Mission:
The Hoboken Public Library connects people with each other, ideas, and opportunities to support lifelong learning, personal growth, and community development.

2019 was a successful year. The numbers tell the story

Highlights
- Opened a Learning Center at 401 Harrison Street, operating six days a week as a teen and tween center
- Began the VERY popular TOYBRARY in Annex 1, 256 Fifth Street, along with the TEEN ZONE every afternoon
- Rolled out the Library BookBike to promote library services and sign-up newcard-holders, through visits to city parks and other popular gathering places
- Introduced our customers to the concept of fine-free loaning, with our Fine-Free Summer
About us

Library Board of Trustees

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Dr. Jerome Abernathy

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Amanda Blaney
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Alternate
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Ex-Officio
Mayor Ravi Bhalla

Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Christine Johnson

Library Director
Lina Podles

Recording Secretary
Clark Matthews

Library Staff
44 staff members, plus
2 part-time ProLibra staff

Friends of the Library

Mission: To raise money and public awareness in the community to support the services and programs of the Library.

Activities:
- Ongoing Book Sale
- Novella Night, and Novel Night
- Sustained Membership Drive
- Supported:
  - Museum Pass Program
  - Saturday Family FUNday Programs
  - ESL Programs

Hoboken Public Library Foundation

Mission: To provide long-term, stable support for the resources and services the library requires to meet the evolving educational, social, cultural, technological, and informational needs of the community.

Activities:
- Preparing a Fundraising Event to celebrate the Library’s 130th Anniversary in 2020
- Annual Appeal
- Support Reading Garden Landscaping and Maintenance
- Raise Funds for 3rd Floor Renovation

Library Finances 2019

Budget: $5,876,509

- Personnel $2,929,457
- Operations $1,748,020
- Capital Expense $563,750

Also: Successfully applied for the New Jersey Historic Trust Grant, awarded Multiphase (3) Grant in the amount of $750,000 for each phase; total award will be $2.25 million.

Architect’s rendering of renovated 3rd Floor Children’s Room
More Highlights

• Launched the “A Universe of Stories” Summer Reading Programs for Children, Teens and Adults, at June’s Library Festival in Church Square Park.

Our Festival was held concurrently with the City’s Green Fair, which transformed our two fairs into one community event.

• Launched the Adult Cultural Club, with a mix of lectures and field trips to places of interest in the area

• Continued the monthly Sunday Afternoon Concert Series

• Leveraged September’s Library Card Sign-Up Month “To Infinity and Beyond” Toy Story 4-themed Library Cards to boost sign-up of our youngest customers. These cards proved to be popular with adults, as well...

• Transformed our “mascot” – that rather stern masonry owl who sits atop our main entrance – into a undeniably cuddly new mascot, Oliver Readalot.

This 5” tall giveaway serves as an inducement to sign up for library cards.

• Began planning for events commemorating the 130th Anniversary of the founding of the “Hoboken Free Library,” now the Hoboken Public Library.

Embracing – and Improving – Technology

• Makerspace: An ongoing program that now features a Cricut machine, the latest 3D printer, a new Oculus virtual-reality viewer, and more

• Completed RFID project at the Main Library

• Purchased and prepared laptop lending kiosk for launching on January 2, 2020

• Prepared the use of self-checkout kiosk with RFID technology to be launched in 2020

• Continue expanding digital lending (eBooks, eMagazines, downloadable music, movies, and children’s selections to Kanopy)
Working with – and for – the community

• Expanded to 3 neighborhood service points: • Main Library: open 7 days; adjacent Annex 1 open weekdays for TOYBRARY and Teen Zone • Grand Street Branch (nee Pop-Up Library): open 6 days • Learning Center at HHA: open weekdays after school for children, and Saturday afternoons for adults

• Maintaining 3 Library Corners at HHA communities

• Holding library programs in the Multi-Service Center, and expanded children’s programming (including weekly Storytimes, TOYBRARY times, craft programs for teens, etc.) in the Grand Street Branch

• Presenting Children’s Story Time every month at the Fire Department Museum

• Partnering with community organizations, such as Moms Demand Action, Climate Mobilization, and the Green Team, to hold events at the library

• Shared by-ward analysis of library use with the City Council and Mayor, highlighting the how the community uses the library

Positioning for the Future

• Finished revision of the Capital Master Plan, including phased renovation of the main building at 500 Park Avenue, and possible future expansion, with conceptual designs

• Installed new phone system in all three Library sites, vastly improving internal and external communications

• Finished preparation of the 3rd floor renovation

• Finished renovation of Annex 1 (256 Fifth Street townhouse)

• Opened TOYBRARY and Teen Zone in the Ground Floor at Annex 1 (256 Fifth Street townhouse)

• Began renovation of Annex 2 (258 Fifth Street townhouse)

• Relocated Children’s Room to the First Floor in preparation for the upcoming renovation

• Relocated Administration, Marketing, IT, Maintenance staff, as well as the Children’s and Teen Librarians’ offices, to Annex 1 (256 Fifth Street townhouse)

• Continue working with the City on exploring possibility of opening an uptown branch, possibly in the former YMCA