



115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: August 24, 2022  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – August 2022

## **Action Items**

### **Accept Grant-In-Aid from Senator Samra Brouk (Uttaro)**

Senator Samra Brouk has provided a \$25,000 grant-in-aid to the RPL to support a visit by author and U.S. Ambassador for Young People’s Literature Jason Reynolds. Reynolds will visit Rochester on May 2, 2023, and will provide a lecture, interview, and book signing at East High School. The funds are part of a 3-part grant-in-aid to RPL and the Penfield and Pittsford libraries which will also host author visits in 2023. The \$25,000 to RPL will pay for the contractual costs of the visit.

Board Action Requested: Accept the grant-in-aid of \$25,000 from NYS Senator Samra Brouk to fund an author visit with Jason Reynolds.

### **Agreement with FFRPL to Host Jason Reynolds (Uttaro)**

We are recommending an agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL in which FFRPL will act as the fiscal sponsor for the author visit with Jason Reynolds and provide some additional support for all three author visits in MCLS; the three libraries involved are happy to have FFRPL as a partner in this exciting project. RPL will pay FFRPL \$25,000 to fund an agreement with Simon & Schuster to secure the visit by Reynolds in May 2023.

Board Action Requested: Approve agreement with FFRPL not to exceed \$25,000 for a visit by author Jason Reynolds.

### **Allocation of 2021-2022 Annual Campaign Proceeds (Harrison)**

\$298,062.27 was raised for the annual campaign from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Based on the RPL’s joint fundraising agreement with the Friends and Foundation of RPL, the proceeds of the annual campaign are to be divided evenly between the FFRPL and RPL, less any donor-restricted gifts, which translate to the following recommended allocation:

#### Distribution of net proceeds:

Rochester Public Library for books, materials, and programs	\$ 97,824.25
The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library	\$ 97,824.25
Campaign Direct Costs	\$ 42,906.77

#### Restricted gifts and additional library allocation:

Donor Restricted funds for Library use	\$ 40,818.00
Restricted gifts to endowment funds	\$ 800.00
Funds for donor recognition event(s)	\$ 1,589.00
Gifts designated for special projects	\$ 16,300.00

**Total** **\$ 298,062.27**

Board Action Requested: Approval of the proposed 2021 – 2022 annual campaign earnings allocation as described.

**NYSED Grant Approvals (Harrison)**

The RPL will submit two grant applications as part of the annual NYSED Library Construction grant process, as follows:

Lincoln Library Parking Lot: The Library and City Real Estate have collaborated to purchase a portion of a parcel on Joseph Avenue, as well as assume a City-owned vacant lot on Avenue D, to expand the parking for the Lincoln Branch. The combined parcels are in the process of re-subdivision and the design for an expanded lot was completed by Lu Engineers in early 2022. The project includes the demolition/removal of the partial existing lot and new drainage. The parking lot will include new curb cuts, catch basins, railings, asphalt paving, striping, and sealing as well as four (4) new energy-efficient utility light poles. Additional landscaping and bicycle parking will be included for the corner of the lot. Five of the planned 29 spaces will be designated for the tenants of 871-875 Avenue D per the parcel transfer. The estimated cost for the project is \$241,604 and we are requesting a 90% NYSED construction award with up to \$24,200 in cash capital from Branch facilities as a match.

Rundel Library Air Quality Improvements: This project is the result of recommendations from a 2020 NYSEDA Flex-Tech study. The NYSEDA report recommendations seek to address the lack of consistent, treated outdoor air distributed throughout the Rundel building. The focus of the project will be providing outside air to the portions of the building that are occupied by staff members as well as replacing and expanding access to the original air handling unit. The project will replace current filters in the penthouse air handling unit and the fan coil units serving the interconnecting tunnel between Central buildings with a high-efficiency filter. Additional air handlers will be installed to serve spaces on Rundel lower and upper stacks, 2nd and 3rd floors. These units would provide 100% outside air and exhaust, and include energy recovery wheels, chilled water (for cooling), and steam heating.

LaBella Associates has begun design based on their original study and cost estimates, which is \$1,103,900. A \$500,000 cash capital match is allocated in the 2023-24 Capital Improvement Program, with the balance requested from the grant award. As the project costs for HVAC equipment are consistently fluctuating, when final bid pricing is established overages or additional recommended work scope may be requested to be appropriated from the Library Fund Balance.

Board Action Requested: Approve grant applications and acceptance of funds up to \$821,350 from the NYSED Division of Library Development for the construction projects described.

**Tutoring Agreement—Parrish (Lewis)**

The RPL recommends the continuation of Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) tutoring and afterschool tutoring with current instructor Melissa Parrish. Ms. Parrish will provide virtual and in-person tutoring at the Maplewood Community Library.

The weekly schedule for classroom tutoring is established by Branch Administration, the Branch Site Supervisor, and the instructor. Ms. Parrish will be paid at a rate of \$29 per hour for a maximum of 210 hours, not to exceed \$6,090. Funding is allocated from FY23 Branch operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with Melissa Parrish, for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$6,090 through June 30, 2023.

**Report & Discussion Items**

*RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting*

Social Media

June & July 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	1719	1819	870	97	3	163	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	18	9	71	-	48	73	13
Engagements	107	121	3341	100	299	905	69
Check-In/ Mentions	35	56	-	-	-	28	-
Post Reach	6299	6950	32812	2484	-	5979	48535
Video/Story Views	-	-	359	-	-	229	1469
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	12	-	-	31	-

**Central Library Updates**

*Jennifer Smathers reporting*

**Patron Services, Cynthia Dana Reporting**

Programs

The first play date for Summer of Play was held on the South Terrace. Cynthia Dana, Lynette Alley, Jonathan Hammond, and Margaret Paige interacted with many patrons while blowing bubbles, hula hooping, and playing ladder ball. There were also several creative chalk drawings by staff and patrons. A group of University of Rochester students on a bike ride stopped to try their hand at bubbles, picked up books, and went inside the library while staff watched their bikes. It was their first time inside. A father came by with his two sons and said they only had a few minutes. The boys wanted to try everything, and they ended up staying for quite a while.



Many folks stopped by just to ask questions about the library services; the staff was prepared with brochures and calendars.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Cynthia Dana was contacted by Don Armstrong, Cancer Support Community (formerly Gilda's Club) who was interested in doing a table at the Central Library to inform the community of the services they offer both patients and their caregivers. It was decided that the schedule will be two Mondays per month. The first visit was very successful. The Monroe County Department of Health will also table on the same day, giving each other more opportunities to draw patrons to their tables.
- Dana, along with Bob Scheffel, hosted a group of veterans for a tour of both buildings. There was a lot of interest in the programs we offer and the services we provide; everyone picked up an August program calendar. Dana provided further information that was requested via email. One gentleman stayed to enjoy the concert in the garden. They were very pleased to know about the Foodlink Café as well, and the many community partners we have.

#### **Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting**

##### Programs

- Create Fabulous Florals in Pastel--Pastel is a medium many do not feel comfortable working with, but local artist Sara Blake alleviated the fear of this diverse art medium by showing students the effects that can be achieved by pastels depending on how they are held. She showed students how to get effects by working vertically, using the tip like a pencil and how to use hard and soft pastels. Students also learned blending and layering and mixing techniques. Patrons worked with their pastels and created a lovely floral drawing of sunflowers.
- The monthly writer's support group, "Words in Progress," facilitated by author Jennifer Case, had its last meeting before taking a summer break. Many "Words in Progress" participants have been members of this group for years; a strong bond has formed among these writers, who encourage and educate each other. Here are some of their comments:



*"I am so grateful for the Zoom opportunity b/c of my disability. This writing program has carried me through some of the hardest and most painful days of my life. The nature of my disability happened because of school violence. This program helped me to find my voice again. I have been a participant for at least five years. I am so grateful."*

*"I LOVE the Words in Progress class. Being able to take part in this class allows me to be in contact with other writers, learn different writing techniques, explore different genres of writing, gives me story ideas (through writing prompts) and it keeps me writing. I do hope the library will continue to offer this class and other writing classes, including playwrighting classes."*

- Librarian Nanci Nugent is a doll maker and has taught several classes at Central making dolls. These dolls were a take-and-make kit put together by Nugent. She gave instructions on how to make these vibrant little folk dolls and cut the numerous pieces of felt, ribbon, and cloth for students. Patrons were given cloth and felt to make sleeping bags for these little ones and a tent for them to go camping. Patrons loved it!



***Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting***

Statistics

June & July

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 14 in person, 2 by Zoom, 59 by email, 0 by mail, and 13 by phone.

Webpage views: 146

3D Printer: 4

Hours of in-depth market/IP research: 120

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 15

Tracy Jong appointments: 10.5 hours, 16 individuals served

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: 39 Page Views; Value \$92,900

IBISWorld: 195 Page Views; Value \$74,595

InnovationQ: 18 Logins; 238 Searches

PitchBook: 38 Logins

Statista: 177 Visits; 56 Downloads

Programs

Jennifer Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh taught at the Rochester chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law (ROC NRML). It was a seminar bringing industry experts and policymakers across the state together to discuss brand development and intellectual property surrounding cannabis. After speaking at the ROC NRML cannabis conference, an attendee said to Byrnes *"You know more than my lawyer, and I paid him \$15K."*

***Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting***

Programs

- Librarian Katie Powell and Literacy Aide Taylor Coonelly resumed toddler storytime sessions at Highland Park for the summer. Sessions focus primarily on songs, rhymes, and movement to encourage parents to Talk, Read, and Sing with their children every day. Library staff offers practical tips to prompt parents to extend learning at home.



- Coonelly is hosting a weekly Let's Play in the Secret Room every Thursday morning. Each week a new play theme is chosen, focusing on social-emotional learning and hands-on play. One of the favorites was a play time inspired by the Rochester Public Market.
- Bubble Mania kicked off the summer reading program series. Visiting Artist Doug Rougeux delighted the crowd with all the different bubble creations from the caterpillar to the ice cream cone.
- Summer Camp groups have visited the Children's Center through July. We have had visits from Friendship Children's Center, VOA Childcare, TLC Adventures in Learning, Sharing & Caring, and Horizons Warner. Children's Center staff created a different program for each scheduled group visit, this was in addition to the regular public programming.
- For the Horizons visit, children learned about the library, read stories, learned about Ocean garbage, made jellyfish using items that are often found in the ocean, had lunch, and watched a movie. The older students were able to play video games, explore music, and learn about the imagineYOU lab. One young student told us that he had so much fun he wanted to have his birthday party here.
- It's been several years since we have been able to welcome groups, it feels great to get back to normal!



#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Burton facilitated meetings for the Talking is Teaching work group, Kinder Camp planning team, and an Americorps VISTA Urban Fellow with Cornell Cooperative Extension who will offer free Art in Nature programs this summer at Central. She also participated in a meeting with Healthi Kids, local author Leslie Youngblood, Rochester Children's Book Festival directors, and Council member Willie Lightfoot. Lightfoot is interested in helping relaunch the Storytime with Style program. He will work with Burton to train salon and barbershop staff on the importance of reading with children and how they can utilize Talking is Teaching materials and build relations with the Rochester Public Library.
- Burton attended the Rochester City School District Pre-K registration event at Freddie Thomas School. Families came to sign their children up for the Pre-K program offerings and learn about community resources. It was a great place to reconnect with other community partners and reignite partnerships. As a result, we have been invited to Clifford Avenue and Jefferson Avenue Head Start sites for regular visits.

- Children's Center staff put together bags for ABC Head Start and School #10 End of Year events. The bags contained Talking is Teaching information, stickers, a book, and the RPL summer reading program guide. Burton, Coonelly, and Margarita Chaves from Central; along with Nancy Cholewa and Bruce Tehan from Arnett teamed up to be sure all requests were met.
- Burton and Powell attend the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington D.C. Some of the workshop ideas they hope to utilize include outreach and bookmobile services, sensory services, amplifying youth voices, 1000 Black Girls book club, sharing early literacy with families in the NICU, nature challenges, and supporting new parents.

### ***Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting***

#### Statistics

June & July

Curbside Pickup Appointments - 12

New Borrowers - 332

RRLC Access Cards Issued - 7

Notarial Acts – 268

#### Anecdotes/Other

- A woman in Rome, Italy recently applied for an Out of County card. She sent the following e-mail:  
*"I can't begin to express how grateful I am for this. My local library doesn't have an eBook lending system, so I was resigned to having very limited options - until I discovered that your library offers a non-resident card!! I have an enormous catalog at my disposal now, an endless wish list to work my way through, without fearing for my bills. Do you realize how great the opportunity you provide is? I feel not enough people know about this (at least in my country) and I will do my best to let everyone know. Thank you endlessly from a happy happy reader. Have a great day, please know how important your work is in this troubled world."*
- Staff from the Naples Library brought a group of teens to see the Central Library and the Art of the Book exhibit. The group explored both buildings and stopped at the Booksale by the Circulation Desk. The supervisor told Cunningham that the teens were very impressed with the library. After they left to explore the second floor, Cunningham had a conversation with another patron who mentioned that she was born and raised in Naples. Cunningham told her about the teen group, and she went to find them and introduce herself.
- Jim Montione was working at the Information Desk when he got what might be the greatest reference question ever: a patron called and asked if Montione could name some famous pigs. Montione looked online and found a list of famous pigs. Alas, there was one glaring omission: what kind of list of famous pigs doesn't include Arnold Ziffel from Green Acres?

### ***Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting***

The Local History & Genealogy Division lost two long-time partners and supporters this summer. Evelyn Bailey, a historian and archivist for the Out Alliance, and founder of Shoulders to Stand On passed away on July 13 from pancreatic cancer. Ridarsky submitted a separate report on the status of the transfer of the Shoulders to Stand On program to the library and the Shoulders to Stand On endowed fund that Bailey established at the Friends & Foundation.

Robert Becker died July 17 after a long battle with esophageal cancer. Becker's generous donations funded the Walter F. Becker Digital History Center, named for his father. Bob Becker was an avid genealogist, who wrote several family histories and always touted our division's resources. He was the 2014 recipient of the FFRPL's 2014 Harold Hacker Library Lifetime Achievement Award.

With the elimination of fees for services effective July 1, the Local History & Genealogy Division has witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of requests for Life Records (21), Newspaper Index orders (15), Rochester Images orders (16), compared to the number of requests received in July 2021 (Life Records: 6; Newspaper Index orders: 5; Rochester Images order: 2). It is too soon to tell whether this increase reflects a previous demand that was stifled by the fees or a temporary rush that will ease over time. The division will continue to monitor and report on patron demand for these services.

### Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- In June, Genealogy Specialist Leah Green hosted the third program in the new genealogy series, Heritage Tales: A Monthly Genealogy Program. The guest speaker was Gerald Bunton, who shared his expertise in tracing African American genealogy and tips for searching for ancestors who were enslaved. This was the final installment of the Spring 2022 program series, which was held in person in the Local History & Genealogy Division, allowing attendees to linger afterward and explore the division's resources. The series will resume in September 2022.
- Three June Dialogues in Depth programs explored Rochester's response to the AIDS epidemic: a tour of the AIDS Remembrance Garden in Highland Park, a talk on Inequities in AIDS Research and Health Care, and a talk on Addressing AIDS' Outsized Effect on Marginalized Communities. The AIDS Remembrance Garden tour was featured in the June 3 NBN6 e-newsletter from Neighbors Building Neighborhoods: <https://nbn6.files.wordpress.com/2022/06/news-6-3-22.pdf>.
- The June installment of Rochester's Rich History series featured a presentation by dann j. broyld entitled "Borderland Blacks: Two Cities in the American-Canadian Niagara Region During the Final Decades of Slavery," exploring the transnational identities of Black inhabitants of the towns of Rochester, New York, and St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Based on broyld's recently published book on this topic, the talk was followed by a meet-and-greet and book signing with the author.
- Finn presented "From Flour to Flower: How Rochester Got Its Nicknames" to a group of second graders that visited the division from Derech HaTorah of Rochester school (K-8).

### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Michelle Finn joined Patty Uttaro for an interview with Brian Sharp (WXXI) about the newly reopened Rundel North Terrace and the exciting programs and educational experiences planned for it.
- Dan Cody led a walking tour of the Downtown Heritage Trail for the City of Rochester's "Flower City Feeling Good" summer series.
- Christine Ridarsky gave presentations on the history of the Swillburg neighborhood to two groups of Allendale Columbia School middle school students at Otto Henderberg Park.
- Ridarsky and Brandon Fess met with Kate Philipson from Documentary Heritage Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) to begin the Archival Needs assessment for Local History & Genealogy. This project, expected to extend across the summer and fall of





2022, will allow Local History & Genealogy to identify weaknesses in its archival program and develop solutions to them. Fess completed a pre-assessment document for Philipson that will be used in the formal needs assessment later in the summer.

- Ridarsky and Finn met with a team from Second Avenue Learning, an interactive media company that specializes in educational gaming, to discuss ideas for developing Augmented Reality (AR) experience(s) on the newly renovated North Terrace of the Rundel Memorial Building. Ridarsky subsequently applied to Humanities New York for a \$1,500 Vision Grant to support the development of technical specifications that will allow the development of the AR experience(s) to move forward. A decision on funding is expected in September.

#### Special Collections

- Access to ArchivesSpace was restored in early July, allowing Fess to accession a substantial amount of the backlog of recently acquired material. He completed six accession records in July, including accruals to the John Krist Faded Flags Manuscript (hand-lettered book series on New York casualties at Gettysburg), the Grenell Family Papers (Rochester grocers of the Civil War era), and the Concert Programs Collection (materials formerly held in the Pamphlet File that have been re-described as an artificial collection).
- 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 continued processing the concert program collection.

#### Digital Projects

Fess completed work with Ryan Hughes of the Rochester Regional Library Council to upload Rochester Images metadata to the New York Heritage website. In June, the final collections that can be mounted at this time – Municipal Archives Early and Modern, and the Maps collection – were completed. These three collections are now fully accessible through NY Heritage: <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/rochester-public-library>.

#### *Rochester Voices*

Intern Jordyn Bagley (Nazareth College) continued summarizing and uploading oral history interviews for the Latino Oral Histories collection on Rochester Voices: <http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/latino-oral-histories/>.

#### ***Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting***

#### Programs

- Two film programs were held. First Friday Films showed “King Richard” and See It First Matinee showed “The Witches.”
- The “Music in the Garden” series presented 3 concerts, very well attended.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- We received the following email from a patron:  
*“I wanted to send a quick thank you note for creating a pride month display in the Reynolds Media Center. It has been a difficult year for LGBT folks as book bans and laws have targeted LGBT people; transgender youth in particular. Seeing this display meant a lot to me because it shows that all people are welcome at the Central Library Branch.”*
- RMC continues to curate the Mi-Fi collection. We added a story to our webpage to be sure patrons are aware of this service. As of this writing, we have approximately 275 circulating Mi-Fi units and 35 holds in the system. Approximately 72% of Mi-Fi circulations have been through holds! Patrons are always

expressing how the Mi-Fi loans help them access internet that they cannot afford on their own. Recently, a patron wanted us to know that the Mi-Fi loan is helping her take care of her ailing father. She needs internet access and without Mi-Fi access, she would have less money to spend on her father's care.

### ***Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting***

#### Programs

- Canning Jams & Jellies 101 with Strawberries food preservation Zoom class was presented by Michele Connors and Andrea Lista from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. Growing Blueberries in the Home Garden Zoom program was presented by Jarmila Haseler, also from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. These gardening classes continue to be very popular.
- Healthy Living Series – these programs are presented by Sparkle Wells, Health Project Coordinator from the Center for Community Health & Prevention, University of Rochester Medical Center. There were four programs in June. The final two sessions of this series were presented in July; while attendance has been low, they may consider another set of these very worthwhile sessions virtually using Zoom or as a Saturday afternoon program series in early 2023 since January is a popular time for people making health goals after the fall/winter holidays.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Pellegrino attended a meeting of the Community-Driven Cancer Research Education Workgroup (this is part of the Wilmot Cancer Community Action Council). Further discussion on creating videos in Spanish and ASL regarding clinical trials.
- Lily Anthony worked with patrons from organizations looking for such grants as community food cupboards, church renovations, neighborhood cleanup, and arts and culture.
- LROC had 40+ visitors in June; about 6 of these were for LawNY; LROC missed several days due to various issues. In July, LROC had 40+ visitors; about 12 of these were for LawNY. Once again, LROC missed several days due to various issues and has decided at this point to discontinue their grant-funded Wednesdays at least through the end of summer.
- In July, Pellegrino met with a new student for the CHIC (Community Health Improvement Course) Distinction in Health program through the University of Rochester Medical Center. Ian Brodka will be working toward creating a stronger outreach program here at the library, with the idea of having a more regular schedule of students available for health checkups, etc. through Health Central.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Renee Kendrot was approached by a patron who needed some assistance with a situation regarding his rent payment. The patron purchased a money order in the amount of his rent payment and dropped it in the rental mail slot at his apartment's rental office. He was notified by the manager at the rental office that she did not receive his payment and was told he would be evicted. The patron requested help in proving his payment. The patron showed Kendrot his Western Union receipt from the money order that he purchased for his rental payment amount which included how to request a refund. Kendrot and Pellegrino went to the Western Union site for more information. Upon learning there was an online refund option, Kendrot escorted the patron to Tech Services, where Ron Freitag was successful in assisting this patron. The patron stopped to thank Kendrot and tell her all was well.
- Flo Morris has been working with a patron on and off since October 2021, beginning on Reference Chat. He requested various titles and shared that he was interested in reading books on aviation relating to World War II and other wars. Morris has continued this relationship through email. Here is the latest email message to Morris:

*"I'm touching base with you to find out if any new books have come your way that are aeronautic in feel, non-fiction, written by men that might be a good read for me? I've enjoyed the last two books you recommended and sent to the Pittsford Library for me to pick up. I'm 97 years young and enjoy reading in my downtime. Again, your recommendations are appreciated."*

- Books continue to be weeded in the Dewey Decimal 305s (social groups) and a large project to weed History materials continues, which will allow shifting in the public stacks area for easier access.

### **Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting**

The daily number of questions recorded by the Technology Center in June increased by nearly 25% over the number recorded in May, and the daily computer sessions increased by 15%.

### Anecdotes/Other

- A patron with whom staff worked about six months ago came in again and radiated energy and vitality. When they spoke to him months ago, he referenced his time in the penal system and the phrase *"I have a lot of time to make up"* was imprinted on their memories. This time they were laminating his temporary driver's license. He has a second job as the first one wasn't paying him enough. *"This one is better, and they pay me what I'm worth."* He has a credit card now too. He knew he'd need a good credit score and committed himself to learn about credit card scams so he could keep a good credit score. He has a new and bigger apartment. His landlord even gave him a discount to keep him as a tenant. *"And I have a car. It doesn't seem real...yeah, I'm really an adult. And it's way easier than I thought. I'm just doing it. No distractions."* As he packed up to leave, he said *"I will come back later this week to see Pedro and everyone else. I see one of the security guards that kept an eye out for me and still checks on me whenever I come in. I love this place. You all have been with me from the beginning. It's been about 18 months, and this is where I started. And this fall, college."* The staff couldn't be happier to help him on his next adventure.
- The fact that so many of our patrons rely on the library for access to the basic technologies needed to find work and housing for themselves and their families is not lost on the Technology Center staff. Every day they come to work with a clear sense of mission and commitment. Osborne would like to take a moment to publicly recognize them for the work they have done since the Technology Center opened almost two years ago. Jeanne Slocombe, Ron Freitag, Pedro Nunez, Judy Schewe, and Ryan Kovar are all members of this fantastic team. Each of them has specific strengths and abilities that they bring to Technology Center. This is a very challenging environment, but they are all committed to delivering the highest quality service they can. Whether it's helping with job searches, resume writing, or getting pay stubs printed from a cell phone, this team has consistently gone above and beyond to meet our patrons' needs. Despite the challenges of working in an environment that can be very difficult, they are true professionals.
- In July they had two patrons come back to update staff on their progress. One of them laid out his tale of repeated trips to the library for help applying for work. He ran down the list of the staff he had worked with, jabbing his finger in the air, and pointing to each in turn, "You and her and that guy in the morning, I guess everybody here... I just wanted you and everyone else to know that I finally did get that job at the hospital." He said the very early hours have taken some getting used to. He stated that he wants to back into the building inspection trade. "I was good at it. I could walk into a construction site and could see a code violation, tell them to fix it and things got fixed. Nobody cut corners." With the first hint of a smile, he said, "I guess I miss that." He said he'll be back in a couple of weeks to start looking for ways to get back into that line of work. "You guys down here can help me with that?" After being assured we'd do our best he gave a quick nod and he left.

**Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting**

Programs

The Glowforge made Father's Day gifts, a plaque for Chevo Studios, custom jewelry made by Queen, their 3rd-grade Digies winner, and many anime prints.



The new E-sports equipment – desks, chairs, PCs, and monitors - arrived. By July, the six-person E-sports setup was completed. In addition to the Alienware Aurora R13 PCs, they added the three R14s with liquid cooling, RTX 3080, and see-through side panels. Below is a picture of one of their registered E-sports teens using MetaHuman. The kids are already collecting wins on the new PCs. They currently have 14 kids registered for the E-sports team, which will start in September.



- Digital Art – The drawing tablet continued to get a lot of use this month. One extremely detailed logo was made as well as one drawing that will be added to the ceiling.

- Music Studio – A family did their first podcast in the studio this month. They also signed up for the Gale Udeemy classes to learn more about music production.
- The D4G violence prevention program started in the music studio in July. The teens are learning all about music and expression in a therapeutic atmosphere.
- Girls Who Code: Attendees can participate online or in person. Those learning online will go at their own pace and are invited weekly to Teen Central to get assistance with the lessons and share their progress with other registered participants. Participants are making such good progress, that GWC sent them free T-shirts, notebooks, and stickers.
- Craft 'n' Chat: Sewing basics were offered to teens. This includes things like hemming pants and sewing on buttons. In July, they made beaded bracelets.
- Teen Book Talk: Books discussed included *When You Look Like Us* by Pamela Harris and *Being Jazz: My Life as a (Transgender) Teen* by Jazz Jennings. They offered two sessions in July. Titles discussed were: *The Girl from the Sea* by Ostertag and *The Disability Experience: Working toward Belonging* by Leavitt.
- The Summer Reading program started with a great response from teens. Through July, many teens visited Teen Central and borrowed books along with their reading logs. They have lots of entries in their ballot box.
- Teen Dance Fitness: Faezah Jahanshiri enthusiastically taught yoga and belly-dancing classes. Participants were able to wear the adorned fitted hip belt while practicing.
- Teen Cooking Experience: Teens who participated in the cooking program said they had a lot of fun chopping vegetables and making chicken salad and pizza from scratch. They practiced safe food handling by disinfecting all surfaces and ensuring participants had multiple pairs of gloves. They also discussed the nutritional values of the ingredients, the prices of the grocery items, and safe food storage.



#### Anecdotes/Other

- AIMM – The Adolescents Inspiring through Multi-Media group started their summer program at the library this month. Their student-made website is below for behind-the-scenes media and information. <https://express.adobe.com/page/ggl6yXvHgDhe4/>
- Silas Alvarez is Teen Central's Summer of Opportunity recruit. He has assisted with book displays and book reviews. He is interested in collection development and enjoys working at the Circulation Desk doing routing tasks. He has an awesome personality and easy-going attitude that makes him a wonderful candidate to join our library family permanently in the future. His professional goal is to be a school superintendent; he is getting valuable information from the teens about what they like and dislike about school.
- During a visit from the MCC Liberty Partnerships group, STBS staff John Hylton met two teen brothers who were interested in art and had many designs to share. They were interested in developing t-shirts and creating a comic series using characters they created.



## **Community Library Updates**

**Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting**

Branch Administration staff worked hard during June & July to finalize the arrangement to close Lincoln and re-locate limited services in two R-Centers. Site visits were made and many meetings were had with R-Center and library staff to find the best location for critical services while the branch is closed for renovations.

Effective July 1, direct supervision of the Safe To be Smart staff transferred from Derrick Coley to the Branch Managers and the Supervisor of Teen Central. The activity of the STBS staff will now be incorporated into the Teen Central and Branch reports. Derrick Coley will continue to provide staff development and mentoring to the STBS staff and will work directly with administrative staff on special projects.

All branches prepared for and launched summer programs, which have been very successful this year.

### **Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting**

#### Programs

- Arnett welcomed local author and Rochester native Justin Murphy. Mr. Murphy came to discuss his book *Your Children Are Very Greatly In Danger* which explores racial segregation in Rochester's school system. He highlighted the importance of his book and how the reader should take heed of the advice that he is offering based on historical facts. More information regarding Justin Murphy and his book can be found at <https://justinmurphywriter.com/>.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings

- Outreach and meetings consisted of numerous school visits, farmers' market visits, a visit to a local festival, participation in a parade, and a meeting regarding a community garden/play space. Books By Bike was used at some of these events. Cholewa, Bruce Wilbur, Branch Administration librarian April McCloud, and Bruce Tehan were the staff who participated in the various events.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Bruce Tehan on Books By Bike is a frequent sight on the streets of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward as he brings free books to various community events. He was recently interviewed about Books By Bike in the State University of New York Empire State College's publication *Connections*: <https://www.esc.edu/connections/>.



***Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting***

Programs

- The first Charlotte Produce Distribution program helped to provide produce to 25 different families and the second distribution was just as successful



Anecdotes/Other

- A patron suffered two major strokes over the last few years leaving her with memory and brain functioning issues. These strokes and the pandemic kept her from visiting the library. She came in this month to renew her card and get help setting up a new laptop. She said she was “driving her family nuts” with all the assistance she’d been needing but knew that the library would be there for her. Heather Sessler spent the better part of an hour helping the patron become accustomed to her new computer. She was a pleasure to have in the branch and will hopefully return soon.
- A patron visits Charlotte most days and knows all the staff (and many other regular patrons) by name. He has been unemployed for way too long and jumping through hoops on his way back into the workforce. He has become quite the expert scanner and fax machine operator these last several months. He was using a computer to research interview techniques in preparation for an interview with Kodak the following day. He returned to Charlotte with the wonderful news that he was offered the position!
- A patron retired several years ago. After three years in Rochester, she is looking for a part-time job assisting seniors. Her computer skills are limited, and she only had an old paper resume. She made an appointment with Heather Sessler for help creating an updated resume and learning how to use indeed.com to search for positions. They spent nearly two hours together updating the resume and applying for jobs (including one with the city!). As she was leaving, she said it was the most fun she’d ever had at the library.

***Frederick Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting***

Programs

- Digital Media Literacy for Kids was an interactive workshop about media and digital literacy. Participants learned what questions to ask when checking if a source is credible and what it means to be a digitally literate citizen. (Education & Engagement)
- Oceans of Wonder: Gytaku explored the traditional method of printing fish for fishermen to record their catches, which became an art form of its own. Participants tried their hand at fish printing with model fish and colorful paints. Provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension Monroe County 4-H. (Education & Engagement)

Anecdotes/Other

- A regular three-year-old patron has become good friends with the staff. She and her family visit the library almost every day. One day this month, she brought her stuffed Elmo to visit the library with her. Her mom said she told her to leave Elmo at home, so he didn’t get dirty. She replied, “I want to show him to my girls!” We are honored to be a part of the girl squad and happy to be a part of this family’s life.

***Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting***

Programs

Liz Kurz-Michel hosted a Bad Art Night. The kids were very excited about coming by and expressed a lot of interest in making more trips out to the library through the summer. Hopefully, in future art programs, there will be pieces left to display and decorate the teen space in the library.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Matt Seidel participated in a Juneteenth event and gave out free toys and books to community members.
- The Toy Library was included in a piece in the June issue of The Toy Book magazine. The article focused specifically on several Toy Libraries and included quotations from Seidel as well as several great photographs of the Toy Library.
- As part of a weekly event lasting throughout the summer, Jasmine Santiago and Seidel alternated visiting the El Camino summer camp organized by Ibero on Wednesday afternoons in July, offering games and free toys to neighborhood kids.
- Branch Manager Sarah Lehman attended a grand opening event at the new Ibero Community Center on Clifford Ave and was able to give out many Spanish language books to the families and children that also attended.

Anecdotes/Other

STBS staff Vera Haygood helped young patrons celebrate African American Music Month, Juneteenth, and Pride. Vera connected activities to the celebrations. When Teens inquired, “What is Juneteenth?” they were presented with a summary of the origin and a Juneteenth bracelet. Teens were given information about African American Music Month with Vera offering a viewing of the movies Respect and Krush Groove. Vera also provided a Movie Thursday for PRIDE featuring Bend it Like Beckham and Burning Paris. Vera shares this story: “A teen who I hadn’t seen since before covid came in and asked for words to inspire. He said, Ms. Vee, I’m going to JobCorps, and I need something I can put on my wall or at least see every day to remind me of self-control. I received an award for the most patient student, but I need more.” Vera printed him out some words to inspire. He hugged her and said, “I’ll be back to show you how well I’m doing, thank you for your kindness.”

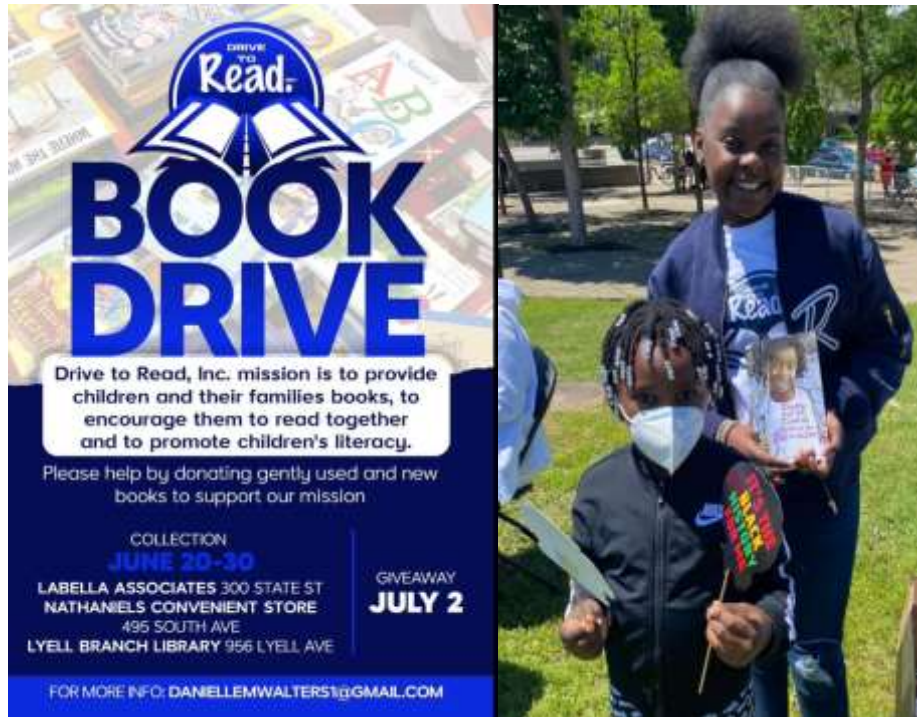
***Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco reporting***

Programs

- Lyell Library loves celebrating birthdays by giving away a free book as well cool birthday swag!
- For Summer Reading Kick-Off, Lyell had the pleasure of serving snow cones from the black business owner Mr. Blue of Snowie of WNY. Participants also played giant games and created summer art. Lyell staff registered children for summer reading, passed out reading logs, and enjoyed surfer nachos.
- We had the opportunity to host PlayRocs on one of the hottest days of the summer. Patrons that signed up and participated had a wonderful time. Activities were offered such as adult yoga, giant yard games, board games, obstacle courses, free books, healthy treats, and other games and prizes. As a bonus, we also turned on the sprinkler to keep our families cool.

Anecdotes, Community Meetings, and Outreach

- Sherry Stanton visited five classrooms at #54 school to talk about Summer Reading and public libraries. Stanton presented to about 90 staff and students.
- Lyell Branch served as a drop-off location for Drive to Read book drive with Danielle Kiner. Her daughter J.Marie has appeared in library publications for the summer reading campaign Libraries Rock.



**Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting**

Programs

- Play-Doh day turned into a Pokemon challenge with many different Play-Doh Pokemon created. The following week the children created flags for Flag Day. They made flags for countries that their families were from, and new flags were made to represent places like the library or the neighborhood. The walls are covered in the children's creations.
- Writers and Books held a SummerWrite graphic novel writing workshop for a week at the Maplewood Library. There was eleven very enthusiastic youth who attended. This event brought a lot of new faces to the library. Hopefully, these newcomers will become regular patrons.
- There was a visit to Rochester Fire Department Station 10. Seventeen children went to see the fire station, meet the firefighters, and explore the gear and trucks. They were very engaged and had tons of great questions for the firefighters.
- There were two of three programs that taught about Korean culture. In the first class, the speaker taught the Korean alphabet, how to spell one's name in Korean, the origin of the Korean language, and a general overview of the country. In the second class, they learned how to properly greet different people, introduce themselves, express appreciation, and say goodbye. There was an overview of the different types of entertainment and cultural heritage. There were snacks too!

Anecdotes/Other

- A patron contacted the staff about English instruction for a young deaf Moroccan woman living in Rochester. The young





woman knows ASL, and Arabic to the 5th-grade level, but not English. Staff found her a deaf volunteer to work with her on her English skills. The volunteer brought her to the library to gather basic books of her interest which was the first time the young woman ever visited a library, and she was very excited.

- Library staff helped a woman change the settings on her phone. Her phone was mostly inoperable due to the “TalkBack” feature for low-vision individuals being activated by her toddler. Staff worked with her and in about three minutes had that feature turned off on her phone.
- Library staff helped a patron use Zoom for a job interview on her phone. She started the interview at home but had technical trouble. She told the interviewer she was going to the library for help. The library staff got her back into the interview without the technical issues. The patron got the job!
- A young patron came into the library for the first time and spoke to STBS staff Stephanie Pitts. She told him about the Summer Of Opportunity Program through the City, and he said he started the process but needed to turn in some more paperwork. They continued talking and Pitts learned he had all his information with him and was ready to complete his task of submitting all documentation. The student also applied for a job at KFC. The next day he notifies Pitts he had an interview with KFC and received a call from SOOP with placement for the summer. He showed a lot of excitement!

### ***Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting***

#### Programs

Matt Hoople established a retro gaming station by setting up an old TV connected to a SEGA Genesis console with controllers kept behind the desk. Kids can request the controllers and play.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Hoople met with St. Paul Daycare’s director to increase the number of visits from once a month to once every other week. In addition to reading to their 3- and 4-year-old classes, Hoople will also read to their 2-year-old class.

### ***Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting***

#### Programs

- RocDogs has begun visits to the library. Miss Linda brought her dog Sparkle to read with the children. One of the children wanted to work on a Sudoku puzzle with Sparkle and Miss Linda helped them fill out the puzzle together. *(Priority 1: Education & Engagement - Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations).*
- Takeaway Craft: Sheilah Murphy held a watering can and succulent takeaway craft for adults. Patrons painted the watering cans and were provided with educational materials on proper succulent care. *(Priority 1: Education & Engagement - Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations).*
- STBS Michele Saccente helped three teens complete online job applications and did role-play interviews with them. The teens want to work and want the prospective employer to come knocking on their door. As part of the job readiness, Saccente worked with them on how to follow up on online applications with prospective employers and to even go in to introduce themselves.





## **RPL Board Director's Report – August 2022 (Continued)**

- Southwest Area Association (SWAN) summer camp has been coming to the library as part of their camp programming. Alexandra Haehn and the Summer of Opportunity Literacy Aides assist the children with art and science projects as well as finding books. They have signed up for summer reading and are enjoying participating in the program. *This correlates with Priority One, Promote Learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse population.*

### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Book Club: Murphy went to the Episcopal Home on Mt. Hope Ave to hold a monthly book club meeting. *(Priority 2: Sustainability & Resources - Create and maintain essential library relationships, demonstrate the value of our libraries to our communities).*
- Haehn took the Book Bike out to the James Dobson Apartments. She met the new activities coordinator there, handed out books, and signed children up for the summer reading program.
- Murphy took part in the Corn Hill Neighborhood Association's Gazebo Concert series. The Corn Hill Neighbors are asking area non-profits to speak at these events, letting people know what the organization can do for the community. They also fundraise for the non-profit and will match up to \$250. At the time of this report, they have raised \$440 + \$250 for the library.

### Anecdotes/Other

- A patron needed computer help with editing a PDF. Murphy was able to show her how to edit a PDF without buying any specific software. She was grateful to have learned a new computer skill and to have saved money at the same time.
- Murphy has been helping an elder patron with learning Microsoft Word and Keyboarding. The patron is hoping to improve her skills for future job prospects, her goal is to work from home.
- A patron needed tech help with Gmail. Murphy was able to show him how to edit his account settings. He was floored because in all the years he has had a Gmail account, he did not realize this was something he could do. He was appreciative of the support the library was able to provide him.

## **Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting**

### Programs

- The kids here at Sully have enjoyed our return to in-person programming. From Fire Safety Fun and Drumming Story Time to story time with a local author and story time with The Storybook Cook, the Story Time Room has been a busy place, full of noise and action. A favorite moment was Oceans Story Time with Mermaid Luca!
- It was fun to take advantage of the cornhole game from Central. Our Cornhole Challenge got kids outside where they had fun cheering each other on for their throwing skills and doing math (don't tell them!) when they calculated points for each player. All participants enjoyed popsicles as a reward.
- Sully hosted a Big Rigs program. Kids seemed especially excited by the 95-foot ladder that the fire truck extended. They also enjoyed scampering around to check out the RG&E line truck, the RTS bus, the library delivery truck, and the police car. Parents appreciated the Children's Institute Grow Bus which gave away information AND books!
- Thanks to the Healthi Kids Coalition initiative of Common Ground Health, Sully was able to provide healthy snacks, crafts, games, and lots of fun for PlayROCs. We partnered with the staff of the Thomas P. Ryan Rec Center and all that attended were extra thankful for the icy cold Gatorades.
- STBS staff George Carter participated in the ABC HeadStart "Real Men Read" event. Fathers reading to children is part of the program's initiative. Members of STBS' male staff read stories to children helping to

create a more positive memory to share as they grow older. To help make this moment more memorable. Carter read the book Spiderman and later called in his friend “SPIDERMAN” to say hello to the Kids!

#### Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

- Kim Whittimore represented RPL at three events and, in three days, did outreach story times for 176 children in 15 classes at 3 sites.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- During the last week of June, the Recreation Centers close for training, cleaning, and summer program preparation. Since they give meals to children, many children who get meals at the Thomas Ryan Community Center will come into the Sully Branch to see if we have food. While we have been able to secure meals from Foodlink for the end of the summer closure, we have not received food for the beginning of the summer closure. This year, thanks to the work of Jacob Scott from the City's Department of Recreation, we were able to get meals from Foodlink to pass out to youth who come to the library looking for food. One teenager came into the library and asked if we had anything to eat because he had not eaten in a while. Not only were we able to give him the food we received from Foodlink, but staff also gathered their food to give to him. Rochester had fewer hungry children that week thanks to the collaborative efforts of the City's Recreation Department, Foodlink, and the Rochester Public Library.
- Staff Highlight: Halimah Muhammad started working as a library page during the time of COVID. During this time she finished her last year of High School, and she walked across the stage to receive her diploma in June. She plans on attending college in the fall.

#### ***Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting***

#### Programs

- The Winton Branch Library hosted the annual Summer Music Party with Womba Africa providing the music, Jim and Cindy Pelc from Just Clowning Around did face painting and balloon animals, Netsins brought out their ice cream truck to park in front of the building for people to buy ice cream, and Summit Federal Credit Union was there handing out sunglasses, frisbees, etc. Womba Africa was truly wonderful, engaging people of all ages. The group brought mini bongos and our patrons loved playing and dancing along with the group. It was heartwarming to see our youngest to oldest patrons participate with the musicians. Our patrons look forward to this event that brings the entire Winton neighborhood together. Team Winton is excited about planning next year's event. (Priorities 1 and 2)
- The library had another successful author visit. California author Tom Sanger, who was visiting family in Rochester, spoke about his historical book *Without Warning*, which is set at the beginning of World War II. It tells the story of a passenger ship torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. The author's grandmother was aboard the ship. The audience was very engaged in the presentation and the book has been continually checked out. Sanger is working on getting the book made into a movie. (Priorities 1 and 2)

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Nintendo Switch consoles have arrived and are ready for use! David Colbert helped DelGaizo set up the Switch consoles and prepare them for programming and in-library use. Free play programs have been scheduled in August for ages 6-18.