

## Reference Services

- Reference answered 724 reference questions, booked 447 meeting rooms, assisted 244 patrons with technology, and advised 14 patrons on reading choices. 8 patrons used the Library's notary service.
- Reference ran a number of creative programs, including a one-man show for *Pride* entitled "Pride the Expiration Date," a talk on the Isabella Stewart Gardner art heist, and a film screening of *Mona Lisa is Missing*, which included a virtual Q&A with the filmmakers. Other programs included weekly meditation with Lara Wilson on Zoom in June, as well as the monthly book discussion group and Cookbook Club.
- Michelle created a wonderful *Pride* display and a display on Olympic sports and athletes. Barbara put together a display for Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and Kate arranged a very popular display on books set in Paris.

## Youth Services

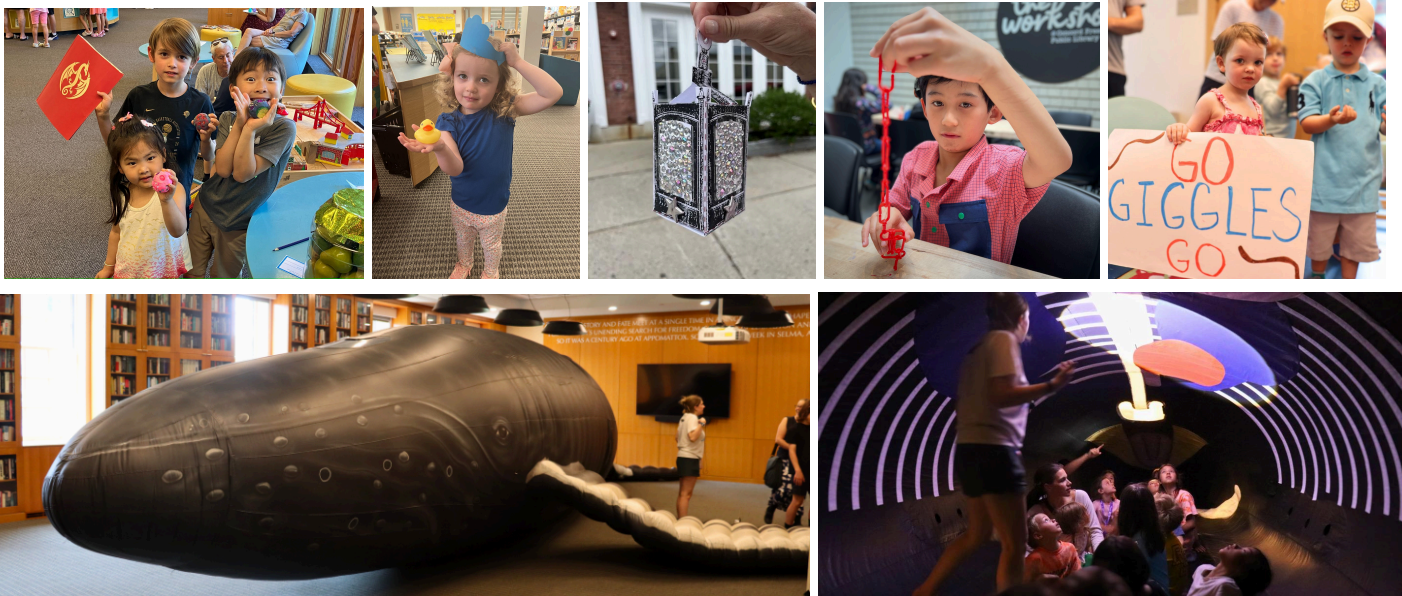
### Teen Lounge

- Teen ran 26 programs with a total attendance of 346 teen attendees. 55 teens participated in summer reading, reading 541 books and logging 620 raffle entries. It yielded crucial insights into how to combine and buttress with the success of Reading Dragons next year.
- The End of Summer Reading Wrap Party program was very successful. Interest and attendance pushed the start time to 1 PM, 2 hours before it was supposed to start. Most of the 22 total attendees stayed engaged the whole time through mini-games, challenges, and last minute raffle tickets until the program ended at 4:30 PM.
- Program attendance spiked from visiting camp groups, as many teen campers stuck around to join in.
- Teen coordinated a pair of recurring teen-aged program facilitators this summer. The folks of Love Tech provided a week of STEM-based programming for children at the end of July. Another teen led a 4-week Coding with Python series, which ran on Thursdays in August and maintained solid attendance numbers.
- Communication between CCHS and the Teen Librarian successfully coordinated 496 service hours from 22 CCHS volunteers. These numbers from just this summer tripled teen volunteers and teen volunteer hours from the previous 12 calendar months! Thanks to the efforts of the volunteers, Teen was able to overhaul the labeling convention of Teen graphic novels for better browsing.

### Children's Library

- This summer, Youth Services was thrilled to kick off our brand new Reading Dragons summer reading challenge for school-aged kids and the return of our popular Rubber Ducky Club for pre-readers! Members of the Rubber Ducky Club earned rubber duckies for each week of reading, and Reading Dragon Trainers earned dragon trading cards that grew and evolved into higher level dragons as they read. They were able to choose from a total of 16 different dragon eggs, each with a total of 4 evolutions. In summer 2023, 550 kids participated in summer reading challenges, and this year, a whopping 1,054 kids joined us for Reading Dragons and Rubber Ducky Club! Together, the children in our community read 30,450 days over the course of the summer and collected over 192,000 dragon cards.
- In conjunction with Reading Dragons, Youth Services partnered with Concord Pride in June and Riverfest in July to distribute special hidden dragon eggs that could only be found at Pride and Riverfest events! Several patrons reported attending to collect eggs and enjoyed discovering these events.
- Youth Services and Fowler staff also partnered with the Concord250 Community to offer lanterns for the community to create and bring to celebrate 250 Days to the 250th Community Day. By the end of July, families at Main had created 50 lanterns to take to the event.
- Youth Services also welcomed a variety of new and returning programmers:

- Musical Monday performer Julie Stepanek taught a class for families to learn to play the ukulele. Families learned plucking and strumming ukulele tabs and how to play 3 traditional tunes confidently.
- Kids went on an archeological adventure and excavated dragon figurines encased in “fossilized” dragon eggs, and then they constructed their own dragon eggs from clay and rhinestones.
- Buildwave led an interactive, hands-on building activity inspired by video games. Kids and their families participated in building challenges with “waves” of materials including LEGO, PlusPlus, and unique materials designed by Buildwave.
- Youth Services closed July with the first annual Worm Race! In this brand-new sporting event, kids each selected a worm “racer” and then competed to see which worm would move the farthest out of a 6 inch ring in one minute. Racers were brought home to the gardens of their trainers or released to enjoy a life of luxury in the Children’s Garden. Congratulations to the trainer of The Stow Speedster, who set this year’s record of exiting the ring in just 43 seconds!
- The Whalemobile visited, a life-sized inflatable humpback whale that nearly filled the Goodwin Forum and enchanted everyone who saw it! Families had the opportunity to go inside the whale with educator Michaela and learn about the anatomy of whales and the importance of whales in our ecosystem. Participants described the experience as “amazing” and “magical,” and several kids emerged with a new passion for caring for our oceans.



## Circulation

- Circulation had 19,775 transactions and welcomed 111 new patrons to the CFPL family.
- Circulation staff created book displays with the topics “Summer Blockbusters” and “Armchair Travel” and put up flags to celebrate the Summer Olympic Games!
- Patrons reserved 246 museum passes, with the New England Aquarium in first place by a significant margin, followed by the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Science.
- Circulation staff continued their involvement with professional development and the CFPL’s Sustainability initiatives.



## Fowler Branch Library

- Staff celebrated Pollinator Week for a second year with support from the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee and the Natural Resources Division. Fowler held story times, transplanted seedlings from the Winter Seed Sow, and set up a self-guided tour of pollinator gardens throughout Concord. Staff also worked with Concord Public Works to begin the process of creating a new pollinator garden in the front yard. The first step, lasagna mulching, involved spreading a layer of cardboard directly on the grass and covering it with several inches of compost.
- Fowler participated as a first time music venue for West Concord PorchFest, and a cordoning off the parking lot made Fowler a perfect site for two acts, Blow My Own Horn and Timber Timbre.
- Fowler shared the first Concord Middle School Day of Service. Students enjoyed animal therapy with newly hatched chicks, painted bricks to line the expanded backyard pollinator garden, and used the new corn hole set.
- Fowler hosted a well-attended Rainbow Crafting event in coordination with the Main Library during PrideFest.
- During July, Fowler staff collaborated with the Sudbury, Assabet, Concord (SuAsCo) river stewards during their annual Riverfest celebration, working together for river storytimes, a River Lab, a craft during their July event at the Old Manse, and a Fowler Afoot “River Walk” discussing *The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau’s River Years* by Robert Thorson. To help promote their many free events, the summer reading program had a special “Stream Egg” that participants only got by attending a Riverfest program.
- Fowler offered a mix of new and returning ongoing programs, including weekly storytimes for the youngest Concord Recreation campers, Talk and Gentle Flow yoga classes, Mothers Out Front Sustainability Labs, Family Notes (an early childhood music program), and art programs including Art for All workshops, Craft Lab activities highlighting India Day, Stitch Circle for fiber crafters of all ages, and weekly Take and Makes.
- ArtScape at Bradford Mill curated another community art show, Still Life, which opened in June and was on display through Labor Day.



## Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop hosted hundreds of programs this summer, including a Pride Craft Party, gelli plate printing classes, a soldering workshop, and a Summer Paint & Sip that was a partnership with Youth Services! In addition, the Workshop ran its own Summer Maker Program, in which patrons received a stamp on a “loyalty card” for every visit they made to the Workshop - each full card earned them a special maker prize compatible with one of the Library’s maker tools.
- It was a busy summer for Open Maker Hours, with more than 350 tool loans in June and July.
- The Innovation and Communication Team also expanded the Library’s accessibility infrastructure with a new mobile access cart that will allow the Library to offer assistive listening devices on request at programs hosted anywhere in the Main Library building, including storytimes and Workshop classes.



## Special Collections

- Special Collections served 236 patrons, including 197 on-site patrons, and answered 174 reference requests on-site, via phone, and email. Staff answered 85 requests to access archival records and manuscript materials.
- Patrons visited from 5 New England states, as well as from New York, North Carolina, California, Nevada, Colorado, Alabama, Indiana, Texas, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Alaska, Canada, Japan, and Spain.
- The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society resulted in many visits to Special Collections.
- A team from Florentine Films (aka Ken Burns Productions) reviewed multiple photograph and manuscript collections and scanned items that may be included in an upcoming documentary about Henry David Thoreau.
- Special Collections created a very successful exhibition titled *Illustrated - An Exhibition of Children's Art*. Beginning in 1985, Children's Library staff collected and framed drawings from authors and illustrators who visited the Library, showcasing local authors like Matt Tavares and D.B. Johnson and world-famous children's authors such as Tomie dePaola and Eric Carle. This was originally displayed in the Children's Room, a space that became the Goodwin Forum during the recent renovation and expansion. Special Collections housed the art in the Munroe Gallery for this special exhibition.

## Administration and Staffing

- Library Staff said farewell to Circulation Supervisor and Green Team Committee chair, Reni Cunningham, who moved to Western Massachusetts. Reni was recognized by the staff, Library Corporation, and Friends for her leadership role in championing the Library's Sustainability Plan and key role in the Sustainability Certification process, a major achievement for the Library!
- The Library also said farewell to Office Assistant Mark Gerstel, who took a position elsewhere, at the end of July.
- The Library welcomed Maintenance Custodian Rick Jackson, Library Assistant Nadine Petronko-Lin who will be working in Technical Services and Circulation, and Library Assistant Erin Trainor who will be working in Circulation.
- Library Administration compiled the FY24 data for the ARIS report submitted annually to the State. This report is required for libraries to remain certified and to qualify for State Aid. Administration is now working on the required Financial Report that is due in October.