

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Black Rock Branch January 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Branch Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 26 Number of visitors: 1857	Number of questions answered: (Reference, Technical, Other) 162 Ref; 134 Tech; 125 Other, TOTAL: 421
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 36370 Total Added: 214	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 1408 In-house: 94	
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 335 Total Wifi connections: 170	
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance 8 bookings, 49 people (est)	
Programming	8 Weekly Craft: 22 patrons 4 Story Times: 25 patrons 1 Adult Book club: 4 patrons 6 Adult Yoga: 50 people (est) 6 Teen Crafts: 1 patrons 4 ESL Conversation Group: 13 patrons 1 Edible Insects w/Stamford Nature Center: 9 patrons	
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 4 appointments, 7 patrons. Notary: 20 appointments, 25 patrons (NOTE: starting in FEB we will be starting to count number of docs notarized). Passport: N/A	
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached None in January	
Staff Development	No major trainings this month	

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Highlights

January brought us a continued increase in foot traffic, as well as an overall increase in program attendance at regular programs. Our story time in particular seems to be growing again after some months of stagnating. I'd like to give a shoutout to Sarah and Trina who are working to rebuild this vibrant little group; kids even ask for them by name when they're not around!

Likewise, our book club has been growing and strengthening in cohesiveness. With some pushing I was able to get some of our regulars to vote and select titles ahead of time so that potential attendees could plan for what they wanted to read/attend. This has worked out very well (a copy of our brochure is attached). The last two books in particular were very well received and elicited much discussion, and everyone is very excited for our March choice. Some patrons also specifically like that certain titles are available electronically.

Collections

Circulation continues to hold steady even as we have improved the collection via weeding and purchasing. We have started and will continue to use displays and the "bookstore layout" to increase the visual engagement of our space, and we already have plans for book displays downstairs once the spaces are better finished.

Programs

As noted, we've seen some attendance growth and consistency starting to develop recently, and in addition, we have started adding programs to our roster. In January and February, we have a strong environmental focus with lectures for families on Edible Insects, Winter Animal Tracking and Dissecting Owl Pellets. We've also been working with Yoga in Our City of offer a space for Yoga in these cold months with excellent results; most classes-especially Tuesday Night classes- are very popular.

Concerns

Patrons continue to compliment the new look to our building and marvel at how much bigger our space seems. At the same time, many regulars have asked such things as why the trim hasn't been done or the job "hasn't been finished". There is a huge amount on David's shoulders right now, especially when he has a limited team, but the sooner we can work on the lower level and trim of our building, the better. Our patrons don't complain a lot...but they are quick to both notice- and appreciate- the improvements we make.

Specifically with the lower level, the sooner we can improve the floor, the sooner we can really start making use of those spaces; I do think that the reason our meeting room numbers lag behind other branches is groups and organizations often feel the lower level is too...basement-y for their needs. Occasionally, groups flat out won't use the space once they've seen it.