

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN**  
**Report for the Month of February 2022**

The library will resume normal public service hours and in-house programming and meetings on March 1. Masks and social distancing will still be in place.

We have begun accepting passports at Burroughs-Saden Library. As we get messaging out on this new service, we find that there is great interest from the public. We are listed with the U.S. Department of State as an Official Passport Acceptance Facility and will focus our program on evening and Saturday hours, where many libraries are filling a need for service that U.S. Post Offices cannot fill.

I attended Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce February Meeting via Zoom – topics of interest included changes at the Hilton Hotel and bringing more density into the Downtown District, which would benefit Burroughs-Saden Library as a destination and increase library visits.

I participated in several community meetings, including the Cheer Institute, a recipient of a Social Ventures Partners Connecticut Grant for Race Equity. We discussed how the library can be a partner in community engagement and advocacy. I met with Michael Van Leesten of Social Venture Partners Connecticut and Patrick Gentile of SimplifyCT, a non-profit organization that would like to reach out to Bridgeport families, to encouraging them to apply for the \$18,000,000.00 in child tax credits that go unclaimed each year. They already have similar programs at Norwalk, Darien, Fairfield, and Westport Public libraries. We discussed having a special event before the end of this tax season at Burroughs, and will work towards participating in their virtual outreach for next year's tax season.

I attended my first board meeting of the Greater Bridgeport Stem Learning Ecosystem. With the Upper East Side Tech Center opening later this year, there will be many opportunities for the library to partner with this organization as they work with students all over the city to foster an interest in STEM careers and encourage participation educational opportunities.

I connected the Go Live Girl organization, whose Executive Director, Shamere Holmes, has expressed interest in Burroughs as a gathering space, with Jefferey Coutts, our Burroughs Programming Librarian. This group will meet at the library during their program year.

Patty Shields of the Friends of Bridgeport Library will join the library's Outreach Committee. This alliance will on both organization's strengths as we do outreach in the community.

We attended a demonstration of a library app by Capira, an OCLC company that produces custom library apps. We were very impressed and requested a proposal, which has been included on this month's Vouchers. OCLC is a trusted name in libraries, and the Capira app is customizable and comes with many desired features. I believe this app will be a better choice than developing our own or using another app. Some of their clients include Fairfield Public Library, Los Angeles Public Library, New York Public Library and libraries large and small all across the country.

I continue to work on various projects such as hiring, the building projects, and working with various city departments to further the mission of the Library.

Respectfully Submitted by  
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City Librarian  
March 16, 2022