



Mission Statement

Who We Are

The mission of The Ferguson Library is to provide free and equal access to information, ideas, books and technology to educate, engage and enrich the Stamford community.

The innovative programs and services we provide nourish a lifelong passion for learning and growth for children and adults. In 2020 when the pandemic hit, we quickly began reimagining library services and safely reopened last summer with new protocols in place and many programs offered online. We work hard to provide transformative experiences for our community, and have become even more nimble as we find new, unprecedented ways to serve the public.

Ferguson Library Programs and Services Overview

Addressing digital inequity is one of the most pressing needs our community faces. To this end, working with community partners, we used grant funding to create a Digital Navigators program to provide technology instruction and equipment to Stamford residents who lack digital tools and skills. We also loan out Chromebooks and hotspots to those who do not have devices or reliable internet. This has been a very successful program, as has our Grow with Google partnership that allows us to offer introductory and advanced sessions on becoming proficient with Google. On the 'maker' front, we have launched a lending 'library of things,' featuring items from bakeware to telescopes, and offer experiential learning sessions to go along with them.

Bringing people together across the racial divide is a real need in our community. Our Facing Racism series, presented in partnership with Everyday Democracy, gathers members of our diverse community together to discuss our ethnic and racial identities, evaluate community institutions through the lens of race and equity, and instigate change through grassroots efforts.

Our core services include job skills training and English language literacy. We offer a suite of programs for the newly arrived, including English language workshops, citizenship study courses, and career prep classes such as resume building and interview practice.

In addition to many book and author-focused programs, we also offer technology training workshops, programs on health literacy and mindfulness workshops. Our Lawyers in Libraries program provides free legal assistance to those who cannot afford it. Our Entrepreneur-in-Residence program offers counseling to people launching or growing a small business. The Ferguson Library was the first library in Connecticut to offer *1 Million Cups*, a program developed by the Kauffman Foundation, to inspire and educate entrepreneurs.

We offer many children's programs that facilitate reading and early childhood literacy, as well as book discussions and craft and maker programs for teens and older children. Our Friends Literary Competition, now in its 37th year, annually recognizes excellence in student writing.