



115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: June 29, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – June 2022

Action Items

4. RPL Annual Report (Uttaro)

Each year, public libraries in New York State are required to submit an annual report to the New York State Education Department, Division of Library Development. This is primarily a statistical and organizational report used to determine that the library continues to meet minimum standards for public libraries in NYS. Some highlights for 2021 (along with comparisons to 2020) demonstrate that RPL is steadily rebuilding usage and participation to pre-COVID levels. The staff has worked hard to achieve these results and we are grateful for their perseverance.

Metric	2020	2021
Annual Visits	866,784	472,090
Number of Borrowers	127,480	111,671
Number of Programs Offered	6,173	1,091
Program Attendance	133,058	36,575
Circulation of Materials	612,753	824,271
Reference Questions	112,402	105,822

Note the differences in several categories, driven primarily by the reduction of in-person programming that occurred at various times during the year. Differences in programming numbers are also related to choices made by the Division of Library Development and the Institute of Museum & Library Services at the federal level. There has been lengthy discussion statewide over what constitutes a “program” and how libraries were to capture usage during COVID.

Board Action Requested: Approve the 2021 RPL Annual Report to New York State.

5. Local History Fees (Uttaro)

In response to a request from the Board of Trustees for more information, the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Central Library formally requests the elimination of fees for historical services. The current fees were set when research processes were quite different and required extensive staff time. The current fees include such services as copies from the Rochester Images, the Life Records, and newspaper databases; research requests; and scanning requests for photos and print material. Most of this work is now retrieved digitally, which reduces the amount of staff time required to fulfill requests and thereby reduces the cost. In response to a specific question from a trustee regarding staff time involved in retrieving and supplying Rochester Images files, Local History staff provide the following information:

*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. **Nonetheless, the relative demand on staff time to fulfill and manage these orders is minimal, requiring a simple drag-and-drop file transfer from the library's archival server to our Dropbox account with a follow-up email providing the patron with a link to the Dropbox folder where they can access their order and informing them Dropbox files will be automatically cleaned (deleted) after 30 days due to storage limitations.***

Board Action Requested: Approval of elimination of fees for historical services through the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County.

6. Rochester History Agreement with Rochester Institute of Technology (Uttaro)

In September 2021, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rochester Institute of Technology that outlined a plan for the parties to develop an equitable and mutually beneficial partnership for publication/re-publication of the Rochester History journal. The intent was to allow the 82-year-old journal to continue publishing, maintain its reputation as a premier source of scholarship on local history, adopt and adapt to 21st -century modes of publication and distribution, and introduce additional content (including book and exhibit reviews and digital interactives) and attract additional audiences to expand the journal's subscription base. Since September, the parties have negotiated in good faith and now request approval of a professional service agreement.

Under the proposed agreement, RIT Press will publish two print issues of Rochester History per year at a rate not to exceed a total amount of \$5,000 per year (\$2,500 per issue). In addition, RIT will build and maintain an interactive digital platform for the distribution of online content, manage online content, and will be responsible for copy editing manuscripts, creating the journal's graphic design, marketing, distribution, and subscription management. RPL and RIT Press will share copyright for jointly published issues, and RPL will retain the right to post digitized copies of print issues of the journal online one year after publication, allowing continued free public access. RPL and RIT will share editorial control. Any revenue above the cost of production will be shared equally between the library and RIT Press.

Board Action Requested: Approval of a 3-year agreement with RIT Press for the services described for a total amount not to exceed \$5,000 per year through June 30, 2025.

7. Rescind REDCO Grant (Uttaro)

In January, the Board accepted a grant from REDCO for \$90,000 over 3 years. See the original item below: *The Rochester Economic Development Corporation (REDCO) has been awarded a \$1M Federal Small Business Administration Resource Partner Enhancement Program (RPEP). RPEP is a two-year peer learning cohort program designed to increase the cultural relevance of services and resources offered by local entrepreneur support organizations. The Business Insight Center will be part of this second REDCO grant cohort. Staff will be assigned an organizational coach who will assist with the development of evidence-informed enhancement plans as well as piloting new programs and resources. They will attend annual convenings, participate in an Undoing*

Racism® Workshop, and collaborate with cohort peers. The total amount awarded to the RPL is \$90,000, which will be split across several fiscal years given its January 2022 start date. The amount to be accepted for the current fiscal year is \$22,500; the remaining grant will be incorporated in the FY23 and FY24 budgets.

Circumstances with staffing have developed which required the library to withdraw from the grant. This action requests the board formally rescind the acceptance of the grant.

Board Action Requested: Rescind the acceptance of the REDCO grant for \$90,000.

8. Revision of 3D Printing Policy (Uttaro)

The Board approved a revision of the library's 3D Printing Policy in 2018, which has governed the use of the equipment successfully. In 2019, then-Governor Cuomo signed legislation making it illegal to print a gun using a 3D printer. This revision includes that language and a link to the law. The remainder of the policy remains unchanged. The policy is included in this packet for your review.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the 3D Printing Policy revision.

9. Restoration of Operating Hours at Frederick Douglass Community Library (Lewis)

The staff at the Frederick Douglass Community Library have been thankful for the time awarded by the Board to focus on training and team building as they dealt with significant staff turnover. They are now ready to return to normal operating hours beginning July 5, 2022:

Monday 10-6
Tuesday 10-5
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 10-5
Friday 11-6
Saturday 11-3

Board Action Requested: Approval to restore normal operating hours at the Frederick Douglass Community Library

10. Closure of Lincoln Branch Library for Construction (Lewis)

We are asking for approval to close the Lincoln Branch Library for construction beginning August 15, with an anticipated re-opening in early 2023. The administration is still working through plans for alternate locations to provide limited services. Information on those plans will be shared at the August board meeting.

Board Action Requested: Approval to close the Lincoln Branch on August 15 for construction purposes.

11. Approval of Extended Hours at Maplewood Community Library on August 20, 2022 (Lewis)

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. Maplewood Library is requesting to host this event from 2:00-4:00 pm, after normal Saturday hours, on August 20. This will accommodate the equipment, anticipated crowd, and parking demands and ensure the entire facility is available for use by the Kinder Camp participants.

Board Action Requested: Approve additional 2 hours of operations for Maplewood Community Library on August 20, 2022.

12. Library Store Agreement (Harrison)

The Friends and Foundation of RPL (FFRPL) manages the Library store per an annual agreement with the Rochester Public Library. For FY23 the agreement maintains the same terms and conditions as in prior years, generating \$35,000 for the Central Library in FY23, with open communication on any projected shortfalls. The FFRPL shall continue to provide \$5,000 for Branch Library support but generated from other unrestricted fund sources.

The RRL and FFRPL are in discussion regarding the location of the retail store, donation sorting and internet sales areas; a summary of recommendations and changes will be shared with the Board in fall 2022.

Board Action Requested: Renew the Library Store Agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL for the fiscal year 2022-23.

13. Library Trust Fund Allocation for FY23 (Harrison)

The RPL Board finance policy statement allows for the annual distribution of 5% of the average value of RPL trust funds over the past twenty fiscal quarters. The enclosed spreadsheet includes this proposed draw for FY23, proposed allocation from the Reynolds Board, and transfers of restricted FFRPL-held endowments for materials purchases. The withdrawals were unanimously approved by the RPL Finance Committee at its meeting on June 7, 2022.

Board Action Requested: Approval of Library Trust Fund distributions for 2022-23.

14. Proposed Central Library Capital Improvement Budget for 2022-23 (Harrison)

Enclosed is a summary of the 2021-22 program and what is proposed for 2022-23. We took advantage of closures and lower library usage to replace the carpet in several key areas (stairs, Rundel Art & Lit) which was not initially anticipated this year. In addition, we replaced an original heat pump to coincide with the upgrades to the Secret Room (contingency) to avoid work in that area after construction completion. Security upgrades were not completed but are planned for FY23. Given construction delays, the Rundel door will be replaced in July.

For the upcoming year, these projects will continue, and we have added funds for lighting upgrades which will result in utility savings. We have budgeted for standard allocations for unanticipated plumbing and roof repairs, with \$7,922 allocated for any contingencies.

The proposed budget includes \$25,922 in unexpended funds to carry over from FY22. The FY23 City allocation is \$50,000. The Board previously allocated the Fenyvessy Central library trust fund for additional costs to the Rundel Terrace Art project.

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

15. Electric Vehicle Carshare and Charging Stations at the Arnett & Lincoln Branches (Harrison)

The City administration has partnered with an agency to provide an electric vehicle (EV) car-sharing service that is an affordable mobility option for low-/moderate-income residents. The EV car share is paired with EV charging station(s) to ensure EV availability as well as public EV charging options. The City has previously entered into an

agreement (Contract No. 135483) with Mobility Development Partners LLC (Mobility), with locations to be selected upon mutual evaluation and agreement. The Arnett and Lincoln library parking lots are two of the top locations recommended by City DES and Mobility Development.

Mobility shall install the EV charging stations in consultation with City zoning and permitting requirements, with all installation costs incorporated. Mobility is also required under the City agreement to maintain a minimum of ten EV vehicles within the program/city limits and to maintain the condition of the charging stations.

The City/Library shall provide use of two (2) spaces per lot, non-exclusive, that can include rotating car share from Mobility but also provide EV charging to the public. The City/Library shall also include electrical costs in its operations. It is estimated that the stations use an average of 8 kWh of electricity a day (2,920 kWh/year) based on the average use at other Mobility locations. Based on current electric costs of 10 cents per kWh, we anticipate less than \$300 per year per location as a cost impact for utility charges.

We do not yet have a schedule for installation at the Arnett Branch but anticipate late summer 2022; the Lincoln installation will not occur until construction of the Lincoln parking lot expansion is underway or substantially complete (early 2023).

Board Action Requested: Endorsement of the Arnett and Lincoln branch libraries as EV carshare and charging locations under the City of Rochester and Mobility Development Partners LLC Agreement.

ANNUAL AGREEMENTS (Harrison) (Possibly to be taken as one item)

16. Network Professional Services Agreement

The Library currently has an agreement with CampbellNet Solutions to assist, on an as-needed basis, in maintaining library telecommunications equipment, data switches, and network connectivity issues at remote locations. The contractor will bill for services rendered at a rate of \$150 per hour. If there is a need for parts or equipment replacement, RPL will pay state contract pricing or the actual cost paid by the contractor. The total amount of the contract will not exceed \$3,000 with a term of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Board Action Requested: Approval of a professional services agreement with CampbellNet Solutions for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 through June 30, 2023.

17. Computer and Server (IT) Equipment Repair

The Library has used the services of Tri-Delta Resources to fix computer equipment on a time and material basis for the past several years. We would like to continue this service in FY23 for both the Branch and Central Libraries. Costs will be based on an hourly rate of \$75 for small equipment (PCs), and \$125 for large equipment (servers), with the replacement parts, billed at State Contract rated. The total cost of the agreement will not exceed \$3,000 with a term of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.

Board Action Requested: Approval of a professional services agreement with Tri-Delta Resources, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 through June 30, 2023.

18. Intellectual Property Consulting Agreement

The Library has used the services from the Tracy Jong Law Firm to support income-restricted client referrals from the Business Insight Center. The consulting rate of \$150 per hour is utilized based exclusively on BIC staff referrals to the consultant, for an amount not to exceed \$9,000. Funding is from the Business Insight Center operating budget, a portion of which is underwritten by the FFRPL.

Board Action Requested: Approval of a professional services agreement with the Tracy Jong Law Firm LLC for an amount not to exceed \$9,000 through June 30, 2023.

19. ImagineYOU Audio Production Training Agreement

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

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with Wicked Squid Studios, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$8,000 through June 30, 2023.

Report & Discussion Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

John Lovenheim Memorial

It was with great sadness that we learned of John's passing on June 7, 2022. John was first appointed to the RPL Board on March 25, 2003, and became Liaison to the MCLS Board on June 15, 2009. John served as RPL Board President for several years and helped guide the library and boards through several challenging events. John participated in the RPL Centennial celebrations dressed as "Dewey Decimal" and presented several programs on the history of the library. John was very generous with his time and talents, serving on all three boards (RPL, MCLS, and FFRPL simultaneously) and giving generously. John's first gift to the library was made in 1999 and his lifetime giving exceeded \$100,000.

John's contributions to the Rochester Public Library ought to be recognized through a memorial. President Benjamin and Director Uttaro offer these possibilities and would like feedback from the full board before moving forward.

Naming Opportunities:

- Annual "Jazz Starts Here"
- "Health Central" on the 3rd floor of BLB
- Arts & Literature Reference Desk
- Annual Art of the Book exhibit
- Central Technology Center

If the board can agree on one of these, Director Uttaro will start the process to implement the decision.

Social Media

	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	419	542	296	27	0	7	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	5	1	22	-	33	28	8
Engagements	24	4	637	69	51	78	14
Check In/ Mentions	18	11	-	-	-	17	-
Post Reach	2151	1989	3274	2270	-	1609	105128
Video/Story Views	-	-	392	-	-	0	1416
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	1	-	-	3	-

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Programs

- The last Rochester Writes workshop for the 2021-22 season was a three-part poetry writing class taught by local poet Kitty Jospe. Jospe shared some of the feedback that she received from her students:
"I thoroughly enjoyed your lectures, and I always learned something that I've never known before. Thank you for encouraging us to try the first step, preparing these lectures with loving care, and always being kind and patient! Thank you again for such a wonderful learning experience and I hope to learn more from you."
"I hope we can do this again soon! It's nice having a writer's group that motivates each other to continue writing every day."
- Paper marbling artist Ashley Rehler instructed attendees on how to create decorative papers using a plain sheet. Marbling is a method of painting on water that allows the artists to create one-of-a-kind patterns that are transferred to paper; each design is unique. Patrons commented,
"Ashley was so knowledgeable about the process and offered us a number of extra tips and project ideas;"
"This class was beyond what I had imagined we'd learn."



Anecdotes/Other

The Art and Literature Division is now the new location for the *George Cooper Doll Collection*, which was previously housed in the Secret Room in the Children's Center. It has taken a while to find the correct lighting for

this special collection, but all the cases are finally lit, showcasing this engaging collection of dolls from around the world. We have heard patrons say how glad they are to see this collection out on the public floor.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 9 in person, 41 by email, 2 by mail, and 2 by phone.

3D Printer: 1

Hours of in-depth market research: 65

Tracy Jong appointments: 1 hour, 1 individual served

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: Page Views 23; Value \$97,350

IBISWorld: Page Views 142; Value \$53,350

InnovationQ: Logins 15; Searches 274

PitchBook: Logins 13

Statista: Visits 77; Downloads 34

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Byrnes met with a group of librarians throughout the U.S. as part of the American Library Association's "Libraries Build Business" program.

Anecdotes/Other

- After connecting a patron with the Public Law Library's LexisNexis remote access program, Cobo received this email from a client:

Dear Melissa,

First, thank you very much for all the assistance that you graced me with. It was such a pleasure to see you effortlessly navigating through different windows to satisfy my inquiries. It is unfortunate that the East Ave. Law Library is by appointment only, yet it is wonderful to know that there is a hidden gem on the fourth floor of your library.

I am in great respect of your librarian skills and satisfied with your persistence. Very briefly, during my research I learned that "maybe" is of greater value than 'no.'

Sincerely,

Dwayne

- BIC is co-sponsoring the conference Cannabis, Equity, & Community Celebration taking place June 23-25. Byrnes and Meddaugh will also be speaking at the conference. The lead agency is Roc NORML, the Rochester affiliate of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. They are a cannabis consumer advocacy organization with a mission to advocate for consumers to have access to high-quality, affordable cannabis, through community education and grassroots lobbying, focusing on ensuring justice, equity, and reinvestment in the regulated cannabis space.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

Miranda Hazen welcomed ten classes from Webster schools over two weeks. The classes were originally scheduled for January, but the visit was postponed due to COVID. They were the first school group to experience the new Secret Room.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton attended meetings for ABC Head Start as part of their federal review in addition to the monthly policy council meeting.
- Burton joined the board for Friendship Children's Center and visited the site to discuss future collaborations. The Center set up visits to Central Library during the summer and requested early literacy training for staff.
- Burton attended a meeting at Nazareth College for their new RISE Scholar program. RISE (Rochester Interprofessional Scholars of Early Intervention) is a comprehensive model to prepare graduate students in the allied health programs (i.e., occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, social work, speech-language pathology, and creative arts therapies) and inclusive early education (i.e., teacher candidates). The overall purpose of the RISE specialty track is to provide introductions, specialty training, and ongoing professional learning to prepare future providers to advocate for change, work with families, and promote the overall development and well-being of young children and those children with different abilities. The student will work with Burton to expand the Talking is Teaching program and increase language activities in the Children's Center. Devann Lowe is the student who was placed with Burton, and she began on May 31.

Raising A Reader

- Margarita Chaves was able to hold two community outreach programs at the Ibero and Hart Street sites this past month. Parents completed surveys and in turn, received a RAR bag filled with bilingual books and great literacy activities. Storytimes continued but with less frequency due to some covid exposures at local sites.



MCLS offered a full day of professional development for system Children's Services staff. Thirty-three staff from twenty-one different libraries participated. The training was made possible through funding from Central Library and the Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library. We offered three sessions as well as a light breakfast and lunch. Sessions included:

- Creating Welcoming and Affirming Environments: This training was provided by Dawn Breitung from Children's Institute. As we begin getting back to "normal" it was important to offer staff support and information that would sustain them through the busy summer reading timeframe. As we all try to process and heal through continued uncertainty and change, we want to remember that the journey has

been individual and personal for each one of us. The last two years have impacted how we interact with each other in different ways; this time has also reminded us how important it is for everyone to have access to welcoming and affirming spaces. In this interactive session, learners had an opportunity for self-reflection, processing in the community, and exploring trauma-informed responses to different scenarios. Participants received a brief overview of trauma, awareness of compassion satisfaction and fatigue, and explored trauma-informed practices that support the creation of welcoming and affirming environments.

- Social Media Slander Panel: This session was designed in response to situations at member libraries when staff members were harassed on social media and which crossed over into in-person harassment. This was designed to help staff understand the importance of social media, understand the difference between a personal account and a professional, and how to keep them separate and why. Local professionals who have dealt with social media slander and trolls shared their strategies for maintaining professional boundaries while effectively sharing information. This was recorded and will be shared with staff. Brief bio's of the panel members are below.
 - Rachel Barnhart (she/hers) is the Assistant Minority Leader in the County Legislature who represents the 21st District in the City of Rochester. She is serving her second term in the legislature, serving on the Ways and Means and Agenda Charter committees, as well as the Monroe County Planning Board, and the Monroe County Advisory Task Force on Broadband. Rachel spent 18 years as a broadcast journalist and now does public relations work at a nonprofit.
 - Vanessa Cheeks (she/her) is currently the Deputy Chief of Public Information at Rochester's Police Accountability Board. She formerly worked as a television producer for one of the top-rated news stations in Rochester, winning an Edward. R. Murrow award for her work in breaking news coverage. Vanessa also spent more than seven years as a freelance reporter in the city, covering stories on homelessness and housing, mental health awareness, and social justice initiatives in our area.
 - Brittan Hardgers founded Next Generation Men of Transition, a resource, advocacy, and support organization for men of the Trans experience in 2018.
 - Emily Hessney Lynch (she/her) is a social media strategist with ten years of experience; she owns [Serve Me the Sky Digital](#), where she works with nonprofits and small businesses on sharing their stories through engaging digital content. Emily serves as a trustee of the Monroe County Library System and a board member at Cameron Community Ministries. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Rochester. Emily is a short story writer, avid reader, and the proud parent of three rescue dogs.
 - Chris Thompson (he/his/him) is an engineer, writer, comedian, and activist. He is a regular contributor to the 540West Main blog and an occasional writer-at-large for the Rochester City Newspaper.
- Personal Healing with Alaina Brubaker: Licensed Therapist Alaina Brubaker offered tools for responding to traumatic events and gave ideas for ways to practice self-care. Every participant was provided with a journal to keep. Brubaker shared a list of other therapists for personal use and offered to work with member libraries to offer a similar session.

Participants from the retreat completed a survey to help assess the workshops. Some comments about the day:

It was very informative. I felt that I learned a lot that I can use every day in the library.

The most valuable thing I learned was how to replenish and nourish myself so that I can better serve my patrons. I also liked seeing that I'm not the only one feeling this way.

I would love to have this kind of workshop again with different topics, I feel it was very insightful in helping me understand my role and my responsibility of working in a library.

I appreciate the suggestions from co-workers of how to handle situations we all encounter. Thank you for this time together to learn from each other as well as from the experts.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 10

New Borrowers - 138

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 2

Notarial Acts – 108

Anecdotes/Other

Senait Gebre was helping a patron clear her fines using the Prize Drop. Gebre asked the patron her favorite thing about the library. The patron talked about how, when she was young, her family immigrated to the US, and she loved that she could come to the library and everything was free. She told Gebre that she thought it would be interesting if the library asked people what they liked about the library, filmed their answers, and displayed the answers on the screen behind the Circulation desk.

Local History & Genealogy Division, Christine Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- Genealogy Specialist Leah Green hosted the second program in the new genealogy series, *Heritage Tales: A Monthly Genealogy Program*. This month's guest speaker was Mekko Mongeon Griffin, who shared stories of her family's roots in the Clarissa Street neighborhood, which was once a hub for Black businesses in the 1940s–early 1970s. This in-person program series is held in the Local History & Genealogy Division. Attendees linger afterward to chat and explore the division's resources.
- May's installment of the *Rochester's Rich History* series featured an outdoor walking tour by Emily Morry themed "Multicultural Rochester: Immigrants, Migrants, and Minorities in the Flower City." This 1.1-mile tour focused on the significant role that immigrants, migrants, and minority group members have played in the economic, social, and cultural development of Rochester. Participants were encouraged to visit our current exhibit on immigrants, continue their learning, and explore their own ethnic and racial heritage in the Local History & Genealogy Division.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Antoine McDonald joined local scholar and library supporter Cheryl Sampson for a tour of the Rochester Academy Charter Elementary School. Sampson serves on the school's board of directors and requested that the library donate books to the school instead of an honorarium for the *Rochester's Rich History* program she presented in February. McDonald coordinated with Tonia Burton in Children's Services to curate a culturally inclusive selection of children's books to present to the school and enjoyed reading one of the books to a third-grade class during his visit.

- Christine Ridarsky and Brandon Fess represented the library at the *ConsidertheSourceNY.org Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge* Institute in Geneseo. Ridarsky serves as Finger Lakes Regional Coordinator for the project and helped to organize the institute. This event allowed regional librarians and historians to gather with educators under the aegis of the New York State Archives Partnership Trust's *ConsidertheSourceNY.org Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge* project, which has a grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services to add diverse and inclusive content to [Consider The Source Online \(considerthesourcenyc.org\)](https://www.considerthesourcenyc.org). The website is designed to help educators identify primary source material for classroom use. The event allowed cultural heritage professionals and educators to discuss how they can meet each other's needs and provided an opportunity for Ridarsky and Fess to talk to educators about the wealth of primary source materials available in the library's collections.
- Dan Cody led a walking tour of the Brown's Race/High Falls area for a group of elementary home school children and their adult chaperones.
- Ridarsky made a site visit to Streeter's Inn, headquarters of the Chili Historical Society, to assess conditions for a requested loan of material from the Charles Ritz collection. Ridarsky will curate and install a small exhibit later this year of material from the collection, which was discovered packed inside a locked steamer trunk left outside St. Pius X Church just before its annual flea market in 2012. The library hosted an exhibit on Ritz and the contents of his trunk in 2014.
- Ridarsky was interviewed by WXXI producer Teej Jenkins for a *What's Good Rochester* video about plans for a state park at High Falls. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/yBPLQ9cvG-0>.
- Ridarsky met with Lisa Baron, executive board chair at Greentopia and a member the Roc the Riverway advisory board, to discuss a variety of cultural heritage initiatives, including the planned High Falls State Park, the National Susan B. Anthony Museum's planned interpretive center, and efforts to protect the Rochester Historical Society's collections.
- Ridarsky attended her final meeting as the MCLS representative on the Monroe County Legislature's Airport Renaming Advisory Committee. Anna Souannavong, Director of the Gates Public Library, will replace her on the committee. Ridarsky had served as co-chair of the Education Subcommittee, which was tasked with developing the interpretive framework and plan for an exhibit in the airport's observation deck.

Special Collections

- Fess continued processing the Mortimer F. Delano papers element of the Montgomery & Angell Family Papers and continued in-house conservation work on damaged and/or fragile items from the map collection. He and Jordan Wallance are also working to finish sorting and arranging items in the concert program collection, a project begun earlier this spring by intern Zachary Vila (SUNY Geneseo).
- Accessions and finding aid work remained on pause while the Library Automation Services team continued upgrading the ArchivesSpace software.

Digital Projects

- Fess continued to work with Ryan Hughes of the Rochester Regional Library Council to upload collections from *Rochester Images* to the *New York Heritage* website. View the collections at <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/rochester-public-library>.
- *Rochester Voices*
Jordyn Bagley, a new intern from Nazareth College, began developing additional content for the Latino Oral Histories collection on *Rochester Voices* this month (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/latino-oral-histories/>). Bagley is summarizing and uploading the latest batch of interviews collected by Nazareth students. She expects to add at least 14 interviews to the collection by the end of the summer.

Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 51 views in May: “Welcome Home: A New Exhibit in Local History!” by Emily Morry, and “Deeply Rooted: Rochester’s Ukrainian Community, Part Two” by Christopher Brennan. In addition to these posts, readers from 24 countries revisited 136 previously published posts for a total of 1,730 views. The most popular posts were “Everyday People: A New Exhibit in Local History!” (94 views) and “A Good Guy: The Life & Death of Salvatore ‘Sammy G’ Gungello” (93 views), followed closely by “Kool Things: The History of the J. Hungerford Smith Company” (89 views). All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- RMC held two movie programs: See It First Saturday showing “Cyrano” and First Friday Films showing “Uncharted.”
- RMC also held two Brown Bag Book Discussions: one in person and one via Zoom. The book discussed was *Premonition* by Michael Lewis.

Database Use

Hoopla

- Circulation
 - Total Circulation – 1957
- Users
 - New users – 52
 - Total users – 505
- Cost
 - Total \$3,256.32
 - Per item – \$1.67

Anecdotes/Other

- Diane Premo had an AudioFile Review published:
<https://www.audiofilemagazine.com/reviews/read/215080/portrait-of-an-unknown-lady-by-maria-gainza-thomas-bunstead-trans-read-by-kyla-garc%C3%ADa/>
- On Ref Chat, a patron was asking about getting a library card for her child who was just a year old. I told her she could get one for him at any age. She was so excited because she wanted to introduce him to books and reading as soon as possible. I told her to bring him in and meet the Children's Center Staff at any time, and she should also take him to other libraries in the county because each one was different. It was a nice interaction; you could almost hear her enthusiasm through the computer!

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Healthy Living Series – presented by Sparkle Wells, Health Project Coordinator from Center for Community Health and Prevention, University of Rochester Medical Center. This is the first of an eight-part series. This is the same group that provides the monthly *Got Health?* video programs that we promote through social media. The presenter is enthusiastic and committed.

- Gardening Basics: Growing Strawberries in the Home Garden was presented by Jarmila Haseler, Agricultural Educator from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. These Zoom programs have continued to be popular and well-attended.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Gabe Pellegrino attended the Community-Driven Cancer Research Team Meeting, part of the Wilmot Cancer Community Action Council (CCAC). Goals for team projects were discussed, with forms to be filled out. The library will assist with producing videos to promote the Clinical Trials for underserved populations. Because of duplicative efforts, we may be teaming up with additional groups attempting the same projects.

Anecdotes/Other

- Many adult patrons who have come into the Science, History and Social Sciences Division remark how great it is for them to take the seasonal coloring sheets made available in the division. There has been one gentleman who comes in almost daily, takes a coloring sheet, asks to use the colored pencils the staff has available, sits down, and colors the sheet.
- The month of May has provided many challenges for Science Division staff, with one member on leave. The staff has shown excellent teamwork, with part-time staff working additional hours, frequent schedule changes and adaptations, training of substitute librarians, and assuming various additional duties and book orders to meet fiscal year deadlines.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

Daily computer usage remained steady in May. With the pressure and frenzy of the tax season in the past, the staff is now able to take a little more time with patrons needing extensive help with resumes, job applications, and social services paperwork. The slightly relaxed pace lets staff be more thorough with patron projects and gives our users a better experience.

Programs

- Judith Schewe's weekly Tech Talk is providing a forum for patrons needing in-depth training on various applications. Much of her time this past month was spent teaching patrons various apps in the suite of Google's office products. She has also introduced patrons to the impressive array of databases available on Central's website.
- Pedro Nunez's weekly Device Advice has allowed patrons to schedule an hour or longer problem-solving session. Nunez's weekend Tabletop Role-Playing Gaming program continues to draw consistent attendance.

Anecdotes/Other

Early in May, a young man asked for help filling out an application for a small business loan. He wanted to start a restaurant after having managed a successful food truck business. Jeanne Slocomb helped him navigate his bank's website. He worked doggedly through the application and entered all the required information. Slocomb was careful to not offer advice, but her presence and support helped the applicant stay focused on the task. Slocomb is an excellent cheerleader for people facing a daunting project and she stuck with the patron and encouraged him to persevere through to the completion of his goal. Several weeks later the same patron reappeared in the Technology Center looking for Jeanne. He seemed to have made a trip to the library specifically to thank Jeanne for helping him stay with his project. He shared with the staff that he had received a \$100,000 loan from a local bank. He told the Technology Center staff that without the assistance and support he received at the library, he would not have gotten through the process and would never have been approved for the loan.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Learn to Code: 4 sessions were offered in May. A few new learners joined our Library Coding Program via Google Drive. We will be adding three new coding tutorials 1) Code Your First Website: Learn basic HTML and Publish It Too! 2) Basic GitHub Tutorial and 3) How to Create a Mobile App for your WordPress Website.
- Craft 'n' Chat: Monday's craft program had a few regular participants who learned how to use a sewing machine and basic hand stitching. Others kept busy making bracelets while socializing.
- Video/Photo Production – 3rd grader Queen and her brother, 5th grader Nazir, won 1st place in the Digies Media Festival for their Secret Room Virtual Tour. [Secret Room Virtual Tour.mp4](#)
- Glowforge- This month focused on wristband creation. The first bag of 24 was used in the first week of May. We now have a wristband poster on our wall. This month we also created our first belt in the Glowforge.



- Esports - Recruitment for our Esports team has started. We are looking to have teens play in open summer tournaments prior to starting the official team in September. Here is one of our hopefuls winning a Fortnite



match earlier this month. We met with staff from City Recreation in the hopes of having participation at the R-centers also.

- Digital Art – Patty Uttaro has supplied one of our young artists with markers to use on the glass panels in the Link area. He will begin soon. Below is one of his drawings that will be up on the ceiling in ImagineYou.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Fae Jahanshiri attended the Code4Lib Conference. She enjoyed this truly inclusive conference and learned a great deal about many new topics related to coding/technology/software for libraries and librarians and connected with a few like-minded colleagues from the Finger Lakes Library System and the Genesee District Library. They would like to collaborate on promoting our coding programs such as the Learn to Code and Girls Who Code Club programs. All talks and poster sessions can be accessed and downloaded here: <https://osf.io/meetings/c4l22>
- Jahanshiri also attended the Girls Who Code Club Facilitator
- Shetora Banks attended the webinar: Decentralized Apps, the Metaverse, and “The Next Big Thing” with Jin and Wendy Hanamura hosted by The Metropolitan New York Library Council.
- Banks met with the B+ Healthy Food Market to discuss a nutritional program for the teens that would include an entrepreneurial component.



Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

- The library participated in *Ease on Down*, an event intended to promote local Rochester businesses (<https://tinyurl.com/54fajp93>). Arnett also held a book sale which attracted plenty of people, many of whom are very excited for the next sale.
- Nancy Cholewa and Bruce Wilbur used Books by Bike to visit a Bike Clinic facilitated by His Branches Incorporated, R-Community Bikes, and the Arnett Block Association. Free books, free bike repair, story times, and bike/lock/helmet giveaways were all part of this wildly popular event.



Anecdotes/Other

- In addition to Arnett’s regular circulation, the branch gave away 400 gently used books during two different events. The library also sold roughly 300 books for 25 cents each during a used books sale. Staff members often bought books for patrons who were short of funds.
- Shaina Lewis began work as Arnett’s Safe-to-be-Smart library assistant. As a youth, Lewis was a regular at the Arnett Branch and Phillis Wheatley Community Libraries. She is doing an excellent job now as an RPL team member.

Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting Programs

- While Jennifer Cherelin was visiting Philadelphia, she went to a shop called Batter & Crumbs that specialized in promoting local businesses and artists. There were unique framed portraits of 18 different animals (all anthropomorphized) on display. Cherelin took photos of each and created a special poster highlighting all the animals to share with Charlotte patrons.

Anecdotes/Other

- A woman and her adult daughter came in to use the fax machine. They needed to send 33 pages and said they had just been at Staples where they were informed it would be \$3.00 per page. She was nearly in tears when Heather Sessler told her that faxing at Charlotte is free. Surprise and gratitude for this service are not uncommon among Charlotte patrons.



Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Evanna DiSalvo joined the Anna Murray Douglass Academy School #12 Community Engagement Team meeting via Zoom. This team will meet monthly during the academic year to help the Anna Murray Douglass Academy reach achievement goals, reduce absenteeism, and develop partnerships to support the whole community. Future meetings will be attended by Nesbitt. (Education and Engagement – Expand our visible presence in our communities.)

Anecdotes/Other

The FDCL team concluded the Friday morning team building/training sessions with a working day of reorganizing. The storage closet, art supplies in the break room, and processing supplies in the team office were evaluated, weeded, and rearranged. The staff wishes to thank the Board of Trustees for the time to work together and build their team over the last few weeks.

Lincoln Branch, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- This month the Teen Spot held two separate programs: a Mother's Day rice heating pack organized in conjunction with the Safe to be Smart program coordinator Vera Haygood and a Manga and Anime drawing class presented by the Flower City Arts Center.
- Jasmine Santiago asked Ted Baumhauer/Red Tie Variety to come to the Lincoln branch to provide juggling lessons, aerodynamics, paper plane lessons, and boomerang-making lessons.
- Santiago organized a scavenger hunt and put together an iced coffee craft for the Mother's Day take n' make.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Liz Kurz and Lehman both provided outreach at the annual Criterium bike event at the Central Library.
- An invitation was given to join the School Without Walls Book Club. Kurz attended this meeting and met with several teachers after the meeting concluded and was invited back to assist with English assessments as a community expert at the beginning of June, as well as potentially assist in leading CPR (the Circle of Power and Respect) in some of the classes, based on their role as an alum of the school and librarian within the community.

Anecdotes/Other

- Santiago was delighted to witness a mother and her children talking about how to decorate their iced coffee Take N' Make. Santiago could overhear the children listing kind things about their mother. A few things Santiago overheard included, *"You are strong!"* and *"You are helpful, because you're always helping me, mommy!"*
- A group of teens came in dressed in their prom outfits before hosting an alternative prom at one of their houses. The teens took pictures in the Teen Spot, hung out for the afternoon, took advantage of stickers available in the Teen Spot, and asked about LGBTQIA+ books and getting a library card with Kurz. All the teens said they plan to come back later in the week. They were very excited and emotional about being able to talk about their identities and find books that adequately represent their own identities.

Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco reporting

Programs

- Lyell Happy Birthday Club: We love to party! When children come to the library on or around their birthdays, we celebrate. Kids get so excited opening their birthday gifts from the library.
- For Mother's Day, teens made pinwheel crafts and received some pampering treats for mom. Toiletries were donated by Cameron Community Ministries.
- Teens brought their Pokémon cards to trade with their friends and then got a mystery Pokémon card bag with 6 cards inside.
- To celebrate moms at the Mommy & Me Mother's Day Retreat, the event started with a yoga session and a light brunch that included coffee, tea, pastries, fresh fruit, juice, and yogurt. After refreshments, families could paint their nails, make crafts, and participate in library activities. As a finale moms received a mini massage, and everyone went home with a gourmet cupcake. This event was amazing.



Community Outreach/Meetings

- Sherry Stanton joined Enrico Fermi School #17 for their Spring Expo and met many families while giving away information, books, and prizes!



Anecdotes/Other

- A patron was drafting a book on his laptop using google docs, but he did not know how to access it through the library's computer. Manju Sharma asked him to log in to his Gmail account first and then she showed him how to access his apps in the top right corner. He was happy that he could continue writing.
- A patron came to the library and asked how to access audiobooks on his phone. Jamie Ahmed suggested he apply for a library card first. Once he got his library card, Sharma helped him download the Libby and Hoopla apps. He wanted to test it out immediately, so he borrowed a book from Libby and started listening.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- The children learned how to make origami tulips in May. Some of the plants the children started from seeds survived being transplanted into the garden and hopefully, there will be vegetables to harvest by the end of June. The staff is not sure they will eat them.
- The biggest activity day for youth was Super Ultra Chalk Day. The patrons did their best to cover as much of the parking lot and sidewalk with pictures and words to inspire the Maplewood community.
- Safe to Be Smart made tacos. The teens and tweens learned how to grill the meat, cut the tomatoes, and put the whole thing together. The youth were proud and enjoyed eating their creations.



Anecdotes/Other

- An ESOL student from Somalia has been working on getting his driver's license and finally got it. He had started before the pandemic with staff members helping with his online tests and getting learning materials. It was a great achievement and the staff were thrilled to hear he passed.
- New Americans Librarian Brian DiNitto taught a grammar lesson through Zoom to two Afghani sisters. One sister was in Rochester with her nine-month-old baby on her lap and the other sister was on public transportation in Sweden using her phone and earbuds with a microphone to complete her part of the lesson. The sisters are competitive and push each other to make corrections in their pronunciation or grammar. Surprisingly the video and audio lag for each sister was negligible. A productive class!

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Rebecca Hudson participated in the new monthly satellite library at the Center for Youth. Several young people selected free books to take home and information was given about how to get a library card.
- Annette's Seed Bank: during May, the library gave away 196 flower and vegetable seed packets.

Anecdotes/Other

- Every Tuesday, a young patron has been coming into the library. He has two hyper-fixations: Jurassic Park and Star Wars. Hoople was able to find both Star Wars and Jurassic Park puzzles (100 pieces or less) for the kids' room which the young patron adored.
- A patron who had been living on the street and was very much in need of help stopped at the library. Mary Clare Scheg knew he was now in a better situation since he had moved into a "clean" apartment. Previously he chose to live outside because his old apartment was bug-infested. He stopped in to simply say thank you to the staff for all the support they had given him. His hair was cut, and his beard was trimmed – he looked like a different person. He told staff that he was interviewing for a dishwashing position. Scheg reminded him that he could visit the Social Security office and start the process to collect his retirement benefits. Hopefully, he will continue to adjust to his new life positively.

Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- George Carter and Kim Whittemore collaborated on a Second Avenue Learning program. In addition to all the work that Carter and Whittemore put into the program planning, Khajari Marshall-Hosier also assisted with running the event. Over 100 young patrons had a chance to test and play educational video games. We are thrilled to welcome Second Avenue Learning and the Game Changers program back to RPL!
- Jacob Bigelow has been holding game nights at Sully, setting up chess sets and cooperative games like Forbidden Island and Betrayal at House on the Hill. Cooperative gaming teaches teamwork and encourages winning through fair play. Teens appear to prefer cooperative games more than competitive ones and have requested Forbidden Island more than other competitive games like Settlers of Catan.
- Kathleen Blasi, the author of *Milo's Moonlight Mission*, visited Sully to share her book with some of our young patrons. They also made a tasty snack to go along with their story.



Anecdotes/Other

- There are many windows at Sully, and they let in a lot of natural sunlight that so many people enjoy. Keeping these windows clean is a bit of a challenge, and some of the higher windows are beyond our reach so extra help is needed. Many thanks to Mary Giancursio and Joan Lee for ensuring all the outside windows received some much-needed cleaning this month.
- A patron who has been using the Sully branch for many years was talking to Heeks-Heinlein. She was the third patron this month who shared with staff how Sully is a friendly place to visit. She shared her observations on our library and said many people feel comfortable coming here because they are treated with kindness and respect. She also said that she was having a bad day one time, and she came to Sully to just sit and calm down.
- Bigelow has been using the 3D printer to teach children and teens about computer programs and how machines communicate with each other. Children love the different things they can make and are constantly asking for something new and interesting from the 3D printer.

Staff Highlight

- Marie Turner has been working at the Sully Branch for many years as a cleaner. Turner works very hard to keep this busy library clean, comfortable, and welcoming to all who visit. One of the nice features Turner has added to Sully is indoor plants. Turner has added several plants to the public space, and she keeps them all looking vibrant and healthy. The plants make the library look even more comfortable and inviting.



Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- Sheilah Murphy collaborated with *Painting with a Twist* owner Susan Forster-DiMartino to hold a painting night for Phillis Wheatley library patrons. Patrons learned about different painting techniques and had a fun night out. (Priority 1-Education and Engagement: Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations).
- Murphy collaborated with Tove Phillips, an End-of-Life Doula in hosting a Death Café. The program was a smashing success with many of the attendees thanking Phillis Wheatley Library staff for housing the discussion. Future meetings were discussed for the fall/winter months.
- In celebration of Mother's Day, Alex Haehn held a card-making activity with the visiting children. They decorated cards for motherly figures in their life. The children told Haehn afterward that their moms and grandmas enjoyed the cards that they made.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Murphy went to the Episcopal Home on Mt. Hope Avenue to hold a monthly book club meeting. The group discussed *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell. The book was a flop for the group and generated discussion about what made it so popular with others. It was decided to be a non-fiction reading book club for the foreseeable future.

Anecdotes/Other

- The Phillis Wheatley Library children love therapy dogs. They all count down the days to when they will be able to see them again. They love reading to them and keeping track of how many books they read. Some of the children ask Haehn for books about dogs. It helps them to want to read more.

Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- Dan Hart, a teacher at East High School, brought his four classes of ninth-graders to the Winton Branch Library to work on their Children's Literature Project. Each student selected a grade-appropriate book, chose a theme in that book, and then created a bibliography of Children's material, poetry, music, movies, etc. to

complement that theme. Kathy Wolf, Children's Librarian, and Lauren DelGaizo, Teen Librarian offered a short presentation about the power of story and how a story can serve as a mirror into oneself or a window onto the world. They discussed the importance of a librarian's job in selecting materials that will suit these needs. Both students and librarians had a rewarding time. (Priority 1, 2, 3)

- The library hosted its first in-person author visit since COVID began. Local author Justin Murphy who wrote *Your Children are Very Greatly in Danger* spoke about the history of segregation and its local impact on the Rochester community and its effect on the Rochester City Schools. The author received positive feedback from the patrons that attended, and the book has been continually checked out.
- DelGaizo met with Taylor Ellis, owner and founder of The Secondhand Librarian, a prominent Rochester secondhand bookseller who operates through social media. Ellis and DelGaizo sat down and discussed the role the Winton Branch Library (Taylor's home branch) can play in collaborating with her on a book club for queer teens and tweens. This is still in the planning stages, but DelGaizo and Taylor discussed possible titles, methods of access, age ranges, locations including local business Luna Co-Op, and how to advertise. Winton will be considered a home base location for teens to check out books. (Priority 3)

Safe To Be Smart, Derrick Coley reporting

The Arnett site: STBS Library Assistant Shaina Louis reporting:

Ms. Louis kicked off the summer by hosting two programs. The first event was a vision board party, and the second was a Haitian history-themed book display. May was all about connecting and getting to know each other a little better. The teens were able to identify their passions and use their goal-setting skills. Louis found out the teens love Anime and they found out how much she loves plants.

The Phillis Wheatley site: STBS Library Assistant Michele Saccente reporting:

Saccente facilitated the following programs: Life Skills, Feelings & Emotions, Healthy Eating, and Internet Safety. She also hosted Art Days for youth to create an art piece or make a gift for someone special. The Teen Lounge program was held for teens to come chill, dance, chat, laugh, and enjoy a snack. Saccente also provided 20-minute, one-on-one practice job interview sessions to help teens with job searching.

The Maplewood site: Youth Services Assistant Stephanie Pitts reporting

Stephanie provided homework and computer assistance to teens, introduced teens to puzzle activities, and presented a taco-making program for life-skills training. The youth cut, chopped, and stirred various ingredients and completed 36 delicious healthy tacos which were rapidly consumed! Pitts reports that for some, this was their first time preparing a meal.

The Lincoln site: Youth Services Assistant Vera Haygood reporting:

In honor of "Mother's Day and Mental Health Awareness Month," our TeenSpot created a "grab n go" activity. They made a heat pack using rice and lavender which are commonly used to help reduce anxiety, stress, insomnia, depression, dementia, and pain. Haygood also facilitated tabletop games in the TeenSpot and provided Thursday Movies and snacks.

The Sully site: George Carter reporting:

STBS hosted Second Avenue Learning with their Senior Design & Content Consultant for a game testing event with children and teens. Carter, Sully branch staff, and Second Avenue workers had a festive and fun time gathering data from the many participants who were gaming. Food and refreshments were provided at the close of the large group program.

Teen Central site: John Hylton and Tierenny Davis reporting.

Staff encountered teens who are interested in designing logos for various entrepreneurial ideas. Hylton was able to share some of his graphic design knowledge and encouraged them toward colleges and universities that offer design curricula. The students were very appreciative of Hylton's help and were able to create some artistic logos. Hylton shares that the weekly sessions of learning ping pong and mentoring have continued and are productive and informative. Hylton navigates sensitive questions from the young men who say these weekly talks are important to them.

While talking to a teen, staff found out that he enjoyed photography but wasn't taking pictures or trying to advance his photography skills. STBS staff challenged this young man to take five pictures while in the library and bring them back. While he seemed somewhat uninterested, he quickly became enthusiastic and brought back the pictures. The staff was able to show him how to edit and enhance his pictures using the programs in the ImagineYOU lab.