



Through a language-first and culture-first approach, Community Services at Saint Paul Public Library transforms and expands library services to build relationships between staff and community members to foster a true sense of belonging and connection to a library where everyone is reflected and welcome. The work is intentionally intergenerational and multilingual to create an inclusive and accessible library.

By the Numbers

Community specialists strengthened relationships with the Black/African American, K’Nyaw, Latinx, and Somali communities and connected people to valuable services, both within and outside of library doors. In 2023, a Hmong specialist was added to broaden the reach of this work.

Services included computer classes with culturally-specific approaches for K’Nyaw, Somali, and Black/African-American communities; cultural programs celebrating the diverse communities of Saint Paul; and one-to-one help interpreting information and connecting to resources.



What we’ve heard...

“Wow!! This is the coolest thing ever! I can touch all this equipment and use everything for free.” – K’Nyaw youth visiting the Innovation Lab

“When there are people who speak our language, it’s different from other times. As far as being welcomed, we are very welcomed, but when there is someone whom you can speak with in your native tongue and they can understand you, it’s definitely better.” – Somali focus group participant

1,121

Connections made at multi-cultural community events to build relationships with BIPOC residents.

40

Participants attended K’Nyaw bilingual storytime with author Remona Htoo promoting multicultural literacy.

16

Participants in the K’Nyaw artist in residence program explored hands-on art creation.

159

Citizen and Immigration Resource Fair attendees given technical assistance to connect under-served communities to resources.

80

Students participated in Spanish-language computer classes (January 2021 -December 2022).

