

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

June was a month full of programming activities. North Branch Manager, Paula Keegan and I visited the Pequot Library and meet with Library Board member, Barbara Rogo and Misty Beyer, Executive Program Director of Music for Youth, to discuss current and future collaborations between the organizations and the Bridgeport Public Schools. Four Bridgeport library branches have displays of booklets created by Bridgeport students from four schools on display. It is hoped that some students will have the opportunity to read their stories, based on the theme, "A Cautionary Tale," during our Summer Reading Program, as it ties in with our theme this summer of "Find Your Voice." Other collaborations are being considered for the fall.

The Summer Reading Program at the library kicked off on Saturday, June 24, with programs at all locations. A special program proposal from local historian Michele Black Smith will center on the women of the Gee's Bend Quilters that live in Bridgeport. I am looking forward to receiving her proposal as this program should generate much interest with residents.

The Outreach Committee marched in the Juneteenth Parade and had a table at Seaside Park.

Brian Remigio, our Support Specialist, and I met with Antinozzi Architects working on the East Side Project to discuss technology needs that should be included in the design and construction plans. The meeting went very well and we are confident that this project will allow for the expanded technology needs that the full-service East Side Branch Library will need. A Letter of Intent was submitted to the State Library on behalf of securing a library construction grant that would be awarded for the East Side Project. We await word from the State Library to know if we can submit the full application in the fall.

The Digital Navigator Pilot Program ended on June 30, 2023. We are now gathering final data and will report to the library board and our community stakeholders on the success of the program and how it will be incorporated into our regular services offered to the public.

We anticipate completing all planned library hires and replacements by the middle of July, thus ending a very busy staffing year.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Braithwaite
City Librarian
June 19, 2023