

Cambridge Public Library FY17-18 Major Accomplishments

The Cambridge Public Library announced plans to become the public hub for STEAM learning in the City. In partnership with the City's STEAM Initiative and the Department of Human Services, **STEAM at the Library** will advance the work already accomplished by both entities and the Cambridge Public Schools in engaging families and the public in quality science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) learning experiences.

Some of our exciting STEAM program partnerships include understanding satellites via the **PLIX Space Initiative** with MIT Media Lab and Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and expanding the Library's coding classes in conjunction with the American Library Association's Libraries Ready to Code program.

The Library continued the **Our Path Forward Series**, created to encourage public discourse, understanding of key issues and civic involvement. Programs have included a panel titled "Youth Panel on Gun Violence" that featured local students, in addition to students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, discussing gun violence in schools.

CPL acquired a subscription to **Lynda.com** filling a community need for easy learning opportunities online. Cambridge residents with a valid library card now have access to over 5700 comprehensive online courses in business, technology, and creative skills!

We received generous funding from the Cambridge Public Library Foundation to work with the non-profit, Lifetime Arts, to offer the **Creative Aging Program** – a series of intensive 8-week courses that center on the arts and are offered to older adults. Taught by certified artists and instructors, the goal of this new program is to establish the Cambridge Public Library as a center for lifelong learning. It also provides new social opportunities for adults looking to make new connections after retirement. The first series, Basics of Drawing, held September 20 - November 8, the second series, Writing Memoir, held January 10 - February 28, the third series, Basics of Dance, held April 4 - May 23. All classes were filled to maximum capacity and received positive feedback.

Continuing the success of our **Beginner's Genealogy Workshops** in Spring 2017, we offered four more Beginner's Genealogy Workshop Series in September, November, January, and March. We also expanded our courses to include such topics such as Researching the History of your Cambridge House, Researching Your Jewish Genealogy, and DNA Testing and Genealogical Research.

We launched our **Learning Circles** program in October with Wordpress and HTML Essential Training in March. A learning circle is a facilitated study group for people who want to take online courses together to learn new skills.

We introduced the new **Mamava Lactation pod** at the Main Library, meeting the demand for a private space for nursing mothers. The pod is increasing in usage and had a total of 72 sessions since it arrived in March 2018.

CPL partnered with the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA), the Department of Human Services and the Cambridge Public Health Department to bring more books to children living in HUD-assisted housing. Together they hosted **literacy themed library parties** at various locations

throughout Cambridge. The goal of this program is to increase awareness of the Library system in Cambridge, get more children signed up for library cards, and generate excitement for the Library and children checking out their own materials at a young age.

The Central Square and O'Neill Branches partnered with the Cambridge Community Engagement Team (CET) on **Spanish and Amharic Conversation Cafes** to reach new patrons and communities within their branch neighborhoods to discuss topics in their respective communities.

The Main Library and O'Neill Branch both moved forward with **interior renovations** to add more seating to the libraries. Main, O'Neill, and Central Square library locations also introduced **circulating laptops and chromebooks** to their collections and patrons can now enjoy using laptops throughout library buildings.

CPL added over 52,000 new items last year and experienced a 25% growth in the use of our Commonwealth Catalog and interlibrary loan services.