

# PPL

# Conservator Society

## PPL GiveDay got it done!

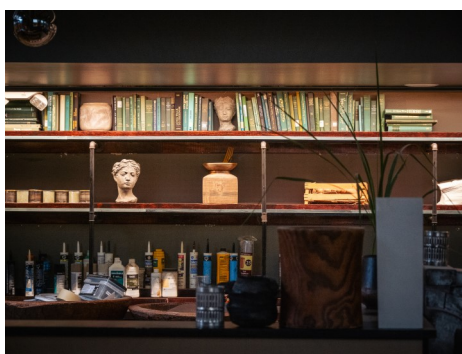
In just one day, we raised \$13,854 and we could not be more proud! We were able to meet our goal and unlock our matching gift, as well as contribute some extra funds to our three 2024 Give Day Community Partners – Black & Pink PVD, City Year, and The Genesis Center.

A huge shout-out and thank you to a few folks who made this event possible. Melinda M., a PPL Conservator and Friends volunteer, who provided insight and brainstorming during the planning stages and also served as a book sale volunteer for the majority of the day. She pulled together all our Mystery Bags, which flew off the shelves! Well, the folding table, but you know what we mean. . . And thank you to MeaLea and the team at IGT for sending over three folks from their Workforce Partnerships and Outreach department to man the sales table. Together, we were able to pull off one final fundraising event before the close of FY24, and we are so grateful for this incredible community!

## FY23 Annual Report is live

When we reflect on the highlights of our past year, one main theme underscores the story . . . that of our community and their stories – those who have come to PPL to pursue their goals and realize their dreams, acquire a skill and create something new, or simply to relax, read a good book, or learn more about what interests them.

As always, our successes are made possible through the continued generosity of our dedicated supporters. Just as PPL is a reflection of our community, so is it a living testament to you and your belief in this institution and the immeasurable impact it makes every day! For our full report, visit [prov.pub/2023annualreport](http://prov.pub/2023annualreport).



## Hippity hop your way down to CHOP!

The day we have all been waiting for has finally arrived. . . Genesis Center's CHOP (Culinary Hub of Providence) has opened its doors! Located on the ground floor of PPL, it is the perfect place for your mid-morning pick-me-up or your afternoon lunch meeting any day of the week. Come check out its library-infused décor and worldly menu! Hours are **Monday - Friday from 10 am to 3 pm**.

See the full CHOP menu offerings at, [www.culinaryhubpvd.com/](http://www.culinaryhubpvd.com/) and they can be found on **Instagram** at **@chop\_pvd**. Hours and menu items will evolve as the CHOP team continues to grow; be sure to follow their content for up to date information!

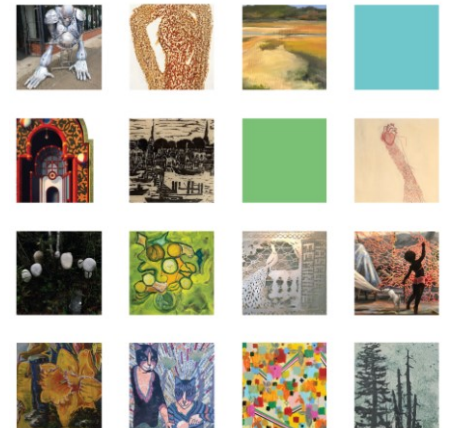
# In the Stacks

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NetWorks RI & the Chazan Collection: A Half-Century of RI Artistic Patronage

**Wednesday, August 21 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm**  
**WaterFire Arts Center**

Join us at WaterFire Providence on August 21 for a private Conservator viewing of the NetWorks RI exhibition. This exhibition is a celebration of over 100 artists and their champion, our dear friend and fellow Conservator, Joseph A. Chazan, M.D. There will be a brief formal program featuring Christina Bevilacqua, Programs & Exhibitions Director at PPL, as host of a curated conversation with Dr. Chazan and one of the highlighted NetWorks artists.



**JULY 11 - SEPT 1**  
Opening Reception July 18

In 2008, Chazan embarked on a new visual arts project in collaboration with Umberta Crenca, who was then serving as Artistic Director of AS220. Together, they endeavored to document and uplift the incredibly and diversely talented contemporary artists of Rhode Island by creating video and photo profiles over a nine-year span. These profiles serve as a bridge between the artist community and Rhode Island at large, and the collection has become a living archive of Rhode Island art in its own right.

Formal invitations with more information will be to you in a couple of weeks, but be sure to mark your calendars early! You're a busy bunch and we would love to have as many of you there with us as possible. Contact Annie Foley, [afoley@provlb.org](mailto:afoley@provlb.org), with any questions.

For more information on the exhibit itself, please visit [waterfire.org/events/networks-rhode-island-and-the-chazan-collection-a-half-century-of-ri-artistic-patronage/](http://waterfire.org/events/networks-rhode-island-and-the-chazan-collection-a-half-century-of-ri-artistic-patronage/).

## Fall Conservator Coffee Chats at CHOP

**Timing TBD**

Now that the doors of our in-house cafe have officially opened, we are excited to tease the launch of monthly coffee socials! Beginning in the fall, we will be hosting regular get-togethers in CHOP for all our Conservators. More details to come, so stay tuned!

## Magic Moments at PPL!

**The Bradley School** in Providence recently hosted their graduation in PPL's Donald J. Farish Auditorium, and it could not have been more amazing! James Brcak, PsyD, Clinical Director for the school shared a kind letter of thanks to PPL for hosting the event, noting that having such a beautiful and clean space to celebrate the students' accomplishments was "gratifying" and special, and set this celebration far above any they have been able to provide in the past.

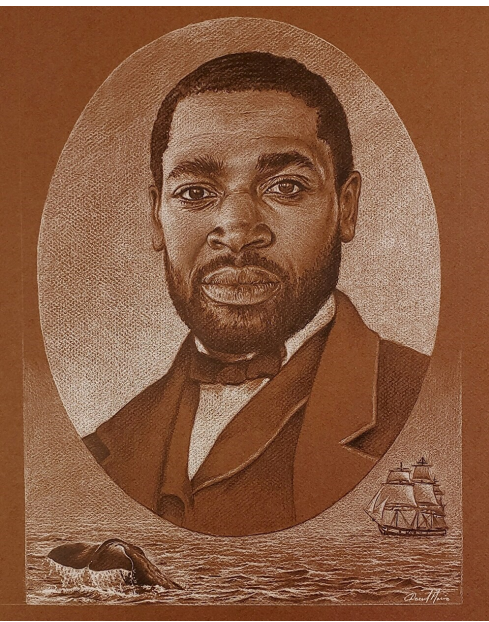
Our **Community Access Fund** makes events like this possible, and we have our Conservators and so many other dedicated donors to thank. So, *thank you, for helping us bring moments like this to life.*



# A Letter From Sophia: On Fellowship at the Munson Institute

During his 1877 voyage on the whaling ship *Eunice H. Adams*, [Captain William A. Martin](#) (pictured below) one of New England's most prominent Black whaling-ship captains, kept the ship's owner apprised of the journey through letters, in which he underscored the tantalizing ebbs and flows of the ocean. These [letters](#), along with his [logbook](#) of the journey (both now part of PPL's [Nicholson Whaling Collection](#)), provided insight into life at sea and catalyzed PPL's spring exhibition [From Hold to Horizon](#), which artists Becci Davis and Kei Sores Cobb described as "an inquiry into our complicated relationship with the ocean, sovereignty, and economies of capture."

Captain Martin's record is just one example of the multitude of Black and Indigenous voices describing experiences within and around waterways. A wealth of these voices and stories are highlighted in the exhibition [Entwined: Freedom, Sovereignty, and the Sea](#), currently on view at the [Mystic Seaport Museum](#). Entwined, an ode to the maritime narratives, practices, and traditions of Indigenous, African, and African-descended people, including those who lived on the land now occupied by the Museum, was curated by the Museum's Senior Curator of Maritime Social Histories, [Dr. Akeia de Barros Gomes](#).



For the month of July, I am participating in a fellowship led by Dr. de Barros Gomes at the [Frank C. Munson Institute of American Maritime Studies](#) located at the Museum. The themes of the fellowship align with those of PPL's series of programs and exhibitions this year, which will explore the literal and metaphorical transformative powers of water, and its role in shaping identity. My

experience as a Munson Fellow will expand my understanding of Black and Indigenous oceanic histories of the region, and assist the Programs & Exhibitions Department's ongoing efforts to create opportunities for the public to experience and interact with the rich, diverse narratives found in PPL's own maritime archives.

At the Munson Institute, I have the honor of working with and learning from Dr. de Barros Gomes as well as Maritime Curator Michael Dyer, both of whom have quite literally made waves in the field of maritime studies. In addition to touring Entwined, we have also gotten a special look at the Museum's collections. This fellowship encompasses seminars, site visits to prominent maritime locations, and guest lectures. One lecturer is a familiar face at PPL, UMass Dartmouth History Professor Timothy Walker, who last week discussed his book [Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad](#), which gathers new research into the role that waterways played as escape routes for enslaved people in the 19th century. He also discussed his use of PPL's Nicholson Whaling Collection as part of his groundbreaking research project using whaling logs to track weather patterns and monitor climate change over the past several centuries.

This project has fundamentally changed the way we think about using and learning from whaling logs — check out the most recent article about the project in [Smithsonian Magazine](#)! Programs & Exhibitions is excited that we will be welcoming him back to discuss his maritime Underground Railroad research this fall, as well as Dr. de Barros Gomes to discuss her work on Entwined, along with other scholars and artists, as we continue to foster a generative ecosystem for these

## PASSAGE

We are saddened to announce the passing of Eric Estes, at 55, a PPL Conservator and long-time educational leader at Brown University. His sudden passing in early June was a shocking heartbreak to many people, and the impact he had on campus life at Brown and the lives of the people around him is evident.



Read more about the life and legacy of Eric Estes at: [www.brown.edu/news/2024-06-04/estes](http://www.brown.edu/news/2024-06-04/estes)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Jameel Jenkins

For nearly three years, Jameel has been part of the security team here at PPL. With so many people in and out the Library's doors each day, it has become increasingly important for us to have a team of folks dedicated to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our patrons and staff. Jameel has become a go-to person for any concerns in the building, and we are so grateful for the work he does! Here's a fun snapshot on Jameel:

#### "This or that?"

Coffee or tea - **tea!**

Pancakes or waffles - **both, they're basically the same**

Reading or audiobook - **both again, you can get different things from different ways of learning**

Summer or winter - **summer**

Comedy or drama - **this one's tough, but I have to go drama**

Lake or ocean - **oh ocean, no doubt**

Train or airplane - **train**

Morning or night - **morning**

Win the lottery or land your dream job - **dream job, own my own business and have independence.**

"A while back, I finished my culinary training at Genesis Center and was going to use that to help the homeless. But I started thinking about all the different paths to helping and realized that there was a serious lack of foundation for facing so many social issues such as homelessness and hunger and fires, and decided I wanted to participate in building that foundation. So I found myself at PPL, knowing it would help me as I continue to develop my organization, A New Path for Homeless. I have been working on this project for about five years now, and we are getting closer every day to formalizing the work. This library has been so helpful in getting this off the ground, from help researching grants to the people I meet and converse with. That's what this is all about, connecting with the people.

The best part about working at PPL is watching the people who work here and how they operate. Each department makes such massive strides to improve and grow in the work they do, and that's the best thing I've seen. You don't see that dedication in most places anymore.

This job is hard, but something I wish everyone knew was how much we are here to help. I don't see security as a job where we're getting people in trouble, but more as a way to help people understand what their options are. I have to find a balance between what I can control and prevent and what we have to roll with. It has taken a long time to get to this point, but honestly I pray about it, and that helps me manage.

My favorite lunch spot is Cafe la France; that has been my go-to for a while. It's more than just the food. It's about the love I give and get and see in there, it's amazing. And I like to bring extras of all the good stuff for my friends at PPL to try. I can't pick a favorite genre of music because it's all just someone's story! We all have a story to tell, we all struggle to get where we are and the more we can embrace one another in that the better.

There are a few patrons I've worked with over the years and getting to watch them succeed is a blessing. It's all about making small, positive changes wherever you can. We are really helping the public here." — Jameel