

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
For the Month of September 2024**

September was Library Card Sign Up Month. There were many programs for children and adults, and outreach for this occasion.

Continuing projects worked on include:

- Digital Navigation activities and planning for grant kickoff press conference and National Digital Inclusion week (October 7 – 11)
- Outreach: Ordering supplies and attending events
- Marketing: Logo development
- Facilities: North Branch Roof
- Facilities: East Side Project – Branch closed 9/7/24 – Invitations to Groundbreaking event sent out. I attended the East Side NRZ on September to discuss the closing.

The Annual State Library Report was submitted.

As a follow up to discussions on staffing and new positions, a meeting with Civil Service is planned.

I attended the city of Bridgeport’s Leadership Retreat on September 12 & 13. It was an impactful event with discussions on a revised disciplinary policy, EDI, and other topics.

Paula, David, and I met with a consultant from the Office of Planning and Development to discuss the selection of an artist for the mural that will grace the west façade of the North Branch exterior. Three artists were selected to send an RFP to. The artists were selected based on examples of their work. Two of the artists are local. Paula submitted specs to describe what the library is hoping to see portrayed in the prospective mural: art that takes the location into consideration, with sports, nature and the library incorporated into the final mural. The RFP was scheduled to go out to the artists by the end of the month.

Request to close the libraries on November 7, 2024 for a special Staff Development Day, courtesy of the City. Background: The City’s promotion of “Wear Pink Day” was celebrated across the Departments. The library’s participation in the Seaside Walk and sending photos of staff from all locations wearing pink did not go unnoticed by the City. They were very impressed with the overwhelming participation and enthusiastic support for our fellow staff member, BH. We have been awarded a “Staff Development” Lunch and have selected Thursday, November 7 for the day. We are requesting to close the library to the public for staff development on that day.

The Beardsley Branch hosted the in-house meeting of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Regional Sharing partners on September 30. The meeting included the library directors, State Library coordinator and the grant digital navigators, to discuss various topics related to the grant, and discuss the upcoming kickoff press conference at New Haven Public Library on October 7.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
October 16, 2024