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***Worcester Public Library Increases Teen Services  
at Main Library and Branches***

Worcester, MA – The Worcester Public Library (WPL) has increased teen services at the Main Library and six branches in order to help meet the needs of the Worcester Community. During the pandemic, teen programs saw a 608% increase in attendance. The available resources and services target those ages 12 to 17, and include fun and educational opportunities.

"We were delighted to see this increased interest in Teen programming and we have our staff's commitment to connecting with our teens to thank for that success," said Jason Homer, Executive Director. "The astounding increase, coupled with our recent renovation of the Main Library gives us the opportunity to build stronger connections with our Teens and work to fulfill their educational and entertainment needs."

The additions include the new Hanover Teen Space at the Main Library. Part of the recently completed renovation, it boasts a safe, enclosed area with computers, laptops, a robust young adult collection, and funky furniture.

The Youth Services Department now includes two additional teen librarians, bringing the number from one dedicated teen librarian to three. This has allowed for the addition of teen programs and services at all six branches across the city. The teen librarians regularly spend time at their assigned branches, building relationships, running programs, and connecting with teens in the community.

"The Library strives to provide equitable and inclusive services to community members of all ages, yet historically, teens have been a difficult population to engage," said Cynthia Bermudez, Youth Services Coordinator. "In recent years, we have seen that by

listening to teens, and offering relevant programs and resources, we can be successful in connecting with them.”

Some upcoming programs include Creator Studio at the Main Library, which runs on Fridays. This program includes printmaking, needle felting, vinyl cutting, and more, and makes use of the new technology in the Fletcher Family Innovation Center. The Main Library and Branches will also host several more programs in the coming weeks, including a new “Oddly Satisfying” program based on the popular hashtag. Teens also will not want to miss celebrations focused on the upcoming winter solstice, with solstice crowns, tarot cards, and runes. For a full list of teen programs at all locations, visit [mywpl.org/teen-programs](http://mywpl.org/teen-programs).

For more information on the Worcester Public Library and a complete list of events and programs visit [mywpl.org](http://mywpl.org). For more information on the expansion of teen services at WPL contact Linnea Sheldon, Community Relations and Communications Manager, at 508-799-1654 or [lsheldon@mywpl.org](mailto:lsheldon@mywpl.org).

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