THE NEW BRITAIN INSTITUTE

20 HIGH STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051



170th ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1,2022 — JUNE 30,2023

NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEW BRITAIN INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

NEW BRITAIN YOUTH MUSEUM

New Britain Institute Board Of Managers, 2022 - 2023

Officers

President: G. Geoffrey Bray
Secretary: Christie Ward
Vice President: Francis (Bud) Volz
Treasurer: Andrew McCarthy

Class of 2023 Class of 2024 Class of 2025

Gary Robinson Gilbert Gigliotti, Deidra Ierardi
Daniel Salerno Shirley Bendza Evelyn Newman Phillips
MaryAnne Kolitsidas Michele Stewart-Copes Rick Lopes

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New Britain Public Library: Michael Humen New Britain Youth Museum: Christopher LaSaracina New Britain Industrial Museum: Jonathan Scott Finance Committee: MaryAnne Kolitsidas

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The Honorable Erin E. Stewart, Mayor of New Britain Dr. Anthony Gasper, Superintendent, Consolidated School District of New Britain

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http://www.newbritaininstitute.org/

NEW BRITAIN INSTITUTE 2022 – 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"Celebrate our past, understand our present, And pioneer our future."

Having finally put the Covid 19 pandemic behind us, the Institute and its branches are forging ahead with renewed vigor to provide educational opportunities for all those in the Greater New Britain Community who are interested in pursuing new ways to enrich their lives, whether it is for learning's sake or to develop a more rewarding and satisfying career.

While the branches feature knowledge on an almost infinite number of subjects, how we learn has traditionally been through reading, writing, and listening. This year we have focused on another way: utilizing hands-on learning in our **Manufacturing Initiative** to develop new pathways for engaging students, and their parents in hands-on learning opportunities in the diverse field of manufacturing. Funding for the initial two-year program is in the works due to the efforts of **Board Member** and **State Senator Rick Lopes** and **David Obedzinski** at the **Community Foundation of Greater New Britain**

When central Connecticut was the center of manufacturing excellence and innovation, it was manufacturing that built our community, but over the decades interest waned as more and more work went overseas and apprenticeship programs withered away. Well, through the perseverance of local manufacturers and the innovations brought about by the computer age, manufacturing has merged with modern technology, artificial intelligence and cloud computing demanding a coordinated approach between business and education, starting even as early as middle school. Just as school systems have identified athletes at a young age for years, now the **Consolidated School District of New Britain** is now identifying students with hands-on learning capabilities and developing programs for them at the High School with their **Manufacturing Academy.**

To pursue the initiative, we formed a committee with **Dee Babkirk** of the **Greater NB Chamber of Commerce, Sondra Sanford** at **CSDNB, Randy Judd** at the **NB Industrial Museum, Paulette Fox** at **OIC, and Jennifer Lubee** at **Okay industries**. Our goal is to identify educational programs needed to focus on the skills today's manufacturers need which can partner with after school and summer apprentice programs, to not only meet present career opportunities but those necessary to help business grow. At the same time we want to make educators, students and manufacturers aware of the need to preserve the extensive history of manufacturing in central Connecticut, while also expanding the **NB Industrial Museum's** collection by gaining the support of today's educators and manufacturers to display current products and patents for posterity.

I came across a pertinent quote from **Benjamin Franklin** who wrote:

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

Erica Phillips in a February 2023 *Hartford Courant* article called the resurgence of manufacturing in New England as the **4**th **Industrial Revolution.** Governor Ned Lamont named New Britain native **Colin Cooper** as **Connecticut's first Chief Manufacturing Officer** back in October of 2019 because the state finally realized that the economy needs to be built upon the production of goods and not just services. Over time **Paul LaVoie** has stepped into an expanded role working within the Department of Economic & Community Development with Commissioner **Alexandra Daum.** The state is now helping companies afford to develop apprenticeship programs and advancements in manufacturing technology which, in turn, has led to the resurgence of industrial production after decades of decline and outsourcing.

Our Manufacturing Initiative committee is looking to build upon what **NB High School**, with the support of **Jason Howey**, **CEO of Okay Industries**, has started. Through out-of-the-box thinking to develop additional concepts which could expand into higher ed programs. We are interested in working with local college degree programs which focus on advanced engineering needs of manufacturers. Ultimately, I would like this to be the subject of the **New Britain Institute's** next round table discussion / lecture. Stay tuned.

So, what else has been happening you ask? The Institute has been instrumental in working with Pat Rutkowski, director of the NB Public Library to restore the terra cotta and brick masonry on the exterior of the 1901 Erwin Building (the reason the building has been covered by scaffolding since early spring); replaced all the flooring throughout the entire first floor (some of which has been in place since 1975); and lastly to replace the antiquated HVAC system controls. The last two items were paid for using HUD Block Grants, supported and administered by the City of New Britain and Mayor Erin Stewart.

The **New Britain Youth Museum** continued to build their endowment and expand operations under the leadership of **Director Tom Pascocello** who has directed his recent efforts to updating programs at the downtown site to focus on STEM learning. At Hungerford, he shifted into high gear with the renovation of much of the facility, (especially the kitchen through HUD Block Grants, again through the City and Mayor's office), as well as finishing the new "barnyard" to better and more safely accommodate their collection of animals; and building a new courtyard terrace for outside programs and events.

In the midst of all this activity, Tom decided to retire after spending the past five years resurrecting all aspects of the operation, both physical facilities and programs. I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to **Tom Pascocello** and wish him the very best. **Tami Christopher** has now replaced him and inherits a museum in a far better state. We are confident that Tami will continue to raise the bar in all aspects of the **NB Youth Museum** operation.

The New Britain Institute has been instrumental in continuing to help the NB Industrial Museum raise the money necessary to fund and renovate a more permanent home sufficient not only to exhibit much of what they already have collected for posterity, but also that which they hope to include from other collectors as well as the products of today's manufacturers. We have also provided very preliminary design studies to show how the 100-year-old manufacturing building might be adaptively reused as a museum.

The potential building project is part of a larger grant application made to the **State of Connecticut's Community Investment Fund** through **Jack Benjamin**, **the Director of Economic Development for the City of New Britain** with the full support of **Mayor Erin Stewart**.

Since the **NB Institute's Board of Managers** has term limits, I would like to acknowledge those members that are cycling off. Thank you, **Danny Salerno** for his six years of loquacious service which most definitely helped the Institute work almost seamlessly with the **City of New Britain**, now in our 122 nd year of serving New Britain as a quasi-public-private enterprise for the betterment of all within our community.

I would also like to thank **MaryAnn Kolitsidas**, whom I featured last year when she stepped down as treasurer but stayed on this year to help **Andrew McCarthy** transition into such an important role. Her contributions over the past quarter of a century are way too numerous to list, but not be so brief as to not offer her the highest praise.

None of the three branches could have given all they do to the community without their directors: **Pat Rutkowski** who has spent a lifetime making the **Library** all that it can be to essentially be our Community Center; **Tom Pascocello**, who over five short years reinvigorated the **Youth Museum**, moving it forward in leaps and bounds; and **Randy Judd** who, besides being the past president of the **Industrial Museum**, continues to serve not only as its treasurer, volunteer part-time director, but also as the unflinching dreamer of the day the museum moves into a new home sufficient to preserve and display New Britain's Industrial Heritage.

As I have closed my previous addresses, I am appreciative of the chance to serve as only the 20th president of the New Britain Institute in its 170 years history, and, as always with your help, will continue to strive to make New Britain a better-educated and curious community.

Respectfully,

G. Geoffrey Bray President

NEW BRITAIN INSTITUTE TREASURER'S REPORT June 30, 2023

Investments were valued at \$3,148,695 for the Library Fund, \$416,712 for the Youth Museum Fund, \$127,806 for the Industrial Museum fund, and \$325,785 for the Industrial Museum Building Fund totaling \$4,018,998 as of June 30, 2023 as compared to \$3,539,405 on June 30, 2022.

The Institute maintains a checking account to pay administrative expenses and common expenses benefiting all entities. The balance in this account on June 30, 2023 was \$36,137.14 as compared to \$43,777.26 at June 30, 2022.

The investment funds earned dividends and interest of \$223,243 recognized losses of \$16,399, and unrealized gains of \$133,740 for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

The Institute embarked on a campaign to increase the endowment. The Institute received \$4,888 of donations from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Total donations received since fundraising began (December 2017) through June 30, 2023 amounted to \$38,101 and total expenses incurred to date are \$5,605.

The Library received \$3,630 from the EH Case Trust for the full year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Expenses totaling \$30,781 were paid on behalf of the Library for investment fees.

Expenses totaling \$4,049 were paid on behalf of the Youth Museum for investment fees.

Expenses totaling \$1,694 were paid on behalf of the Industrial Museum for investment fees.

Administrative expenses of \$14,656 were paid out of institute funds for directors' insurance, audit fees, fees for preparing personal property tax return, bookkeeping, and annual report and other operating expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew McCarthy, Treasurer





NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

Our successes were many. The year was impacted with a few major disruptions and challenges. Although library usage has not yet returned to where it was pre-pandemic, it continued to increase steadily, throughout the year with some areas showing great increases. Patron visits increased by 16%. The downloadable collection usage increased by 29%. There was a 16% increase in visits to the Teen Room and 125% increase of program attendance. Adult programming attendance increased by 15%.

The Hive Makerspace celebrated its first year anniversary of opening (August 11). In its first full year, over 2,000 creators and makers used the room. Creative workshops included digitization day, 3d pen design, laser engraving marshmallows, crocheting and jewelry making. The expanded use of social media posts successfully promoted the service.

The last of library services, impacted by the pandemic, were restored. In Children's Services, a number of toys, removed during the pandemic, were returned to the public area for use at the beginning of the year, to the delight of both kids and parents. Board games were, once again, available in the Teen Room. Class visits returned to Children's. In December, kindergarten classes returned to regularly visiting the Jefferson Branch to borrow items. Children's Services resumed outreach programs to Vance and Lincoln Kindergartens. In May, we held the last of the COVID vaccine clinics, brought to us by HRA and Griffin Hospital, as funding for the clinics ended.

Children's introduced a new collection, Wonderbooks - books that read to you. Each book has a Read-Along/Sing-Along mode and a learning mode to extend the use of the story. A total of 48 Wonderbooks were checked out in October. They have proved to be quite popular. Adult Services added a new monthly spice kit program. Each month, a new spice kit is introduced for patrons to take home. The kit includes the spice, along with easy-to-follow recipe instructions.

Disruption and challenges: the Baker & Taylor outage, the loss of internet at the main library, and the carpet project. In August of 2022, the major library distributor and our primary vendor of library materials, Baker and Taylor, was targeted in a ransomware attack. The company was fully down for several weeks. There were additional small outages over the next few months as they worked to strengthen their systems. The result was a shortage of new materials for about a full month. Due to these issues, another distributor, Ingram, was added to serve as a backup.

In January, we experienced a major disruption. The network was down for the majority of the month. Not only did it affect services to the public, staff work was impacted as well. Much of our library processes depend on technology and the internet. The outage had a ripple effect across departments and disrupted the ability to work and offer services, such as computers, scanning, faxing, WIFI, cataloging, ordering, circulation functions and virtual programming. Makerspace equipment, Cricut, Glowforge, 3D printer and media conversion, were unavailable

as they rely on the Internet. Staff pulled together and brainstormed to keep as many services running with resourcefulness and responded to the challenge. Each department improvised methods to get the work done. Help came in many ways. The Main Library staff redirected patrons, to the Jefferson Branch for computer use, printing or to register for a library card. They also directed people to sign up for a library card online. A neighboring library gave our residents short term library cards. Literacy Volunteers offered the use of their computers and Wi-Fi for staff. The branch saw an increase in computer use, printing and patrons. Circulation and Computer Center staff were sent to the branch to help out as many of the main library patrons visited that location for the internet and printing. The branch remained open during lunch in order to provide services but returned to lunchtime closing in February. Circulation and Technical Services staff went to the branch to do their work. Circulation staff checked in main library returns. Staff and maintenance shipped materials to Jefferson to fulfill patron requests which were then shipped back to the main library for patrons to pick up. Technical services cataloged and entered new materials (periodicals. fiction and non-fiction) at the Jefferson branch. They ordered items using a laptop and hotspot set up at the Information Desk. In reaching out to the Mayor's office, the NB IT staff was sent to assist us and addressed the outage issues which included equipment replacement and repair of the fiber connection. Cameras at the front and back public entries were installed at this time. There was plenty of catchup to do when the internet was restored.

The carpet project started with the removal of furniture and shelving in Children's on May 17th, closing Children's Services for the remainder of the month and re-opening in June. As all the furniture and shelving was moved and stored in the Magazine Room and adjoining hallway, the entire area was closed to the public for the duration of the project. Adult programs were juggled when the schedule shifted. The security gates were removed from the front lobby area and Children's Services. The main library was closed to the public for one week (June 11-18) as the areas of the Checkout and Information Desks, the Computer Center and the Media Room were done. We offered curbside pickup, telephone and printing services. Circulation staff provided forty-nine curbside pick-ups during the week. The hall at the public entries was re-carpeted was done at this time. The closure gave staff the opportunity to start shifting the fiction section, as additional shelving was added. Full services were available at the branch while we were closed. The re-opening was a bit bumpy, as key services were not completely in place but the carpeting looked amazing. Returning patrons were full of compliments. Vinyl flooring was installed in the makerspace at the end of the month. The project was completed ahead of schedule. Subsequently, the project impacted library statistics greatly. Despite all the disruptions caused by the carpet project and schedule changes of the installation, staff adapted, rearranged programs and delivered services creatively.

Hours were added to the Teen Room schedule. Previously opened on school days at 2:00 until library closing, the room is now opened during all library hours. It is staffed during the

afternoons and evenings. With the new schedule, patrons are able to the use room and access its collection.

The Adult Services Department tackled a major project, weeding of the reference collection, which resulted in the removal of all the free-standing shelves, in anticipation of the carpet project. Technical Services was very busy with the removal of the weeded items from the catalog. The database, Creativebug, was discontinued due to consistently low usage over a two-year period and in anticipation of adding two new databases in the next fiscal year.

Teen Services added virtual reality in September. The Meta Quest (formally Oculus Quest) VR headset has proven to be one of the Teen Room's most popular offerings, along with the Nintendo Switch. There was 246 uses of the headset, September – June.

Services provided to patrons who are homebound and unable to get to the library on their own multiplied during the year. Seven new patrons were added, bringing the total to fifteen, with 45 deliveries.

Technical Services converted the existing Amazon account to a business account. We were able to add on Prime benefits thanks to our membership in the CT Library Consortium.

Mayor Stewart held a successful mobile office—outside the makerspace in January. She returned in June to check out the new carpeting which was funded by Community Block Development Grant (CBDG).

Nancy Johnson, former US Representative and her husband Ted, came for a visit and tour of the Makerspace. She has had long time connections with the library and the Friends of the Library, as one of the original founders of the Friends.

With difficulties with isolved, the HR/payroll system we use, we looked into a different system, Paylocity. Staff began training and implementation. There were many issues and the process was halted with a decision to remain with the present system.

We were busy building community connections. Staff was at Main Street USA, Senior Center Disabilities Fair, and HRA's Open House. They were readers in United Way's campaign, Read Across America and Read for the Record, were at the New Britain Back to School Bash at Walnut Hill Park and tabled at a Neighborhood Housing of Greater NB event. Children's Services collaborated with JumpStart, a member of the AmeriCorps national service network, based at CCSU. College students read stories and did crafts with kids at the library. Staff visited schools to promote the summer reading club and programs. Children's staff talked to 1,970 kids in 51 classes. Jefferson Branch staff visited 3 classes and spoke to 50 kids.

Outreach included Halloween Trivia at Arbor Rose, a New Britain Berlin Rotary meeting ending with a tour of the makerspace, the City's NB Juneteenth Celebration, Arts in the Park, and the Farmers' Market where staff shared information on the many services available at the library as well as sharing that the library is fine free.

Teen Librarian, Brett, was busy making community connections, promoting programs and materials. He attended the Unity Fest at NBHS. There was music, and food trucks, and to conclude the ceremony, the school raised a pride flag. He visited Pulaski Middle School, met with the NBHS Librarian, had a NBHS Student Activity Center walk through, and met Heather Mills, Director of Pathways Senderos. Pathways has received a grant to be used for visits and materials to add to Teen Services. CREC came to visit the Teen Room.

Programming and services exploded with new, old and popular programs. Annual events were celebrated, with special activities: National Library Week, Library Workers Day, Library Card Sign Up Month and Take Your Child to the Library Day. Story Walk, co-sponsored with the Consolidated School District of New Britain, returned. This year's book was *Digging for Words: Jose Alberto Gutierrez and the Library He Built*. It was the first time the story was displayed in English and Spanish.

For the 2nd year, in collaboration with New Britain Roots, we offered a community seed library collection which offered a variety of seeds along with their growing information for borrowers to plant in their gardens. The New Britain Symphony performed a live concert, in our Community Room, for the first time since the pandemic struck, playing the Beatles.

NEH funds were designated for a several session photography program, Cityscape Photo Project, which would culminate in the next year with two murals composed of photos taken and contributed by community residents.

Programming included Author's Teas for kids, Easter Egg Hunt, Science Saturday, Tie Dye Tees, Chinese Acrobat, 1 on 1 Computer Tech Help, Meditation, Cheese Tasting, Chess Club, Lawyers in the Library, Investigating Your Home's History, Trivia Nights, Open Mic Night, Skin Care Bingo, Cupcake Wars, Oreo Taste Test, Teen Advisory Board, Anime Club, Teen Gaming, American Spirituals, UFOs, League of Women Voters and Legislators, book groups, magic shows, Iwo Jima Survivor's History, NBHS Musical Preview, the Drive-thru Trick-or-Treat for kids in the library parking lot and lots and lots of story times.

There was plenty of creating in the makerspace. Programs included: Holiday Ornaments, Digitization, Pisanki eggs, Gnome Ornament, Terra Cotta Pot Design, Mug Design, Tinkercad 3D Model Design, Laser Cut Jewelry, Luminaries, Bookmarks, Suncatchers, Wreaths, Personalized Chalkboards, 3d printing, Cricut and Glowforge demos, and lots of button making.

Artist, Mina (Karimian) Careswell, who designed and painted the mural in 2002, of favorite children's storybook characters, in Children's, returned. She painted over the character from the book, *The Five Chinese Brothers*, and replaced it with Pete the Cat from the wildly popular book series. This was in response to a library visitor's complaint that this character could be offensive.

And we wrapped up the year in June with the annual Summer Bash with a variety of fun activities to encourage summer reading and the library's summer reading clubs for every age. Griffin Health provided a vaccine clinic with the newly released pediatric vaccine and Harley, the llama, enthralled

all. The llama's visit at the branch was a bit more exciting as the llama escaped twice, making its way up to Slater Road, but successfully returned with the trainer.

This is just a part of the year's story. So much more went on that it would take a multi chapter book to report it all. We made it through the year and have jumped headfirst and furiously into the new fiscal year. The last fiscal year was busy. Staff managed the challenges and disruptions well. We've served our community well and we should be very proud of all that we have accomplished and offered. Job well done staff!

Statistics at a glance (previous year is in parenthesis)

- The main_library was opened 292 (295) days. The branch was opened 248 (249) days.
- We had 9,774 (9,765) card holders.
- 230,354 (237,030) items were checked out (3% decrease).
- There were 136,827 (117,583) patron visits (16% increase).
- Staff answered 44,438 (44,438) informational and reference questions.
- Total circulation of the downloadable collection (Overdrive/Hoopla) was 20,631(16,029). Overdrive checkouts were 16,671 (14,347) by 3,266 (2,907) users, including 3,803 (4,099) checkouts of Advantage titles. Hoopla had 3,960 (1,682) checkouts by 1,268 (674) users with 243 (376) new users added during the year. The downloadable collection saw a (29 % increase).
- Makerspace had 2,001 visitors making and creating, for its first year
- Web page visits: 51,580 (52,803).
- 45 (85) deliveries were made to homebound patrons and nursing homes.
- Computers were used 17,367 (19,318) times.
- Our collection of 19 museum passes were borrowed 215 (141) times with the New Britain Museum of American Art pass, again, being the most popular pass borrowed. (53% increase).
- We offered 638 (426) programs which were attended by 13,236 (17,043) people.
- Our collection is comprised of 204,871 (207,735) items. Items added 12,673 (13,759). Items withdrawn: 15,956 (14,791).

Staffing Changes

Adult Services:

New: Rachel Szostek (Programming Librarian), Amal Zubeidy, (Makerspace LTA pt), Anthony Maldonado (Makerspace Library Assistant pt), Brett Garabedian (Teen Librarian)
Resignations: Amanda Vincent (Makerspace LTA pt), Emily Mulvey (YA Librarian)

Children's Services

-New: John Olis (Library Aide)

-Resignations: Audrey Carman (Librarian), Isara Collins (Library Aide).

Circulation Department

- -New: Greg Stefanko (Library Assistant pt), Caroline Bracero-Valentin (Library Aide) promotion (Library Assistant pt), Alyson Simmons (Library Aide).
- -Resignations: Emily Berardino (Circulation Supervisor), Catherine Demetro (Library Assistant pt), Paige Casey (Library Assistant pt)

Technical Services

-New: Megan Thompson, promotion (Technical Services Manager), Bryan Gomez (Computer Technician).

Teen Services

-New: Brett Garabedian, promotion (Teen Librarian), Lolade Phillips (Library Assistant pt).

Fundraising, Grants and Gifts

- Evelyn Berg Bequest \$2,964.28
- Friends of the Library grant \$18,000.
- Barbara Becker Fund (Friends) \$500.
- Carolyn Aston Consolidated Fund of First Church of Christ \$8,000
- Sage Fund \$5,200
- Greta Rogers Cook Fund \$2,318.00
- Naples Family Fund \$1,500
- Gerald & Katherine Tullai \$1,200
- Raytheon Technologies Charity (J. Whalen) \$720.00
- Jeannette C. Varkal Fund \$500

Pat Rutkowski Director

NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Patricia Rutkowski, Library Director Marian Farley, Assistant Director Beth Iacampo, Human Resources Manager Adam Howes, Administrative Assistant Andrea Caldwell, Bookkeeper

CIRCULATION

Circulation Supervisor, vacant

Vicki Aiudi Sue Atwood

Carolyn Bracero-Valentin

Kristina Farina Joseph Feliciano Chloe Santana Rosa Santana

Alyson Simmons

Gregory Stefanko

Lucy Werkheiser,

JEFFERSON BRANCH

Kathleen Holly, Branch Supervisor Norma Bisson Ava DePietro

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Megan Thompson, Head of Technical Services Louise Courchaine Bryan Gomez Janet Picano Kiera Wojtaszek

ADULT SERVICES REFERENCE

Christopher Larson, Head of Adult Services
Danielle Berube, Assistant Head of Adult Services
Vanessa Ayala
Crystal Casey
Christina Ehnot
Janize Hernandez
Anthony Maldonado
Legna Melendez
Bryan Morris
Jennifer Ohlund
Rachel Szostek
Jason Villani
Amaly Zubeidy

YOUNG ADULT

Brett Garabedian, Young Adult Supervisor Lolade Phillips Mahogany Rich

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Amy Litke, Head of Children's Services Aneesa Aviles Martha Baylock JoAnn Bostrom Catherine Cheney John Olis Melody Roman Abreu Stephen Woshinsky

MAINTENANCE

Todd Amoroso Ernesto Baez Thomas Dumais

ANNUAL REPORT of

The NEW BRITAIN INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM - 2022-2023

The New Britain Industrial Museum's mission is to collect, preserve and exhibit to the general public examples of industrial artifacts representative of the ingenuity and creativeness of generations of Hardware City people in a continuing effort both to insure awareness of their past productivity and to inspire future industrial accomplishment.

STORAGE MIRACLE



The New Shelving Arrives – Much Work Remains to do



New Shelving Waiting for the Collection!

This fiscal year, thanks to support from **the Robert C. Vance Foundation** and **Connecticut Humanities**, we made great strides in improving our storage facility. This work was critical because we had only limited shelving that was neither high enough nor of sufficient depth and quantity to take advantage of our space. The museum was overcrowded and collection items could not be organized in an efficient and accessible manner.

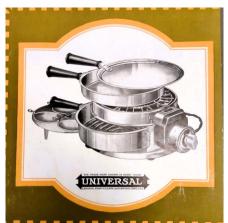
Now we have optimized our use of the storage room and have some room to spare. Because there were many collection items that had to be moved, stored elsewhere, and then moved again, and frequently once more to a final (for now) spot, this was a challenging project. We Salute the board members and volunteers who made it a success.

The entire board participated in choosing the correct type and quantity of shelving, so this was very much a group effort. Two board members who deserve special recognition are **Alan Martin** and **Dave Sadlowski**. Alan drew up the plan/layout for the

completely reconfigured space, and kept an eye on things to make sure nothing went awry. This is what is typically the job of an architect.

Dave was our project manager. He kept things moving and made day-to-day decisions and was a problem solver when things didn't work exactly as planned. Dave was also in charge of the rubber hammer. This is the key tool for shelf assembly, and he was King.

COLLECTION MIRACLE CONTINUES



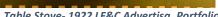




Table Stove- 1922 LF&C Advertisg. Portfolio Stanley Magic Door Posts-Raymond Patent



R&E "Emigrant" Rimlock - 1858

In furtherance of our mission, the Museum continues to add to its collection every week, every month and every year. Really, the miracle is that New Britain invented, improved and produced so many varied products. While it seems an endless challenge to learn about and assemble the MANY histories that are involved, we here feel lucky to be able to chase after this immense story and present anew these marvelous things to the public.

A small sampling of the rare and wonderful additions in the 2022-23 fiscal year include

- ASSA-ABLOY, in thanks for our help in setting up a historical display in their Berlin plant, donated a rare 1858 Russell & Erwin Rimlock – the Emigrant – pictured above.
- New Britain Machine Equal Blow Saw Clamp 1900 [Museum Purchase]
- Collection of very rare letters from Gerald W. Hart family acquired from Patricia Hart Johnston, related to Gerald's employ at American Electric Co. [1880-84].
- Waterbury Farrell cold header machine: donated by Craig Wiker Craig contacted us from Michigan and was so excited to give this 19th century machine a good home that he loaded it into his pick-up truck and with wife as navigator, delivered it straight to our storage facility – We will long remember the Wiker's limitless enthusiasm and generosity toward our City.

- Landers F&C eight inch thick portfolio of Landers Frary & Clark 1920's advertising campaign. The table stove pictured above is just one of at least eighty images taken from that collection.
- A very rare Russell & Erwin table scale, circa 1875.
- A Thomson-Houston light bulb, circa 1892, manufactured pursuant to patents taken by famous inventor Elihu Thomson while he worked in New Britain. This light bulb will be featured in our upcoming exhibit on the American Electric Co.

And we received countless other precious donations too numerous to list here. By the way, many of these New Britain objects were produced in our factories by parents or grand-parents, or great-grand parents of the donors.

Museum Blog Action

You will find blog articles written by our curator/blog editor **Riza Brown** on the NBIM website and shared on Facebook. These include the histories of Cremo Brewing and patents/patent law, and biographical articles about George M. Landers, Charles Hamilton, and Martha Parsons. Also look for posts about the NB Industrial Sports League, which generated quite a bit of buzz (several people were able to identify parents and grandparents in the team photos!), Mary Dixon Kies, Bernadotte Loomis, etc.

In March -Women's History Month - insider Magazine cited Riza's 2021 article about inventor Sarah Boone, which gave us a significant boost in web traffic to our website and Facebook page. Searches for Sarah Boone remain in our top five web traffic drivers for the year. (Our top drivers are direct searches for the museum, followed by searches for Fafnir and LF&C.)

In October, the **Western Bay Museum in Katikati, Aotearoa/New Zealand** contacted us for information about a Landers toaster in their collection, which Riza posted about on Facebook to illustrate how global New Britain's reach has been. **Please follow the action at www.nbindustrial.org!**

Some other Important Local Events We Joined or Sponsored

August 2022	Back to School bash in Walnut Hill Park
September 2022	Downtown Car Show
October 2022	Halloween
November 2022	Unveiling the Buffalo Bill Pistol Bit –
	Guest Speaker Dexter Fellows (Erv Dworkin)
January 2023	Tour of the MET Academy at NBHigh School
February 2023	Sister City Visitors – Atsagi, Japan
May 2023	CT Humanities Archival Collection Assessment
June 2023	Connecticut Open House Day
June 2023	NBIM Annual Meeting at the Elks Lodge







Erv Dworkin with B.Bill Pistol Bit



Halloween



Sister City Atsugi Japan Visitors

Picture Credits: Roger Thorin

Warmest thanks to our Docents and Program Volunteers:

[in random order]

Without Their Help Our Museum Could NOT Exist

Bill Paris Roger Thorin Conrad Ekstrom Allen Nelson David Sadlowski Karen Hudkins Margery Chase Randy Judd Julie Dyson Riza Brown Alan Martin Betsy Bradley

We are Pleased to Announce that the Recipient of the 2022-23 Volunteer of the year award is **BETSY BRADLEY**

Thank You to the Board of Directors 2022-2023

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We salute our board! You ALL provided essential advice, time, efforts and moral support for the many important tasks that we accomplished over the past year.





CCSU-Engineers-visit Apr18-2023-takenBy Prof. Michele Dischino

NEW BRITAIN INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED, JUNE 30, 2023

	INDECTRICTER	TEMPORARILY	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	<u>TOTAL</u>
Contributions	\$ 28,557	\$354,648	\$383,205
Grants	10,718	2,650	
Memberships	4,408	2,030	13,368 4,408
Sales	554		4,408 554
Investment income	38	14,901	14,939
Unrealized gain on investments	50	20,523	•
Net assets released from restrictio	ns <u>19,887</u>	(<u>19,887</u>)	20,523
Total support and revenues	64,162	<u></u>	426 007
EXPENDITURES		_312,033	436,997
Rent and storage	18,600		18,600
Telephone and internet	2,789		2,789
Electricity	2,596		2,789
Insurance	1,319		1,319
Promotion and advertising	75		75
Meeting expense	250		250
Fundraising expense	591		591
Postage	708		708
Volunteers	261		261
Dues	90		90
Office supplies	846		846
Depreciation	6,974		6,974
Professional services	2,456		2,456
Exhibit expenses	4,050		4,050
Maintenance	491	***	491
Membership cultivation	543		543
Outside contract services	11,408		11,408
Investment/administrative expense	•	2,091	2,091
Wages	8,880	2,001	8,880
Taxes	643		643
Realized loss on investments		15,770	<u> 15,770</u>
Total expenditures	63,570	$\frac{17,861}{1}$	81,431
			<u> </u>
Increase in net assets	592	354,974	355,566
Net assets at beginning of year	32,577	282,756	315,333
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 33,169</u>	<u>\$637,730</u>	<u>\$670,899</u>

New Britain Youth Museum and Hungerford Nature Center



Annual Report
2022-2023

Hungerford Nature Center 191 Farmington Ave., Kensington, CT 06037 (860) 827-9064 New Britain Youth Museum 30 High Street, New Britain, CT 06051 (860) 225-3020

A letter from the President and

Executive Director

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Shivani Kapadia Youth Museum Guest Services

Debbie Ladd

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Adam Marzi

Animal Care Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and Educator

Sage Meehan

Membership Coordinator and Nature Center Guest Services

Jason PepinAnimal Care and Programs

Robert Ramsey
Animal Care and Educator

Nicole Sidwell Educator

Donna Veach
Development and Marketing

The New Britain Youth Museum and Hungerford Nature Center have experienced another year of exciting change and expansion. We are thrilled to announce that The New Britain Youth Museum was awarded Best Youth Activity and the Hungerford Nature Center was awarded Best Camp in the 2023 New Britain Herald's Reader Poll! We are grateful to the continued partnership and generous support from the City of New Britain and a number of community organizations and businesses and our dedicated team of volunteers and staff!

We also give a very thankful goodbye and best wishes to Executive Director, Tom Pascocello. Tom rejuvenated spaces at both the Youth Museum and the Nature Center and was very active in building relationships and securing funding from a number of supporters. Membership and visitation expanded under his leadership.

We also welcome Dr. Tami Christopher as Executive Director. A CT native, Tami earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and has several years of successful non-profit leadership experience with the CT River Museum, Middlesex Community College, Maine State Museum, and CT Museum for Culture and History. She is focused on building community partnerships and educational programming while strengthening our financial position and ensuring our organization is a great place to work.

At the downtown Youth Museum, we saw exponential growth in attendance and membership. We welcomed many first time visitors as well as numerous repeat visitors supported by the generous Connecticut Summer at the Museum Program. We responded by adding Wednesday hours for guests to enjoy the interactive indoor and outdoor exhibits.

The Hungerford Nature Center continued to grow in visitation and membership. New and returning visitors commented on the variety of nature and education based activities available to them including our trails, gardens, playscape and indoor and outdoor live animal exhibits.

Overall, community organization outreach, educational programs, and special programs expanded throughout the year. In particular, a new homeschool program, Birthday Parties program, and Summer Nature Camp were very popular. Special events including our Annual Auction were successful and our Pumpkin Palooza brought over 1000 visitors to the Nature Center within the span of two days!

Both locations saw an increase in participation and visitation in almost every category that we track. This would not have been possible without the continued support of the City of New Britain, American Savings Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, Connecticut Humanities, as well as the dedicated staff and volunteers and many other groups and individuals that support our goal of becoming one of the leading environmental and recreational destinations in Connecticut.

Christopher LaSaracina, President

With N. Warmin

Thank You To Our Volunteers

In my over 30 years of being part of the New Britain Youth Museum and Hungerford Nature Center, I have seen many changes. Improvements and refinements have always been completed to better serve the local, and sometimes not so local, community. Each new director brings their own special way of moving Hungerford forward while looking back at its long history in Kensington. I am happy to say I will continue to volunteer at events and programs to bring the nature center into the 21st century. - Cathy

"I enjoy working with all of the animals and learning about them." - Julia

"I love everything about this place. It's important to me to make sure all of the birds are well cared for and feel loved - Lisa

"I 've been here for a long time and its great to see all of the positive changes over the years." - Sara

"I like feeding and taking care of the barn animals the most. I plan to work in this field after I finish school." - Audrey

I have been volunteering at the Hungerford Nature Center for many years. The last several years it has seen a great many changes, all for the better. The dedication of the administration and staff makes H an exemplary example of how a small not-for-profit museum can benefit the surrounding communities. The small part I play in making Hungerford a safe and happy destination for families is a source of pride. The work I and the other volunteers do contributes to the overall "family" feel of Hungerford. I hope I can continue contributing for many years to come. - Jean

Local Organizations that Support Animal Care through Volunteers

CLIMB

Lyman Hall High School VOAG

Berlin High School INTERACT

Southington VOAG

M.A.R.C.

Portland Public Schools

Animal Care Volunteers

Lisa Kaley

Sara Evangeline

Sue Julia

Justin Audrey

Elijah Esmerelda

Special Event Volunteers

Kelly Boyle David Ottavi

Melissa Meehan Nancy Gould

Cathy Meehan Jean Larson

Ken Meehan Sara Putala

Karie Ottavi Loretta Putala

Interested in Volunteering?

Please call for more information: (860) 827-9064 or Email info@NBYMHNC.org

Year in Review

Summer Camp

Summer Camp was an overwhelming success! Enrollment increased. Children and caregivers appreciated the nature focus and abundance of outdoor time. Our entire staff contributed to summer camp in some way whether it was preparing materials for crafts: playing games with campers, overseeing our extensive landscaping and trails, providing educational programming, or registering families. We were awarded the "Best Camp" by New Britain Herald readers! Thank you to all that supported this wonderful experience for our youth and families.

Birthday Parties

The Hungerford Nature Center began to highlight and market an affordable birthday party program for families. These parties included the use of a birthday party room for 2 hours and featured a live animal program. Birthday party attendees were welcomed to spend the whole day at the Nature Center after their program concluded.

This new offering continues to be very popular spread quickly through word of mouth. In the future this program will be expanded to the Downtown Youth Museum.

Special Events

The Pumpkin Palooza was a huge success. Over 300 carved pumpkins lined our trails and welcomed over 1000 people.

Our successful Holiday Auction was held November 19th at the Shuttle Meadow Country Club,

Membership

Our membership continues to grow. Members receive access to both locations as well as free or discounted admission to museums and nature centers as part of the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA), American Horticulture Society (AHS), Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums (ROAM), North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM) and Association of Science – Technology Center (ASTC).

Educational Programs and Classes

Nature School proved to be very popular. It was offered on two week-day mornings for children ages 3 to 5 with their caregivers. Families experienced a variety of animal and nature related topics through hands-on science experiments, crafts, songs, and movement. A weekly drop-in story time was held at Hungerford that included a live animal presentation and craft.

Our homeschool program was introduced and was a hit! It focused on STEAM as well as a offering a special class on animal caregiving.

At the Youth Museum, two full classes for young children were held each Friday. In these classes, children engaged with several age-appropriate science projects, literature, and school readiness concepts.

New Britain Youth Museum

We were voted "Best Youth Activity" by New Britian Herald readers! We continued to update exhibits as well as indoor and outdoor spaces with the generosity of the American Savings Foundation and other partners. Interactive educational exhibits were refreshed inside and in our outdoor courtyard

Attendance continued to increase, through general visitation, membership, and through special programming delivered on the revitalized second floor. Numerous visitors indicated that the Youth Museum was a place where they could "relax," "spend quality time" with their children, and connect with other parents and caregivers.



By the Numbers

NEW BRITAIN YOUTH MUSEUM STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2023

Assets		Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Assets			Current Liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$292,553		Amounts due to related party	\$ 1,341
Investments	466,712		Accounts payable	3,325
Inventory	060		Accrued taxes and expenses	<u>38,573</u>
Inventory	<u>960</u>		Total Current Liabilities	43,239
Total Current Assets		760,225	New Assets	
Property and Equipment			Unrestricted net assets	329,095
Building improvements	\$260,666		Board Designated net assets	<u>25,256</u>
Furniture and equipment	131,900		Total Unrestricted Net Assets	354,351
Less accumulated depreciation (238,938)			Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>516,263</u>
Total Property and Equipment		<u>153,628</u>	Total Net Assets	<u>870,614</u>
Total Assets		\$913,853	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$913,853</u>

TEMPORARIES

		TEMPORARILY	
OUDDODT AND DEVELO	UNRESTRICTED	_RESTRICTED	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUES			
City of New Britain	\$377,000	\$	\$377,000
Contributions	42,055		42,055
Grants		143,958	143,958
Program income	126,373		126,373
Memberships	23,968		23,968
Special events	21,369		21,369
Gift shop sales	1,768		1,768
Investment income		24,188	24,188
Unrealized gain on investments		13,153	13,153
Insurance proceeds	5,415		5,415
Net assets released from restrictions		(_170,754)	0,410
		(<u>110,104</u>)	
Total Support and Revenues	_768,702	<u>10,545</u>	779,247
• •			110,241
EXPENDITURES			
Program services	400,667		400,667
Management and general	148,234		148,234
Loss on investments		188	188
Net assets transferred to restrictions	42,869	(<u>42,869</u>)	100
	12,000	(
Total Expenditures	591,770	(42,681)	_549,089
		(_049,009
Increase in Net Assets	176,932	53,226	230,158
		00,220	200,100
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	177,419	463,037	640,456
			<u> </u>
Net Assets at End of Year	\$354,351	\$516,263	\$870,614
		7.7.01=00	\$310,017

73 I Pre-School Students 163 Homeschool Students Storytime and Nature Walk

Drop Ins 67I

20 New Britain Off Site programs, reaching 647 students.

I,658 Students visited the Hungerford Nature Center School as part of a School Group

> 2,705 Children visited

1,425 People attended Special Events.

> 72 Birthday Parties reaching 1,479 visitors

> > 2,761

Adults

9.374 Members visited

Total Visitors

24,752

visited

Members

Mandi Brooks

Brunetti Family

Bryers Family

Nicole & Greg Buck

Benefactor Robert Mittica

Family Plus Members Almeida Family Basinger Family

Mary Bathrick Bitragunta Family Bohn Family Donna Bovee Kelly Boyle Sandra Brown Bugeja Family Katherin Bundalo Byun Family Kathleen Campbell Cartner Family Chung Ting, Chan Mabel Chang Myungkyung Chang Guillaume Chasse Wenching Chen Chen Family Jessica Chin Christopher Family Church Family Clifford Family Cobb Family Costa Family Courtney Family Crockett Family Cropper-Alt Family Cutler Family Danielewicz Family Kelly Dirga Duff Family Frazin Family Frederick Family Gillespie Family Glabau/Salvatore Family Granville Family Greenbacker Family Grochal Family Kathleen Gundel Hale Family Hillard Family Holloway Family Hurt Family Huynh Family Elsa Interlandi & Family Janis Jerman Jiang Family Kaplan Family Keslin Family Kelly King Elise Kiser Iean Larson Alison Lauria Pamela Lavery Lee Family Jason Lee Karman Lee Min Liao Lin Family Laura Long Logus Family Nate Magee and Stacy Schuur Marrocco Family Linda Mattie McDermott Family Leigh Ann McHenry Kenneth & Catherine Meehan Melissa Meehan George & Andra Millerd Misluk Family Mor Family Morris Family Moskowitz Family

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