



TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: October 27, 2021
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – October 2021

Action Items

City Capital Improvement Request (Harrison)

Below is a listing of City Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY23 to FY27 funding cycle. Outside of the standard request for equipment, computer replacement, and Central Library facility maintenance, we are confirming cost estimates for specific capital projects in conjunction with the City’s Division of Architectural Services for Central and branch library building-related needs. An allocation for the Branch Facilities and Operations Plan action is also under development. We will present both at the meeting for Board review and acceptance. Annual library facility, furnishing, and IT equipment requests are as follows:

1. **Branch Library Computer Replacements:** The Library’s five-year cycle for server, large equipment, network/telephony and, computer replacements is as follows:

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
\$45,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

2. **Branch Facilities Annual Allocation:** Our requested allocation for FY23 is \$52,000 and we incorporate inflationary increases for proceeding years, ending with \$58,000 in FY27. This covers finish replacements and minor repairs to building systems and envelope.
3. **Branch Furniture and Equipment:** We request an annual allocation of \$22,000 to replace chairs, tables, shelving, and equipment as needed in each branch, with inflationary increases for proceeding years, ending with \$26,000 in FY27.
4. **Central Facilities Annual Allocation:** Each year the City provides an allocation for the general upkeep of the Central Library. Our requested allocation for FY23 is \$92,000 with minor inflationary increases for proceeding years, ending with \$96,000 in FY27.
5. **Central Inspection Allocation:** This is a new allocation requested based on the growing requirements to inspect the accumulation of Rundel raceway silt, structural inspections of Rundel terraces and HVAC inspections for the Bausch & Lomb building. In any given cycle the costs could be more than half the annual allocation for Central. We are requesting \$40,000 as a placeholder in an out-year (FY25) to begin process discussions with City Architecture and Engineering.

Board Action Requested: Approve Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY23 to FY27 funding cycle.

Agreement Amendment, Vending Services (Harrison)

Servomation Refreshments, Inc., has provided snack and beverage vending services at the Central Library since 2015 as the awarded vendor through a Request for Proposals process. The original agreement included the option for a five-year renewal; we did not proceed with this renewal during 2020 due to building closure. Under the extension, Servomation will continue to provide all equipment, products and, servicing of beverage and

snack machines at the Central Library through September 30, 2025. All public and staff vending sales will be collected by Servomation, with 13.1% of net sales returned to the RPL monthly. An annual agreement exists with the MCLS Staff Association to receive the vendor's shared concession revenue to RPL.

Board Action Requested: Approval to amend vending service agreement.

Deaccession Recommendation – Moseley & Motley Milling Co. (Uttaro)

The records of the Moseley & Motley Milling Company had a convoluted history following the company ceasing operation in 1935. One group of records went to Harvard University, then to Cornell, then to the Rochester Museum & Science Center in the 1960s. The records not taken by Harvard eventually came into the possession of Margaret Woodbury Strong and, through her, The Strong Museum. The portion of the records held by The Strong were transferred to RPL in 2015 during that institution's dissolution of its local history collections. Through RMSC librarian-archivist Stephanie Ball's preexisting familiarity with the collections of RPL, the connection was made between the two bodies of records. Since the portion held by RMSC is substantially larger than that held by RPL, we recommend transfer of the RPL holdings to RMSC to reunite the two collections. The collection at RPL consists of 83 bound volumes and 2 boxes of papers from Moseley & Motley Milling Company, the final flour milling company to operate within the City of Rochester. The materials date between 1855 and 1935.

Board Action Requested: Approve the transfer of the Moseley & Motley Milling Co. records to RMSC.

Fines Reduction Program at Monroe (Lewis)

The Monroe Branch is asking for approval to initiate a 5-day fines reduction program in partnership with the Center for Youth from November 15-20. Patrons donating items to the Center for Youth would receive a \$1.00 reduction in Monroe Branch fines, up to a maximum of \$5.00. Lost item fines are excluded. Items donated will be given to the Center for Youth, which is now located in the former YMCA building next to Monroe.

Board Action Requested: Approve a 5-day fines reduction program with the Center for Youth.

Board Meeting Dates (Uttaro)

The proposed board meeting dates for 2022 are:

January 26

February 23 (joint budget meeting with the MCLS Board)

March 30

April 27

May 25

June 29

August 24

September 21

October 26

November 30

All meetings are held on Wednesdays from 9:00 – 10:30 am. Currently, meetings are held virtually; in-person meetings are held at the Central Library or a Branch Library.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed schedule of 2022 RPL Board meetings.

Holidays (Uttaro)

Following is the proposed 2022 Holiday Schedule:

- New Year's Day (Observed) - Friday, December 31, 2021 (Library buildings will be closed on 1/1/2022)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, January 17, 2022
- Spring Floater to be taken between February 1 and April 30
- Memorial Day - Monday, May 30, 2022
- Independence Day - Monday, July 4, 2022
- Labor Day - Monday, September 5, 2022
- Indigenous Peoples' Day - Monday, October 10, 2022
- Staff Day - Friday, October 21, 2022 (Library buildings will be closed to the public – staff reports)
- Veterans' Day - Friday, November 11, 2022
- Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 24, 2022
- Christmas Eve (Observed) - Friday, December 23, 2022 (Library buildings will be closed on Saturday, 12/24)
- Christmas Day (Observed) - Monday, December 26, 2022
- Director's Discretionary Day to be taken during the calendar year 2022

Our agreement with CSEA specifies (5) holidays for PT employees working 650+ hours in the preceding year: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Thanksgiving Day, December 24th, and December 25th. Three (3) additional holidays are provided to PT staff with 650+ hours in the preceding year and with 6+ years of service: Memorial Day, Independence Day & Labor Day.

Board Action Requested: Approve the 2022 Holiday schedule for RPL.

Report Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading

- Research on Rochester Voting Machines by Jacques Lemmink – Staff from Central assisted the author with his research. This is published in Dutch by the Amsterdam University Press.
<https://www.aup-online.com/content/journals/10.5117/DMT2021.1.002.LEMM>
- The Most Important Government Agency You've Never Heard Of -
https://action.everylibrary.org/the_most_important_government_agency_you_ve_never_heard_of

Family Search Agreement (Uttaro & Ridarsky)

Representatives of Family Search LLC will be in the area in November and have offered to come to Rochester to meet with trustees who have questions about Family Search and its work. We recommend that trustees with questions plan to attend this meeting; information on the day and time will be shared when it is available. We will postpone action on an agreement until after that meeting occurs.

Central Library Updates

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Rochester artist Sara Blake, who teaches at the Memorial Art Gallery's Creative Workshop, taught students how to create mandalas, the Sanskrit word meaning "circle." Mandalas can contain both geometric and organic forms, and they can also contain recognizable images that carry meaning for the person creating them. This was a live class in the Art Division and students remarked through Project Outcome, that this was "a peaceful end to a crazy day." Another patron said, "it was a soothing and relaxing art form." Blake will return to teach another relaxing art form known as Zentangle.
- Halloween programs are a favorite of our patrons. The Halloween Luminaries class invited patrons to make Halloween luminaries, using a glass jar and fairy lights to illuminate them. Artist Shannon Halligan taught a fun class using the jars and creepy Halloween images. Librarian Nanci Nugent cut out many images on the Art Division's Cricut machine for students to use. This was a live class and some patrons we have not seen in over a year were there. Students used the images and some spooky flowers to decorate their lantern.



Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 1 in person, 19 by email, 0 by mail, 4 by phone
- Patent Virtual Assistance Center: 0
- Webpage views: 31
- 3D Printer: 0
- Hours of in-depth market research: 47
- Tracy Jong appointments: 1 hour 50 minutes; 3 people served

Database Use

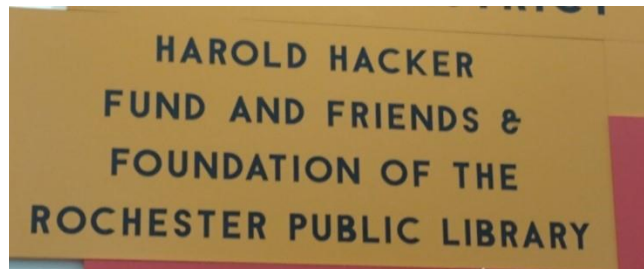
- Frost & Sullivan: Downloads 3, Value \$6,850; Reads 10, Value \$26,050
- IBISWorld: Page Views 82; Value \$32,990
- InnovationQ: N/A
- PitchBook: Logins 11
- Statista: Logins 48; Value \$9,855

Programs

Business First Wednesday featured "Accounting Choices Beyond QuickBooks; Free or Low-Cost Accounting Software Alternatives for Small and Micro Businesses," presented by Gina Mangiamele of the Small Business Development Center.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Office hours were held at NextCorps and Venture Creations by both Byrnes and Meddaugh. Byrnes held office hours at RIT Venture Creations and met with the new head of the program, Johan Klarin. They presented to the students taking Law 815 at Syracuse University to discuss the services of BIC and the Carlson Center, as well as to do some in-depth prior art searching. Byrnes was a guest speaker for the RIT class Explorations in Innovation.
- Byrnes attended the grand opening of The Commissary with US Senator Chuck Schumer, where FFRPL is listed as a sponsor.
- Byrnes and Meddaugh met with Omar Bakht, former president of New Ventures at the University of Rochester, and a serial entrepreneur, to discuss services. They also met with Curtis J. Broadbent of the River Campus at the University of Rochester. He is the Licensing Manager of UR Ventures. The topics discussed were how the Carlson Center and the Business Insight Center might work together with UR Ventures.



LINDA HALLIBURTON FRIEND OF RPCN AWARD

ANY NON-MEMBER OF RPCN WHOSE DEVOTION, DEDICATION OR EFFORTS MOST BENEFITTED THE RPCN ORGANIZATION'S GROWTH OR PROGRAMS.

KATE MEDDAUGH

PRESENTED BY RUTH BALKIN

LIBRARIAN AT ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY



Kate Meddaugh is a reference librarian in the Business Insight Center (BIC) at the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County, and is the Manager of the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property, housed in BIC.

She has been a public librarian for over 20 years, spending most of those years as Manager of the Carlson Center.

She holds U.S. patent # 8,533,621, and has self-published 2 books, securing a federal copyright for both. She enjoys reading and gardening, as well as spending time outdoors with her husband and six-year-old-son.

Anecdotes

- Byrnes and/or Meddaugh assisted four of the six Luminate winners that were announced on the 30th.
- Meddaugh received the Linda Halliburton Friend of RPCN Award (Rochester Professional Consultants Network). She was nominated by Dave Basset, a local patent agent. The award was named after a former librarian in the Business Division at Central.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- During September, Monroe County Library System joined Monroe County and several others to highlight the importance of Early Intervention Month. Libraries held programs directed towards families receiving early intervention services and the Children's Center collaborated with The Children's Agenda and Parents Helping Parents, to host a press conference with County Executive Adam Bello. County Executive Bello talked about the importance of passing The Covered Lives Assessment, the proposed law would make billing and reimbursement easier for families statewide. This collaboration ties into Education & Engagement and Sustainability & Resources.
- The Children's Institute and Nazareth College are working with the Children's Center to co-host a monthly GROW Playdate. The Get Ready to GROW program from Children's Institute provides early developmental checks and follow-up support for children ages 1 – 5. Nazareth College students provide activities and assistance to Children's Center staff to create fun and sensory-friendly options. This is a great opportunity for everyone. The Children's Center can offer more activities with the students' help and the students gain experience working in an urban setting. Talking is Teaching materials have been created to be used as a part

of the program. The Talking is Teaching characters are also used on the GROW screening bus and soon will become a part of pediatrician offices, childcare centers, and other areas around Monroe County.

- Katie Powell continued storytimes at Highland Park after patrons requested the program continue outdoors. It will be offered outside as weather permits.
- Raising A Reader staff, Margarita Chaves and Emily Pappa, have started contacting sites and creating bags that will be distributed starting in October. Most of the sites are severely understaffed so getting in contact has been difficult. As of now, we will not be able to reach our goal of 500 families because of staffing shortages at the childcare sites.

Anecdotes/Other

- The most asked question in September was “How do I homeschool my child?” Since the busing situation and violence issues continue, many families are opting to homeschool again this year. Staff are directing patrons to area Homeschool Groups to assist with all the necessary steps, offering Mi-Fi units, and will be looking to add programming if need continues.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments – 3
- New Borrowers – 114
- RRLC Access Cards Issued – 4
- Notarial Acts – 85

Anecdotes/Other

- One regular patron has been repeatedly checking out the Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book for quite some time. Stephanie Penns brought in a copy of the book for the patron to have for herself. The patron was deeply moved that Penns had thought of her and shared her story with Penns and Melissa Miranda. She has been sober for 50 years and the Big Book is her inspiration, her guide, and a touchstone of her faith. Even though being sober hasn't cured all the problems in her life, she is grateful every day. After the patron left, Penns and Miranda talked about the inspiration that they draw from patrons who experience the hardest things in life but keep positive and keep going. This was a good example of how libraries provide opportunities for powerful and unexpected connections between people.
- Brooklyn Burks had a call from a patron on the first Saturday we were open in September. The patron asked Burks if the library was open and, when Burks affirmed that the library was indeed open, the patron said “Oh, I guess my husband isn't crazy after all. We'll be in soon.” Another patron brought in a cookie cake to thank library staff for working on Saturday.
- Megan Mullen received a call at the Information Desk from a patron who was looking for a poem his mother had written in 1945. The patron had contacted the Library of Congress about the poem. The Central Library was one of two libraries in the US that had a book that contains the poem. Mullen worked with Arts and Literature to find the book, then located the poem, scanned it, and e-mailed it to the patron. He was thrilled to have a copy of his mother's poem.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

COVID-19 presented new challenges for the Local History & Genealogy Division in September. The division closed for three and half days after receiving notification of a potential exposure early in the month. The staff was able to work from home during that time. Nonetheless, we were able to resume in-person programming for the first time since March 2020 and continue to provide excellent service to patrons.

Programs

- The Local History & Genealogy Division resumed in-person programming this month for the first time since March 2020, when programs switched to virtual platforms due to the pandemic. The division's Program Team plans to begin live streaming some in-person programs on YouTube to continue to serve patrons who prefer to participate remotely, but we did not receive the needed equipment to do so in September. We expect to begin live streaming in October. You can find all the library's live streaming and recorded programs at <https://www.youtube.com/c/RochesterPublicLibraryNY>.
- The first installment of the 2021-2022 *Mourning in the Morning* program series featured an in-person presentation by Sally Millick on "Rochester Women First: The Women Who Voted with Susan B. Anthony." This educational talk highlighted some of the lesser-known historical figures who fought alongside the famous Anthony to advance women's rights. *Mourning in the Morning* is presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery.
- The monthly *Rochester's Rich History* program series kicked off its 2021-2022 season with a tour of St. Mary's Church, led by church staff and enthusiastically attended by a larger-than-expected group.
- The division launched a new Reading & Discussion series this month. Facilitated by Melissa M. Parrish, the group met weekly to discuss Laura Warren Hill's new book, *Strike the Hammer: The Black Freedom Struggle in Rochester, New York, 1940-1970*. The book examines Rochester's long Civil Rights history and the local tradition of protest and activism for racial justice. The discussion series will culminate with a presentation by the author at the October *Rochester's Rich History* program on October 16.

Exhibitions

- *Open Wounds: The 50-Year Legacy of the Attica Prison Uprising* opened this month and will be on display in the Rundel 2nd floor conference room until January 28, 2022. This traveling exhibit from the New York State Museum commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1971 Attica prison uprising. Community curators Christine Christopher (director of Attica film *Criminal Injustice*) and Gary Craig (*Democrat & Chronicle* reporter) worked with Historical Services Consultant Christine L. Ridarsky to develop content for four additional display panels that highlight Rochester's prominent role in the uprising and subsequent investigations. The division will host two programs in conjunction with the exhibit this fall (see Upcoming Programs/Events, below).

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Ridarsky taught two half-day workshops on oral history methodology and practice for volunteers who will be conducting interviews on behalf of the Black Community Focus Fund. The interviews will contribute to interpretive elements at the proposed Rochester Civil Rights Heritage site and an affiliated educational website.
- Brandon Fess was interviewed by Megan Eves of the Museum Association of New York for a newsletter article about the multispectral imaging project that the Rochester Institute of Technology conducted with materials from the Rochester Public Library. Fess discussed the library's involvement in this project and the information it has provided on a few items in our collection. Read the full article here: <https://nysmuseums.org/MANYnews/11130586>.

- Ridarsky and Library Assistant, Emily Morry, met via Zoom with Joshua Langsam and Carlos Alejandro of the Cab Calloway Foundation to discuss ideas for future collaboration around Calloway's legacy in a local context. Langsam, Calloway's grandson, first contacted Morry in June after reading her *Local History Rocs!* blog post on Calloway's father. The group discussed Morry's research on the Calloway family and their properties in Rochester as well as various potential partnerships between the Cab Calloway Foundation and the Rochester Public Library, the City of Rochester, The School of the Arts, and Blackbox Theatre.

Special Collections

- Ridarsky and Fess met with members of the Asian/Pacific Islander/American Association of Greater Rochester (APAA) to resume an inventory of APAA's materials in preparation for their formal donation to the library, which has been housing the material for several years. The inventory process had been put on hold during the pandemic.
- Fess completed finding aids for the newly acquired Lisa Wemett Slide Collection (depicting a mixture of area library architecture, interiors, and materials, along with slides from the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, all obtained while Wemett served in an outreach role at the Fairport Library) and Diane Riley Postcard Collection (a modest collection of local postcards including a series from the Gitchel family of Portageville). Fess also updated the existing finding aid for the Opera Theatre of Rochester records, reflecting new information revealed about audiovisual materials through the digital transfer process.

Digital Projects

- Lisa Buda, the consultant hired to carry out the division's 2021 Rochester Regional Library Council Technology Grant project, spent the month on the first bulk upload of an entire collection (the Rochester City Hall Photo Lab Contemporary collection) to the *New York Heritage* digital archive. Tab-delimited MARC metadata was received from Library Automation Services at the end of August; editing the metadata took much of September and upload of the approximately 3,500 items in this collection began the last week of the month and will be completed in October.

Rochester Voices

Finn visited Molly Ball's "Immigration in the Americas" class at the University of Rochester to introduce the students to the library's online resources, with a special focus on the *Rochester Voices* website. The students are spending their semester developing content for a new topic, Immigration in Rochester, to be added to *Rochester Voices* in early 2022. Their research will draw extensively from materials in the Local History & Genealogy Division, with groups of students visiting the division weekly for on-site research coordinated through Morry and overseen by the Local History reference team.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- The First Friday Films program showed *Minari* to an audience of seven people.
- The Brown Bag Book Discussion about the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* had an audience of 10, via Zoom.
- RMC set up equipment for 6 programs/meetings in the auditoriums at Central.

Statistics

RMC rented 6 pieces of equipment, 119 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,228 items or 43% of the Central Library's total circulation (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog, and Telephone are added). When adding in all RMC items that circulated at all libraries, we circulated 8,734 items.

Database Use

Hoopla

- Circulation
 - Movies/TV – 310
 - Audiobooks – 871
 - Music – 56
 - eBooks – 257
 - Comics – 129
 - Total – 1,623
- New Users – 37

Science and History, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs

Renee Kendrot hosted Spring into Gardening Series: Growing Sprouts and Microgreens presented by Jarmila Haseler (Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County). The participants learned what plants to grow as sprouts and microgreens, tips, and suggestions for growing these plants, and the types of equipment required to grow these little power plants in a kitchen.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Kendrot and Pedro Nunez from the Tech Center represented the Central Library at the Roc the Block City-Wide Job Fair. This was their 2nd time attending this event; this one was held at Grand Avenue Park.
- Gabe Pellegrino and Darlene Richards attended the monthly meeting of the Wilmot Community Cancer Action Council (CCAC). Pellegrino has begun to use social media to publicize videos on clinical trials as part of the Community-Driven Research Video Team. The team wants to make people aware of disparities in treatment for underserved populations. Pellegrino will be posting the clinical trial videos twice a week on Facebook.
- Legal Assistance of Western New York Health Insurance Navigator Adwdoyn Bishi is still assisting in the Health Central booth. Although she has reduced her visits to biweekly, she has seen a total of five people in the past month.
- Richards attended the quarterly call for the Funding Information Supervisors from Candid. Information about the virtual Network Days conference was shared and in break-out groups, Richards met supervisors from Syracuse and South Carolina. Richards also presented an overview of Candid and the Foundation Directory to the Business Insight Center Staff. They were appreciative of the handouts she prepared.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Programs

Brian DiNitto continues to provide classes for our patrons three times a week. Beginner's classes on smartphones and computers have been more popular than the classes that focus on specific software applications such as Microsoft Word or Excel. These sessions are more like group tutorials because they draw an average of two patrons per class. We have moved the classes from noon to 1 and 2 pm to allow better coverage at the desk.

Anecdotes/Other

- An increasing number of patrons are coming to the Tech Center with the need to recertify for unemployment benefits; many want to apply for jobs and find housing in the same visit. Many of these patrons have very limited ability to use computers and staff are frequently needed to extend their time on the computers. The library is the only place many of these patrons feel they can get help. This creates an environment that requires more staff to be available to assist patrons.
- A patron, "Marcus," came into the Technology Center in April, days after his release of a decade and a half of incarceration. He had no identification cards and no idea where to begin getting one. Staff helped him get familiar with contemporary computers and got him started on the path toward getting replacement ID cards. He came back day after day, determined to rebuild his skillsets. Eventually, all the staff got to know him: they helped set up his cell phone, write his resume, get a learner's permit, and search for jobs. Last week, "Marcus" came to the Tech Center in a very good mood: his project that day was to photocopy his first paycheck, which he wanted in color because he planned to frame it. Looking at the copy, he said "Okay, so just how long do I have to keep this job before I leave for a better one? I mean, I am already looking, and...well...I have a lot of time to make up." The staff can't think of anyone that has worked harder to improve his skills and take back control of his life.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Faezah Jahanshiri has prepared the curriculum for and posted the description of an upcoming coding program on the MCLS event calendar. Pedro Nunez from the Tech Center has offered his IT expertise to assist with the classes for the Learn to Code workshop series; three patrons have signed up so far.
- ImagineYOU's first studio certification session of the year was amazing. Ten people were certified. Bostic believes it is the most that has ever been certified at once; the studio has been in constant use since.
- Kids and families have fallen in love with the new laser engraving Glowforge. Check out some of their creations:



- Fortnite is a favorite of our e-sports players. Here's a short video of this pre-teen duo winning back-to-back Fortnite games by outlasting 96 other people each time!
https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/EXOnJRrff6RDj9tLuGm_2xcB3A2XSnMB0P-sBq8ZC4UXeQ?e=IUa9W2

Anecdotes/Other

- Banks and Jahanshiri are performing a collection analysis project. The YA Non-Fiction and YA Fiction shelf reading is completed; next is going through the shelf list report and deleting the Not-Found items. Jahanshiri is updating the spreadsheets and will share them with the supervisor(s) when this part of the collection analysis project is complete.
- A group from Project SEARCH, a dedicated program focused on providing education and training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, came to visit Teen Central. They loved the games, video games, and graphic novels. They also visited The Children's Center as their books were better suited to meet some of the guests' needs. Bostic showed the young adults the magic of the ImagineYOU lab and some wood projects completed with the laser printer. Sophia said, "I can't wait to come back after the program is over, this place is super cool!"

Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

Report Items

September brings fall and the pivoting of services in the branch libraries from summer reading programs to back-to-school activities. Even with COVID's continued challenges and unknowns, this year is no different.

- After-school tutoring has been arranged at Phillis Wheatley and Literacy Aides are geared up with after-school activities and prepared for homework help at other locations.
- Lyell and Maplewood hosted backpack and school supply giveaways.
- Due to the RCSD school bus crisis Sully and Douglass demonstrated flexibility and accommodation with varied dismissal times at the schools adjacent to their locations.
- Derrick Coley, Safe to be Smart Coordinator, has committed to reaching out to community partners to support the teen population.
- Branch Admin staff with Tonia Burton, MCLS Children's consultant, met with R-Center staff to brainstorm and share ways we can support RCSD students during this time.

Attention has been focused on becoming more informed about the construction projects at the Maplewood and Lincoln branches. Meetings with RPL, the City of Rochester, and architectural firm staff were attended. The Site Supervisors and staff at both locations are excited about the updates and expansion of their libraries.

The highlighted celebration this month was the Arnett Book Spines Mural Party outlined in Arnett's report. The weather, the speakers, the murals were all beautiful. It was an enjoyable event for library staff, FFRPL, and the Arnett community.

RPL Area Coordinator, Joan Lee reporting

Anecdotes/Other

“Libraries’ Role in R-Center literacy programming” was the theme of a meeting with Kendra Hayle-Laboy, Director of Center Operations, and Beth Jackson-Dobbs (DRYS). Kendra shared her ideas on developing joint literacy programs at the Thomas Ryan and the Frederick Douglass locations. At this meeting, we discussed ways that the library can provide a visible presence at other Recreation Sites not connected to libraries, such as library outreach, regular visits, book discussion group, etc.

Lori Frankunas, Joan Lee, and Melanie Lewis met with Sarah Scott and Beth Robinson (DRYS) to hear about their proposal for the Bronson Playground renovation projects. The park is often used by the youth and daycare providers in the neighborhood. If renovated, it would be an excellent alternative for outdoor library activities. The Library staff is in full support of this renovation project. The renovation is slated for summer 2022. The library Site Supervisor and staff will be participating in planning. (*Strategic Plan: community education and engagement; showing the importance of libraries to our communities.*)

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs & Anecdotes

Arnett’s biggest event, which was enjoyed by children, teens, and adults alike, was the Book Spines Mural party. The community had a wonderful night celebrating the completion of the mural that the library and its neighbors and friends, through the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, created for the whole city to enjoy. During the event, the three talented muralists, Richmond Futch Jr., Chloe Smith, and Ebony Singleton, and two popular authors whose works are featured in the mural, Kathleen Blasi and Leslie C. Youngblood, spoke of their love of art, literature, and libraries. Both authors provided free books and other materials during the event. A guitarist, Ken Luk, played music and Rosalind Walker from Victory Fitness entertained the kids as did a local not-for-profit organization, 540WMain. Assemblyman Demond Meeks was in attendance championing libraries as were representatives from many organizations including the Arnett Library Friends, His Branches Inc., the Arnett Block Association, the 19th Ward Community Association, and the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. Dan Ross, from the Foundation, gave a nice talk. All attendees enjoyed socializing with each other while partaking in light refreshments and perusing the works of art. For days afterward people popped into the library to say how much they enjoyed the event and the mural. The completion of this project gained considerable attention in the community and these news outlets:



Artists complete four-year Arnett Branch Library Mural project in 19th Ward-Art-CITY News. Arts. Live (Rochestercitynewspaper.com)

Artists complete four-year Arnett Branch Library Mural project in 19th Ward-Art-CITY News. Arts. Live (Rochestercitynewspaper.com)



Community Outreach/Meetings

A representative from the library Bruce Wilbur, Bruce Tehan, and/or Ginger Brewer-Bennett attended four Farmers Markets and one outdoor school fair. Books by Bike was used at most of the events.

Charlotte Branch, Supervisor Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Karen Duff reported a successful food for thought Book Discussion.
- Making Music (Together) with Mike & Jennifer: 9/28/21
We held our third performance with Cherelin and her musical partner Mike Baker. It was a successful program with babies, toddlers, parents, and grandparents participating. The youth were able to play percussive instruments, such as shakers & colorful wooden sticks. The families are excited to continue this program next month. *Strategic Plan: Education & Engagement.*
- End of summer reading program celebration, book and raffle giveaway winners Gage and Gabby, ages 12 and 10 respectively.



- The Tween section is coming along on the Children's floor.
- We continue to hold Thursday Baby-Toddler Storytimes to coordinate with our Outside Play.
- We held a variety of outside/inside play hours on the first four Thursdays.

Anecdotes/Other

- Traveling during a pandemic has caused some stress and confusion for patrons without computer skills. An elderly patron requested assistance filling out online forms before an upcoming European river cruise. Heather Sessler used Google Translate to assist the patron complete the required forms in Czech so that he could enter the country. The gentleman returned in the days following his trip to say that everything went smoothly overseas and he had a wonderful time.
- Jennifer Cherelin reported she held the first day of a new book discussion group with homeschooled tweens and their mother on *The Giver*. These youth had previously been treated to a private Summer Reading party by Cherelin, where they were given wrapped new books and ice cream and really appreciated this reward for their diligent reading! The youth and their mom had already begun reading *The Giver* before our meeting, having borrowed it from our Tween Programming area in preparation for our first meeting today. Both tweens expressed interest in reading and listening from home and committed to reading the next two chapters by the next meeting. They were excited to find out what was going to happen next. Gabby had several predictions about meaningful insights for different symbols and occurrences significant in this work. We had such an insightful discussion. Both



youths are very astute and picked up on many ways *The Giver* differs from our society as well as special clues from the story as to distinctive occurrences particular to the book and the society of *The Giver*. All seemed extremely enthusiastic about reading the story and about holding our book group together. As they were leaving, Gabby, who was so incredibly insightful today and is ten, exclaimed: "I LOVE THIS BOOK!" Their mother also mentioned that their older brother who is in the equivalent of 9th grade, read the first two books in the series and she thought it likely that he would join us once we reach book 3, *Messenger*.

Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting

Programs

- Lauren DelGaizo presented one-on-one storytimes, Isaac Lewis offered several drop-in programs including scavenger hunts, and Erin Clarke, DelGaizo, and Lewis introduced the library to a group of Nativity Preparatory Academy students and teachers during their neighborhood walk to learn about their community.
- DelGaizo created multiple social media updates across all age groups, including posts about Banned Books Week, Hispanic authors, library card sign-up month, Hoopla updates, and the nature backpacks from Central. The post about nature backpacks was shared by Town of Chili Councilwoman Mary Sperr, reached over 650 views, and had 34 engagements. The updates were popular on Instagram as well, and our social media connections and outreach are increasing monthly. *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.*

Anecdotes/Other

Brennan, one of our regular library kids, worked with Lewis to design a scavenger hunt for other kids to learn about the planets and solar system. She created a symbol for each planet, hid the symbols around the children's room, and came up with a game board for participants to track their progress. She and Lewis had a lot of fun working together, and when Lewis offered her a prize for working so hard, she asked for a color picture of an ostrich so she could practice drawing. This is the picture Miss Brennan selected (we also have one in our break room now).



Lincoln Branch Library and Toy Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Joseph Ave. Arts and Culture Alliance coordinated two events with Ted Baumhauer as part of the 2021 Fringe Festival to be held at the Lincoln Branch in September. While the attendance to these programs was

less than it has been in previous years, it was a wonderful program, and the library was so happy to be part of the Fringe Festival again!

- Matthew Seidel expanded the chess club, adding sessions and taking on 11 new members.
- Seidel and Tashara Martinez began posting a “Toy of the Week” on Facebook to promote new and old toys, games, and puzzles.
- The COVID-19 vaccine clinics continue Fridays in September and are planned for October. September in particular saw a significant increase in the attendance to the clinics.
- This month, Jasmine Santiago organized a Back-to-School Board Game program.
- The Back-to-School program relates to the Rochester Public Library's *Strategic Priority of Education & Engagement*. The Loog guitar program, outreach events, and vaccine clinics relate to the *Rochester Public Library's Strategic Priority of Education & Engagement*.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Liz Kurz Michel and Site Supervisor Sarah Lehman attended a celebration for a new project at the Avenue Theatre. The Theater will be starting a new project exploring the use of sacred spaces in a vacant lot on Joseph Avenue and Berlin Street.

Anecdotes/Other

- An offer was extended and accepted for a new YA Librarian. The Lincoln staff are very excited to have the new librarian start in late September.
- Kurz Michel interacted with a group of teens working on job applications and made plans to work one-on-one with one of the teens to help him get more applications out there and make a plan moving forward. He said he would return within the next week after school!

Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco reporting

- Teen's 2nd DIY of the month: Felt Pencil Case: Teens are back to school now, so we prepared supplies to make a felt pencil pouch. Supplies included: felt fabric, buttons, and instructions. The pouch can hold items like pens, pencils, highlighters, or colored pencils. This DIY craft can help them to stay organized.
- Jenga Tower Challenge: After a full week of school, teens spent some time relaxing and having a fun time in the library. The teens competed in the Jenga tower challenge and enjoyed lemonade and cookies too.
- Whatcha' Fixin Friday: This month the recipe was to make Ratatouille. Patrons that visited Lyell were able to sample it and take the recipe home. The family shown below accepted the challenge and decided to make it at home as well.



Anecdotes

- One of our families came into the library to print flyers because their sister was missing. But due to the quantity they wanted, we suggested that they go to a printing service. After they made copies at another venue they returned and asked us to post the flyer. We had already decided it would be a good idea to print a few posters and post them around the library. The family was thankful. Then about an hour later, the children came in and asked us “can you post this flyer because our mom and sister are missing. That moment became an instant tearjerker for Shamika and she gladly obliged and welcomed the children into the library. The children and their adults decided to hang out for a few hours and the kids were so happy to have a safe space to have fun. The aunt also decided to get clothes from the sharing shelf, and the dad came inside to use the Wi-Fi. When the kids were leaving, they said, this is the best place ever!
- Sharing Shelf: The sharing shelf is quite the highlight of some people’s day. Patrons are often grateful for the gems that they find on the shelf. In September, a patron came in with very tattered seasonally inappropriate clothes, but luckily, we had some items to give her a fresh new look for the day.
- Foodlink Partnership: Shamika had a zoom meeting with Mitch Gruber from Foodlink and Olivia Kassoum - Amadou from Cameron Ministries regarding the Lyell branch being a satellite mini food pantry. The decision was made that Lyell can partner with Cameron to receive nonperishable food items to distribute from its food pantry.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- With generous donations, the Maplewood Community Library was able to provide 35 backpacks with a wide array of supplies.
- There was an end-of-summer pizza party with soda. One young patron said it wasn’t a party until there is soda. The Maplewood Library’s youngest patrons enjoyed mixing as many soft drinks as possible to see who could make the best combinations.
- The other big children’s and teens activity came from a patron request was another slime day. Initially thought to be about a six-person activity grew into a massive undertaking. Eighteen children showed up to make slime. Every 10 to 20 minutes, new patrons would show up. The library ran out of containers to hold the slime. That did not deter the young library patrons at all. They ran home and grabbed more containers so that they could participate. From this, the library believes it will be easy to develop more activities now that there is a steady population of children in the library.
- The Monroe County Department of Health held a vaccination clinic. Volunteers did a great job making the meeting room space work for the clinic. There continue to be people from the neighborhood who want to be vaccinated.

Anecdotes/Other

When giving out school supplies there were many grateful families. One kindergartener proclaimed, after a long debate over her choice, that her bookbag was the best!



Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Rebecca Hudson conducted one-on-one computer classes for patrons who wanted to learn the basics of Internet use, email, and word processing. Hudson prepared a take-and-make craft program for October.
- Matthew Hoople restarted weekly in-person storytimes.
(These programs fall within the Strategic Plan of community education and engagement.)

Community Outreach

- Hoople started a collaboration with the Park Ave Laundromat to deliver a monthly storytime in the laundromat. The first storytime will take place on October 13
- Recurring storytimes have been scheduled with the St. Paul's childcare center.
- The Monroe Branch took another box of children's books to the Center for Youth.
(Strategic Plan: community education and engagement; showing the importance of libraries to our communities.)

Anecdotes/Other

- A gentleman came in for the one-on-one computer tutoring with Hudson. He had been laid off during the pandemic and busied himself with learning to write fiction as a possible source of income. He brought in his laptop to demonstrate some issues he was experiencing. His computer was automatically saving all his drafts, and so he had hundreds of files on his computer, which was becoming confusing. Hudson showed him how to turn off the automatic save feature in Word. He wanted to know where he could find support and encouragement among other aspiring writers. Hudson told him about Writers and Books and suggested trying out some groups from Meetup.com.
- During his first week at the Monroe Branch Library, a child informed Hoople (who had green hair) that he looked like a "Mad Scientist." When asked what color hair would make him look like a "Cool Scientist" the boy replied with "Blue." Hoople has since dyed his hair blue to accommodate the patron.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

National Coloring Day was on September 14 and the children were excited to participate. *(Priority #1-Education and Engagement)*

Anecdotes/Other

- Austin, one of our regular juvenile patrons, has started coming back to the library. He plays Roblox and likes to build buildings in the game. He likes to look at architecture books in the library and wants to build houses in real life someday.
- Sheila Murphy was hired as a part-time Adult Librarian.
- Barbara Brody was added as a school-age tutor.



Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

A patron called the library to tell staff that her daughter had given birth to a son this past spring. Maria Heeks-Heinlein congratulated her on this very good news and told her about the Curbside Market with the WIC extension that visits the library every Saturday from 12-2 pm. The patron was very excited about this because her daughter lives in the neighborhood and is on WIC. She said this will make it much easier for her daughter to use her WIC benefits. We have extended this pilot program through the end of 2021, and we will ask for an extension into the year 2022 if Foodlink will be offering this service at that time. *(Priority 1 A 2. Education and Engagement / Increase use and support of our libraries among our diverse populations / Every RPL location addresses the unique needs of their communities).*

Anecdotes/Other

- A Young Adult patron, who has been visiting the library since he was a young child, told us that he will be back in the library every day now. He is starting his senior year of high school and said that he is going to give a shout-out to the Sully Library when he becomes rich and famous. He said he was “an angry crybaby” when he was younger, and that he has come a long way since then. Our young patron said he “could have easily gone down a different road,” but coming up to Sully all these years has helped him to “not go down the wrong road.”
- A young patron and his mother came into the library and were enchanted by Jacob Bigelow’s 3D printed chess sets. The young boy shared that he enjoyed playing chess and noted which of the sets he liked. Bigelow asked the mother if it would be okay to give the young boy one of the extra 3D printed sets he had, and the mother agreed happily. The young patron was ecstatic over the gift and he and his mother proceeded to play chess in the library with their new set. The mother was also interested to learn that Bigelow was hoping to start up a chess club in the library in the coming months.
- A girl scout and her mother approached Jennifer Nesbitt in the spring to ask if she could make a board game to be kept in the library for kids to play. Of course, she said yes! Last week the young girl scout called to let her know that after many hours of hard work, the game was finished. She brought it to the library and now we have a wonderful and fun game called Penguin Palooza for children to enjoy when they visit the library. *(Strategic Priority: Education and Engagement)*



Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

For this month’s Adult Book Discussion, the group read *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. This novel won a Pulitzer Prize and is a family saga based on a brother/sister relationship. Many of the group members listened to the book on audio narrated by Tom Hanks and loved it. We discussed the themes of motherhood, forgiveness, and unconditional love. It was a great discussion. Patricia Finnerty has mentioned that the attendance with the book discussion group has been consistent throughout the pandemic and appreciates the dedication of this group.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

The Winton Branch Library participated in the North Winton Village Association Festival again this year. We distributed information about the Monroe County Library System in general as well as the Winton Branch

Library in particular. Sixty-four people entered our raffle for six different book bundles. Staff enjoyed interacting with our community in an open and partylike environment. *(Priority 1)*

Anecdotes/Other

- Pat Finnerty helped a patron register for a Social Security account online and helped him print out his social security statement, which he needed for the housing authority. He was very grateful for the help.
- Patrick Pittman chose to focus on outreach in varying formats to create additional avenues opened during summer reading for teens. First, Pittman created an application for a Teen Advisory Board (TAB) to go out into the community. The TAB will assist with collaboration and input regarding programming, collection development, and redesigning the Teen Space after the library makes a major collection location shift. He received four applications and has sent a survey to schedule an initial meeting at the end of October. Pittman will monitor participation and continued interest as the project moves forward. *(Priority 1 and 2)*
- Pittman also took on a teen volunteer as part of the liaison project with School Without Walls. Pittman gave the volunteer some creative control of the new window display. This provided insight into library marketing and communication. Pittman also taught the volunteer how to use the Cricut for assistance in creating grab-and-go crafts for October. The volunteer has 75 hours to fill as part of the curriculum, so Pittman will continue developing information literacy, technological literacy, and outreach skills (in the form of “Book Buddies”) for the volunteer.
- The next phase of the Children’s Room refurbish has finally come to pass: the new shelving for the Picture Book section finally arrived. Kathy Wolf was able to weed out some of the items that hadn’t circulated in a while to make the area shine with desirable items that can be shelved face out. We also put many of the toys back out for an early literacy area where children can explore life using their imaginations.

Safe to Be Smart Program Highlights, Derrick Coley reporting

- Arnett site: Kendra White will be resigning on October 5th to work full-time in the RCSD. Kendra assisted with job search and applications for young men that were not in school. Kendra facilitated a scavenger hunt for youth with gift card prizes. The youth had to use computers and talk with certain library staff to get clues.
- Phillis Wheatley site: Completed the interviewing process with Lori Frankunas and a candidate has been selected.
- Maplewood site: Open STBS position. Working with Personnel on replacement.
- Lincoln site: Vera Haygood reports: Teens still are coming in sporadically even with school in session. Teens have received assistance with employment searches and applications. The male teens generally focus on ROBLOX gaming.
- Sully site: George Carter reports: Teen numbers are still low but have seen an uptick since school started. The teens that came in played chess, played ROBLOX, and gave updates on what school is like now. Carter also manned the hallway desk during school hours.
- Teen Central site: John Hylton and Lydia Hylton report the Safe to be Smart staff has helped a few families who have kids who need help with homeschooling. We have helped set up accounts for reading, math, and social studies. The grade levels we have helped have been 7th-9th grade. We had the pleasure of being invited by youth to the renaming ceremony for School No. 3, now the Dr. Alice Holloway Young School of Excellence. The youth did an excellent job singing the Black National Anthem, reading poems, and making sure everyone had a good time.

Selected Meetings & Outputs

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

September 19, 2021 – October 15, 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 Donna Borgus (biweekly)

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

MCLS Plan of Service team meetings

NYS Early Childhood Advisory Council meeting

FFRPL Quarterly Board Meeting

Genesee Country Village Board meeting

City Council Work Session on ARPA

Art of the Book Reception

Punjab Exhibit Committee

WNYLRC Intersect Conference

Roc the Future Convener meeting

MCLS Board President Stockman (two calls)

Roc the Future Planning meeting

City Attorney Johanna Brenna, Country Attorney Don Crumb, Associate Director Traub

Email Activity

September 2021

Name	Send Actions	Receive Actions	Read Actions
Uttaro, Patricia	629	3873	5945
Traub, Adam	493	2009	2381
Lewis, Melanie	247	1585	2026
Harrison, Brie	314	1657	1892
Suro, Ana	414	2519	3545