

Reference Services

The Reference Department assisted 194 patrons with reference questions in December 2022. In addition, staff booked 117 room reservations and helped 84 patrons with technology issues.

The Department hosted a number of popular programs in December. Highlights included a holiday cookie swap for Cookbook Club, the weekly meditation series with Lara Wilson, and a performance of *A Christmas Carol* with Stephen Collins and Poornima Kirby, which was attended by 103 people and generously sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library. Staff also created a popular display featuring Nobel Prize winners in the field of literature over the last 25 years.



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

In December 2022, the Teen Lounge hosted a number of popular programs. Teens decorated wooden holiday ornaments donated by the Concord Free Public Library Corporation. The Teen Dungeons and Dragons campaign continued with strong attendance (15 core members) and a bunch of chaotic fun. The Thursday Board Game Advisory Board debuted with a few rousing rounds of the silliest game ever made, *Bears Vs. Babies*.

Children's Library

The Children's Department distributed 175 gingerbread kits to eager families in December 2022, donated by the Concord Free Public Library Corporation. In the last week of December, Blanding's turtles Juan and Vlad moved to the Stone Zoo and Children's received 2 smaller turtles from the Franklin Park Zoo. Children's also installed the storywalk *The Farmhouse* by Sophie Blackall along Main Street. Finally, all Library staff bid farewell to Children's Supervisor Royce McGrath, who relocated to Vermont.

Circulation

The Circulation Team...

- Welcomed 54 new patrons in December 2022.
- Attended workshops on new library programs for patron catalog use, DEI initiatives, and collection development.
- Processed 143 museum pass reservations for patrons, with the New England Aquarium being the top draw.
- Created displays on festive cooking, the best books of 2022, Veteran's Day titles, and winter favorites.

Fowler Library



Fowler hosted many successful programs in December 2022. First, Fowler hosted long-time West Concord resident and author of *From Calcutta to Concord: The Journey of an Independent Woman*, Radha Jalan, in conversation with staff librarian Laura Mills to a full house. Ricardo Rosales led his largest group to date at his bilingual music class in Spanish and English. Librarian Dorrie Karlin joined a zoom ESL class to share information about ESL and bilingual offerings at Fowler, and students were eager to learn more about the Conversation Circle and children's programming such as Rosales' music class. Laurie Engdahl led two well-received needle-felting workshops for adults, sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library. The overflowing waitlist inspired staff to brainstorm more arts and crafts programs for adults.

Later in December, Fowler staff participated in the first ever, very successful West Concord Holiday Stroll. Community members stopped by the Library to receive henna designs, make citrus garlands, and enjoy the "Flowers and Flow" art show, a collaboration with ArtScape at Bradford Mill and the West Concord Green Thumbs. Staff provided Take and Make Kits for the Town's second annual Chanukah Celebration and Menorah Lighting, and celebrated New Year's with a Noon Year's Eve party that included crafts, music, and sparkling cider for all ages. In addition to seasonal displays, staff created a "Best of 2022" display, encouraging patrons to share their favorite books of the year for a chance to win a gift card to the Concord Bookshop.

Innovation and Communications



The Innovation and Communications Department installed The Workshop's two new Robo E3 Pro 3D printers, pictured beside the Library's original Ultimaker machine. Staff also ordered a fleet of Macbook Pro laptops for public use and a variety of hand and power tools. The Department anticipates expending the remainder of the capital renovation funding by early January 2023 and the team looks forward to launching the space later in the new year!

Special Collections



In December 2022, Special Collections staff answered over 50 reference questions through a variety of methods including on-site, email, and phone. The Gallery on the second floor of the Main Library featured a selection of portraits from the art collection, including some that have not been on public view for some time, including works by Ethan Allen Greenwood, Charles Hovey Pepper, Stacy Tolman, and Mary Colman Wheeler.

Preparations continue for the exhibit "Art & Enterprise: Daniel Chester French in Concord," opening in the Gallery at the Main Library on February 2, 2023, as well as the exhibit "A Perpetual Invitation: 150 Years of Art at the Concord Free Public Library," featuring highlights from the Library's art collection, opening at the Concord Museum on March 24, 2023.

Technical Services

In November and December 2022, Tech Services staff added 2,020 new books and audiovisual materials to the Library collection. The Library continues to purchase additional OverDrive eBooks and audiobooks to meet the needs of Concord residents. In November and December, Technical Services ordered a total of 22 new titles and 35 copies via the OverDrive Advantage program to fulfill Concord holds and requests.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library welcomed Sherry Lublin to the Circulation staff as a Library page. Administration is continuing to work on filling two vacancies: the Supervisor of Children's Services position and a part-time Library Assistant position at Fowler. We look forward to announcing those staff soon!
- The Library's leadership team is working on the annual report for the Town, as well as budget documents in preparation for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting.
- The Library's logo was updated on all social media and online accounts on January 1, 2023 to kick off a year-long celebration of the Library's 150th anniversary. More information will be available in early 2023.

