

Danbury Public Library

Director: Katie Pearson

170 Main St.

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danburylibrary.org



Mission Statement:

As an essential city asset, the Danbury Library is committed to being:

- A welcoming destination
- Responsive to the varied needs of our city's diverse community
- A source of inspiration through words and ideas

Located in the heart of downtown Danbury, the Danbury Library is an integral community asset available to all residents. It is a place where people can find a quiet room for study or a venue for the spirited exchange of ideas. Within and outside of the library's walls, the Danbury Library is committed to providing learning opportunities, entertainment, and enrichment for our community.

From learning the alphabet to planning for retirement, the library offers many opportunities for personal growth. As the needs of our community evolve, the library and its staff adapt to connect people with the tools and information necessary to navigate and flourish in all phases of life.

2023-2024 Accomplishments:

- Engaged community artists of all ages with a library card design contest and selected 3 winners from over 100 entries.
- Established a seed library to provide free vegetable, flower, and herb garden seeds.
- Welcomed and provided library tours for over 900 third-grade students from Danbury Public Schools in partnership with the Danbury Museum & Historical Society
- Implemented automatic renewals for library materials and transitioned to a new event and room booking platform.
- Enhanced existing library collections with screen-free speakers and figurines for children and a new graphic novel section for adults.
- Collected non-perishable food items in place of fines to donate to the Community Action Agency of Western CT.
- Partnered with WERACE (Western Connecticut Regional Adult Education) to provide in-person English language instruction for speakers of other languages.

- Hosted the annual Holiday Craft Fair with over a dozen local artisans and crafters who showcased their talents and skills through live demonstrations.
- Hosted Western Connecticut UFO Conference which had over 20,000 in combined attendance virtually and in-person.
- Presented bestselling author talks virtually through partnership with the Library Speakers Consortium
- Received grant funding from several agencies to support library services:
 - STAR Library Education Network (SEAL) initiative which provided 500 solar eclipse glasses to city residents and supported a multitude of programs on both the partial eclipse of 2023 and the total eclipse of 2024.
 - Creative Aging in CT Libraries (\$2500) from the CT State Library and Lifetime Arts that provided funding for a series of Creative Photography classes for senior citizens from October through December 2023.
 - The library was accepted into Howard County Library System's Pathways to Success initiative that allowed 3 staff members to attend training on ways to provide better services to non-English speaking and Immigrant patrons. The initiative also provided a stipend of \$2,000 to support these services.
 - ALA's Peggy Barber Tribute Grant (\$2500) that will provide funding to start a Civic Hub within the library, expand the Civic Education collection, team up with local community organizations to host programs on civic engagement, and provide patrons passive activities to get them to engage in their community. The Danbury Library was one of three libraries in the country selected for this grant.
 - Summer Enrichment Grant provided by the Connecticut State Library and IMLS (\$2000) to provide funding for a series of programs for children entering grades 1-3 to enhance their skills for reading and math, ensuring these children will not fall into the summer slide.

2024-2025 Objectives:

- Implement Peggy Barber Civic Education and Engagement Grant
- Explore new funding opportunities for main floor renovation
- Complete new strategic plan
- Grow teen volunteer program to 50+ members
- Procure a bookmobile to allow for increased library presence at community events
- Host Third Grade visits to the library in collaboration with Danbury Museum
- Complete DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) audit of Junior Collection