and events centered around two books. Teen and adult programs centered around the themes from **Rebekah Taussig's *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body***, while Children's programs celebrated the life and work of disability rights activist and icon Judith Heumann with ***Fighting For Yes!*** by Maryann Cocca-Leffler.



In addition to our systemwide programs, we also distributed a whopping 250 copies of Rebekah Taussig's book to members of the New Haven community. NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

NEW HAVEN PRIDEFEST OUTREACH ON THE NEW HAVEN GREEN

This year, **PRIDEfest** – the **New Haven Pride Center's** annual festival celebrating the local LGBTQ+ community – was held on the New Haven Green, and the Library was thrilled to join in the fun! Our table featured passive programs including custom pin making, coloring pages, books from our collections, and more. Staff enthusiastically chatted with festival attendees about everything we have to offer, and we registered 53 New Haveners for free library cards. More than 350 people visited us on the Green during PRIDEfest, and we had a blast with each encounter!



CELEBRATING MIGRANT MOTHERS

On May 17 and 18 of 2023, author of *Pressing Onward: The Imperative Resilience of Latina Migrant Mothers*, **Dr. Jessica Cerdeña** read aloud a selection of her book and spoke candidly with moderator, **Jenny Medina Morris** from **OmniCulture Communications**, answering Jenny's thoughtful questions on her work.

Dr. Cerdeña spoke openly on how she worked to show and share the complex lives of New Haven migrant Latina mothers who despite all their differences share what she defines as an "imperative resilience" to keep moving forward despite adversity. The events were held at the **Ives Main Library** and the **Fair Haven Branch** and were made possible in partnership with **The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven**, in collaboration with the **Progreso Latino Fund**, **Yale Macmillan Center Council on Latin American & Iberian Studies** and the **Semilla Collective**.



Dr. Jessica Cerdeña and Jenny Medina Morris presenting in the Community Program Room of the Ives Main Library.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



3D Music Academy
Albertus Magnus College
All Saints Catholic Academy
American Job Center
American Job Center
Arts Council of Greater New Haven
Arts Midwest
Artspace
Artsucation Academy Network
Atticus Bookstore
Azoth Gallery
Blockwatch 303
CDS Music
Chatham Square Neighborhood Association
Chris "Big Dawg" Davis Productions
Circus Moves
CitySeed
Citywide Youth Coalition
Clifford Beers Clinic
Collab
Columbus House
Comcast Internet Essentials
Common Ground High School
Community Action Agency
Community Action Agency: Aging with Grace
Community Economic Development Fund
Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Concepts for Adaptive Learning
ConnCAT
ConnCORP
Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS)
New Haven Financial Empowerment Center
Connecticut Children's Museum
Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
Connecticut Historical Society
Connecticut Library Consortium
Connecticut Poetry Slam Initiative
Connecticut State Library
Connecticut State Library for Accessible Books
Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame
Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center
Creative Arts Workshop
CT Humanities
CTNext
DataHaven
Delta Sigma Gamma Rho
Dixwell Community "Q" House
Divine Creations
Elm City Lit Festival
Elm Community Insight
Fair Haven Community Health Care
Fair Haven Community Management Team
Freddy Fixer Parade Committee
Gather New Haven
Girls Who Code
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
Griffin Hospital
Harris and Tucker Daycare
Haven's Harvest
Health Equity Solutions
HomeHaven
Hopkins School

Hopkins School (Community Service Project)
Hopkins School Robotics Team
Integrated Refugee & Immigration Services (IRIS)
International Festival of Arts & Ideas
Iyabarts, Inc.
Juneteenth Coalition of Greater New Haven
JUNTA for Progressive Action
KNOWN Coworking
Leadership, Education, & Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)
Liberty Community Services
Libraries Without Borders
Literacy Coalition of Greater New Haven
Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven
Livable City Initiative
Long Wharf Theatre
MakeHaven
Mary Wade Home
Midwest Tapes
Music Haven
NAACP of Greater New Haven
National Endowment for the Arts
New Haven Adult Education
New Haven Board of Alders
New Haven Board of Alders Black and Hispanic
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New Haven Reads
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New Haven Works
New Haven Youth and Recreation
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A MESSAGE FROM THE NHFPL FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT

The New Haven Free Public Library is more than just a building filled with books; it is a vital community resource that plays a central role in fostering the growth and development of our great city.

The New Haven Free Public Library system offers a treasure trove of opportunities and resources, going far beyond being a place to just get books and serving as a dynamic center for education, culture, technology, and community engagement. In this challenging time in our country, public libraries ensure access to information and promote intellectual freedom for all. They empower individuals to make informed decisions and actively engage in civic life.

Our commitment to providing diverse services reflects our belief in the power of public libraries to transform lives, strengthen communities, and empower individuals from all walks of life. Whether you are seeking educational resources, looking for a place to renew your passport, or even in need of a COVID-19 vaccine, your Public Library is here to serve you. It is a place of inclusivity where everyone is welcome, and we strive to be responsive to the ever-changing needs of our community.

As we embark on another year of growth and progress, I assure you that donations will continue to make a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals who rely on the New Haven Free Public Library as a source of inspiration, education, and connection. With your support, we will continue to innovate, adapt, and grow, making the New Haven Free Public Library a true catalyst for positive change in our community. As we move forward, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

Thank you to all our organizational and individual community donors for being an integral part of our library's journey and for believing in the power of knowledge and community to create a more equitable and dynamic future for all.

With deepest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary Ellen Savage".

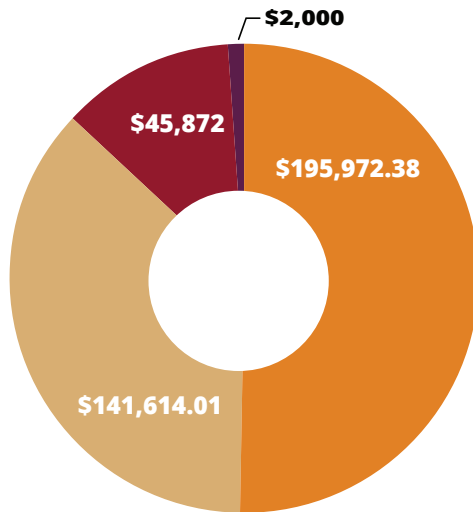
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NHFPL Foundation Board President

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

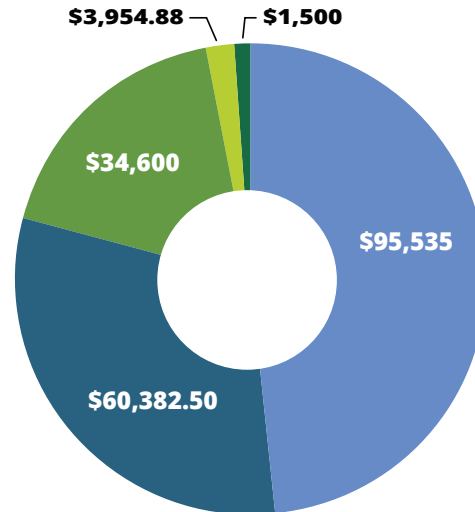


SOURCES OF FUNDING



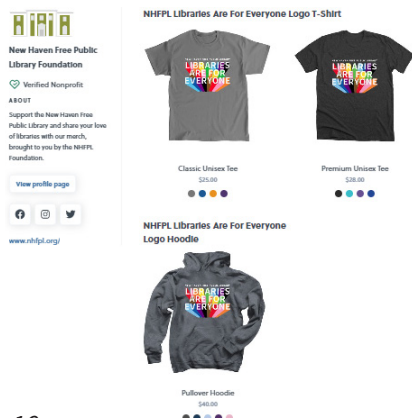
- Grants & Corporate Support • 50%
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SUPPORT FOR LIBRARY SYSTEM



- Addressing Digital Divide • 49%
- Ives Squared Programming • 31%
- READY for the Grade Program • 17%
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- Grant Funding for Books • 1%

LIBRARY TEE SHIRTS ARE FOR EVERYONE!



In the Spring, the **New Haven Free Public Library Foundation** partnered with **Possible Futures** bookstore and established an online fundraiser on **Bonfire.com** to sell NHFPL *Libraries Are for Everyone* tee shirts (and hoodies via the Bonfire online shop). Proceeds from the sales of these products go to the New Haven Free Public Library Foundation in support of the Library's programming, outreach, and digital equity endeavors.

The tee shirts – which feature original artwork created by **Ives Squared Business Librarian, Alexandria Robison** – originally caught the eye of community supporters when staff wore them at **PrideFest**. Since then, the tees received such an overwhelming response that the NHFPL Foundation chose to offer the community the opportunity to snag tee shirts (and hoodies) of their own.



Staff members Emily Raymond and Emmett McMullen posing for a selfie in their tees.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The New Haven Free Public Library Foundation raises funds to support the mission of the New Haven Free Public Library and builds awareness of the Library's community impact. Gifts to the New Haven Free Public Library Foundation supplement the City's commitment to operational expenses, helping grow the Library's print and digital collections, offer thousands of free programs throughout the year, and fund special projects and strategic priorities to amplify the Library's impact across the community.

OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our generous donors that support the New Haven Free Public Library Foundation.

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MARDI GRAS RETURNS IN PERSON



In February 2023, the echoes of laughter, music, and celebration filled the halls of the **Ives Main Library** once again as we came together in person after two long years of virtual celebrations. The **New Haven Free Public Library Foundation's Mardi Gras Celebration** brought a vibrant burst of color and joy to the library, creating unforgettable memories on this special occasion. Amidst the spirited revelry, we also commemorated a significant milestone – the Library's 136th birthday. What better way to honor our enduring commitment to knowledge, community, equity, and growth than by reuniting under the banner of Mardi Gras extravagance?

Guests adorned in dazzling masks and costumes – a true embodiment of the festive spirit – ignited the night with their energy and enthusiasm. This event was more than a celebration; it was a triumphant return to cherished traditions, a rekindling of connections, and a reaffirmation of the library's vital role in our lives. The Mardi Gras Celebration not only reawakened our spirits but also bolstered the library's essential programs and initiatives.

Mardi Gras 2023

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Katalina's

Koffee? Catering

New Haven Lawn Club

Ordinary

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, sponsors, and supporters who made this night possible. Thanks to your generosity, we raised almost \$45,000 on behalf of the New Haven Free Public Library!





LOCATIONS AND HOURS

IVES MAIN LIBRARY

133 Elm Street | (203) 946-8130

Monday - Thursday

10 am-8 pm

Friday - Saturday

10 am-5 pm

Sunday | Closed

FAIR HAVEN BRANCH

182 Grand Avenue | (203) 946-8115

Monday - Wednesday | 10 am-6 pm

Thursday | 12-8 pm

Friday | Closed

Saturday | 10 am-5 pm

Sunday | Closed

MITCHELL BRANCH

37 Harrison Street | (203) 946-8117

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