



115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: April 27, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – April 2022

Action Items

Grant Acceptance, NYS Office of Child & Family Services (Uttaro)

The RPL has been awarded Transition to Kindergarten funding for the summer 2022 session. Coordinated through the Children’s Services Consultant, the RPL will provide three Kindergarten Transition Summits, called Kinder Camp, for Pre-kindergarten students and their families at the Central Library, Maplewood, and Wheatley locations. Kinder Camp days will offer students and their families a chance to practice the skills students will use to prepare for a day in school. The grant of \$10,000 provides for all costs of programming and supplies (school supplies and backpacks). We are accepting the grant in the current budget year to enable these purchases before the program starts.

Board Action Requested: Acceptance of a NYS Office of Child & Family Services grant award of \$10,000 for the purpose and activity described.

Organizational Principle Statements Review (Uttaro)

Most public libraries in the United States adopt as organizational principles several statements developed by the American Library Association. These include the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Reads and Freedom to View statements, and the Public Libraries Statement of Principles. The Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees adopted each of these statements many years ago and reaffirmed them in the late 1990s. The text of each has been slightly modified by the ALA in recent years, prompting this request for reaffirmation. This action is also part of a general policy review for RPL.

Board Action Requested: Reaffirmation of the RPL adoption of the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to View and the Freedom to Read statements, and the Public Libraries Statement of Principles.

Request Early Closure of the Rundel Building (Uttaro)

At the November 2021 meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to approve the early closure of Rundel on May 13 to accommodate an author dinner for the Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival. The TBF has been moved to September, resulting in a new date for the dinner: September 23. Therefore, we are rescinding the request for early closure on May 13 and requesting new authorization for early closure of the Rundel Building on September 23, 2022.

Board Action Requested: Approval of early closure of the Rundel Building for the Teen Book Festival Author Dinner on September 23, 2022.

Amended Library Capital Improvement Program (Harrison)

With the application of Federal ARPA funding for priority City projects, there have been substantial changes to the Library CIP since Board approval in the fall of 2021. The Maplewood expansion project and the entirety of the Rundel Masonry & Window restoration project are now ARPA-funded projects, with a completion requirement of December 2026. This enables the use of a portion of prior Rundel debt to be applied to the East Terrace project, reducing the FY23 debt allocation. It also allows for the Rundel roof replacement to be moved up to start design in FY25. DES had recommended splitting Central Library elevators into two projects for BLB and Rundel; we concur and reflected below, with amounts still acting as placeholder values.

As a result of the volume of projects in ARPA, we have agreed to the DES request to move projects out that do not have an immediate structural, envelope, or systems needs, deferring the Winton Branch project to FY26. DES also calculated the costs of structural inspections and we have modified the inspection services allocations accordingly.

Project Category	Project Description	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Municipal Facilities	Winton Branch Renovation	0	0	0
Motor Equipment	Facilities Fleet (truck) Replacement	0	0	30,000
Central Facilities	Rundel East Terrace Repairs	500,000	5,500,000	0
Central Facilities	Rundel HVAC (Filtration, Intake Air)	0	500,000	0
Central Facilities	Bausch & Lomb HVAC (Heat Pump)	0	530,000	
Central Facilities	Bausch & Lomb Roof Replacement	681,000	0	0
Central Facilities	BLB Elevator Upgrades & Replacements	0	0	500,000
Central Facilities	Rundel Elevator Upgrades & Replacements	0	0	500,000
Central Facilities	Rundel Roof Replacement	0	0	500,000
Central Facilities	Rundel Structures & Systems Inspection Program	120,000	10,000	20,000

Note that all annual allocations (facilities maintenance, IT equipment, furnishings) remain as submitted through the budget process and are unchanged. Lastly, we have added the replacement of the Facilities fleet truck given the current van's age and condition.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the Capital Improvement Program as amended.

Discussion Items

Fines Elimination

Recently the Buffalo-Erie County and Onondaga Library Systems announced that they are eliminating overdue fines at all libraries in their systems. This action follows a similar announcement from the New York, Queens, and Brooklyn systems. This has also prompted discussion within MCLS and other NYS systems. I will be raising this formally for discussion with member library directors and would appreciate a discussion with MCLS and RPL trustees.

As you know, RPL eliminated fines on materials for children and teens in 2016. Since then, RPL has seen an overall 10% increase in the borrowing of these materials. In the first year, there was a 9% increase in new library cards, but that was not repeated. There was no corresponding increase in collection agency turnovers or lost

items. These experiences mirror those of other libraries in the U.S. which eliminated fines, as recently shared through the Urban Libraries Council Directors mailing list.

If there is support from this board to pursue eliminating all library fines for RPL, we will begin with updating the research done in 2015.

Report Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Monroe Branch Update

As you will see in Mary Clare Scheg's report later in this document, Monroe has re-opened and is doing well since the stabbing incident there on March 22. The resiliency of the Monroe staff is remarkable, as is the wide support shown by community members who delivered food, flowers, and lots of love during a very trying week. Kudos to Mary Clare who kept her cool and reassured the staff. She also kept in touch with the detective assigned to the case and recently learned that the victim is doing well. Also kudos to Brie Harrison who managed to arrange carpet replacement on very short notice. The contractor provided a replacement carpet that looks very nice and installed it on donated time so Monroe could re-open on Monday, March 28. Deputy Director Lewis is taking steps to install a second security camera at Monroe and is reviewing the placement and number of cameras in the branches.

Aqueduct Re-Imagined Project

The first meeting of the Community Advisory Committee on the Broad Street aqueduct project was held on April 14. I am representing the library on this committee along with representatives from downtown neighborhoods and organizations. Mark McAnany from Bergmann is the committee chair and Kamal Crues is the lead from the City. The overarching theme is Revealing, Reconfiguring, and Connecting the Aqueduct.

One big change for Central is the planned conversion to 2-way traffic on South Avenue from Main to Court which may be extended up to Woodbury in the future.

The project will be done in phases, with Phase 1 addressing the west end of the bridge from Exchange to the river. There will be a re-location of major utility lines that run under Broad Street as part of the first phase. The current plan is to remove the upper vehicular deck from Exchange to South, including the upper arches. From the preliminary plans they showed, it looks like there will still be vehicular traffic from Exchange to Aqueduct Street next to the Sands building. There were immediate issues raised by CAC members regarding the removal of the upper arches and road.

Schedule & Engagement: The prelim design will happen in 2022-2023. They expect to move Phase 1 into final design and construction in mid-2023. There will be a design charrette in the summer of 2022. There will be a public information session on Saturday, April 30 at the Convention Center. I'll be sending that info out to the Board and Central staff when details are available.

Intellectual Freedom Challenges

Recently, I've shared with the board information on some incidents of social media backlash against one of our branch libraries. Similar incidents have occurred in town libraries with the MCLS. I thought I would share with the board a message I sent to staff on this issue:

Recently, there has been some backlash at libraries on social media regarding displays on Trans Visibility Day and books on LGBTQ+ subjects and on books about childbirth. Librarians have been accused of being “pedophiles” and “groomers” because we choose to provide materials on a variety of subjects and viewpoints.

I am not the first to say that a good library has something in it to offend everyone, but I will reiterate that this is true.

It is true that libraries provide access to information on gender and sexual identity for teens. A recently published article, “Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors” by Ashley Austin, Shelley Craig, Sandra D’Souza, and Lauren McInroy states: “Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth.”

This is not okay.

I will point you to The Trevor Project, a website designed to help teens struggling with mental health and gender & sexual identity - <https://www.thetrevorproject.org> – for more information and sources of help for teens who need it.

If a display of books about gender and sexual identity helps even one person, we’ve done our job.

I fully expect there will be more challenges to library materials and programs and I urge all our staff, but especially those who build our collections and produce our programs, to read through the attached documents – the RPL’s Collection Development Policy, the Request for Re-consideration of Library Materials form, and the document provided by attorney Stephanie Cole Adams during a recent training session on intellectual freedom for MCLS directors and trustees. These documents will help guide and support your purchasing and programming decisions, always remembering however that ultimately your decisions should reflect the needs and wants of the community you serve.

Be prepared to articulate why you purchased an item or why you elected to provide a certain program. You may never be called upon to defend a purchase or a program, but it is always good to be prepared. There is some good advice in the document from Stephanie Adams – when you are confronted with an angry response to an item you’ve purchased or a program you’d provided, remain calm, do not attempt to argue with the person, listen to them, and follow the re-consideration policy. Having the patron fill out a form makes them think about why they are upset and provides the information I will need to perform the re-consideration.

I want to be clear that no RPL employee, including me, will ever remove an item from circulation before following the guidelines set forth in the Collection Development Policy and re-consideration form. Patrons objecting to an item must complete the reconsideration form which comes to me. As I investigate the claim, staff responsible for the purchase will be consulted as will administration and trustees.

When these challenges happen on social media, we have and will continue to take the position that we do not remove comments, although we may elect to turn commenting off. We will usually respond with directions to the Collection Development Policy and re-consideration form on the RPL website. We do not engage in an argument with anyone online.

Always remember that we provide access to information based on community needs and wants and not on the personal beliefs and convictions of one person or a group of people. We provide the materials and programs, but it is up to the individual patron to determine what they and their children borrow.

While I have not received any formal challenges to materials, and there have been no further issues on social media, I will continue to update the board if and when issues occur.

Budget Equity Tool

Two years ago, the City initiated a Budget Equity Tool to assist departments with budget development through an equity lens. This consists of several questions which the department must address and submit along with the budget. It has helped identify and focus equity challenges and determine some successes. I have included the 2022-23 submission and its evaluation with this packet so you can see the direction of our work.

Central Library Updates

Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Cynthia Dana was contacted by the Monroe County Health Department, whose request for a tabling event was accepted and set up each month moving forward. The first event took place this month and they were very pleased with the number of patrons who stopped by to inquire about their services. They concentrated on mental health awareness. They were quite impressed with the work that Tech Center staff is doing and are interested in learning more and collaborating with them.

Anecdotes/Other

Central Library participated in the Rochester City School District Shadowing Day, hosting a student from the School of the Arts. Her interests lie in fashion design, so she spent most of her time with Jeff Bostic in the ImagineYou Lab working on some designs using their equipment. She and her chaperone were amazed at all we can offer here and especially pleased with Foodlink's pay it forward model. The student plans to return to take advantage of the Photoshop and photography sessions offered by Bostic and also for her opportunity to pay it forward in the cafe.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- Writing--Jeanne Salvato taught a four-part series of creative writing classes. The response to her teaching style was very positive, with one student commenting that the best part of the class was,
"The instructor! I had read about Jeanne Salvato before and really wanted to take a class with her. She spent many years in France and is bilingual. I am trilingual--English, German, Spanish. I "jumped" when I saw she was leading this one. She was very patient and always encouraging with everyone. I would really love to be in contact with a few of the other writers, but I guess it cannot happen."

The connections that form between the people participating in classes at the library are one of the greatest benefits we offer. As another student commented, the best part of the class was

"...being around other writers and feeling connected with them."

- Painting an Eastern Bluebird--The Art Division's first painting class was a great success. Artist Ola Kraszpuska, taught an in-person class, teaching students how to paint an Eastern Bluebird. Each student was provided an 8 x 8 stretched canvas, paint, and brushes. This was an acrylic painting class, and students were taught how to mix each paint color to get the exact shade needed. All students left with their painted birds and were excited to have a piece of art they created to hang in their homes. Some comments were,



“What a fun and amazing class!” “It was wonderful to paint again and learn new techniques.” “Hands-on painting with a lovely painting to take home.”

Kraszpuska, will be back to teach two more classes.

- St. Patrick's Day terrariums--Jardin Terrariums always brings our patrons fun and creative things to make, and this was no exception. Owner Kathleen Rullo brought glass terrariums for patrons to fill with succulents and a whimsical Leprechaun for St. Patrick's Day. Rullo always provides good instructions for students to create their mini gardens and guides students on how to take care of their succulents. All students had a fun experience making this playful garden, and their comments reflect their experience. *“Please more terrarium and plant-based activities,” “It was a fun project.”*
- Women's Fiber Arts: Needle & Thread: From Sustenance to Activism--This discussion was given by Marj Crum, Associate Professor of Design at Monroe Community College. She spoke about women's roles in the world of needle arts and how it has been a women's domain for centuries. Crum spoke about how women prepared girls for the responsibility of supporting a household, and how they were taught to make use of fabric and needlework so they could make contributions to the family. In the 19th century, women used symbols created with needlework as a method of communication. Crum looked at all women, exploring diversity, and introduced patrons to the Gee's Bend Quilters in Gee's Bend Alabama. The quilts of Gee's Bend are among the most important African American visual and cultural contributions to the history of art within the United States. Crum also spoke about the inventions by women to make working with fabric easier, one invention being the ironing board. Sarah Boone, an African American inventor, was awarded the patent for her ironing board on April 26th, 1892. Her ironing board was designed to improve the ironing of sleeves and the bodies of women's garments. Patrons commented on how, *“The presentation highlighted a diverse group of women- poor, wealthy, black, and white women.” “I enjoyed the historical trip through time and giving women credit for their contributions & accomplishments.”*



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 4 in person, 31 by email, 0 by mail, 2 by phone.

Webpage views: 40

3D Printer: 25

Hours of in-depth market research: 75
Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 2
Tracy Jong appointments: 5 hours, 6 individuals served.

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: Page Views: 22; Value \$59,950
IBISWorld: Page Views 129; Value \$46,400
InnovationQ: Logins 5; Searches 34
PitchBook: Logins 11
Statista: Visits 113; Downloads 45

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with Darrin Conroy, head librarian for the Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) research arm, to discuss resources and how they can work together.
- Byrnes, City staffers, and members of the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship met with Jason Berry of Oaksterdam University, a for-profit educational institution focused on cannabis.
- Byrnes met with Prakash Goswami of MARL 5G, an accelerator that now has a presence in Rochester. MARL 5G is an early-stage accelerator fund focused on startups that create DeepTech products and services for enterprise customers running on 5G. Their goal is to build a community of early-stage investors, startup founders, and corporate venture teams in the space of Mobility, AR/VR, Autonomous, Robotics, and Logistics, which will experience a huge disruption with the spread of wireless 5G technology. They discussed how BIC and MARL can work together. For more information: <https://www.marlaccelerator.com/>. She then presented to the MARL cohort to discuss services.
- Byrnes and Melissa Cobo attended multiple meetings for the Resource Partner Enhancement Program (RPEP) grant (Small Business Administration). Byrnes met with John Rodriguez, the coach assigned to BIC for the RPEP grant. John has been a marketer, an award-winning entrepreneur, and change agent. For more information: <https://johnrodriguez4change.com>.
- Byrnes, Cobo, and Kate Meddaugh were speakers at the Finger Lakes Community College cannabis business incubator programs. The program was held over two days in both Rochester and Canandaigua. Other speakers included Mayor Malik Evans and NYS Senator Jeremy Cooney. More than 100 people combined attended the programs.
- Meddaugh and Cobo presented to entrepreneurship students at Hobart and William Smith Colleges for Craig Talmage's Entrepreneurial Studies class.
- Byrnes was a judge for NextCorp's Embark Mid-Program Selection event. Embark allows participants to discover an idea that addresses a real-world problem, validate its market potential, and build a software solution to sell, without a full-time commitment or knowing how to code. For more information: <https://nextcorps.org/embark>.
- Cobo and Meddaugh participated in the three-day Undoing Racism training facilitated by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond.

Anecdotes/Other

- BIC is featured in the forthcoming book from the American Library Association *Libraries that Build Business: Advancing Small Business and Entrepreneurship in Public Libraries*. A case study titled *Rochester: Innovation Was Born Here*, authored by Byrnes is included in the book. It will be available this summer.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

- The Secret Room renovation was completed in March. This project was a part of the Play Everywhere Design Challenge that was funded in part by Kaboom and The Ralph C. Wilson Foundation. The Secret Room has long been an iconic space in Rochester that is a must-see for any Rochester native who moves away and comes back. The space has needed an update for a long time. We were able to ask the community what they wanted in the Secret Room through focus groups with children, parents, and teachers. The space can easily transition to meet the needs of patrons throughout the day. This space can serve as a storytime area, open play space, movie theater, planetarium, or classroom.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton joined the annual University of Rochester Department of Pediatrics/Hoekelman Center Dyson Day: Literacy For All - Chaos or Community. This year's speaker was Kareen Weaver. He is a co-leader of Full and Complete Reading is a Universal Mandate (FULCRUM), which partners with various stakeholders to improve reading results for students. There is a desire among some attendees to give library cards to all children born in Monroe County and share the Talk, Read, Sing campaign across organizations.
- As a New York State trainer for the Every Child Ready to Read initiative, Burton led five weeks of Supercharged Storytime training for 30 public library staff. The course provides information on building early literacy and school readiness skills for anyone presenting storytime for families and caregivers.
- Burton participated in a Promising Ventures Studio call for Raising A Reader National. Promising Venture Studios is a nonprofit accelerator for social entrepreneurs in early childhood. Raising A Reader invited Burton to share how the library has been able to expand our reach and remove barriers to early literacy and the role Raising A Reader has played.
- Burton trained eight community members on the Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing Greater Rochester Campaign. The newest organization to join the effort are Hillside Parents As Teachers, Roc the Future, and Rochester City School District Adult Family Educator.
- Katie Powell and Burton participated with the Month of the Young Child committee to facilitate the recording and video creation of stories read by local VIPs. Powell turned each recording into a video that included Talk, Read, Sing messaging.
- Burton met with representatives from Fidelis Care to organize a community Spring Egg Hunt at the Central Library. This will be a program that invites people to search for eggs and prizes throughout Central Library. Many community organizations will be invited to share resources and services. Several Central staff members are helping the Children's Center staff: Ana Suro, Cynthia Dana, Mary Fraser, Renee Kendrot, and security and facilities staff. This will be the first time Children's has done such a large program since Cookie Monster came to celebrate the 50th birthday of Sesame Street in 2019.
- Burton, Hazen, and Powell interviewed candidates for the Family Literacy Coordinator Position. There were very strong applicants and after much consideration, they chose Catherine Kyle. Kyle is currently the Head of Youth Services & Adult Programs for the Chili Public Library. She has a strong background in technology, which is a gap that needs to be filled. Kyle began her library career with RPL as a page many years ago. She is excited to get back to RPL and looks forward to all the opportunities. Kyle will fill the role of division head for the Children's Center, a role that has been vacant since August.

Anecdotes/Other

The Children's Center received a donation of a large, very detailed handmade dollhouse from Mr. Allan Platt. Miranda Hazen coordinated with Mr. Platt to get the dollhouse into the library and set it up in the Children's Center's display area. Mr. Platt then spent several days over the next week reassembling it. The dollhouse will live in the display area permanently, though Maintenance is working on getting a more movable table for it so that it can be easily turned and all sides can be viewed. Mr. Platt also left many seasonal accessories so they can change throughout the year.



Raising A Reader

Margarita Chaves was able to do community outreach to our RAR sites this month. Chaves was able to hold storytimes in various RAR sites and complete some activities based on the stories read. Storytimes at Ibero have been completed every Friday and one storytime was completed for the YMCA this month. Chaves read the story, *Go Away Big Green Monster* and after the story was over the kids were able to create a monster using play-doh. Chaves was reading one of the books from the red bag rotation called, *Not A Box* to one of the sites. The kids became excited to share what they had created with boxes at home like in the story.



Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 11

New Borrowers - 146

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 9

Notarial Acts – 258

A separate document depicting a “Day in the Life of Circulation Services” is included at the end of this report.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The fifth annual Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues took place at the Memorial Art Gallery, presented by the Central Library in partnership with the Memorial Art Gallery, the Out Alliance, and River Campus Libraries with sponsorship from Shoulders to Stand On, Humanities New York, and the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The theme of this year’s daylong event was “The AIDS Crisis in Rochester: A Community Responds.” The event aligned with the gallery’s current exhibition, *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*.
- The library hosted “Dialogues in Depth: Denial, Fear, and Continuing Stigma: AIDS Rochester and Community Health Network Respond,” the first program in the new Dialogues in Depth series presented by the Local History & Genealogy Division, Shoulders to Stand On, and the Out Alliance. This monthly series, which runs through June, expands on this year’s Rainbow Dialogues by exploring Rochester’s response to the AIDS crisis in detail. Panelists for the program were Mark Ellenwood, Ann Griep, Paula Silverstrone, and Dr. William Valenti.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Michelle Finn was one of a handful of women from the Monroe County Library System invited by Patty Uttaro to attend *biz.Exchange: Women Empowering Women*, a half-day conference sponsored by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the Women’s Council. The event brought together professional women throughout the area for a slate of sessions focused on supporting women’s leadership, career advancement, mental and financial wellbeing, and professional networks.
- Christine Ridarsky and RPL Collections Manager Jen Lenio met with Jacqueline Sprague, project manager for the Harriet Tubman Journey to Freedom’s Rochester celebration. The traveling Journey to Freedom statue is scheduled to be on display, tentatively in Washington Square Park, in September and October 2022. For information, see <https://woffordsculpturestudio.com/exhibitions/harriet-tubman>. Sprague is seeking partners to host and present programming on topics connected to Harriet Tubman during the statue’s visit. Ridarsky is coordinating with Central divisions, branches, and town libraries to develop plans.
- Ridarsky met with City Councilmember Mitch Gruber to discuss several public history projects that he is supporting, including City and library support for the Harriet Tubman project (see above), further efforts to rename public spaces to eliminate references to slave owners and provide more recognition for people from historically marginalized population groups who have contributed to the city’s development, and a proposal to establish a joint Rochester-Monroe County commission to plan and receive state and federal funding for events commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.
- Antoine McDonald hosted an in-person workshop for the elder members of his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, Theta Omicron chapter. He presented on the myriad online and in-person resources

and services available throughout the Rochester Public Library system. He collaborated with the Tech Center to provide laptops for participants so they could directly engage with the resources presented. The elders were very pleased and expressed interest in future workshops like this.

Special Collections

- Brandon Fess accessioned one new collection in March. The Charles Woolever Collection of Railroad Station Photographs consists of a set of 1958 vintage images of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh and Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg stations. While the former building is well-documented and still stands, images of the latter are rare, and the building is long gone.
- Fess continued processing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Collection on Holocaust Survivors.
- Intern Zachary Vila completed a finding aid for the newly organized Invitations and Calling Cards collection.

Digital Projects

- Content from the City Hall Vintage and Rochester Photo File collections from *Rochester Images* was mounted on the *New York Heritage* website this month as part of the ongoing collaboration between the library and the Rochester Regional Library Council. View the collections at <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/rochester-public-library>.

Office of the City Historian

Morry prepared and submitted applications to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for roadside historic markers to mark two sites: the international headquarters and laboratory of the world's first modern franchise, the Harper Method, on East Main Street and Cab Calloway's birthplace at 108-110 Cypress Street. In addition, we received notice that a previous application for a marker for the Rapids Cemetery on Congress Avenue in the 19th Ward has been approved. We expect that marker to be installed and dedicated this summer.

Archive of Black History & Culture

Green joined McDonald and Ridarsky on the Internal Advisory Team for the Archive of Black History & Culture. The team met once in March. Members approved an application process to be used to recruit members for a community advisory board for the project and resumed work reviewing finding aids for racist and/or culturally insensitive language and content.

Social Media

Two new posts to the *Local History ROCs!* blog received 55 views in March: "Genealogy Books & Periodicals & a New Genealogy Specialist, Oh My! Part 1: Where and How to Begin Finding Your Ancestors," by Hope Christansen, and "The Play's the Thing: A History of Cook's Opera House, Part One" by Christopher Brennan. In addition to these posts, readers from 25 countries revisited 158 previously published posts for a total of 1,885 views. The most popular posts were "'A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore 'Sammy G' Gingo'" (75 views), "The Fiery Cross: The Forgotten History of the Ku Klux Klan in Western New York" (68 views), and "Kool Things: The History of the J. Hungerford Smith Company" (66 views). All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- The See It First Matinee movie showed “West Side Story.”
- Two Brown Bag Book Discussions talked about the book *Premonition* by Michael Lewis. The first discussion was in-person and the second was via Zoom.

Anecdotes/Other

- RMC did a display for Women’s History, a “Green” movie display, and a “New Arrivals” display for each format. They also started producing a brochure showing new media acquisitions and will continue to produce these monthly.

Science and History, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs

- Renée Kendrot hosted Tai Chi for EveryBODY via Zoom presented by Sifu Jean Sica, Owner/Operator of The Business of Mindfulness and Tai Chi For EveryBODY. Sarah Ormond from the BIC co-hosted and helped with promoting the program.
- Lily Anthony hosted The Montgomery Bus Boycott, via Zoom, presented by Mark Sample, History Professor at MCC. Kendrot acted as co-host. Both staff members were in the building on what proved to be a very busy night at the reference desk. They did a nice job juggling duties.
- Gabe Pellegrino hosted Race Amity, the Other Tradition via Zoom, presented by retired RIT Imaging Professor Omobowale Ayorinde and local businessperson Joseph D. Fagnoli. The presentation discussed a history of working together and building friendships, the formation of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), and the Urban League, going back to the first Race Amity Conference in 1921.
- This month’s Got Health? program, in collaboration with URMC Center for Community Health & Prevention, was titled: Add Spice to Your Life with Healthy and Flavorful Cooking! We promote this monthly recorded presentation which is posted on the Center’s web page and subsequently shared through the Central Library’s Facebook page.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Richards attended the first Rochester Grant Writers Network meeting with Amy Hall from Rochester Regional Health, who is in charge of the new network. Planning for future speakers was discussed. Richards also talked about Candid and the 24-hour day pass and encouraged people to make appointments to search FDO Professional (Foundation Directory Online). Lily Anthony was also available for a basic overview of searching the directory.
- CCAC – Cancer Community Advisory Council – Pellegrino attended the monthly meeting of the Council, as well as the Community-Driven Cancer Research Group, and the Education/Community Engagement subgroup. The subgroup is working toward promoting various goals, which may include video production done here at the Central Library. In future months, there will be fewer meetings as goals are reached.
- LROC – There were about 50 people this month. In addition to adding Wednesday mornings to the LROC schedule, the Division now has the Legal Assistance of Western New York working with clients on Friday afternoons. LawNY has only been in place a few weeks and has screened about six people. A new LROC flyer has been published by the Graphics department and is being distributed to branch libraries and various divisions of the Central Library.

- Pellegrino also spoke late in March with Joseph D. Fagnoli, the co-presenter of the Race Amity program. Fagnoli is interested in setting up a monthly seminar series/group participation meeting on Social Action in the local community.
- Anthony and Pedro Nuñez from the Technology Center attended the ROC Youth Community Resource & Employment Fair at the MCC Downtown Campus. They spoke about the resources offered by the Job Information Center, and how Technology Center staff can assist patrons with job searching online. Nuñez also talked about the ImagineYou lab in Teen Central, for those teens interested in music production or other new media. Visitors to the fair were surprised to learn how much the library has to offer including Civil Service study material and books on resume and cover letter writing.

Anecdotes/Other

- Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library had a donor reach out to give money for a book on Eagle Scouts. Richards found the most recent and comprehensive book available: *Legacy of Honor: The Values and Influence of America's Eagle Scouts* by Alvin Towley (2016). Friends notified the donor, who was elated with the book chosen.
- Richards had put up a display of book titles for Women's History Month. A man sitting at one of the tables near the reference desk noticed the display and checked out 36 books from the display. He had so many titles that she wheeled a book truck down to Circulation for him with all of the titles on it. Richards filled up the display again with new titles and he came up to the floor and grabbed more titles. He stated: "This is amazing!"

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

The daily number of questions recorded by the Technology Center in March increased modestly over the number recorded in February. The daily computer usage increased modestly in March. There is a steady rise in the need to help patrons with ID.me as patrons are routinely sent to this website before filing their taxes online.

Programs

The Technology Center's in-person programming has restarted. Judith Schewe is coordinating a weekly computer instruction program focused on software and application. Pedro Nunez is coordinating a weekly mobile device instructional program. They are also looking forward to hosting a rotation of classes provided by Digital Literacy Volunteers. Before the pandemic, most of the volunteer classroom instructors were retired high school and middle school teachers. Some of these volunteers have chosen to not return. As soon as a new pool of instructors has been trained, weekly classes will begin in the Technology Center's classroom. They will be teaching using Northstar's digital literacy curriculum (www.digitalliteracyassessment.org). This unique program will allow users to learn at their own pace, take tests, and earn certificates of achievement in topics from basic computer use to Excel to social media.

Anecdotes/Other

Over a month ago, one of our patrons lost her job. It's not a pleasant experience for anyone but being unemployed was something she had never faced. She came to the library to download the forms and make the appointments needed to begin the process of applying for unemployment insurance. 18 months ago, this would not have been an onerous task. Now, every little anomaly (an ID with an old address or one that still had her married name on it) was a major roadblock. 18 months ago, you could still get an appointment to have a caseworker help fix these problems. Some of these might have been corrected on the spot. Each of these processes seems to have been moved to an entirely online environment and involves several New York State agencies. Hours are required to file all the necessary forms and more hours to follow new identification

protocols. To follow up on and respond to requests for more information and clarifications required well over a dozen trips to the library. She made several appointments with staff to help her through the mechanics of the project. Exactly one month to the day after submitting her first online forms, the application process was completed. The patron caught Judith Schewe off guard with a rib-cracking bear hug and an emotional expression of gratitude when the final form was accepted, and the application was completed.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

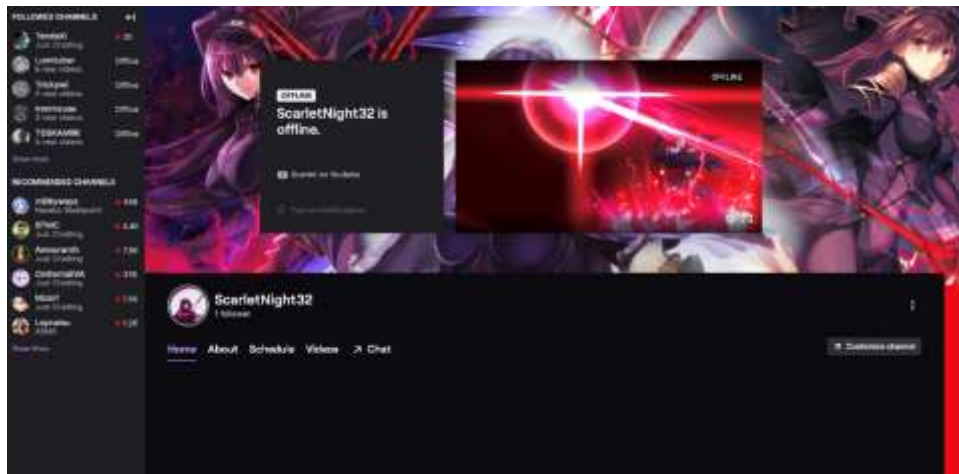
Programs

- Learn to Code: There are now engaged learners using the Library Coding Program Google Drive where they can access the course content, contribute code, and share information and resources with other learners. A few learners have suggested new topics they're interested in, including a class to learn how to create a mobile app that's connected to one's E-commerce website (Word Press website). Fae Jahanshiri is currently helping one patron set up her mobile Android app.
- Craft 'n' Chat: Teens enjoy making bracelets with beads or crocheting while socializing. We have accepted many suggestions for summer crafts and are checking with our approved vendors to ensure we can procure the supplies.
- Hidden Figures movie screening: While celebrating Women's History Month teens were encouraged to watch the Hollywood portrayals of the Iconic African American women working for NASA, who served as the brains behind the launch of the astronaut, John Glenn, into space. Those who watched participated in a small crossword activity about the ladies' lives and enjoyed snacks.
- This month Carnell Jones produced the Frederick Douglass Urban Storytelling video with the help of 8th grader Na'ilah Bey, 5th grader Nazir Bey, and Mayor Malik Evans. You can check out the video below: [Frederick Douglas Rochester literary Hero FINAL.mp4](#)
- We also filmed a virtual tour of the Secret Room for entry into the Digies, Digital Media Festival.



- The Glowforge was used this month to make the panels for a custom-built scoreboard. It was also used for Indigenous nation badges.
- We are continuing to plan the launch of our E-Sports team after joining the North American Scholastic Esports Federation last month. This month we helped hopeful streamer "Scarletnight32" start his twitch page with a custom wallpaper, profile picture, and offline image.





- Digital Art – Our first entry into the Digies this year came from Na'ilah Bey with this illustration done on our Wacom drawing tablet. This is also our latest ceiling tile:

Community Outreach/Meetings/Trainings

- Jahanshiri and Shetora Banks both attended Central New York Library Council's Best Practices for Serving LGBTQ Patrons.
- Jahanshiri attended How to Talk to Children and Teens about Race.
- Banks attended WXXI's Finding Your Roots Digital Storytelling Workshop.
- Banks attended the Open Mic night at The Black Coffee Lounge to support one of the teens as he performed some original material; his presence was awesome! Together we gushed about all the services the library has to offer.

Humble and kind



Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

March 2022 marked my first anniversary as Deputy Director for the Community Libraries. I am still settling into my role and am feeling supported by RPL Management and the Branch Administration team. What a year it has been! Reopening the branches during the COVID rollercoaster and staffing challenges were the focus. I am grateful to branch staff who demonstrated flexibility, creativity, and commitment. This past March I attended my first Advocacy Day event and was excited to join champions of the library to promote its vital role in the community. I am looking forward to what the next year will bring.

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

- This month was the start of the branch's annual music series. Ben Krug and Grace Browning blessed the library with a cello and harp performance in the adult fiction area. It was an awesome turnout with 75 guests in attendance. Many patrons commented on how wonderful it is for the music to have returned.
- Like Prudence Anderson-Leusch's craft programs for children, Cholewa's teen craft programs were very popular.



Community Outreach/Meetings

- Nancy Cholewa reported that it was good to be back doing storytimes at the Hart Street Action for a Better Community Head Start location. The kids were happy to see her and had lots to tell her when she arrived. Cholewa reports that she "was struck by how much they had all grown up in twelve weeks."



Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

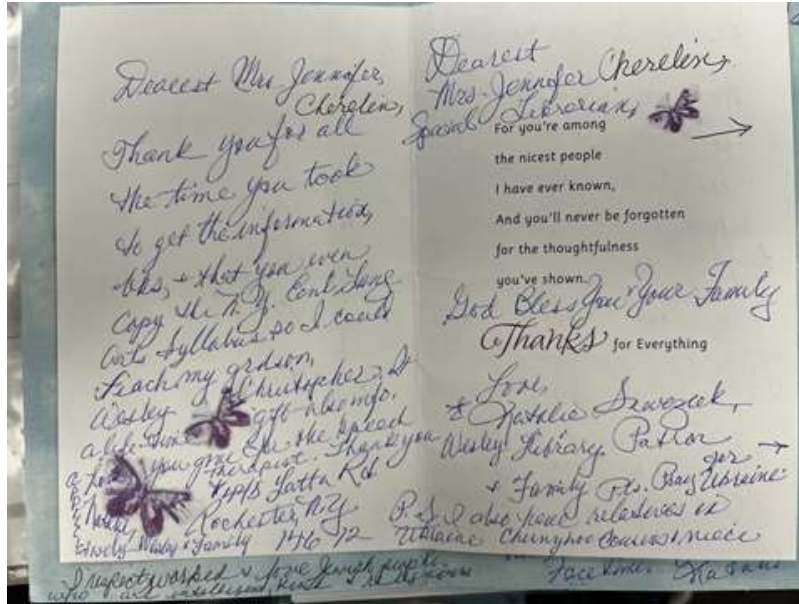
Programs

- The *History of the Holy Cross Parish* program was a great success. Marie Poinan was the host.
- Karen Duff reported the Food for Thought book discussion of *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle was well attended. The decision was made to hold the discussion exclusively virtually for the rest of the season.
- A mom who had fond memories of coming to our children's room as a child wanted to bring her newly 5-month-old son in to commemorate the occasion!
- Seven youth dancers, including national and international award competitors, graced our library patrons and their families with astounding feats of Irish dance.



Anecdotes/Other

- Heather Sessler broke a personal fine-waiving record at \$164. She hopes to repeatedly best this record in the months to come.
- Mr. Nesmith is, in his words, a 'semi-retired' gentleman, who is looking for another job because delivering newspapers and collecting the money is too much of a strain on himself and his vehicle. He wanted to apply to Walmart. His only technology is an aging Samsung phone, with an email address for which he no longer has the password. He approached Heather Sessler one afternoon and she got him through the entire application process. He was extremely grateful for the help but most vocal about the patience of the staff. Filling out a Walmart application is a lengthy process that takes a minimum of two hours to complete. Mr. N. came in several more times needing help with updating the application. Williams helped, and after each time he was very vocal about how patient the library had been with him. The last time he came in Walmart was set to hire him, but he needed to complete a background check, requiring him to use a computer again. The process with Google took forty minutes to complete, and the background check process took another twenty-five minutes. To obtain this \$14 an hour job out in Macedon, Mr. N. spent over nine hours total and drove to the library five times to complete what once was a ten-minute paper application.
- Jennifer Cherelin received a \$25 Starbucks gift card from an extremely grateful and generous patron who wished to express her gratitude and appreciation for the assistance she received. Cherelin helped the patron print out New York State English Language Arts standards for second grade and suggested several different books to help assist the patron in how to enhance literacy for a very special young relative:



Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- Sixth-grade students from Nativity Preparatory Academy visited the library.
- School #12 Reading Day: Ms. Chincilla and Ms. Hamm's third-grade class visited the library for a story. The teachers had reached out to parents about borrowing privileges and three students were able to obtain library cards.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Books leftover from the January book sale were distributed to a variety of community locations including little free libraries, the laundromat, and St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center.

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Liz Kurz organized a Teen Game Nite. This program had a great turnout with 14 teens in attendance. The teens split off into two to three groups and were able to mingle over snacks, games, and a sticker basket. Throughout the program, the teens used the stickers that were offered as bartering tools. It was a great community-building welcome back for kids that have since been coming to the library with their friends and siblings.
- Matt Seidel continued running two weekly virtual chess club meetings and began holding in-person guitar lessons again.
- Seidel and Tashara Martinez also created and promoted new sensory play kits, both of which have already been checked out by patrons. They hope to have two more available within the next few weeks.
- Seidel created a Take Home St. Patrick's Day Maze packet program.
- The music program, continuing virtual chess club for children, and sensory play kits directly relate to the Rochester Public Library's Strategic Priority of Education & Engagement.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Josh Knoblock from the People's Pantry approached Site Supervisor Sarah Lehman about partnering to provide school lunches over the summer. Lincoln staff will coordinate receipt and storage of the food while volunteers from the Pantry will help Lincoln staff distribute the meals this summer.

Anecdotes/Other

- The Parents Helping Parents Coalition was kind enough to spread awareness of the new backpacks. Their posts, along with the one on the Toy Library Facebook page, have received a great deal of traffic.

Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco Reporting

Programs

- Sherry Stanton read books and sang songs with children who came in for Family Storytime this month. After storytime, families stayed so they could check out books and games, and play in the children's room.
- For St. Patrick's Day, teens tried their luck by seeing who could collect the most gold coins in one minute from the shredded rainbow-filled bucket. Participants received snacks and prizes.
- Teens were invited to participate in-person to create a propeller zipline challenge craft. After creating the propeller, teen librarian Manju Sharma put two chairs apart and tied a string between them. There was a teen that hung her craft on the string, coiled the rubber band, and let go. It went to the other end of the string very smoothly. She was excited to do it again.



Anecdotes/Other

- Patrons continue to come into the library with ID.me unemployment verification questions and concerns. Some patrons have not received stimulus checks, and some are still looking to claim unemployment. Luckily, we have digital navigators and Fusco helps as much as possible with walk-in one-on-one computer assistance.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- The Maplewood children's department rotated three new games into the board game rotation this month and they have all been big hits. The first game that the children got very excited about was Barrel of Monkeys. Some very competitive children come to the library. As soon as they saw how difficult Barrel of Monkeys was, they began to challenge each other. Pretty soon there was a leaderboard and some strong competition. New records were continually being broken. Blokus and Guess Who? also became frequently played games in March.
- The biggest hit of the month was most definitely the St. Patrick's Day treasure hunt. Maplewood's young patrons were tasked with finding nine clovers. These were large and very visible for the smallest challengers. For older children, they had to find those clovers as well as six small pots of gold. The ultimate challenge was to find the three tiny leprechauns. The varied difficulty allowed children of all ages to be challenged by the treasure hunt. They could also help their younger siblings find clovers, while they searched for the more challenging gold and leprechauns. The children were very pleased with how challenging the treasure hunt was.
- There are now two times, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 pm to 4 pm, where English language learners can drop in for help. The New Americans Librarian is looking for more volunteers to allow for small groups and individual English work.



Anecdotes/Other

- Staff worked with a gentleman to certify his identity for the New York State Department of Labor through ID.me. The patron came in for three days and worked with two staff members and a Digital Literacy Aide to scan personal identification materials, upload them, and then re-submit them several times. The ID.me system is very difficult to navigate for staff and patrons.
- Staff assisted an older patron file an identity theft report to stop a collection agency from pursuing her for unpaid utility bills in Florida. She has never lived in Florida. Staff notarized a letter for her to send to the collection agency and she was very grateful.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Matthew Hoople resumed in-person storytimes every Wednesday at 11 am.
- Hoople finalized plans to start a LEGO club on the first Thursday in April. If popular, the program can be expanded to become a weekly program.
- Hoople met with the tutors at the Center for Youth to introduce himself to the kids and assess any help the library can offer the tutors and class.
- Hoople teamed up with Library Assistant Stephani Moss from the Henrietta Public Library to make an *International Transgender Day of Visibility* virtual storytime.
- Rebecca Hudson prepared a take-and-make craft program for March, a lucky leprechaun bookmark. These programs fall within the Strategic Plan goal of community education and engagement.

Anecdotes/Other

- Updates on the stabbing: Mary Clare Scheg reached out to the detective in charge of the investigation and was told the victim is doing well and is in good spirits. The staff at Monroe are also doing well. Monroe truly

has a dedicated and caring group of people working here. Everyone has come together to move past this terrible incident, and all of us have been heartened by the community response. The staff has been receiving flowers, candy, cookies, pizza, and plenty of hugs. The library community has also been wonderful in helping us to get through this time. We sincerely hope that this beautiful branch will never again be the site of such brutality.

- During the first in-person storytime of 2022, Hoople was very determined to memorize all the attendees' names. Only two siblings attended that first storytime. Since learning names are a crucial first step to building community relations, Hoople asked the kids for their names. The elder sister introduced herself as Aurora, and her baby sibling was Merriweather. Hoople incorporated these names into songs and asked book questions (e.g., "What animal do you think that is, Aurora?") all in an attempt to ingrain these names into memory. When the children departed, Hoople said "Goodbye Aurora. Goodbye Merriweather." Their mother laughed and said, "Oh those aren't their real names. Every day the older one says she is a different Disney princess. Yesterday she was Cinderella, and her sister had to be Lucifer – you know – the cat." They left before Hoople could memorize their real names.
- While helping the tutors at the Center for Youth, one young girl was ecstatic to show us all what she had learned in school that day. This second-grader was learning double-digit subtractions and wanted to show us the new way teachers teach math with a 'part-part-whole' approach. The way she brought it up was by telling us that every number can represent a real thing, like grapes. So, if she knows there are 99 total grapes, and the basket in front of her only has 63 grapes, how many grapes are in the original basket? It was incredibly exciting to see a second grader passionate to show adults that she understood math.
- Hoople runs a TikTok account where he shares his fun library adventures. One library goer reached out to tell Matthew that he was terrified of ever going back to his local library because he had two overdue books, and his anxiety was so high because he thought the librarians would be mad at him. Hoople reassured him that librarians are cool people who don't mind books coming back late. To help this anxious patron, Hoople (after asking the patron's permission) called the patron's local library in Nevada to apprise them of the situation. Hoople hashed out the situation with the librarians (who understood that people have anxiety) and agreed to waive all late fees and promised not to be mad at the patron. Video of the phone conversation can be given upon request.
- Regular patron Steve finally moved into a new apartment with help from the Library Resource Outreach Center. Monroe staff discovered that Steve needed a new TV, and Chris Price had an extra he was willing to give to Steve. Steve has been living on the streets off and on for years, and this apartment is a chance for a new start.

Phillis Wheatley Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- Lisa Singletary did a trial week before she starts as a tutor for the children. The children had so much fun doing their homework, playing mathematical games, and doing sight word contests to improve their reading skills. Parents are very grateful for the help with homework their children can get at the library. This program reflects strategic priority one: promotes learning and delivering creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse community. The program also reflects priority three- providing access to programs and services based on community needs.
- Sheilah Murphy created a rainbow photo booth display for patrons to take fun family photos with and encouraged them to post on social media. This program reflects priority one: expand our visible presence in our communities.



Anecdotes/Other

- A group of 30+ working professionals having a meeting at the Montgomery Center decided to explore our library on their break and were delighted with the rainbow display. They took several pictures and had fun interacting with the display.
- Eagle Scout Peter Higgins chose Phillis Wheatley Library as the place to complete his Eagle Scout project. Higgins built two benches, two birdhouses, and two bird feeders for the community to enjoy. He also donated a big bucket of birdseed.



Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- A senior from Our Lady of Mercy High School presented an *Introduction to Dance* program to our young patrons. While the children enjoyed learning about different dancers and styles of dance, their favorite part of the program was when they were able to practice some leaping. The program was very popular, and

Maria Heeks-Heinlein received many inquiries from the children about having another dance program in the future. (*Priority: Education – Promote learning and provide fun, creative, and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations*)

Anecdotes/Other

- One of Jacob Bigelow's teen patrons came to him for advice and to talk about some of his concerns. Bigelow listened to the teen and provided him with some information from a local human services agency. The teen appreciated that Bigelow was willing to listen to his worries and thanked him for being a good friend.
- Another of Bigelow's teen patrons has been giving Bigelow a running commentary of his trials and tribulations in school. Bigelow has been talking with the teen about controlling his temper and valuing his own time and self-worth. The teen was moved when Bigelow told him that he was a worthwhile person and thanked Bigelow for his kindness.

Staff Highlight

- Khajari Marshall-Hosier started working at Sully in 2018 as a Summer of Opportunity Literacy Aide. He quickly became a popular staff member with the children, and we were able to keep him on our team after the summer was over. He has since graduated from high school and is attending college.



Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- The Adult Book Discussion continues to be held online via Zoom. The group discussed *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. There was quite a lot of debate on the controversial issue of whether Cummins was the appropriate person to write this book. The group did enjoy the storyline and strong, memorable characters that stayed with them long after the book was finished.
- Patricia Finnerty hosted an online gardening program through the Cornell Cooperative Extension. The presenter explained the proper way to prepare seeds for harvest and offered tips and tricks for getting maximum results from plantings. The attendees gave the presentation high marks. (Priority 1: Education and Engagement)

Anecdotes/Other

- On a snowy March afternoon at about 4:30 pm an elderly-sounding gentleman called to inquire about COVID test kits. They told him that they had some available and could give him one for each person who came. He said that he would walk right over. They cautioned him that they closed at 5 pm and advised him that they had plenty to last through the next day at the very least. He was adamant that he would leave his house that minute and would have plenty of time to get there. He called again about ten minutes later saying that as soon as he opened the door, there were blizzard-like conditions and that perhaps he would come in the morning instead. Kathy Wolf offered to drop off a test on her way home since he lived right in the neighborhood. He answered the door wearing his overcoat and mask and was extremely grateful for the drop-off. (Priority 2: Sustainability and Resources)
- As part of Winton's inventory project, they discovered that many of the books in their Russian collection were linked to a generic record which meant that they could not be found in a computer search. They reached out to Jen Lenio to determine how they might best find records for these items and get them linked

properly. They have been sending about twenty books per week to Marilyn Selim in the Catalog Department, who has been diligently working on them. That part of the project is now complete and all of Winton's Russian books have proper records. Hats off to Marilyn Selim! (Priority 3: Stewardship and Curation)

- DelGaizo maintains two to three Young Adult displays per month in addition to two rolling New Books displays; these see good traction on social media and often result in titles being checked out or going out on holds. One teenage patron walked by the manga display, said loudly, "OH MY GOSH I NEED THIS", picked up the title in question, and kept browsing for books. When DelGaizo told the patron there was more in the series coming, the teen asked if they could have them right away. (Priority 3: Stewardship and Curation)
- Winton Branch Library's window this month was created by an informal neighborhood group, Healthy Yards North Winton Village, who arranged for John Nelson from the Cornell Cooperative Extension to give a talk about how to attract pollinators to your garden. The talk will be held in early April in the library's community room.



Safe To Be Smart, Derrick Coley reporting

Arnett site

New candidate applications were received on March 29th. Interviews started in April with Bruce Tehan and George Carter.

Phillis Wheatley site, Michele Saccente reports

- "Check in with Mrs. Michele", continued during March, then the program held its first 'Teen Lounge' since face mask mandates were lifted. Attendance was low, the weather being 75 degrees. Those who participated introduced themselves to each other and enjoyed snacks provided by the program. Teens in attendance started to put a rules/guidelines list that will be followed by all teens that attend the STBS Program and groups.
- Thursday Poetry Days (March 10th and 24th) was part of the Teen Programming. Writers kept poetry books out on the tables in the teen area and gave out printed poems to the teens that attended this month.
- Movie Day- March 23rd, the film chosen was 'Encanto'. Teens enjoyed popcorn, candy, and soda during the viewing of the movie. Teens in attendance gave the movie thumbs-up.
- "Craft Fun" during March: teens in attendance created Duct Tape bookmarks and flower pens. One of the teens that have been a participant in the STBS Program was recognized for his academics, attendance, and values by Vertus High School. This youth invited STBS staff to the 'Red Blazer Ceremony' which was held on Saturday, March 26.

Maplewood site, Stephanie Pitts reports

- Maplewood had two homeless teens visit the library. I was able to find shelter for both at the Center for Youth. Due to both being under 18 years of age this is the only shelter in place for teens in Rochester. One teen came back to the library a couple of days later and stated everything was good with a huge smile on his face.

RPL Board Director's Report – April 2022 (Continued)

- I was also able to assist an adult patron that was having a crisis and was able to get him to talk with 211 when he became agitated that police were called. The young man was able to calm down and avoid a mental hygiene arrest.
- Overall teens are coming in and using computers and asking questions about all kinds of things that will help them become self-sufficient.

Lincoln site, Vera Haygood reports

Provides the following (ONGOING) Assistance for:

- Internet usage for teens
- Email set up for teens
- Job search & Online applications for teens
- Words to Inspire for teens
- Job assistance for Summer of Opportunity: teaching these students how to scan & send their documentation to the City of Rochester.
- Haygood provides board gaming and online gaming activities for teens.

Sully site, George Carter reports

- Career exploration with TRANSFRVR'S Workforce Advisor Isai Pochtar, visited Sully Branch Library's STBS teens, offering a way to explore career paths that they might not otherwise have considered. This program was created to empower the teens in our community by use of simulation using VR headsets to explore different career choices. Also, to provide teens with on-the-job experience and training while sharing innovative work-based learning.
- Carter restarted the Sully Teen Reading Program with the book *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. Teens read interchangeably during the program; we shift from teens reading the book to the CD. The reading programs helps to improve reading and vocabulary.

Teen Central site, John Hylton and Tierenny Davis report

- Tierenny Davis assisted a teen with filling out their first application for employment. The teen needed guidance because he wasn't aware of the application process. Davis helped this young man create a professional email so employers can contact him.
- Davis has been researching different resources that are available to youth in the community. She has been able to find leads on employment and housing that have helped youth in the teen center.
- Davis assisted the youth in teen central with Ms. Fay's bracelets program. It was a great way for her to interact and get to know the teens, being that she is a new youth mentor.
- Hylton uses ping pong to interact with youth in new ways. Ping Pong has been a popular activity. It provides teens with a new way to communicate and make friends.
- Hylton has been mentoring two young teens who have repeatedly been skipping school for the last two months. These teens have been suspended numerous times and don't seem to value school. Hylton has had contact with both of their mothers and has consent to monitor them as they complete schoolwork on the computers in the teen center.