

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

Black Rock Branch November 2025

Submitted by: Margaret Girgis, Branch Manager

[Select Date]

Service Statistics	Number of new library cards: 30 Number of visitors: 1624	Number of questions answered: (Reference, Technical, Other) 131 Ref/ 115 Tech/ 104 Other TOTAL: 350
Collection Statistics	Collection Size: 38444 Total Added: 169	
Circulation Statistics	Total Circ: 1470 In-house: 99	
Public Internet Usage	Users for the month: 326 Total Wifi connections: 177	
Room Usage	Room: Bookings, Attendance 9 uses (est) and 25 patrons (est).	
Programming	8 Weekly Craft: 30 patrons 4 Story Times: 20 patrons 3 Adult Group Computer Class: 0 patrons 1 Adult Book club: 1 patron 1 Adult Yoga: 2 patrons 5 Teen Crafts: 0 patrons 3 ESL Conversation Group: 10 patrons 1 Adult Writer's Group: 0 patrons (est)	
Other Services	Digital Navigator: 6 appointments, 6 patrons Notary: 9 appointments, 17 people Passport: N/A	
Outreach	Date, Event, Approx. # of people reached	

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

	11/16/24 Community Volunteer Appreciation event; approx. Spoke to approx. 20-30 people (Note Friends were in attendance with us and spoke to the same people)
Staff Development	No new staff development this month

Highlights

Collections

A couple of patrons have complained about our shelves being "bare" but as we are finally at the tail end of major weeding, and as we focused on old, dated, and not-popular materials Mat and are undisturbed by this comment. We have shifted our collections though, so the collection is distributed more evenly and areas that looked a little sparse are better displayed.

We also had a patron complaint that our latest items were "trash" (not sure if this was one of the same patrons that thought we looked bare) but our new materials are well-reviewed and timely items. We also make sure to get the light fare that some people seek out (romances, mysteries, etc.) so we do have a good cross-section of materials available. My guess is people are used to the way we looked before where books were so plentiful they were stacked on their sides and in cabinets...but so many of those titles had not circ'd in years. A full larder is no good if everything is expired, or worse, it cannot be found. Nevertheless, with weeding slowing down and purchasing increasing, we should now be at a nicely balanced point where our collection size stays a little more consistent.

Regardless of complaints, our circs remain consistently in the 1400-1600+ range so there is no decrease in usage of our collection.

We have gone ahead and made some shelving adjustments to better serve patrons:

- We have pulled out our fairy tales from the juv nonfiction collection to highlight them near the story time area.
- We interfiled mysteries with fiction as so many authors have titles in both areas. Mysteries still will receive a "MYSTERY" sticker to distinguish them.
- We also interfiled Science Fiction and Fantasy to save space. The collections were next to each other and each genre also receives its own sticker, so the titles are still very easy to access.

Programs

We still struggle with getting consistent adult attendance at adult programs, though we get comments at the desk that patrons want programming. Not sure if it is an advertising issue, a timing issue, human nature, or what exactly, but we are exploring alternatives to get people engaged whether in person or online.

As far as youth programming, that remains successful for the younger ages, though our 6pm craft has low attendance. We still see neither hide nor hair of most of the teens in our community, at least as

BRIDGEPORT LIBRARY

far as programming goes. As with adults, we are looking at ways to get them engaging with us whether in person or online.

Outreach and Networking-

The colder weather brings a slowdown in outreach opportunities, though we did attend the Black Rock Community Volunteer Recognition Day on the 16 along with a volunteer from the friends. We were able to speak to a number of people, several of whom were interested in volunteering with us via the Friends or through Literacy Volunteers. We did reach out to participate in the BR Tree Lighting, but we were overlooked in this year's plans, as no one returned my messages.

Concerns:

As I write this, David and his team are replacing the paint, contracted workers are replacing the floor, and plans have been made to remove what I think will be the last of the old furniture, filing cabinets, and other unneeded items from our basement and storage. We also have a custodian most of the day now. I would say I currently have few concerns beyond additional training for my team and working on ways to further improve engagement between the community of BR and the library (though I admit I still have my heart set on a sign for us so the community knows who and where we are!).