



# 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.**

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## **LIBRARY BOARD:**

**PRESIDENT: 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

VISITORS  
THROUGH OUR  
DOORS

98,916



1,002

IN PERSON PROGRAMS:  
343  
VIRTUAL PROGRAMS:  
659

IN PERSON  
PROGRAM  
ATTENDANCE:  
14,869  
VITRUAL PROGRAM  
ATTENDANCE:  
64,883

79,752



2,638

NEW PATRONS  
REGISTERED



**FEBRUARY:**

**LAUNCHED NEW CAPIRA SYSTEM, ENABLING CUSTOMERS TO PLACE CURBSIDE PICKUP REQUESTS ONLINE**

**MARCH:**

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

**APRIL:**

**PARTNERED WITH LITTLE CITY BOOKS TO LAUNCH RAAKHEE MERCHANDANI'S "HAIR TWINS" BOOK; MAYOR BHALLA AND 250 OTHER GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

**JUNE:**

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

**JULY:**

**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**

**AUGUST:**

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

**SEPTEMBER:**

**ANNUAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**



**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**

