



115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: May 25, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – May 2022

Action Items

Update to 2022-23 Central Library Budget (Harrison)

Since the RPL Board approved the Central Library budget in February, we have received confirmation of the requested 3% increase in County operating support. We also have a passed NYS budget with a Library Aid increase of 5.8%, which is positive overall (versus 2% estimated) but has a minor impact on Central. This increases total revenue by \$16,000.

Several City chargebacks for department services (motor equipment, phone charges) have increased, and we have increased the Facilities maintenance budget by the balance given the known increases we have seen this year in cleaning and other supplies. Note we do not yet have a cost of living adjustment for AFSCME, APT & Confidential employees, as contract negotiations continue with AFSCME, but have budgeted 3% in wage adjustments for next year.

The revised budget is \$11,237,000; we are distributing a revised expense and revenue summary, which reflects the changes described.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the amended 2022-23 Central Library Budget.

Update to 2022-23 Community Library Budget (Harrison)

Since the Board approved the Community budget in February, the City has improved NYS budget support with the adopted budget. As a result of this, improved local revenues and support from the City administration in Library initiatives, all requested increments were funded. This includes upgraded titles and salaries for Branch Site Supervisors, a new full-time children's librarian for the Maplewood Community Library, and the conversion of a part-time Clerk to full-time at the Lincoln branch.

The Community operating budget as amended will be \$4,897,100, an increase of \$169,100 from February. We are distributing revised expense and revenue summaries, which reflect the changes described.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the amended 2022-23 Community Library Budget.

Central Library Program Aid FY23 (Harrison)

As a reminder, this budget now reflects the consolidation of CLDA and CBA into the new Central Library Services Aid Program. Flexibility to expend these formula State Aid funds include adult nonfiction and foreign language library materials in multiple formats. The attached summary reflects expenditures across Central service divisions as reflected in the overall operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approval of NYSED Central Library Development Aid for the 2022-23 budget cycle.

Amending NYSED Library Construction Grant, Lincoln Renovation (Harrison)

NYSED has notified the MCLS that available funds from other systems have gone unutilized, and the excess is applied to applicants from the FY2022 cycle. The MCLS is receiving an additional \$38,665, of which the RPL will be the recipient as the other applicant (Greece) received the maximum matching allocation previously. This will bring the total of NYSED support to \$1,223,600. The total construction budget with the previous library fund appropriation is now \$1.79 million.

Board Action Requested: Approve an amended acceptance of NYSED Library Construction funds, from \$1,184,935 to \$1,223,600, for the Lincoln renovation project.

Amendment, Chevo Studios, Rundel Terrace Art (Harrison)

The Library has previously authorized work with Chevo Studios in November 2018 and in March 2019, with an amended action in June 2020. This third and final amendment reflects the cost escalation and impact of artwork installation in June 2022 versus fall 2021.

With the original cost proposal and plan, Chevo would utilize the South Avenue lane closure maintained by the general contractor for the Rundel Terrace and sidewalk project, Crane Hogan. As Crane Hogan's work was extended to enable final granite placement and concrete on the north terraces only, and it was desired to remove the barriers in front of the Rundel Library entrance, Chevo is now required to provide daily lane closure and traffic control services for their 10-day installation period. Chevo will sub-contract this through local provider CP Ward. The cost of crane rental from fall 2021 to June 2022 has also minor cost increases. Chevo's team has provided a cost change detail which has been accepted by the Library. The amount to reimburse Chevo for unanticipated expenses is not to exceed \$32,600 and will be funded from the Central Fenyvessy Fund. The total agreement cost will not exceed \$325,600 with this (final) amendment.

Chevo will be onsite on June 13th to install all pieces of the project, including those funded by the Friends & Foundation of the RPL. We anticipate the completion of all work for the project by the end of July.

Board Action Requested: Approve an amended professional services agreement with Chevo Studios to provide Rundel Terrace design services at an increase of \$32,600, with a total cost not to exceed \$325,600.

Youth Workforce Development Agreement (Uttaro)

The RPL is proposing an agreement with TransfrVR (TRANSFR, Inc.), a training company specializing in virtual workforce development. TransfrVR provides virtual work experiences for students to provide a first experience in several applied technologies and priority career hiring areas. The hardware and software solution offers students a way to explore career paths they might not otherwise have considered, giving them an on-the-job experience in a hands-on simulation. Work types can be in the automotive, manufacturing, skilled trades, warehousing & storage, hospitality & tourism, and public safety fields. The cost of \$25,000 provides 5 units with the VR equipment, staff training, and software subscription to view interactive work examples. The units will rotate through branch libraries and Central with the support of Safe to Be Smart staff. The cost of the program is funded by Mayor Evans' anti-violence initiative.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an Agreement with TRANSFR, Inc., for the services, equipment and cost described.

Request to Alter Fees for Local History Activities (Uttaro)

Leadership in the Central Library Local History and Genealogy Division requests a change in the fees assessed for certain research services offered by the division. The current fees were set when research processes were quite different and required extensive staff time.

Overview of Fees:

| Service | Existing Fee | Proposed Fee |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Rochester Images | \$15 for the first 3 images \$3 for each additional image | \$5 per image |
| Life Records articles | \$15 per article | None; 5 article limit per request |
| Newspaper Index (microfilm) articles | \$15 per article | None; 5 article limit per request |
| Research request (usually articles) | \$15, includes up to 3 copies/articles | None; 5 article limit per request |
| Scan request, Photographs | \$15 for first 3 images \$3 for each additional image \$1 if CD delivery requested 8% sales tax | \$5 per photograph |
| Scan request, Print Material | \$1 per page, B&W \$2 per page, Color \$1 if CD delivery requested 8% sales tax | The first 5 pages are free; \$5 for 6-20 pages; 20 page limit per request |

Description of Services

Rochester Images

Refers to the library's extensive database of photographs, maps, postcards, and other visual materials. Low-resolution versions of the images can be freely downloaded from the Internet. Patrons can request high-resolution versions from the library's archival server, which requires authorized staff to retrieve and deliver electronically. The large file sizes of the images necessitate the use of file-sharing software that requires periodic maintenance to ensure space limitations are not exceeded, adding to the time staff must invest in tracking and managing the process.

Life Records

Refers to the database of birth, marriage, and death notices from the *Democrat & Chronicle* and *Times Union* newspapers that was initially compiled by Rochester Public Library staff over a decade ago. The database allows patrons to identify the newspaper and date of publication for the articles they wish to request. Staff then uses the ProQuest Historical Newspapers online database (to which the division subscribes) to retrieve the desired articles and send them to the patron, usually electronically via email. This service typically takes staff less than 10 minutes to complete.

Newspaper Index

Refers to the index of articles from local newspapers from 1818 to 1897. While articles from the *Democrat & Chronicle* are now available via the ProQuest Historical Newspapers online database (to which the division subscribes) and can easily be pulled in less than 10 minutes, other newspapers from this period are only available via microfilm, requiring staff to spend up to 15 or 20 minutes per article to retrieve.

Research Request

There is nothing in the library's policies that would distinguish a research request from a reference question. Staff is instructed to adhere to reasonable time limits when answering reference questions, and a 5-article limit per request helps reinforce this guideline. For requests that require more extensive research, staff provides patrons with a list of local researchers for hire.

Scan Request, Photographs, and Print Material

Patrons can use the equipment in the Walter F. Becker Digital History Center to create and save digital scans for themselves. Patrons who would like library staff to digitally scan and send materials for them can request this service for a nominal fee. Fees for scanned photographs are aligned with the library's policy on Rochester Images requests (\$5 per photograph). Fees for paper-based materials are aligned with the library's policy on photocopies (approx. \$0.25/page).

Fees generated for services July 1, 2020-June 5, 2021: \$2,254.33

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Newspaper Index: | \$840.00 |
| Life Records: | \$519.59 |
| Rochester Images: | \$512.16 |
| Scan Requests: | \$236.58 |
| Research Request: | \$191.00 |

Board Action Requested: Approve changes to fees for Local History and Genealogy research services.

RPL Bulletin Board Policy (Uttaro)

This is a new policy intended to provide guidance and support to Branch and Central staff who are frequently asked by community members to display posters, flyers, and brochures. While each location maintains a community bulletin board specifically to provide this community service, there have been instances where some things have been posted that were inappropriate for the location, or the staff was pressured to provide more attention to the item than was warranted. This policy seeks to set forth an equitable process that allows the location to provide a valuable service to all visitors.

Statement of Purpose

Bulletin boards are available in most RPL locations for the posting of notices related to library business, library-sponsored or community activities, and items of educational, cultural, or civic interest to the Rochester and Monroe County community. Posting of notices does not indicate Library endorsement of the ideas, issues, or events promoted by those notices.

Criteria for Posting

- No notices of a personal nature, business solicitations, religious tracts, petitions, campaign literature, or articles for sale may be posted. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Materials endorsing or opposing the election of any candidate for public office;
 - Materials endorsing or opposing the adoption of federal, state, or local legislation;
 - Materials promoting commercial products or services.
- Priority will be given to announcements of events happening in the City of Rochester and at Monroe County Library System locations.
- Notice size may be restricted due to available space.
- Notices will be removed when they are no longer timely or when space is required for more current items.
- The Library assumes no responsibility for the preservation or protection of any materials posted.
- Materials will not be returned.

- Posting authorization is based on this Policy and not on the content, viewpoints, beliefs, or affiliations of the organizations permitted to post notices.
- Branch Managers must approve each item for posting or free distribution. Central Library postings must be approved by the distribution manager in the Mail Room.

Board Action Requested: Approve the RPL Bulletin Board Policy

Report Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading

“Against Radical Empathy as a Core Professional Principle” <https://hxllibraries.substack.com/p/open-letter-to-alias-intellectual?s=r> – Provocative reading relative to the Board’s reaffirmation of the ALA core principle documents last month.

Central Library Updates

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- National Poetry Month-- In addition to the regular meetings of poet Kitty Jospe’s “Poetry Oasis” group, there was a “Poet-Tree” event in the Dorris Carlson Reading Garden that celebrated poetry and the 150 anniversary of National Arbor Day. Poems that Kitty Jospe and librarian Mary Fraser hung from trees around the Central Library were on view throughout the month. Master Gardener Bob Pacer, who has cared for the Dorris Carlson Reading Garden for the past eight years, gave a tour of the garden and answered questions. Participants watched a video of one of the FFRPL Sokol High School Literary Award-winning poets reading her poetry, listened to readings of other poems, and enjoyed a sunny tour of the garden where the azaleas are in full bloom and birds are nesting. Most of the participants were library users who had never visited the reading garden. Pacer said, “when I’m working [in the garden] I meet people who tell me they spend their day in an office with no windows and they appreciate being able to take a break in this natural, peaceful setting.”
- Melissa Manczuk hosted a week of dragon egg crafts to celebrate National Library Week. She offered patrons two different crafts: one for the adults using foam eggs and thumbtacks and the other using plastic eggs and adhesive gems. Many parents commented that it was nice to have a craft that all ages could participate in and asked if there could be more programs along similar lines.

Anecdotes/Other

Andrew Coyle has been busy moving books from the Reynolds Reference Room to the south wing. This is being done so the Reynolds Room can be used as a programming area for music, poetry and author readings, and other events. The Reynolds Room is a wonderful area to host programs as it overlooks the river and in the nice weather the terrace doors can be opened. This room will offer patrons a new experience as they attend our programs.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 5 in person, 48 by email, 1 by mail, and 7 by phone.
- Webpage views: 51
- 3D Printer: 19
- Hours of in-depth market research: 77
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 8
- Tracy Jong appointments: 1 hour, 1 individual served

Database Use

- Frost & Sullivan: Page Views: 10; Value \$28,100
- IBISWorld: Page Views 195; Value \$61,225
- InnovationQ: Logins 5; Searches 34
- PitchBook: Logins 22
- Statista: Visits 308; Downloads 50

Programs

- Business First Wednesday: Supply Chain. Presented by John Hogg of Straight Forward Consulting.
- Cannabis Industry Meet-Up: Dispensaries. Presented by Glenna Colaprete, horticulture faculty at Finger Lakes Community College.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh met with Excell Partners to discuss the formation of a collaborative team. Excell Partners is a Venture Capital firm that invests in high-tech high-growth startups in upstate New York. Excell will request that companies they refer to BIC donate to FFRPL. Byrnes and Meddaugh will attend pitches to provide feedback to companies, provide background information on companies, and support the companies in their portfolio with market research.
- Byrnes continues to have multiple meetings around cannabis with the City's Cannabis Business Preparation Team, the State's Office of Cannabis Management, and the legacy community. She attended the City's first public comment meeting and helped field questions.
- Byrnes and Melissa Cobo attended multiple meetings each month for the Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) through the US Small Business Administration. Only three other public libraries in the US are participating in the CNPP program: Laramie County Library System (WY), Allen County Public Library (Fort Wayne, IN), and Central Arkansas Library System (Little Rock). The American Library Association has brought the four institutions together and we will meet regularly to discuss our experiences, challenges, and successes.

Anecdotes/Other

- Byrnes was interviewed by Sallyann Price of the American Library Association for the podcast "Dewey Decibel," discussing financial literacy. <https://soundcloud.com/dewey-decibel-703453552/episode-70-making-financial-sense>
- The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office hired Second Avenue Learning to build a webpage for student inventors as well as resources for teachers. Victoria Vanhooris, CEO of Second Avenue Learning, contacted Meddaugh to help with researching patents for the content of the website.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton facilitated the MCLS Children's Services meeting in April. Representatives from the Willow Center joined this month to share their work with people experiencing domestic violence. Staff shared their experiences and staff from Willow provided some tips and resources for use. Many libraries have needed Willow to serve patrons and some shared the difficult stories. This was a very emotional meeting and speaks to the amazing services our libraries offer all over the county.
- Burton is organizing a retreat for MCLS Children's Librarians in May that will address strategies for welcoming patrons back to our libraries, social media safety and harassment, and a session that will help staff process some of the difficult situations that have occurred in the system recently.

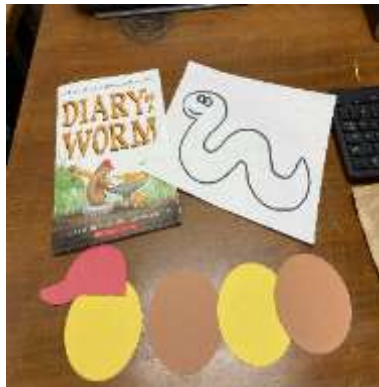
Programs

- April was the Month of the Young Child for early educators. This year Katie Powell and Burton organized community readers for online storytimes. With the help of Director Uttaro, they were able to secure some star readers: Mayor Evans and County Executive Bello. Other star readers were Luis Perez from Greater Rochester Summer Learning; Shamika Fusco, Lyell Branch Manger; and Bonita Williams, Parent Educator with Rochester City School Pre K program.
- April opened with the National Library Week Dragon programming. Families visited the balloons in Rundel and visited the Children's Center for a dragon scavenger hunt, Make Your Own Dragon, and the letter D activity.
- Spring break began with the reopening of the Secret Room! Kathleen Blasi shared her new picture book, Milo's Moonlight Mission as the inaugural program. Children then made their rockets and watched NASA live Stream on the wall. Jeff Bostic from imagineYOU caught some patron reactions on camera for us. See the video here:
https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments%2FThe%20Secret%20Room%20Grand%20Opening%2Emp4&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fjeffery%5Fbostic%5Flibraryweb%5Forg%2FDocuments&ct=1652107075872&or=OWA%2DNT&cid=f13e2801%2D0eb4%2Dcffc%2Db8ec%2Da3828a5c08c1&ga=1
- Other spring break programs were African Drumming & Dance from Hochstein, Backyard Birdfeeder Make & Take, Recycle bookmarks, bird identification scavenger hunt, and open play in the Secret Room.
- The Children's Center organized a Spring Egg Hunt in collaboration with Fidelis Care. Other Central departments joined in and offered hunting in Science, Teen, and Art/Lit. Ana Suro and Cynthia Dana assisted with the organization and gave out books from the Books By Bike. Community partners joined to share information including Monroe County Vaccine Clinic, Foodlink, and WXXI. Margarita Chaves offered early literacy activities for Raising A Reader families and staff from all over Central helped throughout the day with hiding eggs, finding eggs, and traffic flow. One young author shared the story they created about dinosaurs and the library.



Raising A Reader

Throughout the month, Margarita Chaves continued with weekly bilingual storytimes at the Ibero Site. Chaves also completed some outreach by delivering the last of our literacy skill-focused activity bags to all sites. This month the slide presentation for "Mi Comunidad" (My Community) was shared with Ibero families. Chaves also shared with other sites the slide presentation for, "The Diary of A Worm." All sites received activity bags containing extension activities based on the stories and each presentation focused on a particular literacy skill.



Anecdotes/Other

- Many visitors have visited the Secret Room since it re-opened. We have been able to take suggestions for items kids would like to have in the space. Everyone loves the newly designed space, and one young patron said that on a scale of one to ten she gives it a Bazillion!
- Rochester's Playbook shared a story on their Facebook page: <https://rochesterplaybook.com/central-library>
- Burton received this message from a patron:
"The Monroe County library system is such an underutilized asset to our community. As a mother of three girls, two of which have a developmental disability (Autism and Down syndrome) I am constantly on the lookout for places that we can not only be included but be safe and cared for in an environment that can support their varying sensory needs. I am IMMENSELY grateful for the Secret Room at the Downtown Public Library. There is no other place in Rochester (that I have found) that has such a perfect space integrated into the general design of a public space that is not only safe for my girls but is welcoming and fun! The toys that are in this space are perfect for them, the interactive projector wall keeps them up and moving while the toys help them to build their imagining skills. I am so grateful to have this space open again and look forward to spending a LOT of time there this summer!"

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 8
New Borrowers - 135
RRLC Access Cards Issued - 4
Notarial Acts – 196

Anecdotes/Other

- Chad Cunningham worked with staff members at the Brighton, Irondequoit, and Pittsford libraries to resolve an issue for a patron. The patron has a traumatic brain injury and communicates best through writing. Cunningham acted as an intermediary for the patron to help resolve the issue. This issue was very timely, as an e-mail thread on the Monroe County Library System mailing list recently discussed dealing with patrons with issues such as traumatic brain injuries.
- Kathy Sochia helped a patron who was very grateful that the library had Covid-19 testing kits to hand out. He may have been exposed to Covid, and we were the closest place he knew of that had testing kits available.
- Sochia also sent an inactive library card and a library bookmark to an artist in California. The artist is incorporating library cards from all over the country into an art piece she is creating. Sochia asked her to send us photos of the finished project.
- Jim Montione was working at the Information Desk when a little face appeared and said “Hello!” Jim returned the child’s greeting and offered her a sticker. As soon as he did a second face appeared wanting a sticker too. The children said thank you while their parents watched. Never underestimate the power of stickers to bring people together.
- This Circulation desk had a small dragon display for National Library Week.



Local History & Genealogy, Michelle Finn reporting

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- Leah Green hosted the first in a series of new genealogy programs. *Heritage Tales: A Monthly Genealogy Program* is a discussion series featuring a different guest speaker each month. April’s presenter was local activist Ernest Green, who discussed his 10-year search to find his father and siblings based solely on a phonetic spelling of the last name. The program was well attended, with patrons lingering afterward to explore the division’s genealogy databases and other resources.
- The *Rochester’s Rich History* series featured a talk by Jessica Lacher-Feldman, Exhibits and Special Projects Manager for Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation at the University of Rochester. Entitled “AIDS Education Posters at the University of Rochester: The Collection, the Collector, and the Exhibition,” the talk featured a River Campus Libraries collection and was ancillary to the exhibition currently on display at the Memorial Art Gallery, *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster*. It was offered in-person and via Zoom, and a recording is available on the library’s YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/-gOzj9ueKfY>.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Early in April, we learned that community LGBTQ+ archivist and historian Evelyn Bailey’s cancer is progressing faster than anticipated. As a result, Christine Ridarsky has been working closely with Bailey to preserve the legacy of her Shoulders to Stand On documentation, preservation, and education initiatives. With the support of the Board of Directors of the Out Alliance, which has served as fiscal sponsor, Bailey has transferred the program to the library. In addition, Ridarsky has been assisting Bailey and staff from the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library in outreach related to a campaign to seed an endowed

fund established by Bailey. To watch a video (created by Jeff Bostic in the library's ImagineYou lab) about Bailey's fund and contribute, visit <https://frpl.libraryweb.org/shoulders-to-stand-on-endowment-fund/>.

- Ridarsky met with Maria McCashion, New York State Archives Regional Advisory Officer for City Governments, City Clerk Hazel Washington, and staff from the City's Information Technology Department to review operations and procedures at the City's Records Center. McCashion will be preparing a report outlining her recommendations that the City can use in strategic planning for records management.
- Brandon Fess advised former library board member George Wolf on the preservation and digitization of a Civil War diary he inherited from his family. The item is fragile but readable, and Fess recommended local repositories where Wolf might consider entrusting it. The diary's author was from Berks County, Pennsylvania, so the Rochester Public Library is not an ideal repository for it.

Special Collections

- The Library Automation Services team is upgrading ArchivesSpace, the software used to accession and create finding aids for the library's special collections. Accession and finding aid work are on pause until the upgrade is complete.
- Green reviewed and reboxed material from two genealogy collections in April: Genealogical Roundtable Irondequoit Chapter Family Records and Kodak Genealogy Club. She will create finding aids for these collections when ArchivesSpace is again available.
- Fess continued processing the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester Collection on Holocaust Survivors in Rochester and the Mortimer F. Delano papers element of the Montgomery & Angell Family Papers. He also continued in-house conservation work on damaged and/or fragile items from the map collection.

Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 58 views in April: "The Play's the Thing: A History of Cook's Opera House, Part Two," and "Deeply Rooted: Rochester's Ukrainian Community, Part One," both by Christopher Brennan. In addition to these posts, readers from 22 countries revisited 151 previously published posts for a total of 2,654 views. "A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore 'Sammy G' Gingello" continues to be the most popular post; it received a whopping 223 views in April! Also popular was "Forgotten Firm: The Crosby Frisian Fur Company," which received 132 views. All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Interns/Volunteers

- Volunteer Kaye Knoll continued processing the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club records. Knoll contributed 2 hours in April.
- Volunteer Noeme Liestman continued sorting and arranging 35mm slides in the Roger B. Smith collection. Liestman contributed 4 hours this month.
- Linda Lopata continued to volunteer with the City Historian's Office, rehousing and cataloging items collected from Susan B. Anthony's gravesite on Election Day 2016. Lopata contributed 3 hours this month.
- Intern Zachary Vila (SUNY Geneseo) continued sorting, arranging, and rehousing items in the concert program collection. Vila contributed 48 hours in April.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- First Friday Film (*Belfast*) was shown 4/1.
- See It First Matinee (*Spider-Man; No Way Home*) was shown Saturday, 4/16.

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

- During National Library Week, RMC showed the film *The Last Dragon* on 4/6 in the Kate Gleason Auditorium and showed various dragon-themed films (3 or 4 each day) on the large monitor in the division.
- On April 8, RMC hosted the tuba group “Cerberus Trio.”
- April 27, RMC held the Brown Bag Book Discussion program in person, talking about the book *Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

Statistics

RMC rented 15 pieces of equipment and 227 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,804 items or 35% of the Central Library's total circulation of 13,708 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog, and Telephone are added). When adding in the RMC items that circulated at other libraries, RMC totaled 9,811 circulations.

Database Use

Hoopla

- Circulation 1639
- Users – 461

Anecdotes/Other

- A patron found a PS4 Video game in the collection which was one he had been looking for and hadn't been able to find--he was very excited to be able to try it out before he bought it. "You guys are the best, thank you so much," he said several times.
- RMC purchased a streaming kit for installation in the Kate Gleason Auditorium (KGA). There will be one camera permanently installed in KGA with a laptop and software for high-quality streaming capability. There is also a second camera that can be used in KGA on a tripod or in any other location. This second camera will stream to Facebook directly once logged onto the Wi-Fi. Most of the equipment arrived and was installed during April. The remaining equipment and installation should be completed during May. The money for this endeavor came from the Kroll Trust Fund (earmarked for Media Center uses) through FFRPL.

Science and History, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs

- Medical student Richard Lander was the latest Community Health student from URMC. He conducted four in-house health clinics, checking weight, blood pressure, blood sugar, and heart rate. About 15 people took advantage of these clinics. Lander also created a two-page flyer on low back pain, adapting material from reputable medical sources. While there was a flyer produced to promote the clinics, it is clear that announcing them over the public address system is very effective, as it is for LROC and other programs.
- Gabe Pellegrino hosted two sessions with the Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester Chapter. The sessions were an overview of the work of HLAA, along with a demonstration of the assistive hearing devices that are spotlighted on the website. Finally, the last part of the program was a demonstration of the Hearing Kiosk, which is a small tablet that can be used by individuals to self-test their hearing. Pellegrino and several other staff members, along



with a few patrons, tested their hearing with the Kiosk. They (HLAA) were pleased with the number of people who came by. They are convinced that with the ease of using the Hearing Kiosk, Health Central would be a good location for one if they can raise the funds for it.

- LROC – More than 40 people met with LROC this month. Among this number, 10 were for Legal Assistance of Western New York on Friday afternoons.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Gabe Pellegrino hosted this month's meeting of the Wilmot Cancer Community Action Council's Education/ Community Engagement subgroup. The proposal for the creation of video programs, to be created in Spanish with American Sign Language, has gone out. The plan is to use the library's studio and equipment in Teen Central for the videos on clinical trials in cancer research.



Anecdotes/Other

A young man who has met with our regular social worker from LROC invited a friend from the shelter where he is housed to introduce her to services here at the library. He gave her a brief tour and picked up coloring sheets for the children at the shelter.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

The daily number of questions recorded by the Technology Center in April increased slightly while the daily computer usage increased modestly. As the precautions surrounding Covid have relaxed, the Technology Center has essentially eliminated restrictions on computer time extensions. The Technology Center is becoming a busier place, but with the tax season behind us, it remains quite manageable.

Programs

- The Technology Center's in-person programming is picking up some speed. Pedro Nunez's gaming group has seen an uptick in attendance. Nunez has reached out to the broader gaming community and has been highlighting the Central Library as a location that could accommodate several groups at the same time. His promotion of the library as a venue for this kind of activity has been very appealing to several other groups.
- Judy Schewe and Nunez have been holding classes on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. The initial attendance has been light but increased attendance is anticipated.

Anecdotes/Other

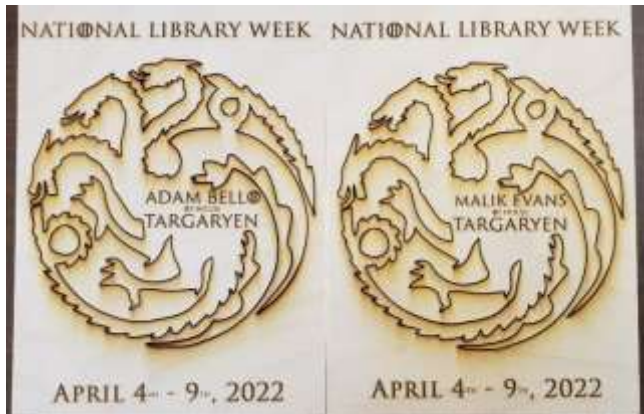
Meet F. A few weeks ago, he came in to reset his New York State online password, which required a quick verification through ID.me. He had all the required documents, but he needed more than the usual amount of support from staff because, he said, his vision was pretty blurry that morning. His attention frequently wandered, and he needed encouragement to stay focused on the project. The staff was a bit frustrated because he didn't seem particularly engaged. After a relatively uneventful hour and a half of navigating ID.me, with staff doing most of the typing for him, he reached his objective. He thanked the staff for helping him and apologized for being hard to work with because of his eyesight and memory issues. As he was packing up, he mentioned that he was relatively new to Rochester and was happy to know the library was a place he could get this kind of help. He explained that he joined the military many years ago and went on to say: *"I guess the bombs affected*

my hearing. Serving in the artillery probably didn't help. But when I got back, they told me it was the big explosions that permanently affected my eyesight and that's why I have a hard time with my memory and keeping focused on things like filling out forms. Especially on a computer screen," he added with an eye roll and a chuckle. "So, thanks for your help, I really appreciate it."

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Learn to Code sessions were offered in April and the content is evolving. Engaged learners are 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 patron is learning how to create a mobile app that's connected to her e-commerce website and a young patron is learning how to make a game with Python Pygame. Another young patron is interested in learning HTML and CSS.
- Sewing Classes: Interest in learning to sew continues to soar. We have decided to procure a couple of machines in our department and include sewing activities in our summer crafting programs.
- Video/Photo Production: This month we had two entries into the Digies, Digital Media Festival. Here you can check out 3rd grader Queen's Secret Room Virtual Tour: [Secret Room Virtual Tour.mp4](#)
- The Glowforge was a hit this month. During National Library Week kids enjoyed making dragons. Five different kids wanted an image of their cats instead of a dragon. We made dragons for the Mayor and County Executive for the National Library Week press conference. The Glowforge continued to have extensive use, including lots of wristbands.



- E-Sports – The gaming computers were in near-constant use this month, especially during spring break. We are continuing to plan the launch of our e-sports team after joining the North American Scholastic Esports Federation. We may enter kids into the summer e-sports tournaments before an official team is assembled.



- Digital Art – Our drawing tablet got some great use once again this month. Check out the Batman Who Laughs illustration that will be added to our ceiling art:



- Music Studio – We certified four more teens this month. Sonysha has begun recording a podcast in the studio and already completed a few episodes.

Anecdotes/Other

School #58 brought a career-focused group of students to visit the Teen Center and ImagineYou lab. We ventured to the third floor Career Center and Renee Kendrot spoke about the civil service exam and application process. The students were engaged; when we returned to the Teen Center, we logged into the City's website and examined the background needed to qualify for each job and other details the posts provided. The next week the Teen Center received "Thank You" letters from some of the students.

Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

During this time the branch libraries began preparing for Spring and Summer. Mary Giancursio from RPL Facilities has been visiting the buildings, making sure staff have what is needed for outdoor maintenance and planting. Plans were made for interior cleaning and sprucing. Branch staff have been planning and gearing up for Summer Reading programs and activities.

Library branches continue to give out Covid test kits to their patrons. Staff discovered that by strategically placing the 6x3 boxes throughout the library, the kits disappear. This approach proves to be much more effective than handing them out. The County will continue to supply the library with test kits as long, as they have them in stock. Priority#3 C.

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

All sorts of child teen and adult programming were big hits in April. The three most popular events were a music concert, an Easter egg hunt, and a jellybean guessing game.

Community Outreach/Meetings

Nancy Cholewa reported that Hart Street storytimes are going well. The kids hug her in the hallway on the way in and ask if it's time to read. One little girl asks if there are more stories each time a book ends. It is sometimes very hard to break away to get to the next classroom on the roster. It is very gratifying to see how much the children enjoy being read to and look forward to seeing what books are in the magic bag. Cholewa was invited to play on the playground, and one friend was disappointed Cholewa needed to leave but decided it was okay so the library could be open for other friends.



Anecdotes/Other

The Arnett Branch Library community is one of the groups helping to develop a play space on Kenwood Avenue near Adlai E. Stevenson School 29. Library patrons, especially children, have been giving input on the project. More info on the project can be found here: [KABOOM! Rochester \(kenwoodkaboom.com\)](http://kenwoodkaboom.com)

Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- The Food for Thought book discussion of *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts was enjoyed by all participants. A list of possible selections for the upcoming program year was forwarded to group members for input.
- Charlotte began weekly movie days every Saturday at 11 am
- The children's center created Earth Month programming including an Earth Week book display
- On Earth Day, the children's center watched School House Rock Earth and did activities with two different families

Anecdotes/Other

- The 3D printer continues to be a big hit with patrons. For three days Heather Sessler printed eight articulated sharks that were quickly snatched up. Patrons are increasingly using the printer for their projects
- Karen Bovenzi is a retired teacher and twice-weekly volunteer at Charlotte. In March and April, she meticulously organized thousands of donated DVDs and books in preparation for a spring book sale. In addition, kids in the children's library have grown to love her and expect to see her upstairs each Wednesday. Little Neil was upset when Karen was out last week with a cold!



Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- The Story Book Cook showed kids how to make worms in dirt and ants on a log.
- RocDogs, an organization of therapy dogs, will visit twice a month. The first visit was from Twinkle and Sparkle, an adorable pair of Havanese sisters. They(and their human) live in the Douglass neighborhood. They provided a fun and innovative educational experience for kids and adults. (Rochester Public Library Priority: Education & Engagement)



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Delivered discarded large print books to The Episcopal Church Home and Kirkhaven Nursing Home. Kirkhaven also accepted some books on CD. St. John's on South Avenue indicated they only want large print after all large print had been distributed, so large print will be distributed to them first next time.

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Liz Kurz offered Spring Break programming for teens this month. A movie schedule was created and displayed in the teen area, along with snacks and drinks. Crafts were available during the week with a special craft on Friday to create a fidget toy in recognition of Autism Acceptance Month.
- Kurz also created a Write Your Own Poetry craft for teens to grab and work on throughout the month in honor of National Poetry Month.
- Children's Services hosted the regular Egg Hunt program for the first time in two years. It was so popular that a second round of egg hunting was organized on the fly by Jasmine Santiago and A'Najah Ford.
- Children's Services also provided Marigold Plant Take N' Make kits, Make your Own Stethoscope Take N' Make kits, and Spanish language book kits.

Anecdotes/Other

- From Jessica Blanco:
"A few years back, a homeless patron came into the library looking for help to find resources. He barely spoke English at the time, so Blanco pitched in to help translate. After several visits, he disappeared, but he didn't forget about the help he had received. He came back and called Blanco over to help him with an application and commented about how he recognized Blanco by her eyes. He found a more stable living situation and is currently applying to work as a school cafeteria worker. It was very humbling, and it was great to see that being nice to patrons and providing good customer service could change the course of their lives for the better."
- The site supervisor received a card from a regular patron:
"To the Staff of Lincoln Library,

Best wishes to you all! Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness over the past year. The pandemic and health issues tried to get the best of me, but thanks to you guys and the many books I was able to read I was able to make it through. Thank you again, Diane (purple walker)"

Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco reporting

Programs

- Catch That Easter Bunny! Kids got ready for Easter by finding all the Easter Bunnies hidden in the children's room.
- Lyell's Little Chef Cooking Club: Kids made flower pretzel bites for April and they were pretty and yummy!
- Crafternoon for Teens: To welcome spring, teens came to the library and made this beautiful birdhouse out of popsicle sticks. They are so excited to hang it outside to observe the birds as they return. Manju Sharma provided birdseed too for the hungry birds.
- Earth Day Celebration: The Lyell Branch collaborated with Cameron Community in an Earth Day Celebration. Lyell served as the turnaround location after cleaning up. Festivities included the Lyell -Otis neighborhood cleanup, upcycled t-shirt crafts, sunflower seed planting kits, a nutritious healthy snack, and of course some freshly made cotton candy to sweeten the deal.



Community Outreach/Meetings

Enrico Fermi School #17 Community Spring Expo 2022: Sherry Stanton joined Enrico Fermi School #17 for their Spring Expo and met a lot of families while giving away information, books, and prizes!

Anecdotes/Other

A patron called the library for help linking the Hoopla app to his smart TV because he wants to watch movies on the big screen. He said he has Hoopla on his phone. Manju Sharma navigated step-by-step instructions to link the app and the patron was very happy.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- Maplewood Community Library was busy in April. The children received some mystery seeds and they tried to guess what would grow. They started the plants inside before re-planting them in one of the beds in the garden. The children helped to clean up and water their plants throughout the month.

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

- There were paper airplanes that the children took outside to measure the distance they can fly. They estimated how far it would fly and some of the guesses were very long.
- Some new board games entered the mix and the children and teens learned to play Mastermind, Slide 5, and Topple.
- English classes continue to be held on Zoom and there are a few in-person along with two drop-in times where patrons can work on their English. One Conversation Buddies Zoom meeting had the highest number of English language learners for that group with a total of nine.

Anecdotes/Other

- The regulars came almost every day and spent lots of time helping around the Maplewood Library. They helped the pages, watered their plants, and cleaned up trash as well as messes around the library. Eight new young patrons visited the Maplewood Library in April bringing the total to ninety-three unique kids that have signed in this year.
- Staff worked with a high school student preparing for her English Regents exam. The student is from Afghanistan with very few English skills. Staff scanned her Regents practice test, used Google Translate to translate it to Arabic (very close to her language of Dari), and emailed her the text in Arabic.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Matthew Hoople introduced the LEGO club on the first Thursday of the month.
- Annette's Seed Bank: during April, the library gave away 136 flower and vegetable seed packets.
- Hoople resumed monthly storytimes at St. Paul's Daycare.
- Hoople started monthly craft times with youth at the Center for Youth.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Mobile Library Cart: On April 28th, the Monroe Branch started the mobile library unit at the Center for Youth. This library cart holds some of the books that were taken that day; there were also some DVDs and music CDs. In addition to these items, the library also brought some books to give away to the children and teens. Rebecca Hudson, our teen librarian, oversaw this library unit. While no library cards were given out that day, Hudson did speak with several children about library books. Many children looked at the books on the tables. A few of the free books were taken and the remainder were left at the Center. It was expected that this would start slowly. The library staff is very encouraged by the interest of the children and the support from the staff at the Center for Youth.
- Hoople meets monthly with tutors at the Center for Youth to assist with youth literacy.
- Hoople met with Evan Meccarello, head of the Irondequoit Community Orchestra, about hosting him in the fall of 2022 as part of his grant project to perform a children's program of music from local modern composers.

Anecdotes/Other



- Hoople's outreach story hour occurred on Library Appreciation Day. Partway through the storytime, one child stood up and declared "I made something for you, Librarian – for Librarian Day!" and handed Hoople a card that shall forever be cherished. Hoople is convinced that the children assume his name is "Librarian" and that the day is about him.



Sully Branch Library – Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- Sully participated in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. We collaborated with Drug Free Irondequoit, the Rochester Police Department, and the Monroe County Impact team to collect the old prescription and over-the-counter medications. Narcan training and Narcan kits were also provided to members of the public.
- Freedom Scholars Learning Center provided a library orientation and craft project. The children were excited to hear about all the things they could borrow with a library card, but they were especially excited to hear they can check out video games with a library card.





Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein attended the first in-person Beechwood Neighborhood meeting since COVID. The meeting was well attended, and Heeks-Heinlein was able to talk to the group about the curbside market that visits our location on Saturdays.

Anecdotes/Other

- A regular patron stopped visiting the library for a few weeks, and when he came back, Carmen Gonzales asked him where he had been. He shared that he was now homeless and living at a local shopping center. Gonzales reached out to Heeks-Heinlein about the situation so she could talk to the patron. Heeks-Heinlein reached out to the patron's caseworker, who was able to come to the library to help the patron get emergency housing. While the patron was waiting for his caseworker, Gonzales and Heeks-Heinlein found some food and water for the patron.
- Jacob Bigelow has seen a strong increase in interest in the 3-D printer. Popular with children and teens are the octopuses that Bigelow has been making with movable legs. Children are particularly interested in receiving items from the printer and Bigelow has been using this to encourage children to learn about the printer.
- Our new chess table in the teen section has proved popular and is used frequently throughout the day. Bigelow provided chess and checkers pieces for the table from the 3-D printer and teens have been regularly playing both games in the library.
- Sully staff are grateful to the library administration for recognizing Sully and all RPL staff for library worker appreciation day. We enjoyed the sub sandwiches very much!



Staff Highlight

- George Carter has been the Safe to be Smart worker at the Sully Branch for over ten years. Over the years he mentored countless youth who have visited the library. One of those young patrons is now an adult and works at the Thomas P. Ryan Community Center, where he is now mentoring the next generation of youth. In addition to mentoring, Mr. Carter has created and implemented many educational and engaging programs for our young patrons, fostered relationships between the youth and library staff, served on the safety and security team, and worked on various projects to ensure the needs of our patrons were met. The Sully team is made stronger because Mr. Carter is part of it.



Phillis Wheatley Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- RocDog, a therapy dog organization, visited Phillis Wheatley Library with three dogs and two volunteers. Alexandra Haehn's young patrons were eager to read and cuddle with the dogs. Each child took turns reading to the dogs in a circle. The children that participated learned facts about the dogs and canines in general through several non-fiction books. The children are excited about future visits with the dogs. (Priority 1 – Education and Engagement: Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations.)



- Suzanne Kolodziej, from the George Eastman Museum, visited Phillis Wheatley Library and held a pop-up spring break program with the children. The children made bookmarks for their books and photograms out of sun paper. Everyone had fun crafting their designs and then taking the sun paper outside. The children were excited to see the sun paper change when placed in the water.



- Sheilah Murphy held a make-and-take craft. The craft was building a terrarium jar. The program proved to be popular enough that Phillis Wheatley Library ran out of kits. The patrons were excited about the craft, and Wheatley Library even had families build them together. It was a whole family affair.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Murphy visited the Episcopal Senior Home on Mt. Hope to hold a book talk. Two new members joined and brought the overall group total to seven readers. The seniors and Murphy had a lively book discussion with lunch about Mitch Albom's book, *For One More Day*. Additionally, Murphy was able to provide local senior resource information to program director Anthony Biuso.

Anecdotes/Other

- A father came in with his two-year-old daughter. He wanted books that were about numbers and the alphabet. He was getting her ready for preschool in the fall. He loved the board book selection and said they were very interactive. He was also very excited to hear about storytime being online: when he gets out of work, he will be able to watch storytime with his daughter.
- Geraldine, a new and elderly library patron, has been coming routinely into the Phillis Wheatley branch and working with Murphy to learn keyboarding and mouse navigation. She has been spreading the word to all her friends because of how great she thinks this service is and is excited to increase her computer skills.

Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- The Winton Branch Library hosted the first in-person program in over two years with the Wildlife Rockstars presenting Superheroes. Wildlife Rockstars is a wildlife education group run by Bridges for Brain Injury: each wild animal is introduced by a person who has had major brain trauma, thus helping the community threefold – the person with the brain injury, the wild animal, and the larger community. This triple win program was presented over spring break. (RPL Strategic Plan Priorities 1 and 3)
- Toward the beginning of the month, a woman approached Kathy Wolf with a small baby spider plant. She said that she had 30 of such plants and wondered if she could bring them in to give away for Earth Day. Wolf agreed to create a display of Earth Day items to accompany the plants. True to her word, she came in the day before Earth Day with not only the plants, but also little cards describing what the plants were, how to take care of them, and requesting that people return the little plastic pots to her house so they could be reused next Earth Day.
- For Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 29, Patricia Finnerty printed out various poems from the website Poets.org and made them available to patrons who were encouraged to share, read, or keep a poem in their pocket. Patrons loved this simple idea, and one person even recited a poem to one of our librarians.

Anecdotes/Other

- A neighborhood group used the community room to host a talk by John Nelson from the Cornell Cooperative Extension about how to use native plants to attract pollinators to your garden. Wolf had 50 copies of a booklist created by Renee Kendrot from the Science Division at the Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County available as a handout for the program. The Winton Branch Library had several copies of each book on the list sent from other libraries to have on display. Some weeks after the program, a woman came in

asking for the list. She had attended the program but had not taken the list as she had just moved to the neighborhood and knew that she would not be able to keep track of it. During her visit, she took one of the Take and Make Hack your Ramen kits.

- The Winton Branch Library owns two copies of a Dorling Kindersley children's book entitled *The Big Book of Trains*. Marilyn Tharp, one of our pages, commented to Wolf that those two books circulate more than any other title in the library. Wolf, always looking for great books that young patrons will enjoy, looked to see if there were any similar titles. She was able to order four other titles in that series; as soon as she saw *The Big Book of Things that Go*, she thought immediately of her young friend, Will, who has always had an affinity for construction vehicles. She emailed his mother and put the item on the hold shelf for them. Will and his mother showed up at the library less than two hours after the email was sent and borrowed all four of the titles in that series. Mom sent a photo of Will enjoying his book. (RPL Strategic Plan Priorities 1, 2, and 3)



Safe To Be Smart Program

Derrick Coley, Youth Services Coordinator reporting

The Arnett site: New Library Assistant Shaina Louis starts onboard training on May 4, 2022.

The Phillis Wheatley site: Teen Library Assistant Michele Saccente reports this month's theme for the Teen Lounge was, "Chill- Chat & Dance," Teens in attendance wrote rules to be followed by all teens that attend the STBS Program. The Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP) re-opened the submission of applications for teens on April 14 through the remainder of the month. I assisted two more teens that stopped or are part of the STBS here at Phillis Wheatley. One of the teens that applied has an exemplary report card with under five days of absences from school. This teen is part of STBS and brings a positive vibe when she comes. I assisted this teen in uploading documentation. This writer provided a 15-minute job interview role-play with this STBS teen. The teen handled the interview well, was comfortable, and is ready for an interview. Game Days were a hit, the teens enjoyed all the new additions. We now have updated games like, 'Guess Who', 'Don't Break the Ice', and 5 Second Rule. This month the Life Skills group's focus was on money matters. Each of the teens was given an envelope with money (fake) which they would use to pay their bills throughout the month. The two teens found the information helpful and stated that learned the importance of saving.

The Maplewood site: Youth Services Assistant Stephanie Pitts reports: Youth continue to come in sporadically and she continues to encourage all to keep coming and be a part of the STBS program. The teens who visit use the computers for gaming, completing homework, and job searches. One day there were four tweens all under the age of 14 years old who want jobs. We all went outside and looked around the library front and back. I suggested that they clean up outside and I would be able to compensate them for their work. Their response was excitement and they were ready to work, but all of them would not do it without being paid that day. That was a great teaching moment. I had the opportunity to talk about working on a real job and not getting paid the same day. When I explained that there are jobs that pay weekly, bi-weekly, and semi-monthly they were all in disbelief.

The Lincoln site: nothing new to report.

The Sully site: George Carter reports Sully teens participated in a STEM Program: the Water in a Glass experiment. Carter explained what happens when you light a burning candle and sit it on a plate of water. Many

teens love this magic trick. Carter explains how many of the best tricks that magicians perform are done by a combination of hand movements, secret compartments, but also by the use of science

Teen Central site: John Hylton and Tierenny Davis report: Ms. Davis has assisted many youths with homework and connected with students through one-on-one interactions. Ms. Davis helped a youth prepare for a test and identified problem areas. Ms. Davis has also made tutoring resources available for teens in their neighborhood. One of our teen center regulars has been bringing his friend on Thursdays so he can learn to play ping pong. This last Thursday the young man sat down and began to explain how he views himself as a person in front of others. He had some reservations about being himself at school because he thought he might become a target. Staff began to talk about life, growing up, and smart decisions. John Hylton says “as a mentor, I was able to share with him my experiences growing up. After our talk, he said he appreciated that I seemed like an adult that was genuine about helping teens and we proceeded to play ping pong. What I took away from this experience is what Mr. C. taught me over 15 years ago and what I still use to this day: *‘What you think might be a small or insignificant interaction with a teen is a building block that allows them to feel comfortable and share themselves in a productive way.’*”