



Association of Connecticut Library Boards Newsletter

The Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) is Connecticut's library trustee organization representing public library boards throughout the state.

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Summer 2022

24 Public Libraries Awarded Grants for Summer Enrichment

At a time when dollars seem stretched as never before, 24 public libraries are sharing \$44,000 in the inaugural year of the State Library's Summer Enrichment Grant. The purpose of the grants is to empower public libraries to enhance summer reading programs with additional enrichment opportunities by providing programs and activities that spark creativity and productivity, engage individuals, and benefit their communities. CSL Summer Enrichment grants are funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Connecticut State Library.

Grants ranging in amounts from \$300 to \$2,000 each were awarded to the following libraries for their summer reading programs:

Beacon Falls Public Library—Beacon Falls Summer Reading Program

James Blackstone Memorial Library (Branford)—StoryWalk® on Main

Brookfield Public Library—Playful Engineers Traveling MakerSpace Residency

Burlington Public Library—Bringing the Library to Foote Road Summer Camp

Henry Carter Hull Library (Clinton)—STEAM Stations

Cragin Memorial Library (Colchester)—Empowering Colchester: Mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning for Children, Families, and Adult Leaders

Durham Public Library—A Library off the Beaten Path

Library Association of Warehouse Point (East Windsor)—3Ds for Teens: Discuss, Design, Draw

Hall Memorial Library (Ellington)—Expanding and Promoting the Library of Things

Essex Library Association—Summer Reading 2022

Granby Public Library—Trail Map Challenge
Killingworth Library—STEM/STEAM with Pirates!

Jonathan Trumbull Library (Lebanon)—Summer Reading Habits

Middlebury Public Library—Fit345
Russell Library (Middletown)—Summer Long Play Partnerships

Raymond Library (Montville)—Reading Garden

Preston Public Library—Take on Technology for Girls

Mark Twain Library (Redding)—Robots & Androids & Drones, Oh My!

Voluntown Public Library—SRP 2022
Wallingford Public Library—Summer Buddies

Silas Bronson Library (Waterbury)—STREAM your Summer Learning with "Ocean of Possibilities"

Westbrook Public Library—Baking Buddies
Weston Public Library—Beyond the Beaten Path with White Memorial Conservation

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Working Together to Correct Misunderstandings about Libraries

By State Librarian Deborah Schander

What's your least favorite comment about libraries? Like so many of my colleagues, I know that when I tell someone I'm a librarian, it's entirely likely the next sentence I hear is going to make me grit my teeth. Personally, my least favorite response is a toss-up between "Wow! It must be so great, getting to sit and read all day!" and "Why do we need libraries anyway? Everything is online." My guess is you've heard similar comments when you tell people you're on the library board, and maybe you have done your share of teeth gritting too.

So often, these comments reveal deep misunderstandings about libraries and library employees. It can be tempting to just laugh the comment off, particularly when said in a social context. But what may be idle chatter can lead to decisions about the library down the road. Maybe that person never brings his or her child to the library. That discouraged job seeker never realizes the library has tools that could help. And maybe that elected official slashes the library budget because they don't think the ROI (Return on Investment) is there.

Now more than ever, I encourage you, when you hear comments like this, to speak up and get a little good information in there to counter the assumptions. A couple of phrases to get you started are: "Ha, ha! People say that all the time, but actually ..."; "Oh? Why do you think that?"; and "I haven't found that to be true. In fact ..."

As a board member—someone who doesn't work in the library itself—your words can often have even more of an impact in situations like this because the listener recognizes that *you* see value in libraries, *you* have chosen to volunteer your time to support them. Together, we can help correct those misunderstandings so we can focus on the good work libraries provide every day.

Summer Reading Grants...

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Willimantic Public Library (Windham)—
Exploring the Unknown

In connection with the awards, Dawn LaValle, Director of the State Library's Division of Library Development, said, "We are pleased to be able to offer this Library Services & Technology Act federally funded enrichment grant designed to empower Connecticut libraries to encourage and instill lifelong reading skills. Most importantly, this supports the introduction of children, young adults, and families to the treasure that is their local public library and to the love of that magical journey of reading a good book."

Kymerlee Powe, Children and Young Adult Consultant for the State Library, added, "In 2021 we redesigned our Summer Reading Report to be an outcome based, community impact model. To align with this new focus and encourage libraries to move beyond counting books and pages, we wanted to offer support for libraries to design creative opportunities for all ages through summer reading engagement, thus the Summer Reading Enrichment Grant."

Have you visited our web site lately?
aclb.wildapricot.org

The Association of Connecticut Library Boards web site contains a wealth of information for library board members. From the Home page you can access:

- **ACLB Public Library Trustee Handbook**
- **ACLB membership details**
- **Advocacy information to promote libraries**
- **Links to pertinent trustee resources**
- **Previously published newsletters**

Please help ACLB spread the word about effective board practices and developments in the state's libraries by sharing this newsletter with all members of your boards.

Connecticut Library Consortium Helps Libraries Maximize Spending Power

At a time when inflation is posing increasing challenges to libraries trying to extend their budgets as far as possible, the Connecticut Library Consortium is an especially invaluable resource. Its mission is to leverage the collective power of its members to initiate cost-effective, value-added services as a partner for purchasing, collaboration and connection.

CLC serves more than 900 library members in the public, academic, school and special sectors. About 99 percent of the state's public libraries belong to CLC. Among the benefits they receive are savings on:

- Books—as much as 52 percent off with CLC's negotiated contracts
- Electronic resources, including databases and eBooks
- Furniture
- Supplies and equipment
- Library services
- Technology
- Professional development, such as discounts on professional conferences
- Promotional materials to publicize library services and activities
- Products and services for children and youth

CLC also supports roundtables where library staff can meet for networking, sharing ideas, problem solving, and cultivating a sense of community within the profession. There are more than 30 of these gatherings, which are run by volunteers from the state's libraries. These roundtables focus on a broad range of topics including adult programming, business assistance, children's and young adult services, fundraising and development, gaming, genealogy, immigration and multicultural services, LGBTQ, maker spaces, readers' advisory, reference and instruction, resource sharing, social justice, and story telling.

Librarians can obtain assistance with programming through CRC's program catalog and showcases where staff can gain insights into what the programs offer.

In addition to public libraries, CLC also makes similar opportunities available to school, academic and special libraries. Special libraries are privately owned libraries within business firms or other organizations that provide books and other material of particular interest to those organizations.

The consortium also provides a job listing service for librarians and support staff.

The Connecticut Library Consortium was founded in 2003 as the result of the merger of four regional Cooperative Library Service Units (CLSUs): the Capitol Region Library Council, Eastern Connecticut Libraries, Southern Connecticut Library Council and Western Connecticut Library Council. Authorized by the General Assembly, CLSUs were defined in the state's General Statutes as organizations of different types of libraries in a geographic area whose purpose was to improve library service through coordinated planning, resource sharing, and the development of programs too expensive or impractical for single libraries to maintain.

As the successor to these CLSUs, CLC's philosophy is based on the belief that "libraries are fundamental to a literate, equitable and just society."

This year's annual CLC meeting took place in June with Second District U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney as the keynote speaker.

Watch for ACLB's Fall Programs!

As the pandemic continues to cause uncertainty about the wisdom of gathering in large groups, once again this year ACLB will hold a series of online mini-conferences this fall in place of our annual one-day event.

Topics planned for this year's programs include the Freedom of Information Act, Board Basics, and Strategic Planning.

Further information on these sessions will be available in the months ahead.