

**BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN  
For the Month of January 2023**

In lieu of a staff presentation, I have included the Staff Association's requested Library Holiday Hours for Calendar Year 2023 for the Board's approval.

Bridgeport Library's presentation at the Connecticut Libraries and Partners for Digital Equity was very well received. The Institute for Museum and Library Services has requested a formal grant application from the CT State Libraries and Partners for Digital Equity for their regional grant proposal.

We continue to interview and hire new staff. Our plan to open Beardsley Branch on March 1 will have to be re-evaluated since a key position, the Librarian I candidate cannot start until March 15. We will probably not have the two Library Assistant Part time staff onboarded by then, however I will arrange a schedule of staff from other locations that can fill in until all Beardsley staff have been hired. The Grand Opening can still take place in April. I have proposed April 22, which is the Saturday before National Library Week. With the Board's approval of that date, Anna and I can work on the invitation list and other arrangements.

Senator Blumenthal did not visit any of the Bridgeport Library branches for Take Your Child to the Library Day, however our programs were nonetheless well attended. I have attached a few photos from various TYCTTLD. Branch Managers will report on this event in their report next month.

One of the Library's goals is to have knowledgeable staff to serve the public. With many staff leaving and new staff being hired, I would like to propose that we send interested staff to the Connecticut Library Association's Annual Conference on April 30 – May 2. This year's conference is going to be held at the Marriot Hotel and Spa in Groton. I am asking to cover the membership and registration for interested staff to attend one day of the conference. I have included the number of staff and the cost of attendance in this month's Vouchers for the Library Board of Director's consideration. I believe that the exposure to current trends and best practices will benefit our staff greatly. I have included memberships because along with taking advantage of the "early bird" rates, it will be very cost-effective for the library to support this initiative. I realize that assuming this cost may not have been feasible in past years, but I believe it is feasible now and it will be money well spent to enrich our customer's experience. I am asking for \$2,000. Funds unspent can be used for staff that wish to join ALA as a student or first-time member.

I am proposing Friday, April 28 for annual staff development, where the library will be closed to the public. Our day will be in-person this year, held at Burroughs Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Braithwaite  
City Librarian  
February 15, 2023