

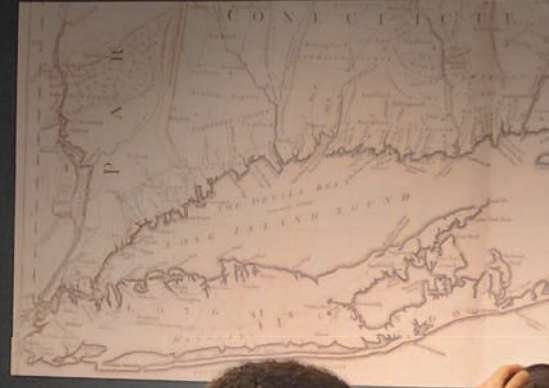
# PASSPORT TO PEQUOT LIBRARY

## K-12 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

For whosoever commands the sea commands the trade;  
whosoever commands the trade of the world  
commands the riches of the world,  
and consequently the world itself"

Sir Walter Raleigh (c.1552 – 1618)

*A Discourse of the Invention of Ships, Anchors, Compass, &c, 1650*



### School Groups Exhibition Tours

Pequot Library's school programs integrate our special collections of rare books, manuscripts, and archives into interactive tours and workshops that support teachers by aligning with Connecticut Core Standards. Students tour our exhibitions to examine the primary source materials on display, and participate in hands-on activities that allow them to actively engage with what they've learned.



# Spring Exhibition



## *The Tinderbox of the Civil War: 1830s Abolitionism in Connecticut* January 25 – May 10, 2025



The 1830s witnessed the emergence of abolitionism: the interracial political and social movement that demanded an immediate end to slavery in the United States. Remarkably ahead of its time, the movement also sought legal rights and integration for free Blacks and the formerly enslaved, putting it at odds with many Americans and with the colonization movement, which sought the emigration of Blacks to Africa. Through anti-slavery societies, publications, lectures, and legal channels, abolitionists forced the controversial topics of slavery and integration into the open, provoking derision and mob violence, but also launching the movement that would ultimately lead to emancipation. Drawing from a robust anti-slavery collection recently cataloged in Pequot Library's Special Collections, *The Tinderbox of the Civil War* features publications from Connecticut that illustrate both sides of the debate, including the Charter Oak anti-slavery newspaper; Catherine Beecher's letter to abolitionist Angelina Grimké; and reports from the trials of educator Prudence Crandall and the Amistad captives. This exhibition invites viewers to reflect on the legacy of these brave men and women and to consider how their activism can continue to inspire.



### **School Program:**



In a docent-led tour of the exhibition and primary source analysis activities, students will learn about the abolitionists who organized to challenge the institution of slavery in the 1830s, their formation of the American Anti-Slavery Society and other state and local societies as reactions against the American Colonization Society, and how Northern abolitionists challenged racial inequality during the Antebellum Period. **8.HIS.3.a, 8.HIS.12.a, 8.His.12.b, 8.Civ.14.c, 8.Inq.3.a, 8.Inq.3.b, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.2**

## SEMI-PERMANENT EXHIBITION

### *Early American Children's Books and the Shaping of National Identity*

March 10 – May 22, 2025

The 18th and 19th centuries witnessed the emergence in England and America of new attitudes toward children and education at the same time that America was casting off its royal authority. The result was a booming market of print materials that, for the first time, contained text and illustrations geared toward a young audience. This exhibition draws from Pequot Library's extraordinary Children's Historical Collection to explore how children's books published in the years following American independence reflect the changing political, economic, and social climate of the young nation.

#### **School Program:**

In a docent-led tour of the exhibition, fifth grade students will explore what the early American children's books on display reveal about a developing American national identity around the time of the Revolution. They will participate in an art project that simulates the techniques used to illustrate books in the 18th century and read early-American children's books by flickering LED "candle" lights to compare how even a task that we take for granted, like reading at night, was different at the time these books were published. **5.His.6.a, 5.His.10.a, 5.Civ.14.a**



## Meet the Orchestra

Meet the Orchestra is a live concert series for Bridgeport students in grades K-8. The program is made possible through our long-standing partnership with Music for Youth (MFY), a volunteer-led nonprofit organization committed to bringing professionally performed classical music into the lives of young people. The purpose of Meet the Orchestra is to introduce students to instruments in the orchestra, while introducing them to the repertoire of various ensembles, during an interactive experience in Pequot Library's architecturally and historically significant auditorium.



#### **Meet the Orchestra 2025: The Poetry of Music:**

This program for third and fourth graders exposes students to instruments of the jazz genre, teaches them about improvisation and the history of jazz, and encourages them to think about how rhythms provide structure for written work that they will produce in the form of haikus (with illustrations).



## CUSTOM PROGRAMS

We are happy to modify any of our school programs to suit other grade levels and can work with you to tailor tours to your specific educational needs. A primary source analysis/archival research workshop for high school students is also available.

To schedule a field trip for your students or request a custom program, please email [schoolprograms@pequotlibrary.org](mailto:schoolprograms@pequotlibrary.org) or call 203-259-0346 ext 117.

## PRICING

- \$5 per student in grades K-12
- No charge for group leaders and chaperones
- No charge for Title 1 schools; bus subsidies available upon request

## DETAILS

- Programs offered Monday–Friday
- 1 adult per 10 students required
- Lunch space available upon request
- Handicapped accessible
- Please schedule at least 2–3 weeks in advance.

Passport to Pequot Library is made possible in part by grant support.

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**Pequot Runners**  
pequotrunners.org



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