

# BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

## BLACK ROCK BRANCH

### June 2024 Monthly Report

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Branch Manager

DATE 07/11/2024

Service Statistics	New library cards: TOTAL 27 (20 A, 0 YA, 7J) Number of visitors: 883 Number of online database sessions: N/A	Questions answered: 489 TOTAL (177 Ref, 166 Other, 146 Technical Assistance) Number of interlibrary loans (in/out): 295/379
Collection Statistics	Adult: 14657 (254 added) Teen: 1867 (5 added) Children: 15380 (208 added)	A&V materials: 7290 (139 added) Magazines & Newspapers: 556 (24 added) Hotspots: 30 (0 added)  TOTAL: 39816 (630 added and 698 withdrawn)
Circulation Statistics	Adult: 659 plus 20 in-house use Teen: 55 plus 0 in-house use Children: 495 plus 68 in-house use	A&V materials: 409 plus 7 in-house use Magazines & Newspapers: 48 plus 1 in-house use Hot spots: 8 Cultural passes: 5  TOTALS 1679 plus 96 in-house use
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 215 WIFI use: 103	
Staff Development	None this month	

<p>Programming Milestones TOTALS: Programs: 19 Attendance: 25 children/4 teens/42 adults Room use: 9 Attendance: 88(approx.)</p>	<p>In-house programs:</p> <p>Ongoing Programming:</p> <p>6 Notary appt's: 6 adults 3 Weekly Craft: 8 Children/ 2 Teens/ 3 Adults 3 Story Times: 4 Child/ 4 Adults 6 Dig Nav/Computer 1:1's: 8 adults 2 Adult Group Computer Class: 3 adults 1 Adult Book club: 2 adults 1 Adult Pilates: 2 adults (est) 2 Teen Crafts: 1 teen 2 ESL Conversation Group: 5 adults (est) 2 Adult Writer's Group: 3 adults (est)</p> <p>One-Off Programming:</p> <p>Christine's Critters 6 Children/1 Teens/14 Adults Kids Karaoke 7 Children/ 6 Adults Bird Feeders 0 Children/ 0 Teens/ 0 Adults</p>	
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## Highlights

Summer kicked off nicely in Black Rock with an enthusiastic reception for the Library at the Black Rock Day Parade and a good turnout at our first summer event (Christine's Critters). A year in from my arrival here, I feel that I have a better understanding of what Black Rock patrons want and respond to, and ideas for improving how we offer our services to the community. I'm looking forward to continuing to grow with the team here!

## Adult Services

### Collections

Weeding continues, and orders delayed by Baker, Taylor and Midwest arrived at once from May through June. We've started shifting some materials around and are looking to display new materials in a more eye-catching fashion.

### Programs

We continue to offer computer 1:1 and group classes; both formats are popular. We are seeing an uptick in meeting room use, but some concerns have been raised by the visuals of our spaces and furniture. We continue to grow our book club with new members month to month- though the same people don't always come to every meeting.

### Outreach and Networking

Following the BR Parade, we were invited to the BR Farmers market; we have committed the team here to several Saturdays from now through October, and the Outreach team is working to commit to additional days.

### Concerns:

A month or two ago I expressed an interest in a sign on the Fairfield Ave side of our building; I really believe we should pursue this as soon as feasible.

A few patrons have expressed concern/dismay about the condition of our meeting rooms. While I plan to submit a proposal for a makeover to the branch in a few months, there are some things I think we can start to do now, namely adding epoxy flooring and baseboards throughout the entire lower level. To do this would elevate the spaces significantly. The water issue is mostly contained at this point with only two small, possible "breakthrough" leaks all year, so I think it is safe now to proceed with that plan.

I had been told that we had a company planned to re-do our facade; I've had multiple complaints about that too. If possible, it would be great to start working on that as well.

A final concern I noted over the past year: parking. Some newer patrons here have expressed dismay at the lack of parking, and I suspect strongly that parking may be the root of some low program turnouts. No one wants to haul a toddler or a baby carrier 3 blocks, which is about how close our closest parking lot is. Likewise, parents do not want to cross our street with young children- traffic simply does not stop (I have even had police officers blow by me while I am in the crosswalk, lights flashing!). I had even approached a homeschooling mom to invite her to form a homeschool group with us here and she bluntly said that her contacts do not want to deal with our parking. I think it is worth exploring whether we can purchase, lease, or work out some other arrangement with a nearby lot such as that belonging to the condos next door.

## YOUTH SERVICES

### Collections

Wonder Books and Habbi Habbi's have been added prominently to our Juvenile collection. A few patrons have perused them, and a couple even checked them out. They have not circulated enough to judge, though, how popular they will be with our patrons. We've been condensing our shelving, trying to make additional space for new materials arriving, and continue to weed heavily to get the rest of our older materials out. The new Library

IQ software we have now should give us a much deeper analysis of our collection and I am excited to use it to assess our collections more intricately.

### **Programs**

Christines Critters was a success. While I expected more children, we had a good turnout with primarily teens and adults participating. Parents seemed to like this later time so come fall most of our programming will be at 5:30 or 6 to allow working parents time to attend. Other programs this month had spotty attendance; a karaoke afternoon had some turnout, but they were all from a nearby Vacation Bible School camp rather than the cross-section of the community we had hoped for. Our birdfeeder craft had no attendees at all. I really think timing is key with our families and after work for most of them is the way to go.

### **Outreach and Networking**

I have contacted the Media Specialist at BR School to arrange visits and library cards promotion this coming school year, and I contacted the Boys and Girls Club to make sure they were aware of our programs this summer.

### **Concerns:**

I have no major concerns for children right now. I'd like to see higher programming numbers, but I think pushing our programs to somewhat later start times, and by working more closely with both the schools and the Boys and Girls Club, we can improve our numbers to be consistently, instead of intermittently, good.