

## Director's Report March 2023



### Reference Services

- Reference staff answered 251 reference questions in February and booked meeting rooms for over 134 patrons. Staff assisted 109 patrons with technology needs and advised 13 patrons on reading choices. In addition, staff notarized three documents for patrons.
- Twenty library patrons attended the February Book Discussion group to discuss *Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nahesi Coates. Other popular programs included the weekly Thursday morning meditation and Cookbook Club. At Cookbook Club, attendees tried recipes from *Cook with Me: 150 Recipes for the Home Cook: A Cookbook*, by Alex Guarnaschelli. On February 28th, 11 patrons attended the virtual author talk with Henriette Lazaridis for a discussion of her new book, *Terra Nova*.



- The Green Team met for the first time in February. They discussed upcoming programs related to sustainability and how to move forward on the Sustainable Library Initiatives Certification. Reni began a Sustainable Librarianship e-course through the American Library Association.

### Youth Services

#### Teen Lounge

- The Teen Dungeons and Dragons crew finished another rousing campaign.

- The Board Game Advisory Board gained new members and tested some of the games that will be added to the collection.
- Teens made Valentine "erasure poems" using pages from old and discarded books.
- Matt Mackowski returned to lead Coderdojo's "Make Your Own Videogame" program. This month, teens learned basic platforming game design.

### Children's Library

- The February Storywalk featured *M Is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child*, by Tiffany Rose.
- Patrons celebrated Carnivale by making masks, enjoying Samba music, and taking Polaroid photos with a colorful photo backdrop.
- Children had the opportunity to create beautiful watercolor bookmarks with multi-talented artist Margaret McCandless.
- Young patrons learned some new moves at a hip-hop dance party hosted by West Concord Dance Academy.
- We welcomed Communities Organizing Against Racism (COAR) to the library. COAR taught patrons about displaced people around the world and the crises that force them to leave their homes. Afterwards, families created postcards with fun facts about Concord to welcome refugee families to our community.

### Circulation

- Circulation staff welcomed 58 new patrons to the CFPL family!
- Staff processed 148 museum pass reservations, with the New England Aquarium being the top attraction for Concord patrons.
- Circulation staff featured an incredible Blind Date with a Book display, as well as showcased titles related to Black History Month.
- The Circulation desk exploded with Valentine's Day cheer!
- Circulation staff participated in webinars about collection development and new library software, including a demo of a possible alternative to our Sierra ILS software.
- Circulation Team members continued their involvement with initiatives related to DEI, the 150th Anniversary, and Sustainability.



### Fowler Library



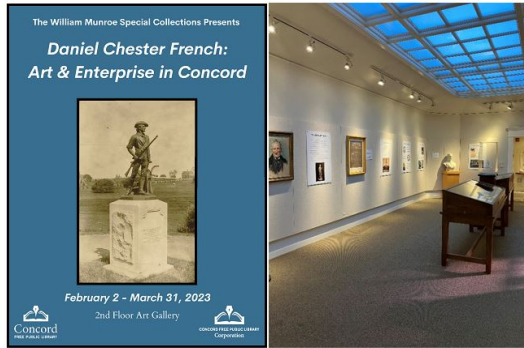


- Fowler has dedicated followings for ongoing programs, which attract people of diverse ages and interests. This month, Book-a-Mystery discussed *Finlay Donovan is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano and Afternoon Tea Book Club discussed *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister. Conversation Circle for English Language Learners and Stitch Circle continue to grow. Arts and Crafts Club, offered through support from the Friends of CFPL and led by Art for All, and Game Time with Minute Man Arc have been excellent additions. These programs have enabled Fowler to better serve adults with developmental differences. Fowler's popular children's programming includes Baby Time, Storytime, Saturday Studio, Messy Fun, and Preschool Play for younger audiences. We also offer Craft Lab, Fairy Tale Storytimes, Lego Club, and Girls who Code for school-age children and tweens. Classes from Concord Carousel visit for a weekly storytime led by alternating Fowler staff.
- On February 11th, Fowler hosted the League of Women Voters for a viewing and discussion of the documentary *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*. Joe Palumbo, a member of the DEI commission, moderated the discussion. This event was the product of a collaboration with Communities Organizing Against Racism (COAR) and other DEI organizations.
- For this year's project, the Girls Who Code club is creating a "Trash-ion Show," combining wearable technology with an anti-fast fashion message. They were thrilled to meet in the Workshop twice this month to start designing and sewing.
- Art for All artists offered two acrylic painting workshops, sponsored by the Friends of CFPL. Participants learned acrylic techniques to depict local flora and fauna. Art for All artists are also working on their next mural, a map of the Bruce Freeman Trail, and preparing for an art show at Fowler in May.
- Ricardo Rosales has started a new series of monthly bilingual music classes, sponsored by the Friends of CFPL.
- Britt Simonson of the Paul Revere Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) led a series of Cursive Workshops for school-age children with support from the Old Concord Chapter. By offering these classes, the DAR hopes to ensure the accessibility of historic documents.
- In addition to robust displays for Black History Month and Valentine's Day, Fowler offered a fun iteration of Blind Date with a Book. For another display, books with collage-style illustrations promoted the next Fowler art show, Ripped!, a collaboration with ArtScape.

## Innovation & Communications

The Innovation and Communications Team has continued to set up the Workshop makerspace. With the help of the Town IT department, the team is processing ten new MacBook Pros which will be made available for public use in the new space. Additionally, Innovation staff are working on filming a variety of instructional content for the collection of tools funded by the Town and the Corporation. The Workshop is set to open later this year.

## Special Collections



- On February 2nd, the Library's Special Collections Exhibition: *Daniel Chester French: Art & Enterprise in Concord* opened in the Art Gallery on the second floor of the Main Library. The exhibit will run through March 2023.
- This Daniel Chester French exhibit marks the start of the Library's 150th anniversary celebration. Soon after opening its doors in 1873, the Library began taking in art pieces like David Scott's *Ralph Waldo Emerson* and Daniel Chester French's bust of Simon Brown. The bust of Brown is French's oldest surviving portrait bust. It was commissioned by the Concord Farmers' Club since both Brown and Daniel Chester French's father, Henry Flagg French, were members. By the time he completed the *Seated Emerson* statue in 1914, French was acknowledged, "to be the first sculptor of America." His monumental career capstone, the *Lincoln Memorial*, was still in its planning stages. You can view French's *Seated Emerson* in the Library's rotunda.
- The February 2nd art opening featured a presentation, "From the Minute Man to the Melvin Memorial: Daniel Chester French and his Concord Connections," by Dana Pilson. Pilson is the Curatorial Researcher and Collections Manager at Chesterwood, French's historic home and studio. Chesterwood's Interim Director, Margaret Cherin, provided an introduction for the presentation.

## Technical Services/Technology

- In February, a total of 768 new books and audiovisual items were added to the Library collection.
- The Library has kicked off its 150th anniversary celebration for the year. Here is the new webpage dedicated to the celebration - <https://concordlibrary.org/about/cfpl-150th-anniversary>.

## Administration and Staffing

- The Library welcomed Sara Dempster, the new Head of Youth Services. Sara joins us from Chelmsford Public Library, where she served as their Head of Youth Services. She has ten years of experience working with youth as a Head of Teen Services, a Teen Librarian, and an early childhood teacher. Sara also has a proven track record of building strong community partnerships and creating innovative programs. We are thrilled to have Sara join the Concord community.

