



City Library Report: June 2024

René Battelle, Administrator for Public Services

Branch Libraries

June Recap

- ❖ Our June Memory Cafés were a big success! Hazard hosted their first café on June 18, where Kate Kisselstein led participants on a virtual tour of MacArthur Stadium and everyone sang “Take Me Out to the Ball Game”. Betts hosted a café on July 27 where Aran West did a creative storytelling activity involving curious photos displayed on the projector. The group made up silly stories about what was going on in the photos and everyone laughed and had a great time. Both cafés prompted responses from attendees about what they loved about the programs – especially the singing and the chance to get creative.
- ❖ In June, many of our city branches took the opportunity of these warm and sunny Syracuse days to do outdoor programs that help patrons appreciate the beauty of our surroundings. At Petit, ESF student Levi O’Brien held a neighborhood tree walk, educating participants about the historical use of different kinds of trees and how to identify them. At Mundy, Onondaga Audubon did a special Urban Bird Walk during which participants learned how to identify common birds such as the barn swallow, chimney swift, grackle, spotted sandpiper, and mallard duck. Mundy also hosts weekly summer gardening programs in the pocket park across the street from the library. Many of their young patrons now tend to the garden on their own when the library is closed, and a group of teens were able to establish an area with watermelon, tomatoes, and basil.
- ❖ Summer Reading is off to a great start at all of our city libraries, but as always it took a lot of promotion by dedicated library staff to spread the word and get kids signed up. Speaking directly to children and inviting them into the library always has a big impact on Summer Reading participation, and we are proud of the work our library staff does to help prevent the Summer Learning Slide while having lots of fun. This year’s efforts included:
 - Susan Cox at Paine Branch reached 885 students by visiting local schools such as Blessed Sacrament, Huntington, and Salem Hyde, and hosting in-library class visits
 - Quinn Gardner at Petit visited 20 groups of students at Ed Smith, and spoke to all kindergarten—7th grade classes as well as one small 8th grade class, reaching 575 people total
 - Soule’s Miss Margaret did outreach visits to HW Smith as well as inviting groups of students into the library for story time field trips
 - Shauna Modrow at Hazard does classroom story times at All Saints Elementary all throughout the school year.
 - White Branch staff teamed up with the City of Syracuse to host a block party to kick off Summer Reading at the library. There were representatives from community organizations, food giveaways, outdoor lawn games, and a visit by Dan the Snake Man.

Coming Up

- ❖ Paine Branch is planning an upcoming cooking class as part of OCPL's Kitchen Literacy Grant. In early August, they will offer a class hosted by local chef Anju Gupta featuring Indian recipes including Mango Lassi, hot sandwiches, and Bhel Puri.
- ❖ The Ben Snow Foundation has decided to award a grant of \$5,000 to the American Heart Association which is partnering with White Branch to provide programs and services related to healthy eating. Brittany Taylor, Community Impact Director for the CNY region, applied for the grant with input from SOFSA and White Branch staff. White has recently started circulating blood pressure cuffs courtesy of the AHA, and the Ben Snow grant money will be used for programs on healthy eating, a community food fridge, and books and resources on cooking and healthy food choices.
- ❖ In July, we will be moving quickly to fill some critical branch and Central positions, including a full-time Librarian II for Children's Services at Betts, a full-time Clerk I at Soule, a full-time Floating Clerk, and part-time Clerk I positions at Central and Beauchamp.

Branch Statistics

2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	18524	17284	24266	24657	22743	28434	27133	28914	25278	27486	24079	19856	288654
Total Circulation	33525	30659	36735	31211	32308	34145	36366	37279	32904	34147	30811	33298	403388
Physical Circulation	27684	25339	31028	25477	26297	28054	29706	30529	26397	26792	23745	25485	326533
Digital Circulation	5841	5320	5707	5734	6011	6091	6660	6750	6507	7355	7066	7813	76855
Computer Use	2943	2135	3588	3999	3276	3846	4146	4009	3439	3932	2707	2741	40761
Reference	4810	4471	5987	5210	4804	4904	4526	4660	3423	3895	2294	2354	51338
Programs	134	125	156	178	147	144	212	174	126	152	126	124	1798
Program Attendance	872	1130	1642	1870	1474	2448	2372	1862	1119	1672	1152	786	18399
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	23248	25113	22406	32312	27630	32974							163683
Total Circulation	37014	32428	35141	33633	35338	34945							208499
Physical Circulation	28606	23299	27062	25901	27233	27425							159526
Digital Circulation	8408	9129	8079	7732	8105	7520							48973
Computer Use	3242	2751	3583	4222	3910	4530							22238
Reference	3518	5201	7178	5856	5420	4860							32033
Programs	112	130	182	235	177	182							1018
Program Attendance	1020	1263	1670	2326	1719	2436							10434
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	26%	45%	-8%	31%	21%	16%							
Total Circulation	10%	6%	-4%	8%	9%	2%							
Physical Circulation	3%	-8%	-13%	2%	4%	-2%							
Digital Circulation	44%	72%	42%	35%	35%	23%							
Computer Use	10%	29%	0%	6%	19%	18%							
Reference	-27%	16%	20%	12%	13%	-1%							
Programs	-16%	4%	17%	32%	20%	26%							
Program Attendance	17%	12%	2%	24%	17%	0%							



Central Library

June Recap

- ❖ We were excited to be able to promote Nan Brown to Librarian II for KidSpace, beginning June 1. Nan has worked at Central as the Teen Librarian since 2022, and her experience and enthusiasm for youth services and programming is greatly appreciated as she begins her new role in KidSpace, helping to organize the staff, space, and calendar for a fun and exciting Summer Reading Program.
- ❖ On June 12, Central hosted a Global Kitchen program in collaboration with Jess Miller of the Kitchen Literacy Project. Ngoc from Mama Hai Restaurant led a cooking session during which 20 participants learned how to make Banh Mi sandwiches, got a cultural history lesson of the French Colonial Vietnamese context that gave rise to the Banh Mi, and got to try some delicious samples.
- ❖ On June 26-28, Nicole Broadnax from the City of Syracuse's API Team led a Game Development Summer Camp for Tweens in the MakerSpace. Participants were taught how to design and develop their own playable platform video game using the free Microsoft MakeCode Arcade website, and on the last day they finished up their projects and celebrated with snacks.

Coming Up

- ❖ We wrapped up the Redhouse season, and they are interested in having the pop-up for their next season, as well as one for the summer. I am currently working on getting books, and Tom will take them over and set up the display. Summer themes will include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Shrek the Musical*, and books about creating musical performances to support youth summer camps with the theater team.

Central Statistics

2023	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	5642	5423	6459	5388	5500	5585	5898	6225	5421	5732	5732	5349	68354
Total Circulation	13854	12553	13395	12187	12701	12662	12933	13665	12412	13868	13804	14719	158753
Physical Circulation	7464	7474	8051	7100	7320	7357	7612	8219	7097	10626	7802	8601	94723
Digital Circulation	5390	5079	5344	5087	5381	5305	5321	5446	5315	3242	6002	6118	63480
Computer Use	1733	1495	1772	1565	1428	1771	2070	2000	1529	1523	1600	1498	19984
Reference	1218	984	1445	1057	1198	1161	1697	1495	1307	1238	1434	1186	15420
Programs	23	26	25	29	29	34	26	28	21	22	15	18	296
Program Attendance	361	454	383	309	378	398	436	651	314	254	332	193	4463
2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	6010	5525	6127	6502	5615	5362							35141
Total Circulation	15712	14137	14518	14908	13196	14046							86517
Physical Circulation	8966	7892	8121	8849	7097	8317							49242
Digital Circulation	6746	6245	6397	6059	6099	5729							37275
Computer Use	1424	1317	1453	1687	1460	1524							8865
Reference	1468	1610	1183	1237	792	628							6918
Programs	25	29	28	35	34	39							190
Program Attendance	473	305	460	410	425	311							2384
% Change 2023-2024	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Visits	7%	2%	-5%	21%	2%	-4%							
Total Circulation	13%	13%	8%	22%	4%	11%							
Physical Circulation	20%	6%	1%	25%	-3%	13%							
Digital Circulation	25%	23%	20%	19%	5%	8%							
Computer Use	-18%	-12%	-18%	8%	2%	-14%							
Reference	21%	64%	-18%	17%	-34%	-46%							
Programs	9%	12%	12%	21%	17%	15%							
Program Attendance	31%	-33%	20%	33%	12%	-22%							

Board Support

- ❖ Attend a library program at least once this year. We have some great programs coming up that are large annual offerings at our branches, such as Petit's big book sale during the Westcott Cultural Fair, and the Light a Candle for Literacy event that kicks off from Beauchamp Branch Library. Attending events gives you the opportunity to see the branch and meet some of the staff. You can find these and other great programs on our website at <http://www.onlib.org>
- ❖ Check out a book by a FOCL author. The 2024/25 series features book selections for every taste, including National Book Award Winner Justin Torres's *Blackouts*; crime writer William Kent Krueger; and Young Adult author Angie Thomas, whose debut novel *The Hate You Give* was made into a feature film in 2018.
- ❖ Library advocacy isn't just reserved for special days – it can happen in every day conversations. Help us spread the word about our resources, like recommending an upcoming program or encouraging your friends to check out our collection before they opt to buy the latest bestseller. Thank you for all you do to support our work!

