2021 ANNUAL REPORT
A YEAR OF CHANGE, INNOVATION, AND RENOVATION
LIBRARY MISSION:
THE HOBOKEN PUBLIC LIBRARY CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH EACH OTHER, IDEAS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT LIFELONG LEARNING, PERSONAL GROWTH, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

LIBRARY BOARD:
PRESENTER: JEROME ABERNATHY
TREASURER: JOANN SERANO
SECRETARY: SUSAN MURCKO
AMANDA BLANEY
RAAKHEE MIRCHANDANI
JACK SILBERT
KURT THOENS
MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: JASON FREEMAN
BOARD SUPERINTENDENT ALTERNATE: JENNIFER EVANS
EX-OFFICIO: MAYOR RAVI BHALLA
SUPERINTENDENT: DR. CHRISTINE JOHNSON
LIBRARY DIRECTOR: JENNIE PU
RECORDING SECRETARY: CLARK MATTHEWS

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
MISSION: TO RAISE MONEY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS OF THE LIBRARY.

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.

*THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS ARE MERGING IN 2022.*
2021 BY THE NUMBERS

256,111 BOOKS, MEDIA, & DOWNLOADABLE STREAMING MATERIALS CIRCULATED

98,916 VISITORS THROUGH OUR DOORS

1,002 IN PERSON PROGRAMS: 343 VIRTUAL PROGRAMS: 659

79,752 IN PERSON PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 14,869 VIRTUAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 64,883

2,638 NEW PATRONS REGISTERED
LAUNCHED NEW CAPIRA SYSTEM, ENABLING CUSTOMERS TO PLACE CURBSIDE PICKUP REQUESTS ONLINE

FEBRUARY:

INSTALLED 24/7 SELF-SERVICE PICKUP LOCKERS AT THE GRAND STREET BRANCH

MARCH:

PARTNERED WITH LITTLE CITY BOOKS TO LAUNCH RAANKHEE MERCHANDANI’S “HAIR TWINS” BOOK; MAYOR BHALLA AND 250 OTHER GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

APRIL:

LINA PODLES, LONGTIME DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARY, RETIRED; SUMMER READING LAUNCHED; RENOVATION OF THIRD FLOOR BEGAN

JUNE:

LIBRARY SHUT DOWN TO PUBLIC FOR FOUR WEEKS FOR RENOVATION PREP WORK; OUTDOOR AND ONLINE PROGRAMS CONTINUED; CYBERCAFE OPENED ACROSS 5TH STREET FROM THE LIBRARY

JULY:

JENNIE PU STARTED AS DIRECTOR; LIBRARY REOPENED AFTER FOUR-WEEK SHUTDOWN FOR DEMOLITION

AUGUST:

ANNUAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

SEPTEMBER:

2021 HIGHLIGHTS
OCTOBER

LIBRARY FESTIVAL HELD IN CHURCH SQUARE PARK; ADMIRAL WILLIAM MCRAVEN READ HIS NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK – MAKE YOUR BED WITH SKIPPER THE SEAL – AT STORY TIME. VIDEO FEATURED ON CBS MORNING NATIONAL NEWS PROGRAM.

NOVEMBER

FINE-FREE MADE PERMANENT; BEGAN TASK-ORGANIZING THE STAFF FOR IMPROVED EFFICIENCY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH; HUDSON MEDIA/TAP’ED: STEVE LENOX WELCOMED JENNIE PU AND JP PORCARO (DIRECTOR OF THE BAYONNE PUBLIC LIBRARY) TO SPEAK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES.

DECEMBER

YOUTH SERVICES HELD A FEATURED STORY TIME AT THE HOBOKEN PUBLIC SCHOOL’S FAMILY ELA & ART NIGHT.