

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

February 28, 2017

Raechel Guest, Director

Front Plaza Project

Tim DeCarlo and I met with Joe Geary, Judy Mancini, Sal Porzio, and Dave Simpson regarding the front plaza project. They have pledged to install a sidewalk connecting the handicap parking to the handicap entrance. This will be done either by using any remaining project funds, or by the City's Public Works department. Sal Porzio also stated that he will hold meetings with myself and Tim DeCarlo every two weeks during the project.

Children's Room Renovation Project

The Friends of the Library have received a grant of \$21,000 from the Leavenworth Foundation, which they are matching with \$25,000 of existing funds. We also have \$15,000 available from the City for shelving, bringing the total available funds for the project to \$61,000. I have met with the rep from W.B. Mason regarding the project – they work with specialists in library furnishings and can get state-negotiated pricing on many things. I am currently waiting for the initial quotes to come in. I have also asked for quotes on renovation work that is not in the scope of this year's grant, but may be funded next year.

Window Replacement Project

Two of the windows in the front lobby were leaking during a recent heavy rainfall. WDC brought in the window installer to do an inspection. The installer will return to recaulk the windows, but at this point he does not know why they were leaking.

Patron Survey

We have received 85 responses so far. We will keep the survey open until May and do one more big push to collect responses. The survey is available online at surveymonkeys.com/r/silasbronson.

CLA Award

Our Books & Happenings newsletter has won the Connecticut Library Association's Print Media – Newsletter award. We received notification last week. The award will be presented at the CLA Annual Conference on May 5.

Circulation Division

December Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 249,870
Total Items Added to Collection: 867
Total Items Circulated: 10,629
Total Circulation In-House: 100
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 1,060
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 326

Total Active Patrons: 12,731
Total Expired Patrons: 15,342
Total Patrons Added: 275

December Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 13,333
Total Items Added to Collection: 66
Total Items Circulated: 795
Total Circulation In-House: 6
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 70
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 380

Total Active Patrons: 448
Total Expired Patrons: 531
Total Patrons Added: 8

January Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 249,152
Total Items Added to Collection: 877
Total Items Circulated: 11,227
Total Circulation In-House: 151
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 989
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 348

Total Active Patrons: 12,853
Total Expired Patrons: 15,297
Total Patrons Added: 294

January Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 13,329
Total Items Added to Collection: 52
Total Items Circulated: 891
Total Circulation In-House: 1
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 89
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 359

Total Active Patrons: 446
Total Expired Patrons: 534
Total Patrons Added: 11

Museum Pass Usage, December 2016 & January 2017

American Clock & Watch Museum: 1	Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk: 3
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 3	Mark Twain House: 0
Barnum Museum: 0	Mattatuck Museum: 1
Beardsley Zoo: 0	Mystic Aquarium: 1
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 1	Mystic Seaport: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 2	New England Air Museum: 0
Connecticut's Old State House: 0	New Haven Museum: 0
CT State Parks & Forest Recreation: 0	Old Sturbridge Village: 0
EverWonder Children's Museum: 0	Peabody Museum of Natural History: 4
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0	Wadsworth Atheneum: 3
Imagine Nation: 4	White Memorial Conservation Center: 1
Institute for American Indian Studies: 0	

Online Presence

Facebook Followers	as of 12/7/2016: 511	as of 2/22/2017: 600
Facebook Reach	Nov. 9 – Dec. 6: 7,517	Jan. 25 – Feb. 21: 4,754
Facebook Post Engagements	Nov. 9 – Dec. 6: 1,733	Jan. 25 – Feb. 21: 4,272

Google Business Listing Searches December: 2,480 January: 3,139

Website Visitors	Dec. 7 – Jan. 3: 1,498	Jan. 4 – Feb. 2: 2,024
Website Pageviews	Dec. 7 – Jan. 3: 4,306	Jan. 4 – Feb. 2: 6,457

Most Visited Website Pages (Jan. 4 – Feb. 2):

Home Page: 3,160	Bunker Hill Branch: 197	How to Find Books: 100
Children's Pages: 413	Genealogy: 162	How to Get a Card: 79
Programs: 252	About Us: 144	Computer Classes: 59
Ask A Librarian: 226	Museum Passes: 107	
Research: 199	eBooks & Video: 104	

Public Outreach

We have been gradually increasing our community partnerships to better ensure that our programs and services meet the needs and interests of the public. Our Adult Services programming librarian reached out to the Concerned Black Clergy for their input on our Black History Month programming. Several of our Adult Services librarians have formed a Senior Outreach Committee, focused on improving our services to seniors in Waterbury. Our Children's Services librarian worked with The Village Committee, a group of volunteers, to plan our first "Let Your Voice Be Heard" program. Our Children's Services librarian has also begun meeting with a group of local homeschooling parents who rely heavily on public libraries.

Finances

The Governor's proposed two-year budget eliminates funding for services that we rely upon. If adopted, funding for borrowIT CT (Connecticard) will be eliminated; and "holdbacks" to funding for researchIT CT, deliverIT CT, and other State Library programs will continue (\$318,886 in cuts annually). Additionally, Governor's House Bill no. 7051, a budget implementation bill, proposes changes to state statutes that could effectively eliminate the borrowIT CT program permanently.

Last year's cuts to the CEN increased our internet access line item from \$0 to \$5400 per year (reduced to \$540 per year thanks to federal e-Rate funding), and cuts to the State Library eliminated our state aid, which had been about \$3,000 in recent years (it was approximately double that amount less than a decade ago).

The borrowIT CT program allows a resident of any town in Connecticut to use their hometown library card at any other library and to return items borrowed from another library to their hometown library. State funding to the borrowIT CT program reimburses libraries for their costs related to the program.

DeliverIT CT is the InterLibrary Loan (ILL) program for libraries in Connecticut. A delivery van stops by several times a week to pick and drop off books being borrowed or returned between our library and all the others in the state.

ResearchIT CT gives any library card holder free access to eBooks, digital newspapers and magazines, genealogy websites, and other research databases.

If the Governor's proposed reductions to library funding go through, we will most likely see our costs increase further. In addition, the Governor's proposed budget continues this year's elimination of all funding to Connecticut Humanities, an important source of grant funding for libraries and museums. If state funding to Connecticut Humanities is restored, the Silas Bronson Library could potentially receive annual grant support ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for programs and exhibits.

Finally, as we saw last year, any reduction in state aid to the City of Waterbury could result in a reduction in the City's allocation of funds to the library.

Now is the time to advocate for funding to the State Library and Connecticut Humanities. I submitted testimony to the State Legislature's Appropriations Committee on behalf of restoring funding to Connecticut Humanities earlier this month, and I have written to our legislators regarding the potential impact of the Governor's proposed budget on the Silas Bronson Library. I urge all of you to reach out as well. You can find out more, or sign up for updates, at ctlibraryassociation.org/Advocacy.