

BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN
November 16, 2022

- The Central Grants Office has submitted the finalized documents to the State Library for the City of Bridgeport's reimbursement of the Newfield Library Branch Construction Grant totaling \$1,000,000.
- Central Grants has received invoices and payment documents from the library, including invoices #1 – 14, for the Upper East Side Library Construction Project (Beardsley Branch.) I have informed them that there while the project is nearly complete, there is small number of invoices still to be submitted to the library for payment and we hope to have everything wrapped up by the end of the year.
- After reaching out to Legal Services, it appears that our contract with Westech will be renewed for FY 2023. The city's purchasing department has recommended that we go out to bid in as soon as possible in order to have a contract in place for the start of FY 2024.
- Our Digital Navigator Pilot Program continues to gain in popularity through our outreach efforts and through word-of-mouth. Andre O'Connor, coordinator of the program, attended the MIRA Resource Fair on October 26. In attendance was Senator Blumenthal and Representative Jim Himes, who was very interested in our efforts to provide digital equity to the residents of Bridgeport. We will have an opportunity to publicize the Digital Navigator Pilot Program at the Bridgeport Regional Business Council's Impact Expo 2022 on November 18. I gave an interview to the CT Mirror on November 8 to discuss our program and its goals. To date, 140 residents have filled out intake forms and 70 devices hotspots have been distributed. In addition, 15 hotspots have been loaned out as well.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
November 16, 2022