

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

The library met the filing deadline for Emergency Connectivity Fund's third round. We have received \$87,147.00 in federal funds so far and have applied for an additional \$302,551 in round three funding, which will fund our Digital Navigator Pilot Project. This Pilot would start in September 2023 and run until June 2023. This pilot would put mobile devices and reliable Internet hotspots into the hands of Bridgeport residents who have unmet needs for connectivity, especially since the Pandemic. We will present our outcomes with local and state officials and hope that we will have established a need for continued funding for such programs. Staff will present a detailed overview of the Digital Navigator Pilot Program at an upcoming Library Board Meeting.

We continue staffing activities with the addition of several qualified Library Assistants who will fill positions vacated by existing staff who have been promoted. Our recently promoted staff include Anna Knorovska, who will be the Branch Manager of our new Beardsley Branch, Andre O'Connor and Robert Jefferies, who have been promoted to Library Assistant II positions, and Kristin Graf, who will replace Anna as head of the Burroughs-Saden Children's Department.

The Outreach Committee will be participating in several community events in the coming months. Staff will participate in parades including Juneteenth, the Black Rock Parade and the Puerto Rican Day Parades, all in June. We will promote library programs and services, and collaborate in a media event with the Connecticut State Library to promote digital navigator programs across the state. I am very pleased that Bridgeport Public Library has been chosen to lead the awareness of Connecticut libraries' efforts to close the digital divide and work towards digital equity for all. We will also have a table at the McLevy Green Farmer's Market June 7 – October 27 as weather permits.

On Saturday, April 30, the City of Bridgeport and the Downtown Special Services Districted partnered with the National Collaborative for Women's History sites to erect a marker outside of 1087 Broad Street - the former site of the Women's Machinist Union - to honor Elsie Vervane, former President of the Women's Machinist Union. Ms. Vervane and four other women were jailed in Washington DC in 1919 for demanding women's right to vote. Vervane was honored with this marker as part of the National Votes for Women Trail. The marker is two of eight markers that will be erected in the state of Connecticut. I was honored to deliver a message about the importance of local history and how History Center of Bridgeport Public Library preserves local history and makes its resources available for free to residents in the city and to researchers across the state in-person and online.

Staff are attending local and national professional conferences, in-person for the first time since the Pandemic, and continue to attend virtual meetings as well. We are planning to provide CPR/First Aid Training for an additional group of staff before the end of the fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
May 18, 2022