



The Newark Public Library
Annual Report 2017

Vision

In serving the entire Newark community, the Newark Public Library will be a national model of innovation, collaboration, and service excellence.

Mission

The Newark Public Library transforms lives and strengthens communities through innovative services, stimulating programs, and inspiring collections.

Values

COMMITMENT

We pledge to set a distinctive standard of excellence in all services for our Library's users, for the City of Newark, and for our staff.

COMMUNITY

We engage with residents to co-create a happy, productive Newark. We make the Library an active, integral community citizen.

COOPERATION

We use our different strengths to work together and with partners throughout the city to achieve our mission and to encourage curiosity in Library users.

ENRICHMENT

We shape and transform lives through our programs, services, and collections to fulfill the expectations and dreams of all who use Library resources.

EXPRESSION

We provide a safe space, where all individuals are free to be themselves.

INCLUSION

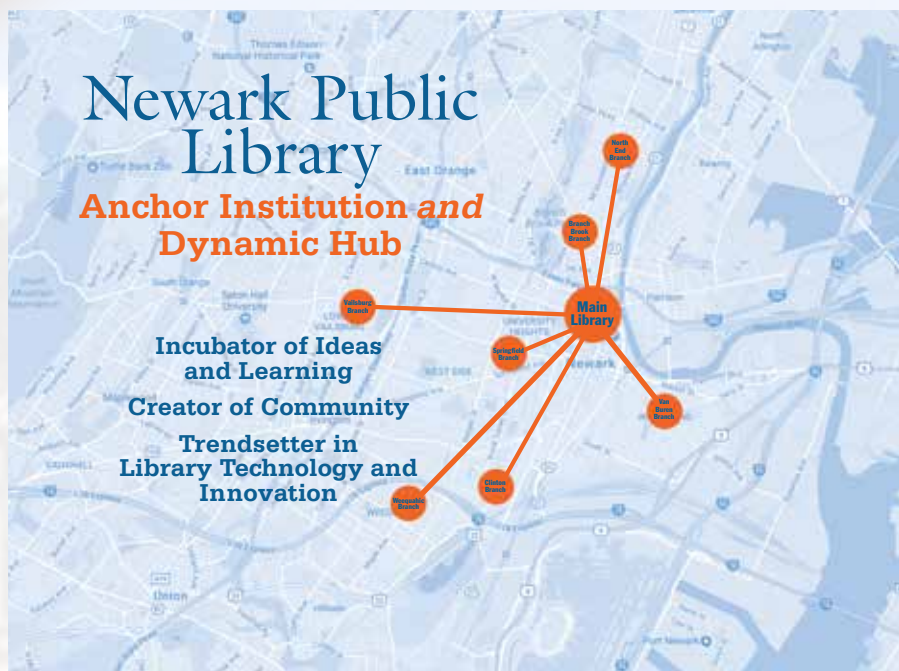
We welcome people of all ages, abilities, beliefs, classes, colors, ethnicities, genders, gender preferences, and shapes into these Libraries. Libraries are for everyone. Everyone belongs here.

INNOVATION

We invite and encourage change as our communities' needs evolve.

LEADERSHIP

We are a hub of the community. We use our skills and resources to help all Newarkers.



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Main Library 5 Washington Street, 07102 • 973-733-7784

Branch Brook Branch 235 Clifton Avenue, 07104 • 973-733-7760

Clinton Branch 739 Bergen Street, 07108 • 973-733-7757

North End Branch 722 Summer Avenue, 07104 • 973-733-7766

Springfield Branch 50 Hayes Street, 07103 • 973-733-7736

Vailsburg Branch 75 Alexander Street, 07106 • 973-733-7755

Van Buren Branch 140 Van Buren Street, 07105 • 973-733-7750

Weequahic Branch 355 Osborne Terrace, 07112 • 973-733-7751

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Cover photo: Butterfly
sculpture community
art project at the
Van Buren Branch.

A Message from the Director



Dear friends,

What a whirlwind year 2017 was! My husband, Michael, and I packed up our two cars, two dogs, and parrot and moved from St. Louis into our new home in Forest Hill on February 24th. I was barely able to navigate through the boxes

before starting my new position as Director of the Newark Public Library on Monday, February 27th.

Words cannot express the warm welcome that I have received from the community and the NPL staff. The common denominator for everyone that I have interacted with over the past year has been their strong emotional connection towards their local library. Whether they grew up utilizing one of our seven branch libraries that are located in all of Newark's five wards, or they currently seek solace in the Main Library, which is conveniently situated to serve as a progressive oasis in bustling downtown, the message that I heard over and over again was that, "Newarkers love their library!"

This year was filled with many firsts for the Library. Staff were encouraged to try different activities and/or programs to help reexamine the Library's role in the community and explore the various ways that the Library can have a positive impact in our neighborhoods.

The Library hosted Friday night dance parties and a petting zoo in our courtyard, yoga classes, teen poetry workshops, bilingual math and science story time, jewelry making classes, Brazilian Film Festival and exhibit, Community History Days, Jazz in the Stacks, and the Y on Wheels. These activities and classes

were in addition to the diverse and regularly scheduled programming, such as: early childhood literacy programs; SAT Prep and College Fairs; Computer Classes and Resume Writing/Job Search workshops; Girls Who Code classes; and English as a Second Language and American Sign Language classes.

In all, Library-sponsored programming increased by 46% in comparison to 2016, and attendance was up by almost 70% (67.6% to be exact). I believe this clearly validates that libraries are not dead and in fact are thriving as vital community partners that promote equity, empower residents, and provide free educational and entertaining programming for all.

During the past months, we were also engaged in developing a new strategic plan. We spoke with numerous stakeholders, staff, community members, parents, school teachers, students, seniors, neighbors, and local businesses to create a blueprint to position NPL well for the future. I am pleased to report that at the January 2018 meeting, the Newark Public Library Board of Trustees approved the new strategic plan that includes focusing on the following strategic directions:

- 1) Nurture Newark's Youth and Families
- 2) Contribute to the Personal Growth and Well-Being of all Newarkers
- 3) Strengthen Digital Literacy Skills for All
- 4) Enhance and Promote Newark Public Library's Distinctive Special Collections
- 5) Provide Welcoming, Safe, and Vibrant Environments

I want to thank everyone for making me feel a part of this community, participating in the many meetings and public forums that we sponsored, and supporting the Library as we begin to rethink how we can bring the most value to our residents. I am excited for what 2018 will bring!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey G. Trzeciak". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jeffrey G. Trzeciak

Nurturing Newark's Youth and Families



Cooperative mural project with artist Kenely Torres at Open Doors Kids.

Reading clubs, film screenings, nutrition workshops, a petting zoo, pajama storytime, Wii U Wednesdays, and class visits were among the variety of programs designed to educate and inspire children and young adults. In a new program at the Van Buren Branch, high schoolers assisted younger students with homework assignments. The Library also participated in the first Newark Arts Open Doors Kids with a variety of creative projects. Youth Services staff extended the offerings beyond our walls as they brought the Library to the community with a full calendar of outreach activities to schools and other organizations.

Build a Better World, our summer reading theme, provided a focus for a variety of entertaining activities for young people. The YMCA of Newark delighted children with fitness activities, sports, and more when they brought the Y on Wheels van (everything but the pool) to all of our locations. Kids also had the opportunity to explore the Newark Fire Department's trucks. Many children risk going hungry in the summer, but the City's Sun-Up Food Program provided free lunches that kept our children well-nourished and able to learn and play.

The Van Buren Branch presented a Math and Science Story Times Series for preschoolers. This STEM initiative for the Spanish-speaking community uses reading to bring math and

science to life. The NJ State Library and the National Institute for Early Education Research at Rutgers University funded the series.

The Library partnered with the United Way of Essex and West Hudson and distributed backpacks to 500 children for the new school year. All children receiving backpacks also received library cards!

Offering teens a safe and welcoming space during out-of-school time, the Library's opportunities for year-round learning are crucial for developing their literacy, technology, and professional skills. Existing programming was further developed with the hiring of a dedicated librarian for young adult services and a generous grant from the Victoria Foundation. Our first-ever Teen Advisory Board, for students in grades 7-12, met monthly to



Enjoying story time at Main Library.
(Photo by Tim Dingman)



Teen volunteers, Springfield Branch.



Reading to Ginger, The Associated Humane Society of Newark's dog, at the Branch Brook Branch Paws to Read program.

suggest new programs and services.

The Newark Poetry Institute led by spoken word artist Jasmine Mans, presented poetry workshops for teens, as well as two open mics. Terina Nicole, an accessories and fashion designer raised in Newark, engaged teens systemwide in arts workshops, and Samantha Katehis, owner of local business Fern and Fossil, taught teens to build their own terrariums.

Young adults participated in game nights, the Book to Art Club, and a video game design club. Ornament making, gaming, and a make your own s'mores station were highlights of our first teen holiday party at Main Library.

College Fairs were an integral part of the High School Academic Support Program headquartered at the Springfield Branch. Led by volunteer Lyndon Brown, sessions also included SAT and ACT preparation, and help with scholarships, and college and financial aid applications. Funding was provided by the Community Foundation of New Jersey and the Victoria Foundation.

Five popular Secrets to College Admissions workshops, one in each ward, were organized by the Newark City of Learning Collaborative.

"We wanted to make sure that children had a foundation in literature and understood that books could be a springboard to all sorts of things."

ENDELEA MEADOWS



Dancers attend a reading of *Firebird* by Misty Copeland, the featured title for NJPAC's Books on the Move program, at the North End Branch.

Background photo: Hula hoops at the Van Buren Branch courtesy of *Y on Wheels*.

Contributing to the Personal Growth and Well-Being of All Newarkers

"Nothing in here but strength and love."

STEPHEN

Many of our visitors took advantage of learning opportunities such as book discussions, legal workshops, and classes for American Sign Language, yoga, and African American genealogy. Others came for flu shots, and free blood pressure and diabetes screenings (in cooperation with Berkeley College). Customers borrowing books from our collections for reading and timely information remarked on our wonderful offerings, and librarians used our wealth of resources to help people navigate a wide range of topics that included sheet music, literary criticism, art values, stock prices, and entrepreneurship.

Getting a haircut or a new pair of shoes — for most of us, these are things we take for granted, but for our neighbors without addresses, they might just be the key for a boost in confidence or a fresh start. At Shaping Lives: Links to Homelessness Services over 300 people received supplies, health screenings, lunches, haircuts, shoes, and agency referrals. This successful event was co-sponsored by the Newark Department of Health and

Community Wellness, Bridges Outreach, Inc., and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. Corporate partner Audible generously distributed over 300 box lunches. One grateful person leaving the building exclaimed, "Thank you for doing this. I feel like a new man!"

Also, for over 100 of our most vulnerable visitors we hosted a sleeping bag giveaway and community meal. Local teen,

Imani Muhammad, raised money to buy the sleeping bags. The Department of Health and Community Wellness also distributed toiletries and coats at the event.

In a new initiative, the Reference Department worked with two student interns from Rutgers School of Social



The Clinton Branch hosts a popular Knitting and Crocheting Club.

Background photo:
The Friends of the
Newark Public Library's
annual book sale.



Donating to the Summer Food Drive.



Haircuts provided at the Shaping Lives event.



ESL participants at the Van Buren Branch.

"Thank you very much for opening your doors and heart... Yesterday was amazing."

KIM GILCHRIST,
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Work. Providing counseling, referrals to agencies, and follow-up on cases, they furthered the work of our librarians by assisting our public with critical issues such as finding housing, domestic abuse, mental and physical illnesses and disabilities, and access to legal aid.

With our Food for Fines campaign, the Library took part in MEND's (Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity) Summer Food Drive. Food collected by staff, in lieu of overdue fines, was distributed to local food pantries.

Reaching out to our new immigrant populations, the Library, in partnership with La Casa de Don Pedro, offered English as a Second Language classes at Main Library, Branch Brook Branch, and the Van

Buren Branch. These high-demand classes were funded by the New Jersey Department of Labor.

Rutgers-Newark's Newest Americans project, along with Telling Untold Stories and the Library, hosted the first-ever Ironbound "Unconference" at the Van Buren Branch. It was an opportunity for all who know and love the Ironbound to help create an educational tour of the neighborhood.

A freshly decorated space on the first floor is the new location for the Special Services Room at Main Library. This inviting location is more convenient for people with disabilities. Financial assistance for this project and the new Café was provided by the Victoria Foundation.

The Rutgers-Newark Community Writing Center inspired authors in themed workshops, held in the Café at Main Library. Candace N. shared, "Finally home from a Memoir Writing class at the @NewarkLibrary and I'm so glad I went outside my comfort zone and shared my writing."

Some say, "Finding a job is the hardest job you'll ever have." The Library makes this daunting task

somewhat easier for job seekers. Aided by the Career Connections website, provided by the State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, staff assisted the unemployed and underemployed to find job leads, create resumes, and polish interviewing skills.

Dennis J. came to the Library from a halfway house and had never used a computer. With help from a teacher, he created an email address and a resume. Soon after, he was hired by a social service agency.

After working for a local fast food restaurant for almost thirty years, Bernice R. was let go. She was hired by a national discount retailer once she received guidance to write her resume.

Assistance with creating a resume was just what Roshawn R. needed. She stopped in to express her thanks and reported that she had found steady employment at a nearby company.

Drop-in classes for employment searching and computer skills at Main Library and the Van Buren Branch (in English and Spanish) provided additional support to job hunters.

Strengthening Digital Literacy Skills for All



Programming Finch robots at the Van Buren Branch.



Learning about coding at New Jersey Makers Day at the North End Branch.

Patrons using the public computers at the Weequahic Branch.



Online transactions have become the norm — searching for employment and housing, signing up for health care, applying for benefits of all kinds, and even keeping in touch with family and friends all require computers and the knowledge and skills to use them. Fortunately, computers are available at all locations, and staff members are on hand to help people use the internet, reducing the barriers to technology for traditionally underserved populations.

Our young people are getting a head start in digital literacy with the Girls Who Code club at Main Library. Volunteer instructor Todd Branchflower, a software engineer, taught students in grades six through twelve the fundamentals of computer programming. They were exposed to technology careers with tours of the Google offices and other major technology firms. Club members read the book *Hidden Figures* and enjoyed a field trip to see the feature film.

For even younger participants (second to fourth graders), we hosted a Girls STEM Camp at the Main Library, where the campers explored different branches of



Joy Robinson, Children's Library Associate, and Jeffrey Trzeciak, Library Director, welcome neighbors to the Vailsburg Branch.

engineering as they learned to code in binary, built circuits, made cars, and constructed towers.

New Jersey Makers Day at North End Branch included a wide variety of activities from button making to robot demonstrations.

Video conferencing projectors, embedded speakers, amplifiers, and automated screens were set up for audio visual streaming at every branch. This state-of-the-art equipment will facilitate remote classroom interaction and presentations. Fifty-eight brand new computers, funded by Prudential, were installed in the Victoria Technology Center. The New Jersey Department of Labor provided funding for an additional twenty-six computers systemwide.



Researcher in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center.

"Tip of the day: @Rutgers_ Newark. . . students can borrow books from the @NewarkLibrary and this includes novels you're reading in English class!"

DANA LIBRARY, RUTGERS-NEWARK (@RUNEWARK_DANA)

"The librarian let me know [how to access ebooks]. She was extremely helpful. I LOVE this library."

LINDA

Background photo: Student working on her project at the North End Branch.

Enhancing and Promoting Newark Public Library's Distinctive Special Collections



Women munitions workers parade in front of Newark City Hall. Photograph. Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center.

From the Great War, to the stories of the Great Migration and Latino Immigration experience, to the Rebellion of 1967, Library exhibits and activities explored and revealed different aspects of Newark's historical memory and vibrant spirit.

Marking the centennial of the United States' entry into the Great War, the exhibit *Over Here: Newark in World War I, 1917-1918* brought to light Newark's important

contributions to the conflict. Using historic photographs, pamphlets, posters and other materials from the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library, guest curator George Robb displayed the many ways in which Newarkers — women and men, African American and immigrant communities, civic organizations and institutions — supported the war effort.

For five days in July 1967, the African American and Latino

communities in Newark rebelled against racist policies and everyday oppression. The exhibit *Voices from the Rebellion* traced the underlying causes, the events that provided the spark, and the immediate aftermath of the violence. Video within the exhibit offered first-hand accounts of the Rebellion. *Voices from the Rebellion* was a joint project of the Newark Public Library and the Center for Education and Juvenile Justice, the sponsor of *The North: Civil Rights and Beyond in Urban America*, a digital archive of stories of resistance in urban centers.

Scene in Newark: the Tiny Prince Collection, curated by Nadine Sergejeff, displayed highlights from the papers of Carl "Tiny Prince" Brinson, who published, wrote, and edited many of Newark's nightlife publications. Mr. Brinson's collection of photographs, rare



Opening of *Voices from the Rebellion*.



Artists Gladys B. Grauer and Adrienne Wheeler, curators of the *Women in the World* exhibit, in conjunction with *Newark Women in Media*.

"The exhibit Boricuas in the Garden takes on heightened meaning at this particular moment when we are collectively coping with the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Maria hitting our island... the second floor gallery of the Library has been transformed into a space of solace, affirmation, and motivation."

DANIA RAMOS



Puerto Rican Day Parade of Newark, NJ, Queens and Kings Pageant. Exhibit, Boricuas in the Gardens: The Story of Puerto Ricans in New Jersey.

Band members of Duke Anderson's All-Stars perform in a nightclub. Photograph. Tiny Prince Collection, Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center.



publications, and other memorabilia, now archived in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, documents remarkable facets of African American life in Newark and surrounding towns from the nineteen-fifties through the seventies, and provides insight into the political campaigns, black organizations, Negro League baseball games, daily life, and vibrant music scene of the time. The accompanying program, Newark After Dark: Club Scene from the '50s through the '70s, organized by Guy Sterling, included a panel discussion, and live music.

In a year that marked a century of American citizenship for Puerto Ricans and saw the fury of two hurricanes devastate the island,

the Library presented the exhibit Boricuas in the Garden — The story of Puerto Ricans in New Jersey. Curated by Ingrid Betancourt, Yesenia López, and Kristyn Scorsone, Boricuas in the Garden illustrated the long history and dynamic presence of the state's largest Latino group using archival materials, historic photographs, and other documents drawn from the Puerto Rican Community Archives, a component of the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Library.

Acclaimed author and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Robert A. Caro delivered the Second Annual Philip Roth Lecture to a crowd of over 200 people in the Library's Centennial Hall in September. Caro spoke about the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and President Johnson's use of presidential power. His remarks were simulcast to an overflow area in the 2nd floor Reading Room, as well as to five branches throughout the city.



Left: Robert Caro delivering the Philip Roth Lecture.

Background photo: Al Loving (1935-2005).
Continued Growth. 1988. Collage.
Special Collections Division.

Providing Welcoming, Safe, and Vibrant Environments

The Library is an increasingly dynamic and inclusive space for learning, socializing, collaborating, and enjoying community life.

Highlights of the Library's Black History Celebration were the screening and discussion of two films: *Selma* director Ava DuVernay's documentary, *13th*, and *The Once and Future Newark*, an award-winning Rutgers-Newark documentary featuring the late Dr. Clement Alexander Price. Other programs and events included a performance by the Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble, a #BlackLivesMatter – Newark panel discussion on the city's challenges and triumphs, and *In Full Color*, a theatrical event celebrating women of color.

The exhibition Black Perspectives [on Paper] presented works by African American artists from the Library's Special Collections, and included fine prints, artist's books, portfolios, photographs, and art publications by renowned artists such as Mel Edwards, Sam Gilliam, Jacob Lawrence, Al Loving, and Faith Ringgold.



Friday Night Dance Parties.

"@NewarkLibrary has made itself the place to be in town...we think the library is #lit."
@BRICKCITYLIVE

Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble.



In June, the Library invited the community to enjoy our Hot Cuban Night in partnership with Jimenez Lounge and Tobacco — a special evening of Cuban photographs, posters, music, food, wine and cognac tastings, and cigar rolling.

The newly restored Courtyard pulsed with music and lights every Friday evening during the summer. Hundreds of people came to enjoy dancing under the stars at the Library. The Friday Night Dance Parties were organized in partnership with D.Wild Music Radio and the Puerto Rican Day Parade of Newark.

Afro-Brazilian culture and traditions were very much alive at the Library with an exhibit of Carnival costumes, a Brazilian film series, arts and crafts, and music and dance workshops during the celebration of Brazil Week in Newark.

The exhibit We Are Still Here: Taíno Survival and Identity celebrated the survival of the indigenous people of the Caribbean and their culture. The opening event at the Main Library featured a traditional Taíno ceremonial dance and presentations by members of the Taíno Nations of the Antilles and representatives of the National Museum of the American Indian. The exhibit and program were presented in collaboration with the Puerto Rican Day Parade of Newark.

This year's Latino Celebration featured the exhibition Boricuas in the Garden: The Story of Puerto Ricans in New Jersey, which traced the history and contributions of the state's largest Latino group. A series of



La Borinqueña comic book signing.



Curators and designers of the At Home in Newark exhibit.

Background photo:
Hot Cuban Night cigar
roller from Jimenez
Lounge and Tobacco.



Kwanzaa
Celebration.

complementary public programs included a talk and comic book signing with Edgardo Miranda-Rodríguez, creator and writer of the new, critically-acclaimed comic book series *La Borinqueña*; a screening of the award-winning documentary *The Borinqueneers* which chronicles the untold story of the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment, the only all Hispanic-unit in U.S. Army history; a Public Forum on Puerto Rico's Present Crisis and Political Future; and a cooking demonstration and tasting.

Created by Rutgers University students, the exhibit *At Home in Newark: Stories from the Queer Newark Oral History Project* revealed how lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender, and queer people in Newark have claimed space for themselves in the community, in the face of poverty, violence, illness, racism, and discrimination. Visitors listened to excerpts from the oral histories and shared information and comments using an interactive station. This exhibit was curated and designed by students in Dr. Mary Rizzo's class *Place, Community, and Public Humanities*, and

Professor Chantal Fischzang's graphic design class *Visual Means* at Rutgers University-Newark.

In December, the Kwanzaa Celebration organized by the Friends of the James Brown African American Room featured arts and crafts activities for children and families, storytelling, performances by Spektrums Afrikaans Folkloric Dancers and Drummers, spoken word artists Mia X and Noelle, and a traditional candle lighting ceremony.

Support for the Library



Michael X. McBride, Esq.
Partner
Connell Foley LLP



Michael Bright
President and Chief Executive Officer
YMCA of Newark and Vicinity



Andaiye Taylor
Founder and Editor
Brick City Live



Ernesto Diaz Guerrero (Friends of HRIC), Carol T. Jenkins (Friends of NPL), Anasa Maat (Friends of JBAAR), and Jeffrey Trzeciak (NPL Director).

Booked for the Evening Gala 2017

Nearly 300 colleagues, partners, and friends gathered at the Library's premier fundraising event, ***Booked for the Evening Gala***, on November 30, 2017 at Nanina's in the Park to celebrate our honorees:

Michael X. McBride, Connell Foley LLP

Michael Bright, YMCA of Newark and Vicinity

Andaiye Taylor, *Brick City Live*

Newark Public Library Affinity Groups

Friends of the Newark Public Library

Friends of the Hispanic Research and Information Center

Friends of the James Brown African American Room

All of our honorees have demonstrated a strong commitment to the Library and the Newark community. It is their steadfast leadership and unwavering support that help to safeguard the Library as a cultural anchor institution serving our community.

In addition to the awards and dinner, our guests enjoyed the silent auction and the first Annual After-Party with DJ Sienna Chanel, whose sounds and mixes kept the dance floor packed while Jimenez Tobacco rolled cigars.

Thank you to our Gala Chair, Stephen B. Ravin, Esq., and the Gala Committee, who worked tirelessly to ensure a successful event.

The ***Booked for the Evening's*** success was due, in large part, to the unconditional support of ALL of our sponsors. We extend a special thank you to the Presenting Sponsor, Verizon.



Gala guests enjoying the photo booth.



Jeffrey Trzeciak and guests at the After-Party.



New Jersey Devils visit the Springfield Branch.



Above: Party for teens at Main Library.

Left: Poet Mia X with musicians J. Read on violin and Jamale Deshon on bass at Breathing For Brea, Again: A Tribute to Brea Blkberry Molassez Knight (1986-2016).



Grants

| GRANT | PURPOSE | AMOUNT |
|--|--|-----------|
| Community Foundation of New Jersey (Alfred J. Speak Fund) | High School Academic Support Program | \$2,920 |
| Community Foundation of New Jersey/ NPL Foundation (Victoria Foundation) | Capital Renovations | \$100,000 |
| Community Foundation of New Jersey/ NPL Foundation (Prudential) | Strategic Planning, Implementation, and Technology | \$425,000 |
| Charles Emil Thenen Foundation | High School Academic Support Program | \$2,500 |
| Essex County | Latino Celebration 2017 | \$5,000 |
| Hyde & Watson Foundation | North End Furniture | \$5,500 |
| New Jersey Historical Commission | General Operating Support | \$54,300 |
| New Jersey State Library | Multicultural Award for Latino Celebration 2017 | \$1,000 |
| New Jersey State Library | Fade to Books Program | \$750 |
| Newark Arts | Toddler Story Time 2017 | \$2,250 |
| NJ Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development | Career Connections | \$151,120 |
| NJ Dept. of Labor and Workforce Development | ESL Classes | \$86,294 |
| Nonprofit Finance Fund | Newark Resilience Initiative | \$10,000 |
| PNC Bank | Black History Celebration 2017 | \$22,000 |
| Schumann Fund of New Jersey | Summer Reading Program 2017 | \$1,000 |
| Victoria Foundation | Teen Librarian and Teen Programming | \$60,000 |
| Victoria Foundation | High School Academic Support Program | \$10,000 |

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Richard Grossklaus
Mark and Geri Hahn
Garth Hallberg
Robert Hicks
Sandra Holmes
Claus Holzapfel
Karen Horton
Eleanor Hubbard
Kenneth Johnson
Leslie Kahn
Steven Kern
Laura Korfmann
Peter Kusen and
Patricia Henderson-Kusen
Jack Lambdin
Leadership Newark
David Major and Evelyn Eskin
Helen Mazarakis
Elizabeth McMahon
David Millen
Stuart and Alison Minion
Alice Moore
Linda Morgan
Charlotte Munnerlyn
Newark Museum
Newark Regional
Business Partnership
Amy Niles
Off the Leash Dogs, LLC
Annette Perry
Andrea Plitch
Stephen Ravin
Alana Renee
Rivers Insurance Group
Maritza Rodriguez

Rotary Club of Newark
 Christopher Rowe
 Dennis and Joanne Ryan
 Gina-Louise Santamaria
 Magaly Santiago
 David and Susan Satz
 David and Susan Schear
 James and Sharon Schwarz
 Floyd and Iris Shapiro
 Norma Sheffield
 Halashon Sianipar
 Peter and Ruth Simmons
 Hadren Simmons
 and Anasa Maat
 Robert and Ethel Singer
 Darryl Spence
 Darla Stachecki
 Kristen Sudol
 Joseph Thomasberger and
 Rebecca Doggett
 Harvey Topitz
 Tyre Lodge No. 29
 United Way of Essex
 and West Hudson
 Jose Velazquez
 Roger and Gail Vellekamp
 Gloria Washington
 Stephen and Anne Weisholtz
 George Williams
 Wiss & Company, LLP

Up to \$99

Stephanie Asymkos
 Momita Bagchi
 Jerald and Jaclyn Baranoff
 John Beirne
 Patricia Bender
 Steve Bernhaut
 Ingrid Betancourt
 Michelle Blackshear
 Jacqui Bonavito
 Diane Bonavota
 Barbara Bornstein
 Marc Brummer and
 Suzanne Klar
 June Burton
 Carmen Cintron
 Rona Cohen
 Dale Colston
 Kevin Conod and
 Heidi Cramer
 Samuel Convissor
 Constance Czekanski
 Mark Epps and
 Linda Caldwell Epps

Cameron
 Fontaine
 Vatrice George
 Walter and
 Pamela Gibson
 Jacquetta Gifford
 Travis Ginlock
 Thomas Goletz
 Zenola Harper
 George Hawley
 Orissa Heyward Bey
 Chesha Hodge
 Michael Immerso
 Theodora Immerso
 Jacobs Enterprises
 Rebecca Jampol
 Chumma Janardhan
 Robert and Frances Kaufmann
 John Kowalski
 John and Nancy Lasser
 John and Susan Lazzari
 Clark Leonard
 Howard Levine
 Amy Lowenstein
 Cynthia Lubin
 James Lukenda and
 Maura Lockhart
 Gail Malmgreen
 Michael Malone
 Andrea McChristian
 Inez McClendon
 Patricia Mitrano
 Barbara Nagazina
 Chivonne Perkins
 Mollie Pflumm
 Maisha Phillips
 G. Piehler and Susan Contente
 Lawrence Plitch
 Jean Quartiano
 Lisa Richardson
 Tavarina Robertson
 Viviana Salgado
 Debra Salters
 Nayda Santiago
 Anthony and Deisy Santiago
 Kyle Screen
 Donald Shachat
 Michael and Sara Shapiro
 Michael Sheedy
 Abigail Shure
 Denarra Simmons
 Sanjay and Abha Sinho
 Deborah Smith-Gregory
 Lisa Spardel
 Geraldine Staadecker



A North End Branch family with their new library cards.

Anthony Tarantino
 Cheryl Toff
 Alejandrina
 Torrens
 Mellie Torres
 Anthony Valentin
 Annecy Webb

Anker West
 Bernard Wilks
 Sadirah Williams
 Zachary Yamba and Trish
 Morris-Yamba
 Nkwa YellowDuke

Matching Gifts

Sony Electronics
 Matching Gift Program
 Prudential Matching Gifts

In-Kind Donations

Philip Alagia
 Artfront Galleries
 Audible, Inc.
 Cassandra Banks
 Tracy Barber
 Barcade
 Celeste Bateman
 Marylou and Jerome
 Bongiorno
 Bradford Portraits
 David Byler
 Cathy Callahan
 Victoria Casimire
 Chef Roscoe
 Claim it!
 Community Foundation
 of New Jersey
 Joel Conarro
 Samuel Convissor
 Victoria Cooper
 Lauren Craig
 Timothy and Gloria Crist
 Tim Dingman
 Bohdan Duchnycz
 Bill Duffy
 Margarita Echevarria, Esq.
 El Pozo Productions
 Noemi Figueroa Soulet
 Lashon Gilmore
 The GRAMMY Museum
 Experience Prudential Center
 Greater Newark Conservancy
 Geri Hahn
 Sierra Harvey
 Haynes and Boone, LLP

Hobby's Delicatessen &
 Restaurant
 Jimenez Tobacco
 Peter Pozo Jimenez
 Jeffrey Johnson
 Jeffrey Kahn
 Carl Karni-Bain
 Kramer Portraits
 Louis Krupp
 Michele LaRue
 LezEat Newark Food Tours
 Linda Lobdell
 James Mallinson
 Marcus B&P
 Beatrice McKay
 Michael Rachlin & Co., LLC
 CC Minton
 Sharita Moody
 Thomas Moseley
 Howard Myricks
 Robert S. Narus and
 Patricia Ann McDermott
 New Jersey
 Performing Arts Center
 New York Philharmonic
 Newark Centric City
 Newark Downtown District
 Newark Times
 NICO Kitchen
 Henrietta Parker
 Jose Pereira
 John-Paul Philippe
 Harry Prott
 Prudential Center/
 New Jersey Devils
 Daniel Quinn
 Ana Quispe
 Patricia Reed
 Stefen Reed
 George Rennie
 RPM Raceway
 Thomas Schiff
 Martin Schwarz and
 Patricia Connell
 Shen Yun
 Atno Smith
 Spanish Pavillion
 Julius Spohn
 Stephen Taylor Portrait Artist
 Guy Sterling
 Studio Creative Group
 Mellie Torres
 Turtle Back Zoo
 Olga J. Wagenheim
 Whole Foods Market
 Tonia Wu

My Newark Story



In 2016, the Library was awarded a generous two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation to digitize archival materials documenting the Great Migration and Latino Immigration experience into Newark and to introduce students, parents, and educators to the rich historical materials in the Library's collection. The goal of the project, named My Newark Story, is to foster literacy and critical thinking skills through the lens of local history, with an emphasis on the ways Newark has been shaped by immigration.

During 2017, the Library digitized selected collections from the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center and the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center. Many of these materials, including photographs, newspapers, maps, and much more are now available in the new digital archive, available at: digital.npl.org.

Students and community members participating in the My Newark Story programs explored their city with trivia games, "Think Like an Archivist" activities, time capsule creations, and tours of the Library and its collections. Programs such as "I Love Newark" collages and sharing Newark-related recollections with a memory

jar activity fostered appreciation and pride for the City. North End, Springfield, and Weequahic Branches hosted Community History Days and various educational and fun activities have been offered at all Library locations and throughout Newark. An educational outreach consultant has been visiting schools and organizations throughout the city; lesson plans, and three new traveling exhibits are available to schools. The My Newark Story program would not be possible without the participation of Newarkers themselves. One of the objectives of our program has to been to create opportunities for residents to share their own stories and to contribute photographs to our digital archive. Our Newark Story, a celebratory event for the community, is planned for May 19, 2018 at the Main Library. To learn more about My Newark Story, please visit: mynewarkstory.npl.org.

Background photo:
My Newark Story participants
at the New Jersey Makers Day,
North End Branch.

Above, right: One of the many
historic items available in the digital
archive: A photograph of Mayor
Ken Gibson and his mother in
Alabama in the early 1930s.



Left, top: Coloring with My Newark Story.

Left, bottom: Children meet salsa dancer
Yoselyn Sánchez at the Community
History Day at the North End Branch.

Center: Students examine historic
photos at the Belmont Runyon
Community School.

2017 Financial Summary

Support and Revenues

City of Newark
Appropriation. \$ 10,282,519

State and Federal
Revenues. 458,149

Unrestricted
Donations 214,576

Grant-Related
Revenue 1,093,702

Investment Income 97,539

Fines and Fees 57,184

Other Revenues. 127,921

**Total Support
and Revenues \$ 12,331,950**

Expenditures

Salaries and Wages. . . \$ 5,578,719

Payroll Taxes and
Employee Benefits 2,227,364

General and
Administrative 1,978,958

Services by Contract. . . 1,485,088

Books and Library
Materials 592,284

Capital Expense 459,144

**Total
Expenditures. . . . \$ 12,321,557**

Please note: The annual financial audit had not taken place when this Financial Summary was prepared.

"The Newark Library was an oasis for me & my then toddler."

@GWHEEZIE
VIA TWITTER



Father and sons read together at the North End Branch.



Reading at the Springfield Branch.



Library outreach activity during the Newark Public Schools Office of Early Childhood's Night at the [Newark] Museum event.

The Newark Public Library

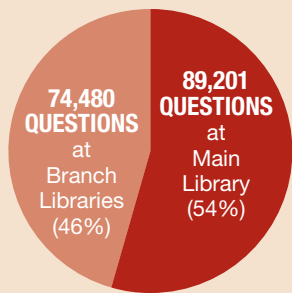
5 Washington St.

PO Box 630

Newark, NJ 07101-0630

Snapshot of 2017

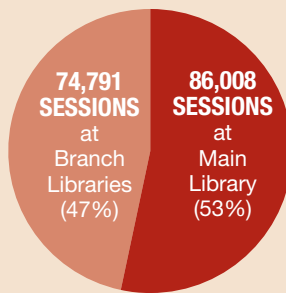
Reference Questions Answered 2017



Main Library Children's Room answered 30,280 questions, increasing 18.2% in 2017 over the previous year.

163,681
TOTAL QUESTIONS

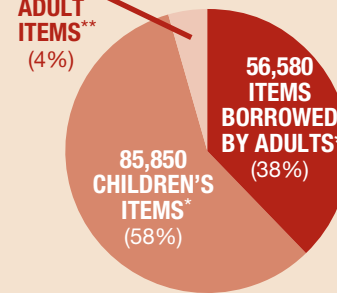
Public Computer Sessions 2017



Weequahic Branch Library public computer use increased 12.7% in 2017 over the previous year, providing 20,986 sessions.

160,799
TOTAL SESSIONS

Items Borrowed 2017



*including eLibraryNJ ebooks, which increased 11.5% over the previous year

**Young Adult items borrowed, increased 7% over the previous year

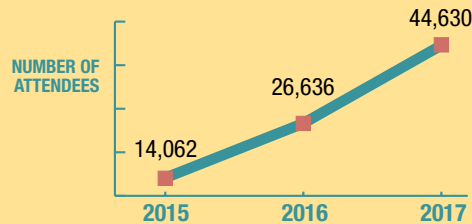
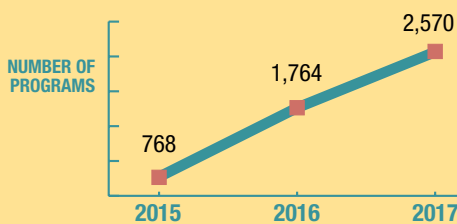
North End Branch Library patrons borrowed 14,570 items in 2017, an increase of 59% over the previous year.

148,775
TOTAL ITEMS

an increase of 6.2% over the previous year.

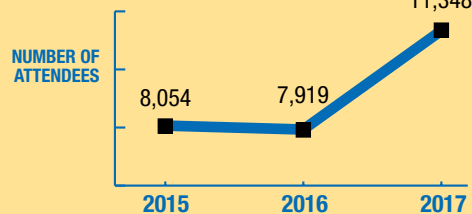
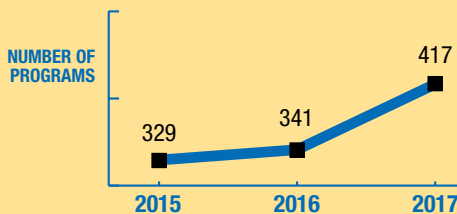
Programs and Attendance 2017

LIBRARY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS



Main Library offered 698 programs in 2017, an increase of 146.6% over 2016. Attendance increased as well, with 19,878 people attending programs, an increase of 148.2% over 2016.

COMMUNITY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS



Volunteers and Interns 2017



522 Volunteers contributed **4,141** hours to the Newark Public Library in 2017.

48 Interns from high schools and colleges worked **1,563.5** hours in 2017.

Public Catalog Searches 2017

The monthly average of searches in 2017 was **22,412** searches, an increase of **36%** from 2016.

Summer Reading Challenge 2017

With a goal of reading for 20 minutes per day, **673** children and **155** teens participated, reading a total of **5009** hours.

57 teen programs offered as part of the Summer Reading Challenge were attended by **455** teens.

740 children's programs offered as part of the Summer Reading Challenge were attended by **9,468** children.

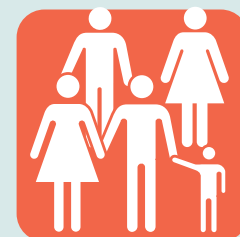
All locations of Newark Public Library participated in the City's Sun-Up Food Program, serving **5,930** free lunches in 2017.



Average Daily Patrons 2017

852 PATRONS PER DAY at Main Library

601 PATRONS PER DAY at Branch Libraries



255,461
TOTAL VISITS



180,379
TOTAL VISITS
Vailsburg Branch visits increased 40.6% in 2017 over the previous year.