TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: September 25, 2019  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – September 2019

**Action Items**

**ImagineYOU Professional Services Agreement (Reeves)**
ImagineYOU has worked with Wicked Squid Studios for the past several years to provide on-site training and mentoring of youth in studio recording and music development. It is recommended to continue with their services for this fiscal year, with a rate of $75 per hour, not to exceed 102 hours. The total amount of the contract will not exceed $7,650 with a term ending June 30, 2019. Funding is included in the Teen Center’s operating budget for this purpose.

**Board Action Requested**: Approval of a professional services agreement with Wicked Squid Studios for an amount not to exceed $7,650.

**Early Closure of Rundel for Publisher’s Circle Dinner (Harrison)**
The Friends and Foundation of RPL has selected Wednesday November 13 for the annual Publisher’s Circle Dinner. In order to support this activity, we request to close the first floor of the Rundel Building at 3:00 pm instead of 8:30 pm.

**Board Action Requested**: Permission to close the first floor of the Rundel Building at 3:00 pm on Wednesday November 13.

**Monroe Branch Library Additional Hours November 2 (Reeves)**
The Monroe Branch Library will conduct its 4th workshop on Monroe Reads to End Racism in anticipation of Dr. Ibram Kendi’s visit to Rochester on Nov. 18. The discussion will focus on Dr. Kendi’s new book entitled, *How to be an Antiracist*. This follows along with the theme of Monroe’s previous workshops. As in the past, Monroe will give away copies of Dr. Kendi’s new book. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 2, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. The workshop would be held at the Library.

**Board Action Requested**: Approval of opening the Monroe Branch Library for two additional hours on November 2, 2019.

**Report Items**
*RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting*

**Recommended Reading/Viewing**
- **How to Build a Library** - [https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2019/09/03/how-to-build-a-library/](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2019/09/03/how-to-build-a-library/)
Upcoming Events

- Publisher’s Circle Dinner – Wednesday November 13; keynote speaker Eric Klinenberg
- Trustee & Director Symposium with attorney Stephanie Adams – Saturday, November 23, 9:00 am – Noon at Henrietta Public Library

RPL Strategic Plan Progress

A Year 4 Update report will be distributed at the meeting, with discussion scheduled for the October 30 board meeting. That discussion will include a review of progress made up to the present time, and what process the board would like to see for revising and/or updating the strategic plan for 2021-2026.

Facility and Capital Updates

The RPL is preparing for both City and County Capital Improvement Program planning, with submissions due in September (County) and October (City). Several project updates are as follows:

Branch Improvements

- Following completion of Monroe branch façade improvements, some minor additional recommendations from staff are being completed, namely a new handrail and sidewalk repairs from the parking lot next to the Children’s entrance, and a new roof access ladder for facilities.
- The Douglass Green Roof project design is underway, with bid anticipated in fall. This project includes consulting from Broccolo Tree and Landscape to ensure low maintenance plantings with higher visual impact as a public green infrastructure demonstration. Staff will be working to develop complementary programming, such as inclusion in the Seneca Park Zoo butterfly beltway.
- Long-overdue flooring replacement and glass block window installation is underway at the Lincoln branch toy library. New play apparatus will be installed as well.
- Planning for finish improvements (paint, carpet, furniture) for the Winton branch children’s room, initially deferred due to long-term vacancies in the Facilities Division, will begin in September. This project will be managed internally by Library Facilities and Finance.

Central Improvements

- Rundel Loading Dock replacement is complete, with minor modifications to the exterior door the only remaining punch list item. Shipping is pleased to be back at Central.
- Master Space Plan Phase 4 (Technology Center) bids were received on July 18, coming in under budget to allow for alternate work (lighting and flooring in link tunnel) to be completed. Construction should begin in September; we are awaiting our first schedule meeting with the contractors.
- Library has been working with LaBella and City Division of Environmental Quality to develop plans for the removal of silt accumulation under the Rundel building. Over the past few weeks notification and coordination with RG&E and State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to agree to the scheduling of removal. We are working with City and State DEC for a Beneficial Use Determination, which would allow the silt to be recycled as fill for a future City project. Bids will be in October with work starting as weather permits over the winter, concluding in spring 2020.
- Rundel Masonry repairs will be a more extensive project than initially scoped in the 2018 CIP, due in part to the damage sustained from February 2019 masonry failures as well as additional discovery during the subsequent site investigation. The Board received a more detailed summary of needed work in August. Currently, City DES Architectural Services submitted a RFP draft for design, project phasing and cost estimating services that Library reviewed and edited in July; we anticipate the RFP release by October.
• Rundel Terrace Reconstruction (Phase IV) re-bid is under development, based on a revised project scope and order of alternate work prioritized jointly by Library and DES. It is anticipated that the re-bid will occur in October, with construction beginning spring 2020. Chevo Studios (public artist) has been kept apprised of the changes in schedule and work scope, which will not impact their planned installations.

Technology Updates
Five branch libraries (Douglass, Maplewood, Monroe, Wheatley, Winton) are participating in the second phase of network cabling upgrades as part of the MCLS’ E-Rate Category 2 funding cycle. All sites will receive new Cat6a cabling that will enable future bandwidth expansion, with an estimated life cycle of 20 years. Tele Data Com was the awarded vendor, with installations scheduled in August and September. The RPL pays only 15% of project costs due to the E-rate program.

Social Media

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Constant Contact Newsletter
• Central – 1107
• RPL – 1771
• New subscribers – 3

Central Outputs
• OverDrive
  o E-book & Audiobook Checkouts – 60,274
  o Magazine Checkouts – 2,596
• Central Meeting Room Reservations – 83
Central Library Updates
Interim Associate Director Jennifer Lenio reporting

Special Events, Sam Lovejoy reporting

Accomplishments
- Lovejoy met with and secured event rental for the RISE Scholarship Brunch for Sunday October 20. The group (Rochester OUT Alliance) will be using Hacker Hall for a fundraiser and scholarship award banquet that will be awarded to a local teen in the LGBTQ community.
- Lovejoy and Ana Suro oversaw the first wedding held in Hacker Hall under the new events policy and guidelines. The event was held on August 17, and the group was very happy with the end result. The bride was the granddaughter of longtime RPL employee Jeanne Newcomb, who worked in the Acquisitions Department for many years.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs
- Leather Journal Bookbinding: Bookbinding is an art many are interested in learning today. Classes can be very expensive. Patrons of the Central Library are happy to have book artist Rebecca Lomuto teach the many kinds of bookbinding techniques that are done in the book art world. Last month Lomuto taught the Japanese Stab method. In this class she taught students how to create a leather-bound journal. Students learned historic hand stitching techniques were also taught how to make eco-books with found and up-cycled materials.
- The Central Library had the honor of being a venue for the Gateways Music Festival. A brass quintet of musicians from New York City, South Carolina, Texas and Indiana gathered in the Dorris Carlson Reading Garden as part of the festival’s “Chamber Music in the Community” series (photo below). Their set included music by Bach, Stevie Wonder, and an arrangement that playfully combined Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus” with “When the Saints Go Marching In.” Each musician spoke to the audience about the music, and their experience being a part of this unique festival that connects and supports classical musicians of African descent.
Community Outreach
Carol Moldt of the Arts & Literature Division facilitated a second book discussion group at Valley Manor. The Pulitzer award winning novel, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, was discussed by a group of 20 residents.

**Business Innovation Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting**

**Programs**
The Center hosted the BizKids group again.

**Training**
The division had a staff training day where they were trained on all the new databases, such as Statista and Plunkett Analytics. Lily Anthony and Kate Meddaugh attended Census Business Builder 2.6, a webinar pertaining to business research tools on the US Census website. Meddaugh attended a webinar by the Federal Depository Library Program on how to use the database after a recent revision.

**Consulting**
Byrnes did 6 in-depth research requests; Anthony did 3.

- Carlson Center for Intellectual Property users:
  - in person – 9
  - email – 4
  - mail – 1
  - phone – 3
- Patent Virtual Assistance Center appointments – 1
- Webpage views – 77
- InnovationQ database users – 7 with 54 independent patent searches
- 3-D printer – 2 people requested print jobs from the printer this month. 15 prints were completed (13 of the same print for one patron).

**Database Usage**
Frost & Sullivan - eight reports downloaded, value: $40,650 / 18 reports read, value: $73,850.
Statista: 38 searches / 14 downloads

**Children’s Services, Tonia Burton reporting**

- Burton provided a tour of Central Library Youth Services to Terry Dade, Rochester City School District Superintendent. Mr. Dade was joined by his cabinet and his three children. Some of his staff talked with teens in Teen Central and played ping pong. Mr. Dade and his children enjoyed playing with the Kinetic ball display in the Children’s Center and several staff inquired about getting a similar display in the schools to support STEM learning.
- Burton met with Rachel LeMaster, Manager of Partnerships and Engagement for Exploration Charter School. LeMaster is looking to hold a Monroe County Read event using the children’s book *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*. She is seeking in kind and monetary support. She also would like her school to be a Raising A Reader site or have the library offer a rotating collection.
Outreach/Community Contacts
- Alla Levi conducted a tour for a group of 10 teens and 4 teachers from ABVI. The teens were all visually impaired. Alla discussed the technology that the Central Library has for people who are visually impaired and toured throughout the building concentrating on the Job Information Center, Teen Central and the Children’s Center.
- Lauren Seaver offered outreach storytimes at the VOA site, visiting 8 classrooms and providing to 107 children and 18 staff members.

Education and Engagement
The Children’s Center offered a variety of programs for families and summer camps. Defiant Monkey Improv group rounded out our summer Visiting Artists. We had an eager and engaged group of kids and families who helped brainstorm and perform a handful of skits with much silliness and laughter all around.

Programs
We held our last two Exploration Stations sessions on 8/1 & 8/8 with our partner, Cara Rager, from WXXI. Families and groups explored activities around two books, Interstellar Cinderella and You’re Safe With Me. Dot painting, crafting cloud lamps, building shelter, making steampunk goggles, fashioning rain sticks, making a mars rover out of a Littlebits circuit kit, and participating in an astronaut training camp were only a handful of the activities patrons enjoyed.

Make & Take
Our last two crafts used chemistry to make some very interesting art. We did salt & watercolor paintings where we used liquid watercolor paint that we then sprinkled salt on to make a cosmic effect. We ended our summer crafting series with Tie-Dye, using sharpie markers and rubbing alcohol on drawstring backpacks.
As a thank you for those who participated in the Summer Reading Program, _A Universe of Stories_, the Children's Center held an ice cream party. Children and their families enjoyed ice cream, received free books to keep, won raffle prizes and listened to some music. A great time was had by all!

**Raising A Reader**

- This month the entire Raising A Reader™ team met to discuss the upcoming RAR year. Tonia Burton and Lauren Seaver led a refresher presentation on the history of RAR at RPL, as well as plans for changes to the program in the upcoming year. The team discussed and agreed to the changes and committed to reaching out to Lauren to set up times to begin putting together the red book bags for their classrooms.
- Seaver has confirmed with the VOA that we are going to expand RAR and increase the number of classrooms served at their site from 2 to 8. In addition, Burton and Seaver led staff trainings for the teachers at Head Start (including Joseph, North St, and Hart St sites), as well as at the VOA. In addition, Seaver attended a parent meet & greet at RCN, one of our newest sites.
- Seaver spent the month assembling and processing red bags for the classrooms at the following sites: Hart St, North St, and VOA. Seaver plans to work with the other RAR staff to assemble bags for the sites they will be serving throughout September. The goal is to have all the red bags in classrooms by October 1, 2019.

**Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting**

New Borrowers – 47
Access Cards – 5
Notarial Acts – 182

**Programs**

Brian DiNitto taught 13 computer classes. 40 people attended.

**Circulation Anecdotes**

- Cunningham and Stephanie Penns were checking out a slew of books to a teacher who was getting ready for the new school year. The teacher was telling them that he took so many books because you never know what the kids are going to want to read. Cunningham asked if he knew about the changes to renewal and
how he could renew the items right away and get three loan periods at once. The teacher was very glad to
hear this as it would make his life easier.

Information Anecdotes
- The Information Desk staff have spent quite a bit of time over the last several months assisting a patron who
  is advocating for her incarcerated son. They have helped her look up lawyers and advocacy groups. DiNitto
  helps her with the library’s typewriter- which he recently had to repair himself. They work with her on
  formatting her letters to the court system.
- The Information Desk staff had a patron who was coming in for assistance in his job hunt. Because he didn’t
  have a phone, they let him call potential employers and arrange job interviews using the Information Desk
  phone. He recently came in and told the staff that he now has a job and a new phone. He is now looking for
  a second job.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference
During the month of August, RMC handled 1,275 reference questions and 356 non-reference transactions and
for a total of 1631.

Circulation
In August, RMC rented 16 pieces of equipment and circulated 9,618 items or 49% of the Central Library's total
circulation of 20,026 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added). When
adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, we circulated 14,767 items! That is 53% more
circulations from RMC’s collection.

Hoopla
- Hoopla circulations for August totaled 1291: (281 movies/TV, 600 audiobooks, 109 music, 202 ebooks,
  99 comics)
- 373 patrons used the service during August with 43 new users registering and 73 patrons using all seven
  circs (20%).
- Average cost was $2.11/item.

Sciences and History, Darlene Richards reporting

August has been a month of continual moving of collections. Kathy Sochia and her team shifted and moved the
001s through 306s. Clerks Elizabeth Jones and Matt Sherman are responsible for putting the 3rd floor in great
working order by shifting and reorganizing. Sherman has been helping by taking a thorough inventory of the
science kits and labeling all the parts with numbers.

Outreach
- Librarian Steve Nash was invited to speak to 20 teachers at the Greece Central School District for their pre-
  new school year meeting. He spoke about many of Central's special collections and databases. The hands-on
  science kits, health resources and the job information center that are available in the Science & History
division were highlighted.
• Nash represented MCLS at the Rochester Red Wings summer "Camp Day." He spoke to many campers and counselors from the various area day camps about importance of reading and enriching resources available at MCLS libraries.

Statistics for Health Central Related Services
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) testing—3 people tested

LROC Statistics (as of 8/28)
Social Work Cases—32
Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County (VLSP) -18

Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs
Summer reading concluded. We had many participants. Ky'Joann, a homeschooler, took home the grand prize of a VISA gift certificate. There were 32 participants with a total of 53 books read. We helped Action for A Better Community (ABC), Community Place and the Genese Land Trust complete all of their digital projects. ABC used the lab and teen space for over 6 weeks—including doing interviews for potential candidates using the library. Genese Land Trust used the lab and teen space for 9 weeks.
https://www.facebook.com/ABCYouthServices/videos/vb.179836502879518/663327187484382/?type=2&theater
https://www.facebook.com/geneseelandtrust/posts/10162259278915444

Community place used the lab for 7 weeks to produce a reality television show that will air locally. Justin Ortiz is finishing the project.
https://www.facebook.com/generationoutreach/photos/a.582959435064165/2842566892436730/?type=3&theater

Genese Valley produced a documentary on a plot of land in Rochester that half of their students turned into a beautiful garden. ABC produced a short film on street violence and acted out a play. We also moved the gaming systems and the VR into the teen area. Usage has shot through the roof. I'll be tabulating numbers for the Rochester Regional Library Council’s (RRLC) final report soon. RRLC funded the gaming computers through a grant Dennis Williams and Jeff Bostic were awarded last year.

Outreach/Community Contacts
I worked with Ortiz, Action for a Better Community, RIT, SUNY Geneseo, Community Place, Thomas Cuyler, Common Health, MCC, the Liberty Partnership and SUNY Brockport to set up and help run a myriad of programs this summer. Most of them rely on the imagineYOU Media Lab and the staff’s expertise. I met with Joshua Pettinger regarding a CD release party, and a curriculum-based program operated out of the library. Also, I met
with administration from the Genesee Valley Trust regarding their use of library space, and expert assistance from library staff.

**Branch Library Updates**

*Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting*

**Outreach, Patricia Connor reporting**

**Programs**
I continued to fill-in for Kim Whittemore at the Charlotte Public Library during the month of August. She conducted two story times and helped plan and carry out the end of summer reading party. Thanks goes to the Lyell Branch and the MCLS office who loaned us two of the oversize games for use at the party. They were enjoyed by all. *(Priority #1-Education and Engagement)*. Also, I’ve been in contact with Kathy Beabout who is setting up Voter Registration events at the branches for National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 24.

**Community Outreach**
- Joseph Becker (Sully) joined Pat Connor at the 2nd Annual Day of Play for Special Needs Kids at the David Gantt R-Center. The day is sponsored by Parents Unite in Love and this is the first time that the Rochester Public Library has been asked to participate. They were able to speak about resources available at the branch libraries and at the Toy Library and registered children for borrower cards. The exciting part of the day was seeing the able-bodied children from the surrounding neighborhood interacting with the special need kids. The RPL table was set up right next to the very large Rochester Fire Department bounce house and Connor and Becker were able to speak with all those waiting for their turn in the house. *(Priority #2—Sustainability and Resources)*
- Connor participated in the Northwest Quadrant National Night Out event held at Ontario Beach Park. It is great to see all the quadrant neighborhood association families coming together to enjoy food and conversation. Fusco (Lyell) and Connor tabled at the Lyell Otis Neighborhood Outreach at J.R. Wilson Park. The event was moved into the neighborhood from the Markson’s parking lot next to the library. Fusco and Connor were able to speak with several neighbors who were unfamiliar with the programs at the library and they promised to come and check it out.

**Trainings/Conferences**
Connor attended the Rochester City School District 2nd Annual Community School Summit. The keynote speaker was Deborah Puntenney, Ph.D., who spoke about Asset Based Community Development and how to develop those assets to make changes in the community and changing the mindset from “what don’t we have” to “what do we have that we can start from”. Connor attended sessions on Knowing the Assets of Your Community and The 4 C’s—Community, Collaboration, Conversation and Collective Impact.

**Narrative & Community Contact Building**
This month I had opportunities to cover branches and learn more about the communities that they serve. I would like to make this a scheduled duty because I feel that I would be better at my various jobs for the branches. I also had the assignment to assess Young Adult graphic novel collections in the branches. Librarians were very welcoming and open to any suggestions that I might have. I can see lots of potential growth and projects resulting from working cooperatively on collections. Lori Frankunas will host an RPL Young Adult librarian meeting this fall that will focus on graphic novels.
Safe To Be Smart Program, Derrick Coley reporting
The Arnett site
- Shetora Banks chaperoned a group of teens to view the, “Lion King” movie. Banks had a life skills discussion before and after the film about families and emotional support.
- In addition she facilitated a trivia quiz from out of the “New York Times” newspaper with a group of teen boys and girls. The quiz focused on the major events that happened during the summer of 2019 and the aftermath.

The Phillis Wheatley site
- Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford facilitated the last “Mix and Mingle” of the summer. The youth made cold cut slider sandwich with healthy condiments.
- Bostick-Beckford assisted with the summer reading party and recruited teen volunteers.
- She chaperoned a group of youth to the “Lion King” movie and a trip to the Seneca Park Zoo to stimulate a discussion about endangered species.
- Bostick-Beckford hosted “GameDay” for youth. The youth said they really liked playing the “Silent Uno” card game version because they could only use paper to write on, hand gestures and facial expressions.

The Maplewood site
Yaliza Frank facilitated the “End of Summer Pizza Party” and getting to know her session with youth and staff at the Maplewood branch. The youth watched a movie and played games in the community room with peers and staff. Frank is still working on getting to know the variety of teens that frequent the Maplewood Branch Library while building healthy relationships.

The Lincoln site
- Vera Haygood continues to provide ongoing assistance for teens with internet, email and online employment applications.
- She continues to facilitate the “Teen Challenge Trivia Contest” to keep summer learning loss at a minimum. Haygood provides board and card games for the teens to socialize and interact with their peers.
- Also, Haygood facilitated a tie and shirt fitting workshop for the male teens. The teens were taught to tie an overhand and Windsor knots and they were shown how to measure their upper torso to properly fit a dress shirt. The teens that wear uniforms have confidence in wearing a real tie instead of a clip-on to school.

The Sully site
- George Carter collaborated with the American Lung Association to get the teens current information about e-cigarettes and vaping. The American Lung Association outreach coordinator facilitated the discussion group and had teens conduct surveys through pre and post testing methods.
- George facilitated a Pictionary Game program for youth. This game allowed all youth to stand before the group and participate on equal footing no matter the grade, age or gender.

Teen Central site
- Lydia Williams and John Hylton did something very different in the teen-center with the youths. They said a lot of new faces were coming in and the males did not know each other by name. Williams and Hylton put together a team building activity that made the teens work together in groups and learn names by participating in a chair relay race! The teens also had lunch together afterward and the success of the program created new friendships for the summer.
- Williams and Hylton supported several teens that were summer graduates with cap and gown purchases, they were very happy and proud of themselves.
RPL Board Director’s Report – September 2019 ( Continued)

- Hylton has been overseeing the “Link Interactive Mural Project” with artist Chloe Smith. Also, he has recruited several teens to assist with the project. The mural is coming along - just watch the walls!

Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting

**Programs**

- Arnett ran many successful events for children, teens, and adults that were linked to our Universe of Stories summer reading program. Our children’s programs were especially well attended, with 1,623 at our August children’s events and 307 children enrolled in our summer reading program. One of the most interesting things to happen this summer was when City Hall asked us to round up some of Arnett’s young, top-notch, readers for a photo shoot that is going to be used by Mayor Lovely Warren to promote reading. The photo shoot consisted of kids reading to their parents. Both the kids and the adults were very excited to be a part of the project. When I asked one mother if she and her boys would like to be a part of it, she excitedly shouted, “Yes!” When I told her the time it would take place she said, “They are in camp that week, but I will pull them out early!” Another family came to the library on bikes carrying changes of clothes for the photo shoot. All the children and parents were beaming with pride and joy during the project. Later that month two of those kids were winners of bikes we gave away as summer reading prizes.

- Ms Rosalind joined us once again for a fitness class the included dancing, hula hoops, jump ropes and contemporary music. The kids young and old (we had a couple of Moms join in) enjoyed the movement and the challenges presented in the classes. The star jars were very popular, although we could only accommodate 8 makers at a time. The kids had fun choosing constellation to include in their star jar. We discussed the creative imaginations of the shepherds of old and tried to see the images in the star groupings that prompted them to be named as constellations. The final products of the day were spectacular and several kids that had not been present when the jars were made have requested that we repeat the program so that they could also make a jar. A repeat of the program is planned for September.

- Our Teen Summer Reading wrap party was a fun way to wrap up our summer adventures in learning. Along with pizza, cupcakes and snacks, the kids played games. “Don’t Roll One” was a new game for them, it involved rolling a pair of dice and adding up your score, but be careful, if you roll a one (1) you lose your points for the turn and lose your turn. This got the teens adding, considering probabilities and taking risks (always a draw for teens). Summer reading prizes were also awarded at the party. Winners of the grand prizes included a $20 gift certificate for reading, a $20 gift certificate for programs attended and several consolation prizes for categories such as, most novels read, most graphic novels read, most programs attended, etc. All and all we had a good time and all the prizes have been claimed, except one, and that person has been contacted by phone and will pick up her prize after the Labor Day weekend.

- On August 30, we were invited to join the welcome session for new students at School #44 on Chili Ave. This was an excellent opportunity to meet new members of the neighborhood and see long-time friends of the library. We played a reading game with the table visitors, and passed out flyers and library card applications. Several families were thrilled to know that we were so close by and had so much to offer young families. The mention of LEGO club brought a display of excitement, as it often does.

- Adult Librarian Ginger Brewer-Bennett hosted an Ice Cream Social for adults on August 23. The adults have been working hard participating in the summer reading program and other library events. As a token of appreciation, the library awarded them with “cool” treats. Everyone had a good time and ice cream was enjoyed by not only the adults but by the children and teenagers as well.
Community Outreach/Meetings
Several staff conducted numerous outreach events such as attending a block party, a Literacy Volunteers of Rochester event, several farmers markets, a Rochester Police Department event and a school Open House. Books By Bike was at many of these events. Bruce Wilbur’s biking expertise was not only very helpful during outreach but also with our children’s summer reading party. During the party we noticed one of the bikes we were giving away had a very bad flat. Wilbur spotted the flat recognized a new tube needed to be purchased, and after I returned from the store, changed the tube. This allowed us to award the bike to the young winner during the party.

Anecdotes/Other
- One day during August, Clerk Carmetha Jones asked me to watch the front desk so she could dart into the back area for a few minutes. I did not learn until later that what she was doing was retrieving money from her purse to give to a mother/library patron whose son had died suddenly in another city. Jones is a terrific clerk and a terrific person.
- We said good-bye to Rachel Gayle, our summer literacy aide on August 23rd. She was a huge help this summer and she has expressed an interest in joining us again next summer (fingers crossed). Rachel was terrific at wrangling the kids this summer and helping to keep them entertained. She was also very helpful with program prep and execution, especially with craft projects. Rachel not only helped with our children’s programing but also pitched in, from time to time, to help with the teen programming.

Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs
- Karen Duff, adult librarian, reports that she had a total of 49 people participate in this year’s adult summer reading activity. The participants read a total of 121 books, and entered 4 drawings for prizes. Each participant received a handmade bookmark crafted by our ever-resourceful page, Ann Marie Buonemani.
- In spite of some staffing shortages in the children’s room we had a busy August with a full menu of programs. Though children’s librarian Kim Whittemore was out of town for much of the month due to the death of her father, she was able to be back occasionally and keep things on track. Our new literacy aide Diarra had a chance to fly solo in conducting a campfire story time. This is an evening story time featuring an imaginary campfire and real (microwaved) s’mores. Diarra had seven kids in attendance and she reports that they demanded more stories than she had prepared.
- Kim was back for the annual end-of-summer reading party, ably assisted by the ever-helpful Pat Connor. Pat had a number of creative activity ideas which were a huge help in planning the event, and she was here on the day of the party to assist. Our attendance was a bit less than last year, but we still had plenty of kids, and they had a lot of fun. The peals of laughter were audible throughout the library, and the merriment went on for a couple of hours.

Collections
RPL Outreach librarian Xandi DiMatteo stopped by the branch to analyze our graphic novel collection. We’ve been devoting more of the teen budget to graphic novels, but it’s a challenging collection to manage. Reviewing media are not comprehensive, and the books themselves are difficult to arrange in a user-friendly intuitive fashion. Xandi had some suggestions for an improved shelving scheme for our graphic novels that she feels may enhance their use. When we have some open time later in the fall we’ll take her up on her offer to guide us in rearranging them.
Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs
Geoff Clough came to the library to perform LP Spin Art. Mr. Clough brought in old LP records with an old player in a box and dropped different colored paints on the record while it was spinning. Once it stopped, you could see how the colors spread across the records. Children and teens enjoyed this activity and loved watching the colors spin. When Mr. Clough opened the box of records the first question from the kids was “What ARE those??”

Anecdotes/Other
Before school begins, new families are invited to join Rochester Childfirst Network (RCN) staff for an evening at the site to meet teachers, see the classrooms, hear about activities for the school year, and meet with outside organizations. Ngo was asked by the Activities Coordinator for RCN to set up a table. Ngo took books and toys to pass out and promoted library card registrations for children. Ngo registered 6 new children’s cards, talked about the Empire Pass, and told parents about her weekly story time visits to RCN.

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs
- We had a successful summer at Lincoln Library with many new faces and fun programs. One of the more popular programs in August was Hula Hoop Making with Benjamin Berry. Children and their parents were able to participate and even Library Assistant Santiago got to take home a hula hoop. We enjoyed seeing families working together in this program, and all participants left with a smile.
- During the month August, Tim Ryan wrapped up the Summer Reading program for the teens. There was plentiful and active participation throughout the entirety of the program with teens turning in reading logs for the books they read in order to be eligible to win a gift card. In addition, Ms. Patty (Friend of Lincoln) donated several prizes for teen patrons who completed a book report including a laptop computer and basketball.

Toy Library
The summer went very well. Our procedure of asking groups of five or more to reserve a time worked well as did our backup plan of using the Community Room in the event a large group asked to come and needed to be split into halves. This was the case with the Baden St. Summer Leap group that called on August 7, asking to bring a group of 34. They planned a trip to the Zoo but were discouraged by the rain and asked to come to the Toy Library instead. After a few back and forth phone conversations, we decided to bring Travel Kits to the Community Room to accommodate half the children there. The other half played in the Toy Library. After 30 minutes, they switched. This arrangement worked nicely. Attached is a picture of their visit.

Anecdotes/Other
- In the month of August, Tim Ryan was able to assist a teen patron in getting their work permit and resume completed. He sat down with the patron and
helped her get started completing the requirements. The teen came back a couple weeks later with her work permit, completed her resume with Ryan’s assistance and then she began applying for jobs online.

- When doing some cleaning of the closet space within the library, the branch manager found close to 30 old 16 mm film reels stacked away. After confirming that the local history division did not want the materials, the branch manager reached out to the George Eastman house to see if they would be interested in adding them to their collection. After looking over the reels, curator Deborah Stoiber let us know that many of the films are relatively unique and represent things that the Eastman collection currently does not have. She also shared that those films that they choose not to keep will likely be sent down to the New York Public Library, who still lends out 16 mm film.

**Lyell Branch, Shamika Fusco reporting**

**Programs**

- During the month of August, the Mini Ark Animal Farm Petting Zoo stopped by. Who doesn’t love having animals come visit?? This was a very fun hour of getting to meet, touch, and hold various animals, from a snake and a tarantula, to chinchillas and stick insects. We had an awesome turn out!
- Summer Reading was a hit and wrapped up with an indoor garden party. Kids decorated trays, on which they could keep their snacks while we had an indoor picnic.
- Michael Van Edwards came in and talked to us about the importance of bees, how friendly bees are, how he raises bees, what to do if you see a swarm (Don’t fuss at them, they’re just trying to find a new place to start a colony. And no, it won’t be on your car.) BEES are friendly and won’t sting unless threatened or in danger (like being stuck in your shirt.) It is wasps and hornets that sting for seemingly no reason. The bumble bee can even be pet! Honey harvest time is in late October, so there were no free samples at this program.
- Nazareth College had their final wrap up meeting for their literacy research project. We went over the photos and what was going on in them, and any other literacy activities in the library that were not photographed. We look forward to hearing the results of their project and hope to gain some useful insights to how we can help families with their literacy goals.
- During our August Produce Distribution, 11 families were served & 14 volunteers assisted. Ms. Anne read to the children while they waited. She also allowed them to volunteer while setting up. The girls pictured, said they had 13 people in their household. *(Priority#2 Sustainability & Resources)*
• Patricia Cox and her husband Norman were our first two initial DreamBikes participants! This was by far our largest DreamBikes audience served yet! There was lots of interest from adults & youth from our library’s neighborhood once Eric of DreamBikes set up shop outside behind the library. Lots of youth and adult participants! Jennifer Cherlin continues to write letters of recommendation for patrons to receive bicycles from Community Bikes. She wrote 3 letters. (Priority#2 Sustainability & Resources)

Outreach Event
Lyell Branch joined in on the festivities at Burrows Street Park. The event was organized by the City of Rochester. Hot dogs, chips, and water were served. Recreation on the move, Cameron Street Ministries as well as a host of other community organizations were present as well.

Anecdotes/Other
• This month we received donations from one of our amazing patrons. In addition to the Mini pantry we will be supplying students with supplies if they need a boost.
• Book and other reading materials have been extremely generous lately, so we have created a cart outside near the community room for our patrons to enjoy. We have received an extreme amount of compliments.
• The Lyell branch is serving as a hosting site for the Frederick Douglass 400 years Celebration. This month we hosted two meetings and received a good turnout. Participants received some background knowledge as well as information going forth. Cherlin, our adult librarian, volunteered to order any literature to support efforts going forth.

Join TNT in Celebrating 400 Years of African American History

Through a series of collaborative events, we will be recognizing and highlighting the resilience and contributions of African Americans, while also acknowledging the painful impact of slavery, racial discrimination, and racism in this country.

In the spirit of Harambee, we are pulling together to become more aware of the immense sacrifices and contributions made by African Americans to our Nation over the course of the last 400 years. With sights of African American History, we celebrate.

To learn about how to get involved, we invite you to attend the following Information Sessions presented by: Lisa Goff
Monday, 8/26/19 4-6 p.m. & Saturday, 8/31/19, 12-3 p.m.
Lyell Library Branch 1904 Lyell Ave. Rochester, NY 14616
Please direct your questions to: Lisa Goff or Shamika Fusco
(585) 438-8218 ROCYHAYAAN@GMAIL.COM
Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

- August was a busy month at the library especially for the children and teens. For the children there was face painting and balloons for the end of summer reading party. Some of the children had their faces painted while others chose to have their arm or hand painted. They were very well done.
- We had an end of summer water balloon battle. It started as a water balloon toss last year but with the new children’s librarian it has become a water balloon battle. The children and teens had a great time and were soaked.
- In addition to those programs we had a Hawaiian Ice truck, Snowie of WNY visit for the teens and children. There were different flavored syrups that the children and teens could choose from. The kids took their choice of syrup very seriously although some added so much syrup there was very little shaved ice left. This was a huge hit.
- The teens were part of a program called Be Proud Be Responsible. This program was a six-part curriculum that provides teens with the knowledge, motivation, and skills necessary to change their behaviors in ways that will reduce their risk of pregnancy or contacting HIV and other sexual transmitted diseases. We held our yearly book bag and school supply drive. We were able to help seventy-six children and teens with book bags and some school supplies through generous donations for this school year.

Community Outreach/Meetings
Evanna DiSalvo had officer Jan Owen from USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) speak to a group at the Phillis Wheatley Library. DiSalvo visited the outreach locations at the Wachuku Foundation and Refugees Helping Refugees. Mark Hafer visited Rochester City School #2 Clara Barton for their welcome back celebration. Hafer also visited Rochester City School #42 for their open house. DiSalvo attended the Rochester Committee on Refugee Resettlement (RCORR) meeting.

Anecdotes/Other
DiSalvo received a lovely email from Pamala, a young woman who has been attending English classes. She currently is back in Mexico. She said, “I miss going to the library and taking class, it helped me to feel good, learn more English, meet more people and integrate into the culture. Thank you for this time Evanna without you, without classmates and the library would have been very difficult for me.”
MonroeBranch, MaryClare Scheg reporting

Programs
- On August 21, we teamed up with the Flower City Arts Center for another popular children’s ceramic program called Make a Ceramic Sundial. Nineteen people participated. We’ll be adding more ceramics programs throughout the fall and winter. They are well-attended programs with organized and experienced art educators in our neighborhood, and cleanup by the artists has been thorough.
- Guinea Pigs in the Library: Sow Cavy Mavy returned and this time with boar Sweetheart. Children and parents enjoyed stories and asking questions about guinea pig habits and home pet care. Everyone who wanted to do so had a chance to individually hold, pet, and spend time with the guinea pigs.
- We had a Summer Reading and End of Summer Reading Party. Twenty-eight children registered for summer reading this year and many of them were actively participating in reading and programs throughout the summer. Thirteen children finished the program officially by turning in their reading logs; several others checked in regularly, but we did not receive their reading logs back. The children who recorded and checked-in read for a total of 11,460 minutes (191 hours). We celebrated with a brunch party and congratulated the children with certificates and book prizes.
- Monroe held Creative Writing Workshops on 8/14 & 8/21 for children in grades 4 – 8. Melissa Hopkins led the program. This is one of the most popular programs that we do.
- This year our adult patrons could choose from the following tasks: complete a crossword puzzle, word puzzle, write a book review or take a tag from our tree. The tags gave the patrons the opportunity to do a variety of activities. This program was a hit with our patrons. We had 14 people submit 144 entries for our prize drawing.
- The Young Adult Summer Reading Program wrapped up on Aug. 10. We had 12 participants this year, and 8 teens won prizes ranging from Walmart gift cards to headphones and craft kits. Each participant received a book bag and a book at the end of the program, and some also got tickets to the Rochester Museum and Science Center/Strasenburg Planetarium.

Community Outreach/Meeting
Paige will continue planning school visits and story times for the fall and 2019-2020 school year. Outreach locations and grades include #23 school Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade, RMSC Preschool, and St. Paul’s Child Care Center UPK class. We also have the potential sites of #35 school (for classroom/open house visits) and the neighborhood laundromat, as time allows.

Anecdotes/Other
- One of our long-time patrons stopped in the other day to return 2 of our umbrellas. He and his wife were leaving the library one day and it was pouring outside. Since they were walking home, he said our umbrellas came in handy and allowed them to walk home without getting drenched. He was very appreciative.
- On August 26, we participated in the George Eastman Day of Service. We had 9 students from the Eastman School of Music come and clean at Monroe. On both floors, they cleaned the woodwork around our
circulation desks, along the walls and on the top of our bookshelves. They also dusted and cleaned the glass on our entry doors. They were terrific workers.

- This month Monroe’s Food Truck gave out 342 food and nonfood items. We are seeing an increase in donations. Our connection with the “New Life Emergency Food Cupboard” is going strong. With the advertising by our food truck, some of our patrons are getting some needed supplies at this Emergency Food Cupboard.

**Sully Branch, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting**

- The Storywalk Ribbon Cutting ceremony occurred this month. It was a beautiful day for the event, and the city used their new drone for the first time to take photos of this event. Community members, representatives from the city, library and rec center staff, members of the RPL Friends and Foundation, and Common Ground Health, gathered to officially open the storywalk. A teacher from School #33, Ms. Glewinski, assisted the children in dressing up for the event. Children that participated in the story creation were awarded Positive Tickets and were given copies of the book they helped to create. This was quite an exciting time for us all.

- Jen Nesbitt Children’s Librarian awarded the big Summer Reading prizes to four lucky readers: RMSC passes, Strong Museum passes, and two sets of Seneca Park Zoo passes. She also gave out lots of great new books to our Summer Reading participants. The kids were all happy with their prizes! Hopefully all of the reading and learning this summer will help them all get off to a great start this school year.

- Also, Nesbitt was able to get the ingredients to make slime this month and it was a big hit. We used up two gallons of glue, a few bottles of contact solution and lots of shaving cream. The kids are expert slime makers, and it was fun to watch them help each other get just the right consistency to make the perfect slime. They felt quite proud of their accomplishments.

- For our Smash Tournament we used our 3D Printer to make Gold, Silver and Bronze trophies that the Teens were delighted to find out that they could keep. Our Summer Reading went well, with our winner reading well over 100 books, winning the $40 gift card prize.

**Anecdotes/Other**

- Children’s Librarian Jen Nesbitt had a funny conversation with a boy who spent all summer with us at Sully. While he was gaming on the computer he asked, “Ms. Jen, would you rather get the same hairstyle as your mom or put your head inside the mouth of a lion?”
  “Would the lion bite off my head or injure me in any way?”
  “No.”
  “I’d pick the lion so I could have a good story to tell.”
  “I’d pick my mom’s hairstyle. It might look cool.”
• We held our memorial/remembrance service for Donna Cramer this month. Many people shared memories, or thoughts, of Cramer, and a few people read poems. We also had a bubble release, an Elvis impersonator, and time for fellowship and refreshments. This event was well attended by staff, community members, and Cramer’s family. We thank administration and the library community for all of the support and kind words over these last two months.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankuna reporting

Programs
• African Drumming, from Building Families First, was a huge hit for the children, teens, and adults who participated. The first thing a couple of the boys asked was if they could play the drums. When they found out they could their eyes lit up. Afterwards, all I heard about was how much fun they had, when was he coming back, and that their arms were tired from drumming.
• Our Girl Scout troop had a fire safety program this month. Firefighters came in and demonstrated how to get out of a fire and how to stay safe. All of the girls had many questions to ask and responded with thoughtful answers to the fire fighters. Afterwards they made a healthy snack called edible fire. They all walked away with sticker handouts and fun.
• The end of the summer reading was a blast. All the children and the teens enjoyed making cupcakes and eating them. The pizza and juice hit the top. We had face painting which all of the children, teens, and parents enjoyed participating in. We drew raffles for books, museum passes and for the bikes. Cornhill Association graciously donates money for our party every year and for the bikes to give to the neighborhood children. Their faces were the best part of the afternoon. They had the biggest smiles ever.

Anecdotes/Other
• Our RCSD summer literacy aides, Raeona, and Supreme were amazing. They jumped right in and helped the kids with the computers and read to them. They played games and helped with art projects. They were a big help with keeping the children reading all summer. A few parents have told me how much fun their child had because Raeona and Supreme were there. Raeona has been hired as a page and is excited to start her new job here. She was a big help with the children when both Alexandra and Elisabeth were on vacation. The kids treat Raeona like a rock star, clapping and shouting when she came in every day. They were so happy to have her here.
The Wheatley library staff received a very nice box of East Ridge Donuts as a “thank you” gift from the staff and participants of the Teen Empowerment group that met at Phillis Wheatley Library over the summer. It was a great collaboration and we were happy to reintroduce the teens to the library and show them what we could do for them.

The garden at the Phillis Wheatley Library is growing beautifully. The community is making full use of the garden by helping to take care of it and by using the produce. It is exactly what we envisioned the garden would be.

The Phillis Wheatley Second Annual Health and Wellness Fair was held on August 24, 2019. We had a total of 12 different vendors participating including, Food Link Nutrition, Rochester Vegan Society and a masseuse. Rec on the Move provided healthy physical activities for children. We raffled off a $50 Barnes and Noble gift card at the end of the event. The happy winner was a 10-year-old boy, pictured below, whose Mom said she would help him spend it. Many patrons after leaving the health fair expressed how much they enjoyed the event, and that they really benefited from the information and free massage. Tonetta entered the library on Monday after the health fair. She expressed that her son Jaaron attended the event with some of his siblings and shared with her how much he enjoyed the vegan dishes that he sampled at the vegan society table. Tonetta shared that her son even asked her to begin making those same dishes at home.

Community Outreach/Meetings
We attended the Clarissa Street Reunion on August 17th with the book bike.

Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs
- We had an amazing and informative program called Buds and the Bees that was led by Beth Guzzetta who teaches at Allendale Columbia. She is used to working with kids, although Kathy Wolf thinks the group that attended this program skewed younger than what Beth normally works with. We played a pollination game, which helped even very young people to understand what the whole pollination thing is all about. Beth brought three different kinds of honey for sampling, DELICIOUS!
• Hula Hooping with Benjamin Berry taught a multi-generational group how to use a hoop successfully, the health benefits of hooping, and how hula hoops can be used in performance.

Anecdotes/Other
• Randy Jackson was one of Winton’s regular patrons. He started coming in early last fall. For quite a long time, he would come in every day, sit in one of our easy chairs, listen to his headphones, and read the paper or a magazine. When he had caught up on his reading, he would borrow videos. It wasn’t long before some of the staff befriended him. He was a very interesting and kind man with many interests. He shared his interest in food, and even once brought in some of his wonderful sauce – along with the recipe. We were all horrified and saddened when we found out that he had died in the process of blowing up his house. It just goes to show that one never knows what is in the next person’s head and heart. We never had a clue to the horrific torment he must have been going through. The Winton staff will miss him dearly for he touched our souls.
• We have had 100+ Adult Summer Reading prize entries completed by enthusiastic adult summer readers. Each entry asks for the name of book, a short description and a rating. We have given away B&N gift cards and book bundles (from book donations). Our patrons have enjoyed entering. We have posted pictures of the winners on our Facebook page.
Selected Meetings & Outputs, August 19 – September 13
Director Patricia Uttaro, reporting

Standing Meetings
City Senior Management Team (weekly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)
Brie Harrison, Ana Suro, Tolley Reeves, Tonia Burton, Christine Ridarsky – one-to-one meetings (monthly)
FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
Monroe County Assistant County Executive, Michael Molinari (monthly)
Central Library All-Staff Meeting (monthly)
MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)
New York State Library – Division of Library Development conference call (monthly)
Public Library System Directors’ Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)
Lyla Grills, Penfield Public Library mentoring meeting (monthly)
City Dept. of Environmental Services Commissioner, Norm Jones (bimonthly)

Other
Donna Grillo (Cramer) memorial celebration at Sully Branch
Jackie Campbell, Roc the Future Early Grade Literacy
Central Arts & Literature Staff
City Architects – Rundel Terrace Project Update
RPL Board Orientation – Mitch Gruber
Annette Jimenez-Gleason & Simeon Banister, RACF – MCLS VIP Pass
Early Grade Literacy Planning Team
Jennifer Byrnes – Business Innovation Center Planning
Charlotte Branch Library 100th Anniversary
Sister Cities Board Meeting
Bridgette Burch-White – Mayor’s Book Club meeting
Rochester Tech Conference

Email Activity
August 2019

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