



115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: November 17, 2021
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – November 2021

Action Items

Library RPL-MCLS Staff Association Vending Agreement (Harrison)

Since the advent of vending machines at the Central Library, the Staff Association has monitored the terms and conditions of the contract with the vending company and has managed location, selection, pricing, and customer complaint issues. In return, the Staff Association has received vending commissions up to \$2,500 per year to support Staff Association operations. Funds above that amount will be used to support Library programs that are mutually agreed upon by the Library Director and the Staff Association Board. Each year, the Staff Association has provided support for retirement coffee hours, the annual retiree luncheon, and various Library programs and events. This agreement will run from December 1, 2021, to November 30, 2022.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an agreement with the RPL-MCLS Staff Association to receive vending commissions in support of Staff Association operations for the period December 1, 2021, through November 30, 2022.

Early Closure of Rundel Building for Special Events (Uttaro)

We are asking for approval to close the Rundel Building first floor early on the following dates:

- Friday, May 13, 2022 - close at 3:00 pm for the Annual Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival Author Dinner
- Saturday, May 21, 2022 – close both buildings for the full day for the Rochester Criterium. Organizers have been in contact with staff and would like to use the Central Library as their base of operations again. This has been a successful partnership in the past and we would like to continue it.
- Saturday, October 15, 2022 – close at 1:00 pm to allow set up for an evening wedding reception

The second floor of Rundel will remain open during the October 15 early closure and staff will be able to retrieve items from the 1st floor if requested by patrons.

Board Action Requested: Approve early closure of the Rundel Building first floor on May 13 and October 15, 2022.

Family Search Agreement (Uttaro & Ridarsky)

In August, the Board approved an agreement with Family Search to provide digitization services for the Local History & Genealogy Division and members of the public. Trustee Lovenheim objected to the agreement given the relationship between Family Search and the LDS Church or Mormon Church. While the motion to approve the agreement passed, with Trustees Lovenheim and Baynes voting no and Trustee Hamilton abstaining, additional reservations were raised by trustees after the meeting and a request was made to revisit the action. The original item is shown below:

Digitization Agreement with Family Search (Uttaro & Ridarsky) (AUGUST ITEM) 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 public access channels.

Board Action Requested: Review the issues with Family Search & the LDS Church or Mormon Church and direct staff to execute or not execute the agreement with Family Search.

Report Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading

- [Booker Prize chair, a Harvard historian, offers peek behind judges' verdict – Harvard Gazette](#)
- Brooklyn Public Library Knows How to Get Books Back Without Fines - <https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/entry/the-brooklyn-public-library-knows-how-to-get-books-back-without-fines>
- Cafes with a Conscience - <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2021/11/01/cafes-with-a-conscience/>

October was a challenging month as I was diagnosed with pneumonia on October 6 and was out of work for a week and a half.

Facilities Committee Report

The Facilities Committee met and reviewed the capital plan proposal, the Lincoln renovation, the proposed ARPA projects at Maplewood and Portland Avenue, and the new information received on the repairs needed on the Rundel Building. The committee will meet quarterly to provide guidance and support on all of these projects as we begin to work with the new City administration and council members.

Strategic Planning Committee Report

The committee met to discuss the approach to revising the current strategic plan. A recommendation will come to the RPL Board in January that will seek to extend the current plan for another 2 years, but to evolve it into a recovery plan. The committee reviewed all the goals and activities of the current plan and made recommendations for some revision. The committee will meet again in mid-December to review the revisions and make recommendations for the final report for January.

New Law Amending Library Aid Provisions Enacted as Chapter 563 of the Laws of 2021

Lauren Moore, Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian, recently announced that on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, Governor Hochul signed into law *Chapter 563 of the Laws of 2021*. This new law enacts the provisions of A7021/S6511 which was passed by the Legislature on June 3 and transmitted to the Governor on October 22. The text of this new law is available on the State Library's website at <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/2021leg.htm>.

State Aid for Library Construction: The new law amends Education Law 273-a to permanently extend the time for *State Aid for Library Construction* project completion from three years to four years. This new provision applies to those construction projects funded as part of the State FY 2020/2021 budget and all future funding cycles. Projects funded as part of the State FY 2017/18; 2018/19 and 2019/2020 budgets already have four years to complete all project activities per the provisions of *Chapter 120 of the Laws of 2020*, which was enacted during the pandemic.

Streamlining and Modernizing Library Aid: The new law also amends Education Law 273 to streamline and modernize public library and library system aid formula language. These no-cost amendments provide greater flexibility and will ease program and reporting requirements, improve efficiency, and reflect changes in the way library and information services are now delivered.

The amendments include:

- Consolidation of central library development aid and central book aid to create a central library services aid program.
- Streamlining of public library system basic aid formulas by combining per capita funding streams.
- Elimination of the separate adult literacy and family literacy grant programs and consolidation of those funds into the public library system coordinated outreach services program formulas.
- Elimination of the regional bibliographic databases program and consolidation of those funds into the reference and research library resources system (3Rs) basic aid funding formulas.
- Consolidation of two separate funding amounts for general support of The New York Public Library Research Libraries into one amount.

Social Media

September 2021	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	1,027	284	318	54	13	25	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	10 (2,031)	0 (2,209)	8 (5,466)	-	9 (785)	27 (2,007)	8 (299)
Engagements	62	47	753	71	139	290	75
Check In/ Mentions	18	11	-	-	-	17	-
Post Reach	5,286	5,547	13,868	1,872	-	4,935	25,910
Video/Story Views	-	-	302	-	-	0	1,603
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	4	-	-	11	-

Central Library Updates

Central Catalog and Collection Services, Jennifer Lenio reporting

- The first meeting of the Roc Holiday Village planning team (Lenio, Cynthia Dana, Tonia Burton, Alison Bieber, and Alicia Gunther) was held. Discussion centered on recruiting staff for the two days of tabling, trivia, ideas for activities, information to be handed out, and prizes. Libraries will be represented in the Gingerbread Tent on the evenings of December 9th and 16th from 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM. **MCLS staff and trustees are encouraged to pick up a shift. If you are interested, please contact Jen at jlenio@libraryweb.org.**
- Alicia Gunther and Lenio assembled and delivered 15 “Hello Neighbor” bags to new residents in The Metropolitan on South Clinton Avenue. Lenio received requests for 100 bags each for two other neighboring buildings. New bags were ordered and 100 bags were assembled and delivered to Innovation Square, 100 S. Clinton Ave. These bags introduce new downtown residents to the Central Library and MCLS.
- Lenio, Cynthia Dana, Jay Osborne, Darlene Richards, and Renee Kendrot met with Casey Karger of ABC to discuss ways ABC and Central could partner with ABC on adult education. It was decided that Karger would supply flyers and business cards to the Tech Center and Science/History so they could start promoting ABC’s services and look to build interest for ABC to start offering satellite adult education classes at library locations next year. Karger also requested a meeting with branch leaders to discuss placing some classes in the branches. He came prepared to the meeting with a map of branch locations in the city overlaid with the home addresses of his current students (200+ students). In looking at the branch locations and residences, he felt the best branches to meet his students’ needs could be Sully, Lincoln, and Arnett. All he needs is a room with tables and chairs and some sort of board to write on (whiteboard, easel with large paper, chalkboard, etc.). If there is audiovisual equipment available, that will be a bonus, but not required. He suggested taking the next couple of months for the Assistant Director and Area Coordinator to talk to the supervisors at these branches, prepare marketing materials, and start spreading the word if all agree to proceed. The goal is to start in-person classes in the three branches in January.

Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

Invited by State Senator Samra Brouk, Dana and Erin Clarke participated in the Trunk & Treat Halloween event at Mary McLeod Bethune School #45. Information on the libraries was shared and candy was handed out to over 200 trick or treaters in wonderful costumes. People were happy to see the library represented; one little girl said “you work at the library? I LOVE the library!”

Anecdotes

Dana received a phone call from a patron who was extremely pleased with the service she received in the Tech Center. She said that everyone in that department deserves a raise for helping her with everything she needed. She is a frequent library user and mentioned that she always feels welcome and everyone here is helpful, but the Tech Center staff are the best.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- *Rochester Writes* continued with a four-part series “Writing Disabled Characters” taught by Luticha Doucette. The class included an overview of changing attitudes about people with disabilities, common tropes in literature dealing with disability, and how authors can create realistic and empathetic characters by becoming educated about a variety of mental and physical disabilities and their impact on the people living with them. The class, which took place on Zoom, included writing exercises and thought-provoking discussions. Some comments from the evaluation:
“I love these writing courses offered by the library because the groups always bring such diverse perspectives and I get to learn from and with people I don’t interact with normally. This class was the best one I have taken so far: it helped me feel more connected with my community through the process of reading and writing together—which is the essence of what a library can do. Thank you!”
- Howard Solomon returned to teach (via Zoom) a four-part class on Playwriting. Using readings of classic plays, he demonstrated how theatrical writing differs from other writing and gave the students ideas about how to make their play more engaging for an audience.
- The monthly writing group, *Words in Progress*, led by Jen Case, resumed after a three-month break. The group included long-time members, as well as some new people who were made welcome with an ice-breaker game of “two truths and a lie.” Several mentioned that they appreciated having two hours dedicated to writing and sharing each month. For some, it was the only time they found to write!
- Patrons used creativity and their imaginations in the class *Folded Fabric Pumpkins*. Artist Linda Bowers brought all the supplies needed to make this quilted fabric pumpkin. She showed students how to fold the fabric to make the pumpkin appear to be quilted, although no sewing was involved. Our patrons liked making this because not all of them can sew.



Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 7 in person, 20 by email, 0 by mail, 2 by phone
- Webpage views: 40
- Hours of in-depth market research: 57
- Tracy Jong appointments: 1 hour 50 minutes; 5 people served

Database Use

- IBISWorld: Page Views 94; Value \$30,655
- InnovationQ: Logins 18; Searches 347
- PitchBook: Logins 11
- Statista: Logins 518; Studies Viewed: 227

Programs

The Division hosted *Deliberative Dialogues*, a partnership with the Democracy Committee at MCC, a campus initiative devoted to democracy promotion. This program was part of a National Issues Forum on improving and safeguarding voting rights and elections. Deliberation is an inclusive, non-adversarial way of discussing

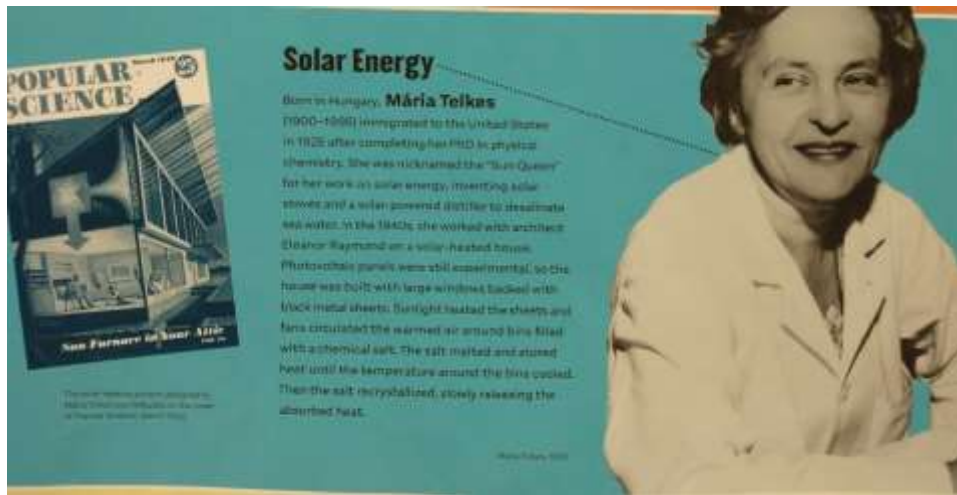
important public issues and allows citizens to assess public issues considering the values they hold so they can act. This event's discussion was around voting rights. BIC will host another program in the spring.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh met with Jonathan Keiser, Provost of Finger Lakes Community College, to discuss collaboration between the two institutions. They also met with the new entrepreneurship class at Hobart William Smith College. Lastly, they met with the participants of the new Embark program at NextCorps. With Embark, non-technical founders can go from idea to revenue: discover a business idea, validate its market potential, and build a software solution to sell, without a full-time commitment or coding experience. BIC is also finalizing their office hours with The Commissary; Byrnes and Meddaugh will alternate weekly.

Anecdotes

- BIC is currently hosting an exhibit from the Smithsonian which features women inventors.



- Google for Startups announced that a company Kate Meddaugh assisted would receive a \$100,000 cash grant as part of its second-ever Black Founders Fund awards.
- BIC received this email from a community partner who watched one of our Insights on Demand programs on forming a limited liability corporation:
"This LLC training was perfect. I made an Excel sheet with details for each formation and its prices. I was on the NYS website gathering the fees and time expectations for everything. It is crazy how much lawyers charge for something that is as easy as getting a DBA (Doing Business As) with the county clerk!"
- Byrnes and Meddaugh launched a podcast discussing intellectual property and innovation titled The Selden Files, which has received 9 listens so far.
- The financial literacy program Byrnes and her colleagues at Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester held at the Maplewood Branch was named a model program by the American Library Association's Public Programs Office.
<https://programminglibrarian.org/programs/be-master-money-builder>

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- School visits have resumed! The first classes since COVID-19 began visited in person this month, starting with three second-grade classes from Kendall Elementary and four third-grade classes from State Road Elementary. Their visits were a little modified from the usual since the Secret Room is not available. Miranda Hazen led their visits with all other available Children's Center staff helping the kids find books and check out. It was great!
- The month ended with Fall Fun Day. Families went around the library to get treats, solve riddles, play the large Connect Four, make Halloween masks, visit with staff from WXXI, and enjoy the Leaf Man Storywalk.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training- Priority #2: Sustainability and Resources

- Burton hosted members of the Rochester Area Talking is Teaching Early Adopters group for a book selection party. The group looked at several new children's board and picture books to choose what would be added to the new Talking is Teaching bags. The first part of this program was funded through several generous donations to the Friends and Foundation of RPL. This collaboration has created a new relationship with staff from Childcare Council, Children's Institute, and The Mueller Foundation. It is also laying the groundwork for possible funding in the future.
- Burton is facilitating outreach for the University of Rochester's Social Cognitive Development Lab. They have received permission for a study entitled *Children's Thinking about Family Identity and Peer Interactions*. The goal of this study is to understand how children learn and make sense of their social class, and how their own and others' social class plays into their decisions of fairness and stereotypes. This work is important because the economic conditions that children grow up in influence their life experiences, what is accessible to them, and their beliefs about others from similar or different class backgrounds. Overall, this study will allow them to understand how children conceptualize their social class and illuminate future directions to promote more inclusive and positive attitudes amongst children of different economic standing. The students visited on October 30th and were able to talk with youths visiting Central for a school viewing that was held in Teen Central. They will be at Central in November and possibly December.

Raising A Reader – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The Raising A Reader program increases the use of library materials by removing barriers to our physical buildings. Providing access to books to our youngest patrons helps build their foundation for literacy and learning later in life.
- Margarita Chaves and Burton went to Ibero Childcare Center as members of the Raising A Reader Team and invited parents to learn about the Raising A Reader program and participate with their children in a Story Walk of the book, *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert, to discuss how to ask good questions. Parents were also given questions to ask about the pages in the story walk and children were able to pick a pumpkin from the patch and take apples back home with them! The red bags with books were delivered through the MCLS Delivery system and started rotating after the Leaf Man event. Every classroom at Ibero will participate this year.



- Burton met with staff from the Hoekelman Center and Maplewood YMCA Childcare to orientate staff on the program. There is one class of 4 and 5-year-old's that will receive the program starting in November. This site is also part of an early literacy play pilot program through Hoekelman Center at Golisano Children's Hospital. Hoekelman staff will evaluate to determine the effectiveness of providing early literacy toys, books, and parent engagement for families. Chaves has prepared the Red Bags for this new site. As soon as training can be scheduled, we will begin rotating bags.
- Training at ABC Head Start sites was planned but had to be canceled due to the lack of staff at each site. Burton and Chaves will create a training video so center staff can receive the needed information at a time that works for them. Early Childhood sites are struggling with staffing all over the city. This is causing a delay in being able to begin the Raising A Reader program. Some sites may need to go to remote learning if shortages continue as illnesses and COVID numbers rise.

Anecdotes/Other

For the past few weeks, we have been getting to know a mom and her two daughters. They are staying in transitional housing after escaping a domestic violence situation. The mom was excited to take the October pumpkin take-and-make craft because there is nothing to do at night at their shelter. She took some for other children staying there too. The mom invited a friend to meet her at the library and told her the library is the best because you can use the computer and get things done while kids have a place to play.

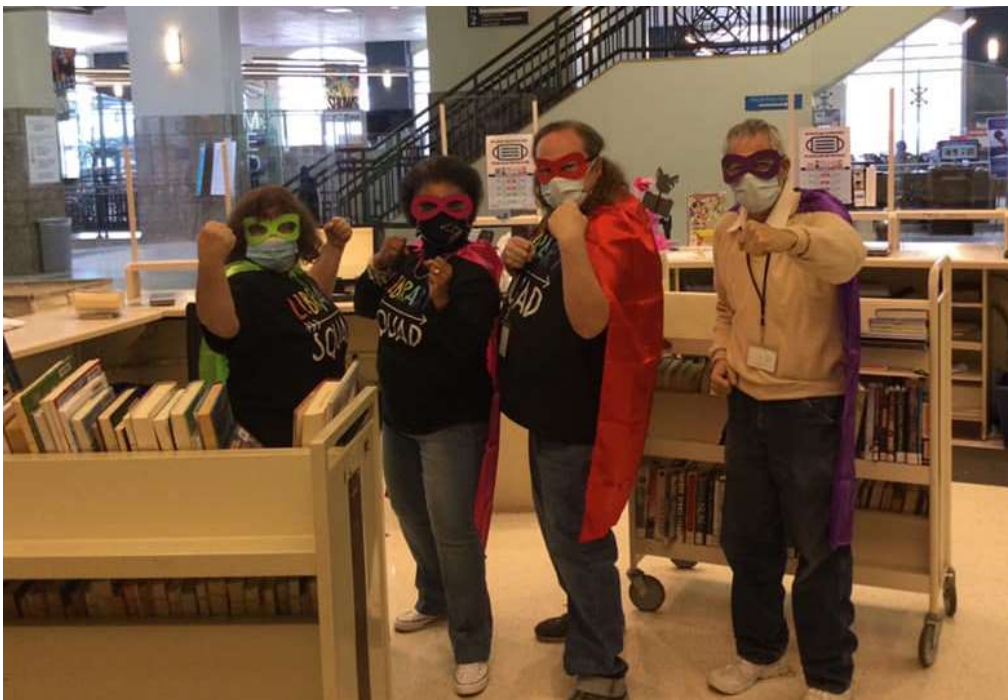
Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments – 6
- New Borrowers – 81
- RRLC Access Cards Issued – 6
- Notarial Acts – 65

Anecdotes/Other

- On Friday, October 1 circulation desk staff, information desk staff, children's services staff, and Patron Services Manager Cynthia Dana dressed up in super-hero masks and capes for our first Fun Friday. Throughout the day staff fought fines, saved patrons by bringing a smile to their faces, and were just full of fun in general.



- Stephanie Penns began entering library cards for patrons who apply for Out of County cards through the website this month. Penns entered many cards and was surprised and pleased to see people from other countries applying for Out of County cards.
- Chad Cunningham attended this year's TLCU, the annual conference put on by the company that supplies MCLS with their integrated library system, CARL. There were many interesting presentations. Highlights included a presentation on how to start a library TikTok, tips for better searching in the online catalog, and a truly amazing keynote address on how to both cope with and embrace change. Cunningham has been appointed to the steering committee for next year's conference.

Local History & Genealogy Division, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Division staff undertook the next stage of the Strategic Planning Process this month. [Photos provided to Patty via email.] Using the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and Vivid Description developed over the summer in consultation with Causewave, the team identified and prioritized division strategies that aligned with internal goals and values as well as the library's wider institutional priorities:

- Develop and deliver relevant and innovative programs and exhibits that appeal to diverse populations
- Increase discoverability and accessibility of our resources
- Adopt innovative approaches to collections development and management to ensure that our collections reflect the diversity within the community
- Engage in proactive, vibrant, mutually beneficial relationships with diverse community partners and respond to community needs and desires
- Provide a welcoming environment where people from every neighborhood of Rochester and surrounding communities feels served, respected, and represented
- Provide training and access to professional development opportunities to ensure that our staff obtains and continues to develop the skills and expertise necessary to provide excellent public service and succeed in meeting performance goals and expectations
- Document, communicate, and market our division's services and achievements

We welcome any feedback. The next step will be to develop specific objectives and goals for delivering on these strategies over the next 3-5 years.

We also kicked off a workflow analysis process this month. Staff members each tracked their tasks for one week, noting how much time each task took. The process will continue into November when staff will evaluate the tasks and time spent on them to determine how the current workload aligns with division priorities and to identify where changes are needed.

Programs

- The Local History & Genealogy Division began live-streaming programs with the October installment of *Mourning in the Morning*, which featured a talk by Chris Brandt on "Leander McCord, Jr.: Rochester's Architect of the Roaring Twenties." This educational program shed light on McCord's often-overlooked career, which spanned from the early 1910s through the late 1940s. *Mourning in the Morning* is presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. The program was presented in person at the library and simultaneously live-streamed via YouTube. A recording is available to view on the library's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJlCVFRpOEU&list=PLzEBIzX1XFJLebwaUF-QZ_xJAtgdz_HN&index=26.
- The division hosted the final two sessions in the Reading & Discussion series on 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 five-week discussion series, which began in September and was facilitated by Melissa M. Parrish, culminated with a presentation by Hill and a lively question-and-answer session with attendees at the October *Rochester's Rich History* program, which was presented in person at the library and live-streamed via YouTube. A recording can be viewed on the library's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5HDGEJYm7Q&list=PLzEBIzX1XFJLebwaUF-QZ_xJAtgdz_HN&index=27&t=3570s.
- The division also hosted the first of two programs commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Attica prison uprising, offered in conjunction with the *Open Wounds* exhibition that is currently on display (see Exhibitions section, below). Local filmmaker Chris Christopher was present for an in-person screening and discussion of her Emmy-award-winning film, *Criminal Injustice: Death and Politics at Attica*, which raises important

questions about what happened before, during, and after this deadly event. Due to rights restrictions on the film, this program was neither recorded nor live-streamed.

- Staff debuted two new historical walking tours in partnership with the City of Rochester as part of the ROC the Riverway Weekend in early October. Dan Cody led “Beyond Flour and Flowers: Industry in Rochester,” an educational tour about Rochester’s industrial heritage featuring some of the key enterprises that helped the city to thrive and earn a reputation as a place of innovation. Emily Morry led “Douglass, Anthony, and Beyond: Activism and Social Justice in Rochester,” an educational tour relating stories about Douglass, Anthony, and less well-known activists from Rochester’s labor movement, anti-draft movement, LGBTQ+ rights movement, and more. The tours began and ended at the Rundel Memorial Building and led participants in an approximately 1.1-mile loop to sites around the library’s downtown neighborhood. Both were well received.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Brandon Fess participated in the annual Rochester Archives Fair this month. This event was virtual due to the ongoing pandemic. Fess presented twice: first to provide a brief overview of the collections held by the Rochester Public Library, then to give a brief “lightning talk” on the basics of archiving and preserving audio materials. The event was recorded and will soon be available to view online.
- Michelle Finn presented a talk, “From Flour to Flower: How Rochester Got Its Nicknames,” for students in the Rochester City School District’s Office of Adult and Career Education Services program (via Zoom).
- Ridarsky and Finn attended the fall meeting of the Monroe County Historians (via Zoom). The group discussed Land Acknowledgement Statements and student internship opportunities with guest participant Michael Oberg from SUNY Geneseo. Jim Paprocki from the Wayne Historians Organization spoke to the group about a new Historic Sites Database, to which Monroe County historians were invited to contribute. Ridarsky and Finn reported on the September conference of the Association of Public Historians of New York State, and Ridarsky shared information about *Consider the Source*, a new educational website to connect teachers with primary source materials, sponsored by the New York State Archives and Archives Partnership Trust.
- Antoine McDonald met with Dan Schneiderman, Eclipse Partnerships Coordinator for the Rochester Museum & Science Center, to discuss collaboration on programming leading up to and during the Solar Eclipse of April 8, 2024. In addition to discussing programming ideas, McDonald has been assisting Schneiderman in obtaining images and newspaper articles that provide historical context to the upcoming solar event. McDonald will continue to serve as the library’s liaison with the museum in planning for this event.

Special Collections

Fess accessioned six new collections in October. Of particular interest are the East Rochester Shops Car Equipment Repair Ledger, which documents railroad car repair costs at the East Rochester shops of the New York Central Railroad between June 1893 and January 1896; the H. F. Hemingway Co. Ledger Book from the Rochester branch of a packing company specializing in oysters, fruit, and nuts; and the Rochester Business and Professional Women's Club Records, a social and professional organization that operated in Rochester from 1919 to 2004. In addition, the division was gifted a collection of architectural drawings and research materials accumulated by Jim DeVinney during his tenure as Corn Hill historian. DeVinney passed away in October. Fess and Ridarsky held work sessions with members of the Asian/Pacific Islander/American Association of Greater Rochester (APAA) twice in October. APAA volunteers finished inventorying the materials from their collection, which is on deposit at the library. Before the collection can be formally described, the group needs to determine if any additional materials exist and, if so, how they will be transferred into the library’s possession.

Fess continued to describe and file previously unprocessed maps. This is a continuous, slow project; in approximately 20 hours of work, he was able to file roughly 50 maps. A large portion of the October output came in the form of topographical maps.

Digital Projects

Fess received the final images from the multispectral imaging project conducted by staff and students at the Rochester Institute of Technology earlier this fall. The images provide some interesting historical insights, though their greatest value is likely in the lessons learned by the team developing the imaging system. One item imaged, an early pamphlet on a proposed canal with a seemingly blank page, returned ambivalent results. Text can be seen on the “blank” page, but not well enough to tell if it is unique text or rather bleed from the reverse of the page or the facing page. Clear results came from two maps the team imaged. One, a rare manuscript map from 1792 showing modern Irondequoit and northeast Rochester, shows a *lack* of erasures and edits, helping to prove the suspicion that it is a manuscript copy, not the original map created by the cartographer. The other is an interesting test of the capabilities of the imaging system. A randomly chosen Sanborn map with multiple pastedowns was imaged to see if the system could see through the pastedowns—and it can! This was unexpected by the team and is suggestive that further work in this area may be valuable.

Rochester Voices

Finn worked with staff from Monroe 2 Orleans BOCES to add a new topic to the *Rochester Voices* website in support of the anti-racism curriculum being developed by BOCES in collaboration with the Rochester City School District and the University of Rochester. The theme of the curriculum and the topic is “Race, Class, and Inequalities.” The primary sources added to *Rochester Voices* were identified by the educators creating the curriculum. Additional primary source content from the Community Webs website archiving project will be added to the *Rochester Voices* topic when it is ready. The existing content can be viewed at http://www.rochestervoices.org/topics/race_class_inequalities/.

Social Media

The blog entries posted this month were “Long Train Running: The Railroads in Rochester, Part 2,” and “Long Train Running: The Railroads in Rochester, Part 3,” both by Dan Cody. In addition to these posts, readers revisited 137 previously published posts during October, 13 of which received over 20 views each. The most popular posts were “A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore ‘Sammy G’ Gingello” (269 views), “The Missing Link: The Origins and Evolution of the White Hot” (65 views), “Kool Things: The History of the J. Hungerford Smith Company” (58 views), and “Long Train Running: The Railroads in Rochester, Part 1” (41 views).

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- RMC held four programs. First Friday Films program showed *F9: The Fast Saga* and our See It First Saturday Matinee program showed *Cruella* for 8 patrons. There were two Brown Bag Book Discussion programs about the book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. One in-person program on 10/27 with 14 attendees and one Zoom program on 10/29 with 5 attendees.
- RMC performed 18 A/V set-ups for programs in Central Library's auditoriums.

Statistics

RMC rented 7 pieces of equipment, 170 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4405 items or 40% of the Central Library's total circulation of 11,114 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, we circulated 8,864 items.

Database Use

Hoopla

- Circulation
 - Movies/TV – 389
 - Audiobooks – 858
 - Music – 64
 - eBooks – 301
 - Comics – 139
 - Total – 1,751
- New Users – 57

Anecdotes/Other

RMC continues to curate the Mi-Fi collection. The materials to create the Mi-Fi cases necessary to finish processing the remaining 150 Mi-Fi units have finally arrived; all 300 Mi-Fi units, funded through the Emergency Connectivity Fund, are ready to circulate freely throughout Monroe County.

Science and History, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs

- Renee Kendrot finished up her gardening series with *Herb Gardening and Back to Basics: Simple Strategies for Herbs and Spices*. These programs coincided with Rochester Reads, Braiding Sweetgrass.
- Kendrot and Richards hosted a book discussion with Dellenna Harper, the author of *God's Teardrop: My Journey of Healing and Prostitution*. Harper shared how the YWCA of Rochester and Jennifer House assisted in her recovery. Jennifer House is a prison ministry program, which Harper eventually led as a director. Below is a thank you to Kendrot from Jane Sutter, co-author and project manager for authors:
Thank you, Renee! It seemed like so long ago when we started planning this program. And then suddenly it was here! You did a fabulous job organizing it, and the book display and sharing of all these wonderful resources is remarkable. You greatly exceeded my expectations. Thanks to you and all your colleagues for all you are doing. We are blessed to have such a wonderful Central Library and county-wide system.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Division welcomed fourth-year Medical Student Gregory Matos for two weeks in October. Greg is pursuing his Distinction in Community Health. In his short stint here, he developed a handout regarding breast cancer and reinstated a health checkup station. He was able to provide three sessions at Health Central, in which a total of 22 people visited. The checkups included blood pressure, heart rate, weight, and blood sugar. He also helped set up a flu vaccine clinic in the library, which will be held in November.
- Lee Ana Hess (CASH) approached Gabe Pellegrino regarding a possible partnership between CASH and LROC. As it turns out, the CASH staff are, in many cases, providing similar social services assistance. The meeting took place with Andy Carey, Lisa Kuhmann, Hess, Gabe Pellegrino, and Richards where it was decided that

training documents will be developed. This may even include a further partnership with our CHIC (Community Health Improvement Course) students, as they work with the community as part of their study.

- Pellegrino was asked by the Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester Chapter (HLAA) to serve on their Advisory Board. The Board likes to use people who are involved with senior residents and felt the library would be a good connection, especially as we are working on a partnership. The term is two years and involves only three meetings a year. Gabe met with them via Zoom. We discussed ways in which we can work together.
- Pellegrino and Richards hosted a table for the library at the annual American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out of the Darkness Community Walk, held at Veterans Memorial Park in Penfield. Pamphlets on mental health, suicide prevention, coping skills, and the library were made available. Five books from the Science Division's collection were circulated at the event using the Division's iPad and a borrowed Central Library Mi-fi unit. In addition, the event was a good networking event, with many new contacts made for local social services organizations and Rochester Regional Health, with whom we hope to partner in the future. Richards reached out to Jordan Marsh (Goodwill of the Finger Lakes/211 Lifeline) who will be doing presentations/programs here in the future.



Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Programs

- Brian DiNitto continues to provide classes for our patrons three times a week. The appetite for classes targeting the population of novice computer users suggests combining the session of Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and anything beyond the basics of Word as a reasonable option. Pedro Nunez has been asked to begin to prepare a basic class for novice users of the Google suite of Microsoft Office analogs. The team anticipates including these in the weekly rotation beginning in December.
- Nunez is also working with Faezeh Jahanshiri from the Teen Center to present a series of classes introducing patrons to basic programming concepts using the PURL computer language. The initial class had seven attendees, and though some expressed interest in attending this class via zoom, several preferred to continue to meet in person. This seems like a great partnership between these departments.

Anecdotes/Other

- Between September and October, the number of reference questions recorded by the Technology Center increased by 10%, and the non-reference questions increased by over 20%. Staff in the Technology Center have made some attempts to track the use of the meeting rooms and nearby innovation spaces. The

meeting rooms see daily use by patrons for various purposes: remote class attendance, job interviews, AA meetings, DMV classes, nursing in-service training, and more. The Innovation Spaces are in daily use primarily by people needing casual meeting space and when needing a semi-private space when using their own devices.

- Since early September, Technology Center staff have been experimenting with providing access to headphones. The best type for Tech Center users is the USB-connected headset with a microphone. The audio quality is much better than cheap earbuds and the USB connection makes them less likely to walk away. Using donated headsets, repurposed from high school language labs, staff have found that the demand for this kind of equipment is exceptional for listening to music, podcasts, or connecting with friends and family. Making this equipment available has created an environment in which very few patrons complain about someone making too much noise or listening to music on their phone while they work.
- Late one Saturday, an older man asked for help using the scanner to fax some paperwork related to a traffic violation to the City of Rochester. Staff helped him through the process as is usual and asked if we could help him with anything else. He said, no, he was all set for the day, but thanks. *"I don't have a fax machine at home and without you guys helping out I'd never get this kind of thing done. Every time I come in here, everyone treats me like a real person. Even the security guards have helped me when you guys down here are totally busy. This is a great place, and these are the kinds of services we need. Telephone and headphones are exactly what lots of the folks need."* He gestured to the computers with about a dozen patrons working on projects or listening on headphones and continued, *"you know all this stuff and the way everyone here is always trying to help the people that come in makes a real difference to me and a lot of people like me."*

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Science Stars, a collaboration between World of Inquiry and the University of Rochester, hosted their annual send-off in Teen Central. Student participants created and showcased a public service announcement on Covid 19, vaccinations, and moving forward through the pandemic. World of Inquiry students, taught by U of R student teachers, led the audience through three family-friendly experiments. The youth gifted the Teen Center a working air purifier. It was four air filters taped together, a cardboard bottom, and a fan lays on top. It is economical and easy for youth to recreate.
- Two people received their Studio Certification for ImagineYou this month; they have been consistent glass room studio users and were finally able to make the leap to professional room certification.
- ImagineYou hosted a beat-making class, led by Josh Pettinger, this month. He taught the class how to make their beats without the need to download pre-made beats from the internet. Here's an example ([link](#)) from one of the attendees.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jahanshiri moderated a session for the Library 2.0 Worldwide Online Conferences—the second conference of 2021, Libraries As Community Anchors, during which many librarians and other information professionals shared their skills and expertise about virtual programming and how libraries can help the community they serve during these difficult times.
- Banks and Jahanshiri attended the 2021 Virtual NYLA conference. Banks attended Welcome to the Teen Center where it was confirmed that Teen Central was on trend with having a secure physical location exclusive to teens and encouraging teens to lead on programming ideas and collection building.

- Banks also attended Mental Health in BIPOC Services where it was reiterated that libraries could be community service providers by providing health fairs and screenings. It is important to include bibliotherapy/poetry into our collection so people can use characters and creativity to address depression.

Anecdotes/Other

- One young patron comes to the Teen Center to create. She and her brother love to work in the studio recording music and beats. She was creating a written poem at the same time. Jeff Bostic noticed there were grammatical errors and coaxed her into creating a cohesive and more melodic message. The young patron said: *"I can feel myself growing as an artist when I work with you guys here, thanks for taking the time."*
- The Glowforge 3D printer continues to be a major hit in the lab. Check out some creations.



Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

Anecdotes/Other

- Branch Admin staff met with Site Supervisors in small groups to begin gathering feedback around staffing needs and challenges in preparation for the next budget proposal. The discussions were followed by written proposals by each manager, which will be reviewed by the Director and Senior Managers as part of the budget process.
- Dennis Williams, Site Supervisor at Charlotte is assisting the staff at the Lincoln Branch with supervisory support. Sarah Lehman, Lincoln's manager is out on maternity leave and has given birth to a beautiful baby boy.
- Even though COVID is still a factor in our activities, RPL Staff Day still happened in the branches. Lots of in-house projects were completed along with some training activities. There were fun activities, including a staff trip to the RMSC, tee-shirt making, and staff lunches.
- This month we celebrate a milestone of one of RPL's premier programs. With Derrick Coley, Youth Services Coordinator reaching his 20th anniversary with the Library, RPL celebrated 20 years of the Safe to be Smart

program. What started as a one-staff/one-location endeavor is now in five branch locations and the Central Library. The current team has eight Youth Services Assistants. Coley and his staff will be participating in the Mayor-Elect's time-limited taskforce for youth development programs in the city.

Branch Administration, Joan Lee reporting

A safety and security assessment walkthrough was completed at the 10 branches by the following team: Jeff Moore, Safety Coordinator, and Vincent McIntyre, Security Superintendent of Security operations. The team's primary focus was on safe access to stairs, hallways, lighting; mirrors, the safety of staff working in isolated areas, and the mechanical & electrical systems and all emergency exits. There were numerous issues but, most minor (dead alarm and carbon monoxide batteries.) I am pleased to report that Dave LaCrosse and his team have corrected the majority of the issues pointed out in this report, the remaining are products that need to be ordered.

(Strategic Plan: community education and engagement; showing the importance of libraries to our communities.)

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

The two best-attended programs during October were a Monroe County Health Department COVID-19 vaccine clinic and a storytime/pumpkin bling event.



Community Outreach/Meetings

Bruce Tehan represented Arnett at two final 2021 Westside Farmers Markets. Tehan also attended the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services annual conference. The conference was held online and Tehan was one of the presenters. Nancy Cholewa started doing storytimes at the Action for a Better Community Head Start Hart Street Center. She is reading to six classes, three classes each week, of 1 and 2-year-olds. Cholewa is always a big hit with the children she visits.

Anecdotes/Other

The branch's Staff Day included a visit to the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The visit was enjoyed by all participants. During the visit, the team learned about this great resource and picked up ideas that can be used at the library.



Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Dennis Williams and Karen Duff reported the First Thursday Local History: North Coast Ghosts was well attended.
- Williams held four chess programs. During the final week, a retired social worker came out to play and was so thrilled to be able to play against another live human that he stated he'd be back every week.
- Jennifer Cherelin is conducting homeschooled families book groups around *The Giver* series, meeting for up to an hour and a half three times per week. Cherelin has noted with delight teens' enthusiasm for *The Giver*, *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, and *The Subtle Knife* (the second book in the *Golden Compass* series). Cherelin is also beginning the final book of the trilogy, *The Amber Spyglass*, by Sir Philip Pullman.



Anecdotes/Other

- Michelle traveled to Rochester from Ohio as a temporary essential worker. In addition to her job in health care, she is an accomplished poet. Michelle, an older woman donning a sequined Black Lives Matter hat, visited the Charlotte Branch to use the computers to submit a book of poetry to the United States Copyright Office. Heather Sessler assisted her many times throughout her visit. After the document was successfully uploaded Michelle said, "You know that show 'Touched by an Angel?' You're my angel today! When I finally get this book published, I am coming back with a signed copy and will do a reading here!" Michelle's beautiful spirit and writing are welcome at Charlotte any time.
- Patrons LOVE 3-D printed ghosts. Dozens were given away throughout October.
- Children's room staff have continued to hold weekly Thursday baby-toddler storytimes to coordinate with our outside (or inside play if the weather has not permitted us to be outside) program times.

- Staff continue to hold a variety of outside/inside play hours on Thursdays. Youth are encouraged to come dressed up in costume. Cherelin juggled and ate apples while juggling them and the families seemed thrilled by it!



Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

On October 29th, Trick or Treaters were welcomed at the library. The staff had a great time passing out candy at six locations within the building. The children continued making the circuit until all the candy was gone!



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Evanna DiSalvo attended the virtual meeting for the Rochester Committee on Refugee Resettlement on October 19th. Lisa Hoyt from the Catholic Family Center is giving bi-weekly updates on the arrival of Afghan evacuees and the challenges it presents to the organizations involved.

Anecdotes/Other

Every morning library staff look forward to a visit from Caleb and Sasha. Caleb is 15 months old and Sasha is his caregiver. They read books together, play, and talk with staff. Caleb learns new words each day and says “goodbye friends” when he leaves.

Lincoln Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- The Toy Library had a total of 104 visitors.
- Matt Seidel continued the music program and took on nine new students.
- Seidel continued running the two weekly virtual chess club meetings, which total 13 regular members.
- The summer music program and continuing virtual chess club for children directly relate to the Rochester Public Library's Strategic Priority of Education & Engagement.
- The October teen program was Teen Game Night: Werewolf. With only three attendees there were not enough people to play the planned game so instead, they played Forbidden Island, a team game focused on working together to save everyone from a sinking island. This brought in teens who had not been to the library before who said they enjoyed the program and were excited about coming back to play more games in the future!
- Jasmine Santiago organized a Trick or Treat program in collaboration with the Toy Library and created build-your-own scarecrow Take and Makes for the fall season. The Trick or Treat and scarecrow Take and Make programs align with the Rochester Public Library's Strategic Priority of Education & Engagement.



Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco reporting

Programs

- Sherry Stanton read stories with children who dropped in throughout the month. Activities included fingerplay songs with the *Pete the Cat* story and afterward, children worked with a variety of manipulatives, played in the kitchen area, and searched for books in the library.
- During Lyell's Fall Festival Week, families participated in fall and Halloween crafts, both in the library and as a take-home. They also played Halloween games, Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin and Witch Hat Ring Toss. Participants were also given a free pumpkin to take home and carve.
- Manju Sharma celebrated "World Smile Day" on October 1st by decorating sugar cookies. Participants were provided with black frosting and googly eyes to decorate a sugar cookie in the library and enjoyed it with a smile.



- Lyell Branch had the pleasure of hosting Sew Savvy with Shawnice Powell. Shawnice's mission is to encourage folks of all ages to learn basic sewing skills. All participants learned basic vocabulary and the opportunity to sew a straight line.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Shamika Fusco attended the outreach event at Edgerton Community Center. The Lyell Otis Community Association sponsored the event. Participants received candy and treats. Craft activities, as well as music and dancing, were encouraged. The Lyell branch library handed out candy, books, and crafts.



Anecdotes/Other

- The kids enjoyed reading this month so much they kept asking for more stories! Both kids and parents were very excited about all the take-home crafts because they said they needed things to do at home. Lyell's Little Chef Cooking Club acorn cookies were a favorite activity and families have said they look forward to the activities next month. Overall, the kids and parents had an exciting month and parents have said that they can't wait to come back!
- Cameron Community Ministries was extremely gracious and donated over 150 snack bags to Lyell Library. The bags included applesauce, raisins, tomato sauce, and pasta. The patrons at Lyell are extremely grateful for these little snack packs and share their appreciation.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- The highlight of the month was the Halloween party. There was fortune telling, paper jack-o-lantern making, and origami ghost folding. This gave us plenty of fun things to do while waiting for all the patrons to arrive. The group heard some scary stories, ate doughnuts and drank apple cider, then went through a haunted hallway. The haunted hallway was created by dedicated staff member Sara Dougherty, who used large cardboard boxes, items from the dollar store, donations, and items from Amazon with some staff to help to scare the youth as they walked through the hallway. There was a scavenger hunt that concluded with the distribution of copious amounts of candy. Finally, we announced the two winners of our costume contest. There was a tie, and they won more candy. Every youth in attendance seemed to be having an amazing time. Several children were already talking about next year's Halloween party.



- The Monroe County Department of Health held a vaccination clinic twice in October. The volunteers do 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.

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 November based on the Thankful Hedgehog.
- Musical programs returned to the Monroe Branch on Saturday the 16th. The patrons enjoyed one hour of classical guitar performed by Terrence Shrader. There was a Q&A session following the performance.
- Matthew Hoople conducted three Halloween scavenger hunts at the library (at different times morning, early afternoon, late afternoon) all three programs had positive responses from attendants!
- Monroe provided scary movie night bags for 24 lucky patrons. Each bag contained two scary movies and a bag of microwave popcorn. Patrons had fun checking out these bags without knowing what movies they were getting. A big hit! These programs align with the Strategic Plan of community education and engagement.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Hoople started working with the St. Paul's Childcare center to do two storytimes a month (one for their 3-year-old class, and one with their 4-year-old class) beginning on October 6th. Hoople began monthly Laundromat Story Times. No children attended the first storytime, but some adults did stop to listen to his ukulele. This program was created with the owner's knowledge and permission, but it wasn't until the day of the storytime that Hoople met with the laundry attendant who would be working during those storytimes. Hoople and the attendant met the next day to discuss advertising strategies (putting fliers up at the laundromat, and using the laundromat's social media to advertise), and the attendant is going to assist Hoople by keeping track of the most high-frequency times when children are in the laundromat. Periods of high frequency will impact the time of outreach.
- Hoople started a monthly craft-centered story time with the children's program at the Center for Youth (kids between the ages of 4 – 8). This month's craft was to make a ghost-shaped confetti blaster. Well received. Note: Kids enjoy making messes.
- Hoople met with Suzanne Kolodziej from the George Eastman Museum. She will be joining Hoople for one storytime a month for the next three months and provide crafts during these storytimes.

Anecdotes / Other

- During the first storytime with the Center for Youth, Hoople had prepared a felt board story of Goldilocks and the three bears. But the group of kids, about age 4, declared they already knew that story, and that they wanted to tell it! Hoople thought this was a great way to interact with them and allowed them to lead the story. At first, the kids recited the tale perfectly but when the story ended things changed. After Goldilocks ran away – "A bee came in through the window and ATE baby bear! And then poppa bear tried to stop the bee – but the bee was too strong, and it ATE POPPA BEAR!!!!... but Momma bear was safe." Twas a new and inspiring ending.
- At the end of his storytime at the St. Paul's Daycare, Hoople passed out stickers to thank the kids for being so well behaved. Most of them started putting the stickers on their foreheads. Not one to be left out, Hoople put a sticker on his head which was greeted with a lot of laughs.

Phillis Wheatley Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- To celebrate Halloween, the children enjoyed a party with painting, bingo, a movie, and treats. Alexandra Haehn and the other parents helped the children with the projects.
- Takeaway Craft – Sheilah Murphy created a wooden pumpkin-themed craft and recorded it on YouTube/Facebook for patrons to follow. This program aligns with Rochester Public Library Strategic Plan priority one, education and engagement.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Murphy has been reaching out to many places in the community hoping to start some new partnerships and reestablish old ones. Murphy is in contact with the Episcopal SeniorLife Community and will be restarting a book club with community members there.
- Lori Frankunas is learning how to do a Diversity Audit by taking the Library Journal Class “Evaluating, Auditing and Diversifying Your Collection”.



Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- Jennifer Nesbitt ran a Halloween Cupcake Wars program for children this month and it was a hit. One of the kids commented on his way out that he “loves doing stuff like this!” and he will come to the library every day. Nesbitt reminded him that Sully will be having the annual gingerbread house program near Christmas, and he replied, “I can’t wait! I’m coming to the library on Christmas Day and the day after, and the day after!”
- Monroe County’s Project Impact held a benefit fair this month. Sully partnered with the Thomas Ryan Community Center to secure space in the hallway outside the library doors to reach people coming into the library and the community center. Patrons attending the fair received a lot of information about services offered by Monroe County. Several NARCAN kits were also distributed to members of the community. (Priority 3C, Stewardship and Curation – Provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs, services and technologies based on community needs.)
- Jacob Bigelow held a Sully chess club for all ages using chess sets that had been 3-D printed in the library. Though participation was sparse, Bigelow and George Carter were impressed by the skill and sportsmanship of a young participant. The patron had been practicing chess while in quarantine and though quite young showed an amazing skill for the game. The positive attitude the patron exhibited by being able to attend the chess club convinced Bigelow to continue the program for the months to come.

Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

Joseph Becker is part of a Rochester Public Library team working with the National Digital Inclusion Alliance to create a digital tool kit for patrons; they have been meeting via Zoom. Becker also met with Action for a Better Community to work on family access to online resources for youth mental health services. In addition, Becker is working with the Levine Center to End Hate to coordinate Geographic Information System and technology training.

Anecdotes/Other

- Sully started adding books from the *Haunting Danelle* series to the collection. Maria Heeks-Heinlein shared the first book, *The Ghost of Marlow House*, with a regular patron, and she decided to check it out to read at home. A few weeks later she came into the library and asked to speak to Heeks-Heinlein, and she said, “I LOVE that ghost book, do you have any more?” Heeks-Heinlein showed her where they were and she was excited to start reading. Building relationships with patrons help staff provide high-level, individually tailored services.
- Bigelow had a patron in on a Saturday asking for listings for places in Rochester that held open mic nights. Bigelow was able to quickly provide the information and even supplemented some of his ideas with his knowledge of Rochester coffee shops. The patron expressed to Bigelow that Bigelow had no idea how helpful he had been, especially in telling him about Writers & Books. The patron is an aspiring poet and was looking for performance venues. The patron left expressing his gratitude to Bigelow and the Sully Library for turning his day around in a positive manner.
- Emily Hessney Lynch visited Sully to learn more about the services offered. She talked to staff, took several photos, and wrote an amazing story about Sully for Rochester City Living. A link to this story was posted on the Sully Facebook page (10/15/2021). Sully loves its community, is proud of the staff, and is thrilled to see more positive attention. A huge thank-you to Hessney Lynch for letting people know about this much-loved library.



Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- Pat Finnerty also hosted a scary story program on Zoom titled Ghost Tales: Jack the Ripper and his Ties to Rochester, NY. The speaker read a ghost story about Jack the Ripper and then answered questions about ghosts and eerie occurrences. There were 21 people, and everyone seemed to enjoy the story and discussion. Ghost-related programming is always popular at the Winton library.

Anecdotes/Other

Finnerty helped a patron apply for rent relief from New York State. She worked with the patron for over an hour scanning documents and making sure her application was correct with the State. The patron was thankful for the help.

Safe To Be Smart, Derrick Coley reporting

The Arnett site: Interviews have been completed for the open position of Library Assistant with STBS. Laquanda Fields has been selected as the candidate and has accepted the position. Personnel is handling the next steps in the onboarding process.

The Phillis Wheatley site: The library assistant candidate Michele Saccente has started training on October 25, 2021.

The Maplewood site: Open STBS position. The personnel department has asked for the Youth Services Assistant exam to be scheduled.

The Lincoln site: Vera Haygood reports: low numbers of teens continue. The few males that come spend their time gaming and socializing through the RoBlox platform. Vera was helping various adult patrons on the computers during slow periods in the branch.

The Sully site: George Carter reports: Uptick in youth stopping in! George supported a small group of 10 students in the teen space with a teacher from #33 school. The students and teacher read aloud chapters from class materials. George has been teaching chess to a student that stops by regularly.

Teen Central site: John Hylton and Lydia Hylton reports: Student Antonio talked to Mr. J about having issues with his old friends at school. Antonio decided to try and become a better student and leave the bad influences behind him. This resulted in his former friends picking on him and trying to fight him. His school suggested that he do remote learning at home but when that became an obstacle due to his stressful home life, he chose to study at Teen Central. Teen Central has provided a quiet and engaging learning space for Antonio. Mrs. Williams (Lydia) tutored and mentored a young lady in need of help with schoolwork and advice for housing. Mrs. Williams was able to help this teen learn how to construct an essay properly and showed her where she can go for tutor help when the teen center is closed. Mrs. Williams was also able to answer questions for this teen who has been in foster care for a while and wanted to know about obtaining and maintaining safe housing for when she ventures out on her own.

Selected Meetings & Outputs

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

October 16, 2021 – November 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 Donna Borgus

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

Trustee Handbook Club virtual training session

RPL Board Facilities Committee

Mayor-Elect Malik Evans & RPL Board President Donna Benjamin

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

MCLS Board President Suzanne Stockman
RPL Board Strategic Planning Committee
Roc the Future – Jackie Campbell & Ryan LaVoie
MCLS Strategic Planning Team & Causewave
Hilary Olson, CEO RMSC
Member Library Trustee Consultation
Mayor Warren on ARPA Projects

Email Activity

October 2021

Name	Send Actions	Receive Actions	Read Actions
Uttaro, Patricia	597	4232	6594
Traub, Adam	456	2236	2094
Lewis, Melanie	237	1725	1707
Harrison, Brie/Finance	352	2799	2695
Suro, Ana	678	2987	4215