



115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: August 25, 2021
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – August 2021

Action Items

Acceptance of Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries (Lewis)

RPL was awarded \$3,069 from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries to provide summer classes at the Maplewood Community Library. The classes address adult literacy needs of two diverse and underserved populations: English Language Learners and High School Equivalency Diploma Seekers. The Library will provide two classes per week for ELL and TASC students in addition to 1:1 tutor/teacher sessions with students as necessary. Grant allocation covers the professional fees for contracted instructor Melissa Parrish and purchase of a new laptop.

Board Action Requested: Accept \$3,069 from the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries

Tutoring Agreement for Maplewood Community Library (Lewis)

The RPL recommends continuation of Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) tutoring and afterschool tutoring with current instructor Melissa Parrish. Ms. Parrish will provide virtual and in-person tutoring at the Maplewood Community Library. The weekly schedule for classroom tutoring is established by Branch Administration, the Branch Site Supervisor, and the instructor. Ms. Parrish will be paid at a rate of \$29 per hour for a maximum of 394 hours, not to exceed \$11,426. Funding is allocated from FY22 Branch Operating budget (\$9,106) and the RRLC Harold Hacker grant (\$2,320).

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with Melissa Parrish, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$11,426 through June 30, 2022.

NYSED Grant Approval, Lincoln Branch Library (Lewis and Harrison)

We are requesting Board approval for the submission of a grant application to the Monroe County Library System and NYSED Division of Library Development's annual construction grant program for renovations at the Lincoln Branch Library.

Edge Architecture was retained for design services in November 2020 with the RPL Branch Facilities and Operations Plan (recommending full interior and exterior renovation of the existing footprint) used as the basis for design. Edge and sub-consultant MH Engineering conducted a building assessment walk-through to verify existing conditions.

- The building canopy at the entrance of the library will be redesigned (see rendering) with a new storefront designed to be more resistant to accidental impacts and vandalism.
- To improve library visibility signage will be added to the front of the building.
- Inside, the circulation desk will be relocated closer to the entrance, with direct sight lines to the restrooms and all collection spaces.
- Restrooms will be renovated with entrance relocation for safety and direct staff sightlines.

- The Adult collections and public computer stations will be moved to the front of the library with direct access to the circulation desk and business center for easy access and assistance.
- The Teen area be relocated to the former adult services area, adding a meeting room space for tutoring and counseling services.
- The Children's area will be relocated to the rear of the library and adjacent to the Toy Library (former teen and Toy Library corridor). It will have its own computer stations, activity space, and reference desk. A family restroom will be added for safety and convenience. The wall between the Toy Library and the new Children's area will be removed, merging the spaces to make a large area to support programming and active play.
- Painting the ceiling, new lighting and floor finishes will assist in brightening the entire library.
- The existing sprinkler system will be expanded to cover the entire library.
- Additional power and data connection points will be added for better access throughout all public spaces.

The project budget does not include new furniture or other equipment; existing furnishings will be utilized with minor seating replacements requested to be supported by the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library (outside of project scope and budget).

A NYSED grant request of \$1,000,000 will be met with \$640,000 in Library/City cash capital; note that the City has agreed to appropriate additional cash capital support as part of the FY21 year-end budget surplus. Final award amount to be received from NYSED will be shared with the Board in September.

Board Action Requested: Approve a grant application and acceptance of funds up to \$1,000,000 from the NYSED Division of Library Development for the construction project described.



Allocation of 2020-2021 Annual Campaign Proceeds (Harrison)

\$275,514 was raised through the FFRPL July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021 annual campaign. Based on the RPL's joint fundraising agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL, the proceeds of the annual campaign are to be divided evenly between the FFRPL and RPL, less any donor-restricted gifts, which translates to the following recommended allocation:

Distribution of net proceeds:

Rochester Public Library for books, materials and programs	\$ 94,975.00
The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library	\$ 94,975.00
Campaign Direct Costs	\$ 47,995.60

Restricted gifts and additional library allocation:

Donor Restricted funds for Library use	\$ 22,312.46
Restricted gifts to endowment funds	\$ 1,590.00
Funds for donor recognition event(s)	\$ 5,100.00
Gifts designated for special projects	\$ 8,565.64

Total **\$ 275,513.70**

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed 2020 – 2021 annual campaign earnings allocation as described above.

Intellectual Property Consulting Agreement (Traub)

The RPL recommends continuation of attorney services from the Tracy Jong Law Firm, who provided 17 intellectual property consultations during the 2020-21 pilot period via referral from the Central Library Business Insight Center. This agreement will continue prior year terms at the rate of \$250 per hour for up to 28 hours of consultation, not to exceed \$7,000 through the remainder of the fiscal year. Funding is from the Business Insight Center operating budget, a portion of which is underwritten by the FFRPL.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with the Tracy Jong Law Firm, PC, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$7,000 through June 30, 2022.

ImagineYOU Audio Production Training Agreement (Traub)

The RPL recommends continuation of recording and studio production training services with Wicked Squid Studios, which has worked with ImagineYOU since 2017. This agreement will continue prior year terms at the rate of \$75 per hour for student audio production classes and minor reimbursable expenses (social media student recruitment), not to exceed \$8,000. Funding is from the Teen Central/ImagineYOU operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with Wicked Squid Studios, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$8,000 through June 30, 2022.

RPL Code of Conduct Revision (Uttaro)

In June 2020, the RPL Code of Conduct was modified to include this statement:

All employees, patrons, visitors, vendors or any other persons who are over age 2 and able to medically tolerate a face covering, shall wear a mask or cloth face covering which covers the nose and mouth when in library premises, so long as the Governor's Executive Order's regarding masks shall remain in effect.

At this time, we request removal of the last clause in the statement as highlighted above. RPL has continued to require masks in library buildings after the Governor's mandate expired and we wish to continue to do so indefinitely for the safety of our youngest and otherwise most vulnerable patrons and for the safety of our staff.

Board Action Requested: Approve the recommended revision to the RPL Code of Conduct.

Memorandum of Understanding for Rochester History Journal Publication (Uttaro & Ridarsky)

Director of Historical Resources and City Historian Christine Ridarsky and Library Director Uttaro have worked with Rochester Institute of Technology staff and City Attorney Johanna Brennan to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to guide further discussions on a process to improve the publication of the Rochester History

Journal. Publication of the journal has become increasingly complicated, with demand for e-access and interactive features beyond the ability of RPL staff. RIT Press is a local institution capable of providing the technology and expertise needed to transform the journal into a 21st century publication. RIT and RPL will work together to maintain the integrity and high research standards for which the journal is known and to determine the best way to deliver the journal to publication in the future. This agreement sets forth the process that will be used to develop the partnership between RIT and RPL.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between RIT and RPL for production planning for the Rochester History Journal.

Digitization Agreement with Family Search (Uttaro & Ridarsky)

We ask for approval for an agreement to enter into a no-cost contract with FamilySearch for on-site digitization services. Under the agreement, the library will provide workspace on the second floor of the Rundel Memorial Building in which FamilySearch will set up a scanning station; the library will also provide internet access. All equipment will be purchased, maintained, and insured by FamilySearch, and FamilySearch will be responsible for all aspects of the digitization process, including recruiting, training, and supervising all staff and volunteers who work on the project. Library staff and FamilySearch will collaborate to identify library materials to be digitized. Material digitized by Family Search will be uploaded to its genealogy website, www.familysearch.org, where patrons from around the world will have free access to it. FamilySearch will provide the library with high-resolution preservation quality digital copies of scanned library material, and the library is free to make these files available throughout our own public access channels.

Board Action Requested: Approval of digitization agreement with FamilySearch

Report Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

COVID Update – All libraries continue to operate with caution but are slowly beginning to add more services and programs. Most libraries have begun some in-person programs, still following CDC guidance and using extra caution in requiring masks and limiting attendance. Children's Services, as you will see later in the report, has had tremendous success with their Pop-Up Library programs in area parks, which have routinely attracted around a hundred people. Masking requirements remain in place for staff as well as patrons, and both are encouraged to use hand sanitizer and wash their hands often.

There has been some concern raised by Central staff regarding patrons eating in the library due to the popularity of the Community Café. Security is reminding people that there is one designated eating area and directing people to the Reading Garden. Most staff have expressed a desire to keep the Plexiglas dividers up for an indefinite period. Staff members have returned to fully working in the buildings rather than teleworking, although some are still providing programs via Zoom.

A recent survey of Central Library users regarding hours revealed that our patrons prefer the pre-Covid hours open, so we will return to those hours in September:

- Monday 9:00 am – 8:30 pm (9-10 BLB first floor & Tech Center only)
- Tuesday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm (9-10 BLB first floor & Tech Center only)
- Wednesday 9:00 am – 8:30 pm (9-10 BLB first floor & Tech Center only)
- Thursday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

- Friday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm (9-10 BLB first floor & Tech Center only)
- Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Consolidated Fund Application grant notification: The RPL has submitted a state Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under the NYS Parks Historic Preservation program. The grant request is \$500,000 to support exterior restoration of the west (river) façade of the Rundel Memorial Library building. The total project cost for this first phase of exterior masonry and window repairs is \$2.9 million, including remaining design, construction, and Resident Project Representative services. The cost estimating and preliminary design recommendations are from a June 2021 Bero Architecture and Jensen/BRV Engineering report. The west façade has both the highest level of stone and window damage and deterioration and the most difficult accessibility fronting the Genesee River. A roof-cantilevered platform access system will be designed and installed as part of the project, which will also support future repairs on parapet and upper floor work for the remaining facades as future phase construction.

The comprehensive program and future project approach will be conducted by building elevation/façade to realize project cost efficiencies of scale and access to the work area, as well as consistently plan an annualized maintenance budget for the work. Future phase funding requests will be submitted as part of the City's upcoming Capital Improvement Program.

Matching funds for this phase of work include previously appropriated debt for the Rundel building (\$400,000), the proposed grant (\$500,000) and new 2021-22 debt allocation (\$2 million). Bero Architecture will be continuing with design development and Contract Documents, with an intended spring/summer 2022 construction start.

Trustee Handbook Training: A few weeks ago, I sent out an email regarding upcoming training for trustees. Here's a reminder. The *Trustee Handbook Book Club* program will debut in October and is sponsored by the Public Library System Directors Organization (PULISDO), the State Library, and Library Trustees Association at <https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/> Registration is now live.

The format will be a 90-minute, online program. Trustees are encouraged to read the focal chapter ahead of the event, to think through the questions we've provided and even submit their own questions in advance. The event outline will include a brief introduction to the chapter topic by Jerry Nichols and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and then our peers Ron Kirsop, executive director of the Pioneer Library System, and Brian Hildreth, executive director of the Southern Tier Library System, have stepped up to moderate the questions received in advance so Jerry and Rebekkah can cover them. They will also leave time to take questions live from the audience. Each session will be recorded and archived. The archived version along with a "DIY" discussion toolkit for boards to use in perpetuity will be provided at the same link provided above.

I encourage all trustees to participate. If you need a new Trustee Handbook, please contact Alicia Gunther or Debi Mansour.

Marketing & Programs Update

In July, Jen Lenio took over leadership of Central's Program Team after the retirement of Carol Moldt. Topics discussed at the meeting included the fall Rochester Reads event for the title *Braiding Sweetgrass*, monthly programming goals, a calendar for annual programming ideas, a possible visit from local poet Cornelius Eady, library participation at Roc Holiday Village, Books Sandwiched In, and the Fringe Fest.

At Director Uttaro's request, Lenio researched options for RPL's presence at the 2021 Roc Holiday Village festival, including speaking with a representative from RHV and with FFRPL to see if their volunteers could assist RPL staff at the festival. In the end, it was decided that rather than committing to renting a booth, an easier entry into participation at the RHV would be to purchase a table in their Gingerbread Tent for two Thursdays and hopefully also have some of our children's staff provide a couple storytimes and easy make and take crafts. An application was submitted to RHV, and we are waiting to hear if we have been accepted.

In thinking about Director Uttaro's request for staff's visions of the library, Lenio shared her vision that RPL be a resource for city residents needing a high school equivalency diploma. Lenio reached out to a vendor who offers such a program, but it is not currently recognized by the NYS Board of Regents. In further research, the state does recognize and support the National External Diploma Program (NEDP), so Lenio set up a video meeting to learn more about it. Afterwards, Lenio reached out to the Brooklyn Public Library and Action for a Better Community (ABC) to hear their experiences with running NEDP at their organizations. ABC's Adult Education Services Coordinator, Casey Karger, invited Lenio to ABC for a tour and talk about their NEDP. Upon hearing that running NEDP is fairly time intensive, Lenio felt that perhaps a better path forward for RPL would be to partner with ABC. The library could promote ABC's adult education services, so staff are more aware and, if there is sufficient patron interest, ABC is willing to use library locations as satellites for their programs. Lenio will continue her work on this.

CSEA Contract Negotiations Update

Our CSEA negotiations team – Ana Suro, Adam Traub, and Melanie Lewis – have met with Labor Relations and CSEA representatives several times over the last few months to work towards a new agreement. The previous agreement expired June 30, 2021. Some of the issues being discussed include changes to the tuition reimbursement process, parking for Central employees, holidays, and annual wage increases. Once an agreement is reached, this board will receive a full briefing on the agreement prior to action to approve.

Social Media

June & July 2021	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	1,609	867	1,023	129	5	30	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	10 (2,010)	9 (2,204)	59 (5,411)	-	16 (763)	54 (1,948)	17 (274)
Engagements	206	117	2737	196	366	585	48
Check In/ Mentions	35	46	-	-	-	13	-
Post Reach	15,975	12,772	42,680	4,800	-	8,254	31,076
Video/Story Views	-	-	672	-	-	187	1,700
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	7	-	-	53	-

Central Library Updates

Arts & Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Kendall DeBoer, local fabric historian, gave an interesting talk on the history of feed sack and how it is seeing popularity in the DIY movement and in today's fashion industry. Feed sack gained popularity during the depression through the 1940s. Sometimes called flour sack or sugar sack, animal feed and baking supplies came in these sacks that soon went from basic burlap to colorful flower prints. Women used these prints to create dresses for children and themselves along with household items like quilts. DeBoer spoke about how today's designers bring ingenuity and sensibility to create items that are sustainable by using these cotton fabrics, much like the women from the past used them. Fashion designers are re-purposing these fabrics to create fashion-forward, creative, sustainable works of wearable art. This program complemented the Thrift Style exhibit installed in Hacker Hall.
- Plant expert Kathleen Rullo from Jardin Terrariums often teaches about succulent plants. In "Creating A Kitchen Herb Garden," patrons were given clay pots and some Oregano and Basil plants and some Nasturtium seeds to begin their gardens. Rullo spoke a little about the history of different herbs and their origins and she explained about how the Nasturtium plant is edible. The care of herbs and their specific needs were also explained to patrons such as how much water and sunlight they need. As Rullo is a plant expert she taught patrons what herbs could be planted together and how the mint leaves and chocolate mint leaves can be used to make ice cream. One of our patrons who regularly attends our classes is disabled and Rullo explained how she is getting a degree in horticultural therapy, and she may be able to help the patron get her garden set up.
- The "Beginning Linoleum Cutting" class was one of the Division's fine art classes taught by local lino artist Frank Wolfs. This was a class for beginners where they learned to create a simple image of a bird. Linoleum cutting is a relief printmaking technique done on a block of linoleum. Cuts are made with blades that have different shapes to chisel out various parts of the lino block. The chiseled-out areas will represent the areas with no color while the raised area will take the ink that is rolled on with a brayer. Once the ink is rolled onto the block, the block is then laid on the paper and the image is rubbed onto the paper. The Art Division provided all the linoleum cutting tools and linoleum. This first class was taught through Zoom and Wolfs will be back to teach another class live in the Art Division.
- Librarian Carol Moldt retired from the Arts and Literature Division in June. Carol was responsible for developing the fiction and large print collections for the Central Library. She also created several innovative programs such as the Self-Published Book Festival, the Rochester Writes series, and the Brown Bag Book Group. Except for the Self-Published Book Festival, which was a one-time event, these programs will continue. Librarian Diane Premo, who has prior experience leading book groups, will lead the monthly Brown Bag Book Group and Mary Fraser has already begun overseeing the Rochester Writes Series. Melissa Manczuk will be buying and developing the fiction and large print collections.

Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

- June
 - The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 6 in person, 35 by email, 0 by mail, 6 by phone
 - Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 0
 - Webpage views: 84

RPL Board Director's Report – August 2021 (Continued)

- 3D Printer: 0
- Hours of in-depth market research: 25
- Tracy Jong usage: 2 hours. 2 people served.
- July
 - The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 8 in person, 27 by email, 0 by mail, 3 by phone
 - Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 0
 - Webpage views: 96
 - 3D Printer: 0
 - Hours of in-depth market research: 49
 - Tracy Jong usage: 4 hours. 4 people served.

Database Use

- June
 - Frost & Sullivan: Downloads 21; Value \$79,050
 - IBISWorld: Page Views 141; Value \$44,355
 - InnovationQ: Logins 10; Searches 174
 - PitchBook: Logins 8
 - Statista: Logins 69; Value \$7,605
- July
 - Frost & Sullivan: Downloads 35; Value \$126,600
 - IBISWorld: Page Views 159; Value \$48,065
 - InnovationQ: Logins 10; Searches 174
 - PitchBook: Logins 6
 - Statista: Logins 52; Value \$8,764

Programs

- Patent agent David Bassett discussed different types of intellectual property at “Business First Wednesday: Intellectual Property.”
- Empire Justice discussed their new website aimed at supporting crime victims with legal issues in “Legal Resources for Crime Victims.” <https://crimevictimshelpny.org/>
- In partnership with the Small Business Development Center, a program was held on the NYS Small Business Recovery grant. Specifically, who is eligible and how to apply.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Jennifer Byrnes met with Melissa Jordan, Vice-President of Business and Professional Banking at M&T Bank. They discussed how BIC can help M&T's clients. Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh will also be speaking to M&T's Women's Resource Group on market research 101 and intellectual property 101.
- Byrnes met with Irene Sanchez of Just Cause (formerly Volunteer Legal Services Project) to discuss hosting their micro-entrepreneurship legal clinic at Central. They also discussed having a program in September at Central as well as a resource fair in November.
- Byrnes attended the meeting for the mayor's task force for cannabis legalization. Other attendees were from Neighborhood & Business Development and Community Wealth Building.
- Byrnes met with Agustin Rodriguez, Sr. Director of Ibero Investors, Ibero-American Investors Corporation, to discuss potential partnerships, including teaching Ibero's potential entrepreneurs about market research, use of Ibero's space in La Marketa, and making referrals.

- Site visits have resumed. This month Byrnes had hours onsite at NextCorps and RIT Venture Creations. Byrnes and Meddaugh presented at StartUp Grind's Rochester Open Coffee Club about available services. Byrnes was a guest on the radio show "Rethinking Business: Success Sauce and Two Pickles." The show is hosted by two Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) mentors. It airs on Rochester Free Radio and can also be found here: <https://www.audible.com/pd/Podcast/B08JJPHT71>

Anecdotes

Melissa Cobo assisted a PhD student from Nanzan University, Japan. The research topic was about state and local governments' economic sanctions toward South Africa's apartheid during the 1980. To combat the "morally repugnant" practice of apartheid, in 1985 the City of Rochester declared no public funds would be sent to South Africa for any reason. Councilwoman Maxine Childress Brown initiated the vote. Cobo received this message after helping the researcher:

"Thank you very much for getting back to me. I appreciate the City Council proceedings on April 23, 1985. That is exactly the document that I was looking for."

Central Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Cornell Cooperative Extension Nutrition Educator Michelle Weiler led families on a tour of the Rochester Public Market for our Meet Me at the Market Program. Participants learned how to select the best seasonal produce, navigate the market, and how to use SNAP benefit tokens if applicable. All participants received tokens to spend at the market.
- Monroe Country 4-H offered a virtual program on scrap gardening. Children learned what kind of fruits, vegetables, and herbs can be regrown from kitchen scraps, and could plant along with the educator. One enthusiastic tween participant took his laptop outside to show off the vegetable garden he is growing.
- Artist Chloe Smith joined the Children's Center in Washington Square Park for a chalk art program. Smith demonstrated drawing techniques and drew a piece to help inspire participants to be creative.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

MCLS children's services staff offered Pop-Up in the Park programs this summer, which is an eight-park series in partnership with WXXI's Education Department. Community partners in attendance included Girl Scouts of Western New York, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Seneca Park Zoo, Highland Park Conservancy, Wild Wings, Rec on the Move, ABC Head Start, and RCSD Pre K program. The Children's Institute's Grow Bus was available for developmental screenings for children under 5. Along with our Nature Backpacks, these programs support the City's Outdoor Bill of Rights priorities by encouraging children and families to explore local greenspace and meets priority #1 in our strategic plan by expanding our presence and offering fun and educational experiences in our community. As part of the park events, Katie Powell is offering storytimes at Highland Park. The sessions were geared towards babies and toddlers and their caregivers, and involved movement, songs, and stories and have served as a great way to promote other program events.



Anecdotes

- We have many stories from families who have thanked us for being out and about this summer and several have followed us all over. A family from Mendon attended the Washington Square Chalk program and has attended the Pop Up in the Park programs at Mendon and other parks.
- The Pop Up in the Park programs have been a big hit with families and organizations this summer. Community organizations were very appreciative of the opportunity to join our program and word spread quickly. We did have to decline some requests because of park restrictions on limiting attendance.
- At the Mendon Ponds event, one adult tried paying staff for the event. She could not believe that the library would give out such beautiful books and activities for free. At this event we were joined by Birds of Prey from Wild Wings, WXXI, Girls Scouts of WNY did rock painting, NYS Environmental Conservation helped families create fairy houses & gnome homes. The library had a story walk and gave out books to over 100 participants.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- June
 - Curbside Pickup Appointments – 12
 - New Borrowers – 63
 - RRLC Access Cards Issued – 0
 - Notarial Acts – 57
- July
 - Curbside Pickup Appointments – 9
 - New Borrowers – 71
 - RRLC Access Cards Issued – 0
 - Notarial Acts – 73

Anecdotes/Other

Melisa Miranda assisted a patron who had lost his job the day before. He was having trouble applying for jobs on his phone. Miranda told him about the help available in the Tech Center and job information available on the third floor. She also helped him fax a completed application to a potential employer. The patron was very grateful for our help and plans on using our resources to help him in his job hunt.

Cunningham worked with a patron who had been incarcerated for several years. Her account was blocked, and she was on a fixed income. Cunningham cleared her account, she was issued a new library card, and she was very happy that she could now check out books on her favorite topics: ghost sightings and the history of paranormal activity in the area.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

June and July have been eventful months for the Local History & Genealogy Division. Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler retired at the end of June after 10 years of service. Management was able to post the job opening right away and received applications from and interviewed several qualified candidates. They are pleased to announce that Leah (pronounced like Star War's Princess Leia) Green, a recent RIT graduate, will be joining the team in September. Clerk III Hope Christansen will be returning to work in August after working from home since March 2020 and taking medical leave in July.

The division also completed the first stage of a strategic planning process this summer. Under the guidance of staff from Causewave, they developed mission and vision statements that support the library's overall mission and vision while focusing more specifically on Local History & Genealogy's role in supporting them:

Mission

Believing in the fundamental value and equity of *all* humans, the Local History & Genealogy Division preserves and ensures widespread access to inclusive resources and information about the diverse history of Greater Rochester and *all* of its residents.

Vision

We envision a connected community that engages with its collective history to shape a more inclusive and equitable future.

In September, the division will begin the next stage of the process: a workflow analysis.

Programs

- The final installment of the 2020–2021 season of the *Rochester's Rich History* series featured a screening of Parisa Urquhart's documentary film *Strike for Freedom: Frederick Douglass in Scotland*, followed by a question-and-answer session with the director (via Zoom). This educational presentation on Douglass examined a lesser-known chapter in the life of the famed abolitionist who once called Rochester—and Scotland—home.
- Koehler hosted the final four sessions of her Weekly Genealogy Meet-Up and 11 Genealogy One-on-One meetings (all via Zoom). Koehler's programs proved consistently popular and were a highlight of the division's public service offerings throughout the pandemic. We expect there to be a lapse in genealogy programming in Fall 2021 as we onboard the new specialist, but we look forward to resuming a full slate of programs in Spring 2022.
- The division hosted a talk by Lauren Tagliaferro (Memorial Art Gallery) on "Trompe L'Oeil Thrifting: Upcycling Meets Camp Couture" (via Zoom). This educational program about the history of upcycling in the

fashion industry was an ancillary to the *Thrift Style* exhibition that was on display in the Anthony Mascioli Gallery, on the first floor of the Rundel Memorial Library Building, in May and June.

Exhibitions

In September, the division will be hosting the New York State Museum's traveling exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1971 Attica prison uprising in the Rundel 2nd Floor Conference Room. Community curators Christine Christopher (director of Attica film *Criminal Injustice*) and Gary Craig (*Democrat & Chronicle* reporter) are developing content for four additional display panels that will highlight Rochester's prominent role in the uprising and subsequent investigations. The division also plans several programs in conjunction with the exhibit.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Ridarsky submitted a grant application (via the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library) to the National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Advancement Fund. If awarded, the grant will fund a project that seeks to democratize the collection, dissemination, and usefulness of oral history interviews by developing and implementing a suite of integrable tools, protocols, and training packets. This will allow for more grassroots participation in story collecting, thereby expanding the historical narrative to be more inclusive of traditionally underrepresented voices, such as those of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, immigrant, and LGBTQ+ populations. Furthermore, it will make it easier for community groups, researchers, educators, and students to access and make creative use of these stories. The application was submitted in partnership with an English professor from the Brooklyn College Listening Project and software developers from HyperAudio and TheirStory. The grant application is particularly timely, because, as you will read below, several community organizations have been asking for support with grassroots oral history gathering projects.
- Ridarsky conducted a two-part training session for volunteers and staff of the Black Community Focus Fund's Rochester Freedom Struggle Oral History Project. The oral history interviews that the team will conduct with area Civil Rights leaders will contribute to development of a local Civil Right Heritage Site and will become part of the library's Archive of Black History & Culture.
- Ridarsky conducted a daylong oral history workshop at the Phillis Wheatley Library for Teen Empowerment's Youth History Ambassadors (YHAs). The teens were preparing to conduct interviews for PBS's StoryCorps and for the Clarissa Street Reunion Committee. Interviews the youth conducted for the project will become part of the library's Archive of Black History & Culture. A smaller group of YHAs and their advisors visited Central Library and the Local History & Genealogy Division twice and worked with Antoine McDonald and Brandon Fess to learn about archives and special collections, review the photographs that were scanned early this year as part of the TE/Clarissa Street Reunion archive project, and learn how to develop metadata for the collection.
- Ridarsky met with members of Third Presbyterian Church's anti-racism committee to discuss their plan to collect oral history interviews with church members about their understanding of experiences around race and racism. This group also is interested in the possibility of having the library preserve and provide public access to their interviews.
- Ridarsky met twice with representatives from the YWCA to discuss its plans for 100th Anniversary of Activists and Allies in 2022. In preparation for the event, the YWCA is researching the history of the "Colored Women's Branch" on Clarissa Street. The group sought advice on arranging and preserving the organization's archival records and historical artifacts. Incidentally, this group also has conducted a few oral history interviews with two 90-plus-year-old women who had belonged to the Clarissa Street YWCA. The Y has agreed to contribute these to the library's collection.

- Ridarsky visited five elementary school classrooms at School 46 in June to discuss a school-based proposal to change its name. The school currently carries the name of slave owner and trader Charles Carroll. Ridarsky shared stories of several Rochester men and women of color who might be worthy of having a school named for them and then led students in a brainstorming exercise.
- Ridarsky represented the city and the library at a press conference at the Memorial Art Gallery on June 22 at which a group of local New York State legislators honored community activist Jeremy Tjhung. During his public remarks, Tjhung thanked Ridarsky and the library for giving him the opportunity to serve as a community curator on the *Stonewall: 50 Years Out* exhibit in 2019, shortly after he moved to Rochester from New York City. He credited the project with helping him to make connections in the community where he was to become a well-known and popular advocate for voting and LGBTQ+ rights. Sadly, Tjhung died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma the end of July.
- Cody and Finn launched an effort to gather local PixStories for the "Witness to History: COVID-19" project, coordinated by the Office of the Rochester City Historian and the Association of Public Historians of New York State. PixStories are short-form, picture-based oral histories. The project seeks to document how the pandemic affected people across New York State. Cody and Finn visited the Public Market in July to disseminate information about the project and encourage people from Rochester to share their picture-based stories about the pandemic. To contribute your own story, visit <https://www.pixstorius.com/invitation/y3j79ZFh2GagiEF4h> and create an account. It's easy and you will help future generations understand what it was like to live through COVID 19.
- Morry gave an interview about Rochester's flag to WROC-TV 8 reporter Dan Gross, after the flag became the unlikely subject of a Reddit thread. Gross had read Morry's blog post on the topic. Gross's story can be read here: <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/rochesters-official-flag-is-not-the-one-you-think-it-is-dates-back-to-the-early-1900s/>.
- Ridarsky was interviewed by for an article about the Rochester subway in the *Democrat & Chronicle* newspaper: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/in-depth/lifestyle/2021/07/12/rochester-subway-beckons-people-underground-65-years-after-last-train/7540544002/>.
- Finn presented with former division head Larry Naukam at the bi-monthly meeting of region 11 of the Association of Public Historians of New York State (via Zoom). The focus of the presentation was how libraries can support historians in their work. Finn shared information on resources available through the Local History & Genealogy Division, both online and on site.

Special Collections

- Brandon Fess accessioned one new collection and created a finding aid for it. The Dr. Alice Holloway Young interviews are a set of five (5) born-digital audio files of interviews that well-known local filmmaker Christine Christopher conducted with Young, who was the first African American administrator in the Rochester City School District.
- Fess worked on processing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Collection on Holocaust Survivors in Rochester, an expansive, audiovisual-heavy collection. He also continued processing the Montgomery and Angell Family Papers, a large (22 box) collection of papers from a family that played a leading role in Rochester business and society throughout the 19th century.

Digital Projects

- In July, the division hosted a team from the Rochester Institute of Technology, led by Professor Tania Kleynhans, who is developing a project that uses multispectral imaging to visualize previously erased, obscured, or covered-over images below the visible image on a document. Kleynhans and her students subjected several items from the division's collections to the process, including a pamphlet containing a page that has faded to illegibility, early manuscript maps, and Sanborn maps with paste-ins. At the end of

July, the team was still processing the images they took; they plan to update us on the results in early August.

- Ridarsky and McDonald continued to work with students and staff from Teen Empowerment in support of their work documenting the history of the Third Ward in partnership with the Clarissa Street Reunion Committee. The group has been collecting oral histories with neighborhood residents and digitizing materials from residents' personal collections. The library is supporting these efforts by sharing tools, resources, and expertise.

Rochester Voices

Finn and Nazareth College intern Sarah Mantz added 15 interviews to the Latino Oral Histories collection on www.RochesterVoices.org and began developing content for a new collection of oral histories collected by the 19th Ward Community Association in partnership with researchers at the University of Rochester's Linguistics Department. Finn also added two lesson plans to the Classroom Connections unit, "Erie Canal for the Classroom," geared towards fourth grade. The unit now contains 10 lessons and two (2) teacher guides. Finn has been working with Molly Ball, University of Rochester history professor, on plans to have her fall semester students develop content for a topic on (Im)migration in Rochester that will ultimately be added to the Topics section of the *Rochester Voices* website. Because this effort coincides with the Local History Exhibits Team's plan to develop an exhibit on immigrants in Rochester, Morry (the team's leader) will also work with the group, providing guidance on resources and general reference support. The topic should be developed by December, with content uploaded to the site in early 2022.

Anecdotes/Other

- Emily Morry's five-part blog series on the Inner Loop was mentioned in Jim Memmott's *Democrat & Chronicle* article, "Called a 'national model' when built, Inner Loop may be better model when gone." The article, available at <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/local/columnists/memmott/2021/06/10/inner-loop-rochester-ny-model-when-built-but-better-off-gone/7619439002/>, links to Morry's Inner loop blog series and includes the following line: "In a terrific lookback in the blog "Rochester History Rocs!" the historian Emily Morry recalls a holdout against the Inner Loop in 1962, a woman in a doomed apartment building on Joslyn Place."
- Morry spoke by phone with Joshua Langsam, the grandson of and Estate Director for Cab Calloway. Langsam had read Morry's blog post, "'Hi-De-Home': Cab Calloway & Family in Rochester," and said it was "very emotional" and "overwhelming" to read, as he had never known about the information Morry uncovered regarding the mental health challenges Cab Calloway's father experienced in Rochester. Langsam thanked Morry for her "wonderful work," and indicated that he and the Estate would like to speak more with Morry about further research into the Calloway family's time in Rochester.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Statistics

In June, RMC rented 9 pieces of equipment, 206 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a grand total of 4,145 items or 43% of the Central Library's total circulation (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, we circulated 8,416 items.

In July, RMC rented 12 pieces of equipment, 195 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a grand total of 4,229 items or 40% of the Central Library's total circulation (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic

Catalog and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, we circulated 8,394 items.

Database Use

Hoopla

- June
 - Circulation
 - Movies/TV – 331
 - Audiobooks – 807
 - Music – 50
 - eBooks – 216
 - Comics – 164
 - Total – 1,568
 - New Users – 24
- July
 - Circulation
 - Movies/TV – 245
 - Audiobooks – 812
 - Music – 155
 - eBooks – 276
 - Comics – 143
 - Total – 1,631
 - New Users – 29

Anecdotes/Other

Alyssa Rodriguez just resigned because she received a Fulbright Scholarship to Helsinki, Finland for 10 months. While there she will be attending the only university that teaches advance levels of the traditional string instrument of Finland called the Nyckelharpa.



Science & Health Division, Darlene Richards reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Pellegrino and Richards met with Sue Miller and Art Maurer from the Rochester Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America to discuss the services they provide for the general public. The Division has agreed to partner with them and promote the videos which they present on YouTube monthly. They also mentioned they may be interested in donating a hearing-testing kiosk to the library so that self-screenings can be done.
- The smoking cessation partnership with the Community Outreach, Engagement and Disparities group at Wilmot Cancer Center at URMCM was successful. They connected with over 100 people.
- The numbers for LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) have increased greatly in the month of July, up to 25+ attendees through July 27. Patrons are looking for more services/hours of availability and personal supplies to be given out. Pellegrino and Richards will be working with Andy Carey and Lisa Kuhmann to see how this can be addressed.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Programs

Pedro Nunez already has players lined up to participate in our Dungeons and Dragons program as soon as we are open on Saturdays. This program could provide a platform for helping patrons develop several different skill sets. The library provides access to the 3D printing services that could easily be used in support of this program. Featuring these types of items in the games will provide an opportunity to introduce participants not only to the range of services available at the library, but to many more aspects of computing and additive manufacturing. With access to the Glowforge, additional gaming pieces can be made and opportunities for conversations about this technology will arise. The recent expansion of the franchise into Europe and South America has made the texts available in several languages; the team hopes to make participation for native Spanish speakers as easy as possible and provide opportunities for participants to increase their skills in using either English or Spanish.

Anecdotes/Other

- The Technology Center has become a much busier place in the month of June. Computer usage stats are up 20-25% over those for May. Though a few people are using computers after 6 PM on Monday and Wednesday evenings, the greatest increase is in computer usage from Noon to 3 PM.
- A patron came to the desk asking how to get a food truck business up and running and get everything approved by the city. An older patron queued up at the printer got out of line and sat down with the person. As it turns out the older patron has run a few food truck operations and was able to offer some great suggestions about how to navigate the city's regulations, good locations to look at and even about recipes for different events. Seeing the community of users return to the library is not just good for the library; patrons benefit simply by meeting people that can share their experiences and knowledge.
- New York is among an increasing number of states that have adopted ID.me to verify identification of applicants for social services. This process can take a very long time to complete. This month a woman needed to use ID.me to finish her onboarding process as a nurse at a local hospital. She came in four days in a row, spending a couple hours on a computer each time trying to get through the process. She had worked with every staff member in the Tech Center, and she finally navigated the process to a successful conclusion. She was as happy as if she had just won the lottery. On her way out to go to the hospital for the rest of the onboarding process, she kept trying to hug every Technology Center staff member she could find.
- A gentleman came into the library, smiling and very polite. He needed a computer to download a letter that had been emailed to him by a prospective employer. Jeanne Slocombe explained how to send the attachment to us via his email. He appreciated our ability to expedite the application process and was happy with the efficiency and ease of his task. His backstory came out in conversation with other staff. While visiting family in the Middle East, he found himself marooned there for months during the travel bans of 2020 and had only recently been able to return to the United States. He is rebooting his life here and seems well on his way with a new opportunity working at Xerox. He left telling each of us how happy he was and how he thought we had gone out of our way to help him. The staff that worked with him were all impressed with and inspired by his determination to succeed in the face of circumstances that most of us would find almost insurmountable.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Rochester College Access Network is available on Tuesdays until August 10th to give tips on how to get free money for college, one-on-one advising, and answering other higher education inquiries. They use an informal and conversational approach to communicate with the youth. They have been invited to return in

the fall for a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) festival to help prospective college students with their financial aid needs.

- Teens celebrated National Ice Cream Day with an ice cream social complete with cones and a variety of toppings. It was the perfect opportunity to discuss the formation of a Teen Council and brainstorm a wish list of future programs and activities. The group also celebrated Teen Central regular Jenny's introduction to the workforce. She completed the work permit process and we diligently filled out applications to some of her favorite spots. She is now a happy part of the Dairy Queen family!
- Our young regulars seem to like the "Snack 'n Play Time!" developed by new YA Librarian Faezeh Jahanshiri. They ask for those board games every day around 4 pm and enjoy the snacks. A few of them do a good job of cleaning and disinfecting the tables afterwards and they're always rewarded for good behavior. This program, along with the ping pong table that's now available to use in the YA space, has helped us reduce their screen time, allow some physical activity, and have more face-to-face conversations and interactions which in turn promotes health and well-being, and a sharing and collaboration spirit among them.
- The Summer Reading program is getting promoted at Teen Central. YA patrons regularly check out handfuls of books every week, and the Tails and Tales prize box is getting full of those reading entry slips! The winners will receive gift cards during the End of Summer Party Event at the end of August.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

Banks met with Shawn Miles of the Making Proud Choices initiative. It is a curriculum-based program whose goal is to empower adolescents to change their behavior in ways that will reduce their risk of an unplanned pregnancy or becoming infected with HIV and other STDs. Ms. Miles plans to come to Teen Central and sign-up eligible teens for an upcoming session. Teens will earn knowledge, a certificate, and a catered luncheon at the end of the program.

Anecdotes/Other

- Jahanshiri discovered the following, 4-month-old review as she was researching the Central library. Banks and John Hylton are very familiar with the patron who wrote this and how he expressed his gratitude for having a quiet and creative space to work:
What energy, what helpfulness, what roaring intent that encourages the most tepid of souls to reach for their dreams. I came in, a stranger to get a couple books and left with more books than anticipated, discovered a piano for my Songwriting, was given a list of local eateries for the best experience, and find out one of my childhood inspirations, Frederick Douglass, is interred nearby. After regaining my strengths at a locally recommended eatery I shall be visiting the grave of the mighty Frederick Douglass whose 4th of July speech was my first lesson in memorization, lyrical recitation, and public performance at the tender age of four or five. Twenty-five years later life isn't so simple anymore but the dignity, the encouragement, the hope that Papa Douglass inspired... It still lifts me in a sullen world where happiness is a heron fast fleeting. Rochester Public Library is a gem. A titan of an institution reminiscent in spirit and tone to the library of my childhood in D.C., the indefatigable Library of Congress itself.
- Jeff Bostic shared this to show the work he has been doing with the ABC Summer Youth Employment Program; AIMM (Adolescent Inspiring through Multimedia). <https://spark.adobe.com/page/Xj6y61TnClvH/>

Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

Report Items:

Changes in Branch Administration

Pat Connor, Lib II retired at the end of June after 20 plus years of service. Erin Clarke, Site Manager from the Douglass Branch, will assume her role in Branch Administration in August. Her focus will be on community outreach, branch staff support and development, collection development support, assisting Site Managers with duties and responsibilities, and hiring and training substitute librarians.

Branch Safety

Focus has been on branch safety this summer. We have been working with City Security and RPL Facilities to acquire new panic alarms, conduct drills, and give recommendations. Additional security has been secured for Monroe, Sully, and Lincoln. We will continue with the drills and assessments throughout the Fall, as well as examining safety measures in the Branch Libraries.

Summer Activities

- Lincoln, Arnett, Maplewood, Winton branches were activated as City of Rochester Heat Emergency locations in June.
- Lincoln, Arnett, Maplewood, Wheatley, Sully, Lyell branches served as Free Summer Meal locations for children und 18.
- As of July 2nd, branch libraries are hosts to 5 Summer of Opportunity Youth Workers. These workers will continue throughout the month of August.

Vaccine Clinics at Branches

City Emergency Services Manager Jessica Alaimo requested assistance with identifying branch libraries that would be feasible sites to host vaccination clinics. She and representatives from the County Health department visited and inspected the branches. Once approved by County Health, Jessica worked directly with each manager on the logistics, staffing, security needs, and publicity. Lincoln, Lyell and Maplewood each held two vaccination clinics in July.

Joan Lee received the following feedback from Jessica:

"The five locations recommended are in zip codes with vaccinations rates with less than 50-60% vaccinated rate. The data and the follow-up reports states that "Since we started the incentive program on 7/7, we have vaccinated 319 people through the libraries and R-Centers. Of those, 265 were from these zip codes – or 83%. All in all, 205 shots have been given at the libraries. To put these numbers into perspective... the days of 100-person PODs are long behind us. Today, getting our urban population into our clinics has been challenging. Every single one counts. For an average 3-hour POD (Point of distribution), I'm content if we do 5. I'm happy if we do 10. I'm thrilled if we do more. So, these numbers are really, really good!"

(Priority: #1 Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs and services based on community

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting
Programs

Children, teens, and adults have been enjoying participating in the Tails and Tales Summer Reading program and winning prizes for their efforts. In person story-time has been well attended and Prudence Anderson Leusch's arts and crafts programs have been very popular with families. (Education & Engagement.)

Outreach

Bruce Tehan attended the Westside Farmers Market several times and participated in an event in Genesee Valley Park hosted by WXXI Kids. Books by Bike was used at most of these events. Library information, circulation services, the issuing of library cards, portable story walks, free children's books, and summer reading prizes are some of the things that were offered at these events.

Anecdotes/Other

The following Facebook post was shared numerous times on social media and many of those shares received numerous interactions by past and present Arnett Branch Library patrons reminiscing on how much the library meant to them. One of the ladies featured in the post commented:

"The library looked wonderful and staff so welcoming and helpful about library history. 3 of us are retired librarians. My first library job was as a Library Trainee for RPL at Genesee Branch under Miss Pavelsky in 1967 but my first introduction to library world was at the former Arnett library in the 1950s. So much fun to be back with friends after a year of zooming!"

Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting
Programs

- Adult/YA Summer Reading Program: Karen Duff reported the Summer reading program was kicked off at the beginning of July. Participants were given the opportunity to enter a drawing for a Wegmans gift card with each book they read. A total of 30 participants entered 100 submissions from which ten lucky winners were drawn. Gratitude to the FFRPL for providing the prizes!
- Jennifer Cherelin reported that Summer Reading program has been our main focus over the past several weeks since it began on June 28th and it has been an extremely busy and full month, full of youth participation. The readership is incredibly impressive and family engagement is wonderful with our program. Program aligns with the RPL Strategic Priority: Education & Engagement.
- We have received some wonderful donations of puzzles, wooden colorful baby-toddler toys, books, including new ones, and a doll house from a 6-year-old! She was our first recipient of our summer reading



Arnett Branch Library
July 16 at 3:00 PM · 🌐

Four friends who grew up around here were back in the neighborhood visiting the places of their youth. The Arnett Branch was one of their stops and they checked out our new building and reminisced about the old (pre-1973) building they used to frequent. We were quite charmed by these ladies and their memories of the library of their childhood!



program as a way for us to have her create a positive association with giving away a toy which she prized so others could enjoy it, as they did immediately. Several children that afternoon and the following day were enchanted by this exciting donation to our busy floor. We have also received wonderful donations from Maureen (former library director here) of some very special puppets and large stuffed animals which children are enjoying.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Duff Assisted in training a RPL Substitute Librarian over the course of a few days. Sherry is a delight to work with and is an asset to the system. Her enthusiasm and cheerful demeanor are contagious!
- Cherelin reported working with the Charlotte Neighborhood association getting interest to create a produce distribution program.

Anecdotes/Other

Heather Sessler reported two gentlemen came in one afternoon for assistance scheduling a permit test at the DMV. After running into some roadblocks and needing a fair amount of help, they were finally able to get something on the books. As they were leaving one of them said “This is the most fun I’ve had all day!”

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

- Lauren DelGaizo presented yoga story time with Stretch Smartie and African drumming with Mayukwa, both in Highland Park. Two of the July story times needed to be rescheduled due to weather. [Rochester Public Library Strategic Plan Priority #3: Stewardship and Curation; What C: Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs, services, and technologies based on community needs; How 3: We are innovative and more effectively use technology to deliver collections, programs and services.]
- DelGaizo created multiple social media posts across all age groups, including cook-alikes, “in case you missed it” titles for Libby, summer reading journal information, new YA books with cover photos, yoga story time books, new DVDs, and new J comics. She also posted “What are you reading now?” stations in the library for patrons to leave post-it notes with titles of the books they read and enjoyed. [Rochester Public Library Strategic Plan Priority #3: Stewardship and Curation; What C: Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs, services, and technologies based on community needs; How 2: We are responsive to the evolving needs and interests of our diverse patrons.]

Lincoln Branch Library and Toy Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Matt Seidel and Jasmine Santiago collaborated on summer in-person programming. So far, there have been four events (music, science, physical activity, and crafts-themed) and look forward to the last two events in August.
- Seidel and Santiago have also participated in a weekly outreach event with the Central Library Children’s Department for Ibero at the Don Samuel Torres Park.
- The Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance generously purchased ten Loog guitars for the Lincoln Branch Library to host a summer music program for patrons. With these guitars, the library has been able to set up

a program to offer free guitar lessons to children ranging in ages from 3 – 12 starting in July. At the end of the program, the guitars will remain as part of the collection in the Toy Library for patrons to check out as well as future music programs!

- The COVID-19 vaccine clinics began on Fridays at Lincoln in July. They have been very successful so far and the program has been extended to continue through the month of August and potentially September as well.

Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco reporting

Programs

- Lyell Little Chef Cooking Club made July 4th S'mores! The kits included a recipe for making the s'mores in the microwave, enough ingredients to make two s'mores, all presented inside a festive July 4th themed cup!
- The Storybook Cook: We had our first official in-person Visiting Artist Program! The Storybook Cook came to read a story and teach us how to make three "Tails and Tales" themed treats. It was a wonderful program!
- Teen's Tuesday's DIY Cute Pill Organizer: Lyell branch provided participants with one small, recycled pill bottle, paint brush, mod podge glue and embellishments. Patrons could decorate the pill bottle and use it to keep their loose coins, earbuds, or any small things.
- Teen's Tuesday's DIY CD Coaster: Patrons received a recycled CD, 2 different patterns of craft paper, mod podge glue, paint brush and were encouraged to put a childhood/family photo on hand made coaster.



Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- July was filled with plenty of fun activities at the Maplewood Community Library. At the start of July there was a visit from the Zoo Mobile. There were a dozen kids who showed up to enthusiastically participate in this event. The children were very engaged and asked a ton of questions.
- The watercolors and easels came back out this month and there was a plethora of new art made. An artist visited to teach about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and teach how to make paper cranes. Since that time the children have been making paper cranes every day. The goal is to make 1000 cranes and hang them in the library.
- The children did some gardening out front to help keep Maplewood beautiful.
- At the end of July there was an ice cream party for the children and teens.

Anecdotes/Other

A new family from Afghanistan was placed by the group Keeping Our Promise on the Library's side of Augustine Street. Keeping Our Promise's mission is to provide resettlement assistance to endangered people who served the U.S. as an ally. One of the volunteers from Keeping Our Promise brought the father of the new family to the Maplewood Library; at first, he wasn't that interested until he saw what the library offered. The next day his wife and children came to the library so the younger ones could work on their English with the children's librarian, Mark Hafer and the literacy aides.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Rebecca Hudson organized copy and graphics for the monthly newsletter for the branch. Hudson created displays for the Young Adult section and created materials for a Virtual Scavenger Hunt for Young Adults to be conducted via Zoom in August.
- The Branch's first Trivia Game via Zoom, called the "Wheel of Poultry" was a fun experience. There were 12 people watching and/or participating in this zany and educational game. We are in the process of scheduling the second game.
- The Zoo Mobile came on July 22nd and was our first outdoor program. The library and the Center for Youth agreed on the space to be used in the parking lot for this program. As people came to the library, they would stop and listen to the presentation on the various animals. The weather cooperated nicely.



Community Outreach

- We are in the process of weeding our picture book collection. The Branch Manager contacted the Center for Youth to see if they would like some of these books. Instead of stamping "Discard" in the front of each book, the library labeled each book "Donated by the Monroe Branch Library". Four boxes of books were delivered next door to the Center. The staff at the Center were so appreciative of getting these books. They were displayed on the first floor. A family took a number of these books within hours of dropping them off. This will be an ongoing program with the Center.
- One of our Clerk's, Cherrin Arnold, put some of our "weeded" books in a few little, free libraries in our service area.

Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- We had the Seneca Park Zoo Mobile in to teach our Patrons about Why Zoos Exist. The presentation was held in our open Teen Area and attracted a large crowd of socially distant patrons to view the animals and learn about conservation. The children were very attentive and loved seeing the armadillo but were scared by the hissing cockroaches and the rat snake! It was wonderful to see a group of patrons enjoying such a wonderful program in the library.
- We have been offering 3D prints to children and teens as part of Summer Reading. Participants select what they want to have printed (limited by size and appropriateness) and then get to see the computer program that will turn their chosen design into a real item. Participants got to watch the 3D Printer in action and ask questions about the materials used and how the printer works.
- The children's staff had a nice Play Day outside this month. Our literacy aides and pages set up a table and tent outside the library and we provided card games, Giant Connect Four, hula hoops, sidewalk chalk, and literacy bags for children and families to enjoy.



Community Outreach/Meeting/Trainings

Maria Heeks-Heinlein went to an outreach at Molina Health Care. Heeks-Heinlein was able to interact with several people to let them know the libraries are back open. (priority 1A3)

Anecdotes/Other

- A mother came in the library with her two daughters. She asked for a comment card or asked to speak to a supervisor. The supervisor was called out to meet with the patron, and she said that she is thankful for all the help she receives while in the Sully branch. She also thanked the supervisor for the activities that are provided in children's area of the library and shared that her daughters enjoy visiting the library.
- A Young Adult came into the library for the first time since COVID. He used to be a regular in the library. He said that he graduated from High School and is starting at RIT in the fall. He plans to study New Media Interactive Development. This young man was always drawing while in the library, so a few years ago library staff told him about the city's Mural Arts of Rochester Crew. He did apply for a position on that crew and was selected. Heeks-Heinlein asked him how that worked out for him, and he said it was a great experience. He met some professional artists and made many connections. While this young man did all the work to get on that crew, library staff helped direct him to that opportunity.
- Heeks-Heinlein noticed a woman walking around the library in search of something or someone. Heeks-Heinlein asked her if she needed help finding anything, and the woman said, "I bring her to the library two times, and now she never wants to leave here." Heeks-Heinlein suggested she check the children's area, and the woman said, "oh no, I am looking for my mother."
- A patron came into the library and asked James Mitchell where the fax machine was. Mitchell told the patron where it was and that he was available if assistance was needed. The patron asked if he had to tell staff when he was done with the machine, and Mitchell told him that he does not need to do that because faxing is free. While we could not see the patrons full face due to his mask, we could hear the smile in his voice when he loudly proclaimed, "I HAVE MISSED MY LIBRARY!!"
- The Sully Branch has a new mascot for the summer. We asked the community for help on picking out a name for our library giraffe, and the name TWIGA was chosen. Twiga is Swahili word for giraffe.



15 minutes ago • 🌐

Thank you [Sully Branch Library](#) and Jacob for teaching the boys about 3D printing. They live their Poke ball and Master Poke ball!



Phillis Wheatley Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

To kick off summer reading, African Drumming and Dancing from Building Family First came to perform. The children each got a drum to play and were able to create a rhythm that the other children played along to. This program is an example of the RPL strategic priority education and engagement.



Anecdotes/Other

- A patron asked for help applying for a job. He said that he had little knowledge on how to use the computer. The computer did not load the website properly and it wouldn't let him fill in the highlighted areas. I was able to pull it up on a staff computer and he was able to finish the application. He was so excited and happy. He left smiling from ear to ear and was very grateful.
- Several patrons have been helped through the new ID.me process that the NYS unemployment has in place now. They feel relieved to have someone knowledgeable help guide them through the process so they can receive their needed benefits

Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- For this month's Adult Book Discussion, the group read *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter. This is a WWII novel and while this group has read a lot of books set in this period, the group found it a refreshing story primarily because it was based on a true story of the author's family who survived against incredible odds. It was a unanimous thumbs up by the group.
- Patrick Pittman hosted two Teen Summer Reading Programs in July. Pittman introduced subscription boxes in a limited capacity as a test run. The sign ups reached the target goal of fifteen within five days. Teens indicated their genre preferences using SurveyMonkey, which Pittman distributed through Facebook, Instagram, and hard copies behind the circulation desk, to allow for a curated novel and graphic novel. This introduced teens to multiple mediums for storytelling and narrative design. Boxes also included Tangrams, a journal and art supplies, summer themed novelty items, and foodstuffs. Pittman has increased the number of summer subscription boxes for August, as patrons provided positive feedback. (Priority 1, 3)
- Kathy Wolf is offering five "Story Time in the Garden" programs this summer – four in July and the final one in August. Each program, which is geared for children ages 3-8, is about a different animal to coordinate with this year's Summer Reading theme of Tails and Tales and is associated with a different STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Take and Make activity. In addition to the Take and make crafts that the Central Library Children's Center provided to all city branches, Winton's children have created Chickens in a cup ([CHICKEN SOUNDS FROM A CUP! - ScienceBob.com](#)), Marble mazes, and lifecycle of a butterfly.



Anecdotes/Other

Pittman worked with Wolf to compile school reading lists for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year using online portals and acting as liaison to local schools. Using collaborative collection analysis, the librarians pulled titles from the Winton collection to assist students in finding their required reading materials. Pittman posted this information on Facebook and Instagram. Pittman and Wolf also created a display, which has seen heavy traffic from children, teens, and parents. (Priority 2)

Pat Finnerty has been helping one of our regular patrons look for employment. We have tracked down job leads and printed out job applications, as well as helped him complete the job applications online. He has been very grateful and thankful the library has been able to offer this kind of assistance.

This summer the use of our building for people to meet with tutors seems to be exploding! In July we hosted 22 sessions of tutoring. Parents seem thankful that we can offer the space for this activity.

Safe To Be Smart Program, Derrick Coley reporting

The Arnett site: Kendra White reports, Safe to Be Smart 's numbers have continued to creep and crawl. We have seen fluctuating numbers, but they are low overall. There has been sporadic attendance without any pattern besides two teens who are consistently coming in with good attendance and even their appearances cannot be determined for any given day, making it difficult to determine what kind of programming would be most useful, engaging and well attended. The youth seem to only come to use the computer for games. There were a few activities this month including another paint-by-sticker image, a tie dye shirt activity, cooking class and some card and chess games played with the youth who were interested.

The Lincoln site: Vera Haygood assisted the branch manager with on floor operations such as assisting adults with computer issues, helping with employment applications, and locating in-house materials for adult and youth patrons.

The Sully site: George Carter reports that the teen traffic has been very low. Most of the teens come in to use computer for gaming and Facebook. George has assisted a few teens with employment searches and job readiness training. George provided extra space in the teen area for usage of children's program Zoo visit.

Teen Central site:

John Hylton reports sitting with some young men and playing uno and discussing various things that teenage boys are interested in. Moments like this is where mentors can connect and gain the teens trust, this allows the teens to feel comfortable and discuss important topics with a mentor.

Lydia Hylton reports that Teen Central is full of great reading material, video games, and innovative technology that the teens enjoy every day. On some occasions the Teen Central staff enjoy switching things up and incorporating physical activity and teamwork into their visit to the library. On race day we allowed the kids to race in Teen Central in chairs, on one leg and many other creative ways. The kids enjoyed a break from their pc screen to try and win a \$5 McDonald's gift card.

Selected Meetings & Outputs

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

June 12, 2021 – August 12, 2021

Standing Meetings

City Senior Management Team (weekly)

RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)

Adam Traub, Melanie Lewis, Brie Harrison, Ana Suro, Tonia Burton, Christine Ridarsky – one-to-one meetings (monthly)

FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)

Monroe County Chief of Staff, Amy Grower (monthly)

RPL 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)

City Deputy Mayor James Smith (monthly)

Urban Libraries Council Executive Director call (weekly)

MCLS Directors Council (monthly)

Associate Director Traub & Deputy Director Lewis (bi-monthly)

Other Meetings

Foodlink Leadership on Community Café

FFRPL Executive Director Search Committee – (weekly through July)

Summer Reading press conference with RCSD Superintendent Myers-Small and Mayor Warren

City of Rochester Telephone Town Hall on ARPA Funds

RPL Board President Donna Benjamin

Chief of City Security Cesare Carbonell, and City Security leaders Vince McIntyre and Jermaine Myers

City of Rochester Department of Human Resources training for new onboarding process

ALA Virtual Conference (4 days)

FFRPL Board Meeting

NYS Early Childhood Advisory Committee meeting

Roy Allen, Small Matters Institute

City of Rochester leadership on proposed uses of ARPA funds

Central Supervisors meeting

REJI Team meeting

FFRPL Executive Director Interviews

County Legislature Joint Rec & Ed and Ways & Means Committee meeting

NIOGA Library System Director Bindeman and Assistant Director Erickson

Orientation with new RPL Trustee Shawn Futch

Early Grade Literacy Team meeting

MCLS Plan of Service Team meetings

Roc the Future Executive Director Jackie Campbell

Telephone interview with Emily Udell from American Libraries magazine

Mendon Director Lyla Grills

MCLS Board President Stockman and Finance Director Harrison

County Legislature meeting

NYSED Community Feedback telephone call

RPL Board Director's Report – August 2021 (Continued)

Email Activity

June 2021

Name	Send Actions	Receive Actions	Read Actions
Uttaro, Patricia	523	4157	5689
Traub, Adam	639	2334	3477
Harrison, Brie	377	2242	2969
Suro, Ana	697	2943	4314
Lewis, Melanie	302	1861	990

July 2021

Name	Send Actions	Receive Actions	Read Actions
Uttaro, Patricia	563	3495	5497
Traub, Adam	396	1775	3799
Harrison, Brie	324	1776	2193
Suro, Ana	419	2501	3684
Lewis, Melanie	144	1295	1372