



Rochester  
Public Library

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: September 21, 2022  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – September 2022

## ***Action Items***

### **Nominations for Appointment to the Board (Karin & Benjamin)**

The Nominating Committee is recommending the appointment of Aditi Fruitwala to fill the unexpired term of John Lovenheim with an expiration date of December 31, 2025, and Ellen Brenner to fill the unexpired term of Shawn Futch with an expiration date of December 31, 2023.

Board Action Requested: Appoint Aditi Fruitwala to fill the unexpired term of John Lovenheim with an expiration date of December 31, 2025, and Ellen Brenner to fill the unexpired term of Shawn Futch with an expiration date of December 31, 2023, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

### **Tutoring Agreement (Lewis)**

The RPL recommends the continuation of K-12 after-school tutoring at the Wheatley Branch Library. Instruction will begin in October 2022 and end on June 1st, 2023, with instructor Mattie Shaw-Elliot.

The weekly schedule for classroom tutoring is established by the Branch Site Supervisor and instructor. Ms. Shaw-Elliot will be paid at a rate of \$29 per hour for a maximum of 186 hours, not to exceed \$5,394. Funding is allocated from FY23 Branch operating budget.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with Mattie Shaw-Elliot for the services described, for an amount not to exceed \$5,394 from October 2022 through June 2023.

### **NYSED Grant Approval (Harrison)**

Based on a lack of other member library grant application submissions, the RPL will submit an additional grant application as part of the annual NYSED Library Construction grant process, as follows:

Bausch & Lomb Roof Replacement: The BLB roof is original to the building; there have been numerous leaks from the membrane roofing and skylight in the past two years which require detailed investigation into the metal roofing system, central atrium skylights, and numerous mechanical units. The project will include the installation of a new 30-year warranted single-ply (EPDM) insulated roof system. Existing mechanical equipment must be crane-lifted off existing curbs and curbs will be raised approximately four inches, which requires new conduit and temporary electrical during the relocation to maintain operations. Existing smoke vents and vent pipes will be replaced, and roof drainage systems will be repaired and insulated against condensation. Several areas of the metal roof will require repair and/or additional coating restoration. Lastly, fixed access ladders will be added to adjacent different levels of the roof to meet the current code. Funding support was allocated in the FY2022-23 cash capital budget of the RPL. The cost estimate is \$696,544; a grant request of \$396,544 will be matched with \$300,000 in Library/City project cash capital. The project is eligible for up to 75% match.

Note that the MCLS shall approve a consortia application to implement a card read access system at all stand-alone RPL branch exterior entrances (nine locations less Sully, as part of RCSD). A new server and software licenses will be housed at the Central Library data center. Day Automation will provide a new badging system with access cards that can be programmed into the system, connecting to the existing network for communication for the new access panels at the RPL Branch locations. Pricing is based on NYS Contract pricing and we anticipate a Professional Services Agreement to be brought before the Board in late fall if NYSED funding is approved.

Board Action Requested: Approve the grant application and acceptance of \$396,544 from the NYSED Division of Library Development for the construction projects described.

## **Report & Discussion Items**

### ***RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting***

**Capital Projects** – We recently received word that the City has granted our request for year-end capital funding to replace the roof on the Charlotte Branch and to engage in a full evaluation of the elevators at the Central Library. While this adds to the burden of capital projects, both projects are necessary. I will ask the Board to enter Executive Session at the end of the September meeting to discuss a personnel issue related to this topic.

The RPL is preparing for both City and County Capital Improvement Program planning, with submissions due in September (County) and October (City). An update that two requests for City fiscal year-end surplus support funding for capital projects, Rundel Elevator Upgrades (\$500,000) and Charlotte Roof Replacement (\$250,000). This supplants a planned request for these projects in the upcoming CIP cycle. Several current project updates are as follows:

#### Branch Improvements

- Construction is underway for the Lincoln branch, with four prime contractors beginning demolition the week of September 19. This is a five-month construction schedule with comprehensive renovation to the building interior, a new entrance/canopy, and minor structural repairs to exterior walls. Branch Administration will provide updates on temporary operations and staffing.
- The Lincoln parking lot expansion will occur in early spring 2023 based on the weather; the re-subdivision of the three parcels to one tax parcel is underway, as is the permitting process. This will provide 29 spaces to the library to coincide with the new branch opening.
- The lower roof restoration at the Arnett Branch is nearing completion, with a delay in receipt of the metal flashing on the perimeter due to supply chain issues. The upper roof is recommended for replacement after investigation and will be included in the upcoming Capital Improvement Program Process.
- Hunt Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors was selected as the design firm for the Maplewood Branch renovation and expansion. Design services are anticipated to begin in October, with staff already developing program ideas and documents. Closing on the 308-310 Augustine Street property as part of the DASNY SAM grant awarded from Assemblymember Clarke's office is scheduled for late September.

#### Central Improvements

- Rundel Emergency Exit Stairwell replacement is nearing completion – this project was an interim recommendation as part of the comprehensive structural and envelope investigation conducted for the Rundel Masonry Project. Water intrusion in the stairwell rendered the stairs inoperably damaged. A future east terrace waterproofing project will provide long-term protection to the stairwell and structural supports.

**RPL Board Director’s Report – September 2022 (Continued)**

- Bausch & Lomb building HVAC upgrades, a NYSED grant-funded project is out to bid with anticipated construction beginning in spring 2023. This work will require some coordination with the upcoming BLB Roof Replacement project; design contracts will be awarded to CPL Architecture and Engineering in October.
- LaBella Associates will also begin the design of the Rundel building HVAC this month; the project includes fresh air intake systems replacement and new ventilation systems for staff and public portions of the building's first, second, and third floors. A construction schedule is not known at this time.
- Rundel Masonry design continues, with Bero Architecture’s agreement amended to incorporate all phases/facades of the building as one bid project due to ARPA funding support. Construction is slated to begin in summer 2023 as a two-season project.

**Fines Discussion** – As more MCLS member libraries move towards eliminating fines, the question of fine payment equity among libraries was raised by one member library. The system has allowed patrons to return materials and pay overdue fines at any library in the system for decades. In the early days, fines owed to other libraries were manually collected and stored by each library, then that cash was delivered to the MCLS Finance Office for redistribution to owning libraries. That changed in the 1980s when it was determined that libraries could keep all the fines paid at their location and that it was an equitable process. Now that some libraries are not charging fines, the equitable process seems to be unbalanced. A lengthy conversation at a recent Directors Council meeting did not yield any solutions. The DC and MCLS will continue to discuss the issue and examine reports showing where fines are paid to determine if any member library is significantly impacted by a loss of fine revenue.

Director Uttaro is working with RPL staff to conduct additional research into full fines elimination for RPL, as directed by the Board. We have developed a process whereby we can determine the staffing costs associated with collecting fines. The first round of research determined a rough estimate of 17% of the revenue collected is associated with the staff actions of negotiating, collecting, and clearing fines. The first round did not include supervisor time of negotiation for more complex accounts. More data is being collected and we expect to have a report for the Board in November. She has also initiated discussions with the Mayor and Budget Director regarding the possibility of full fines elimination for RPL.

Social Media

<b>August 2022</b>	<b>RPL Twitter</b>	<b>MCLS Twitter</b>	<b>Facebook</b>	<b>Facebook Calendar</b>	<b>Facebook Groups</b>	<b>Instagram</b>	<b>YouTube</b>
Profile/ Page Visits	910	423	307	5	0	13	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	10 (2,119)	3 (2,254)	36 (5,749)	-	47	26 (2,242)	6 (409)
Engagements	83	30	1,839	70	82	190	29
Check-In/ Mentions	46	34	-	-	-	28	-
Post Reach	4,622	1,259	11,723	1,560	-	5,979	18,732
Video/Story Views	-	-	422	-	-	10	629
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	4	-	-	7	-

## **Central Library Updates**

**Jennifer Smathers reporting**

**Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting**

### Anecdotes/Other

- The new improved North Terrace was the site of a pop-up play date. Kids and adults enjoyed bubbles, jump ropes, hula hoops, ring toss (Dana and Uttaro are NOT good at this), and free t-shirts. More play dates will take place as weather allows. Some games are suitable also for inside play, so plans are in the works for that.
- Leroy Banks and Lindsay Murphy from Rochester Works hosted their first table here. They were happy with the number of patrons who stopped by to get information. They have plans to come monthly and would like to set up in Tech Center to offer further support not only to job seekers but to the staff working there as well. They are happy to critique resumes and help with job searching. Mr. Banks connected with John Hylton, a Safe to be Smart staff member in Teen Central, to offer support to teens looking for employment and needing work permits.
- Dana has been impressed with the level of compassion shown to one of our regular patrons who was recently displaced when her residence, House of Mercy, closed temporarily. Staff from Circulation/Information were concerned about her well-being; they checked in with her daily and offered any assistance that they could. Dana has also become aware of the relationship that Robert, one of the security officers has with this patron. He seeks her out and engages her in conversation which they both seem to enjoy.
- Dana recently spoke to a patron who was having trouble getting through to a librarian using the phone tree. He stated that he is 80 years old and does not use the internet for information because that's what librarians are for; they know how to find the best information.

**Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting**

### Programs

- Creating a Fabric Wall Hanging--This was our second class with Kuumba Associates. Kuumba means creativity in Swahili. They are a collaborative of creative Women of Color in Rochester who work to cultivate artistic expression in youth and adults. Within the Kuumba group is WOC-Art and Frances Hare from WOC is a fiber artist who taught this class. Hare taught students how to take a grid and embellish it with colorful strips of fabric, ribbon, and beads. She instructed students on which type of fabric to use to create different meanings. Much of the fabric used was African or African-inspired fabrics, with juxtapositions of color, patterns, and textures that bring the work to fruition.
- Creating a Sunflower Linoleum Print--Printmaking can be an expensive art form to do but Linoleum printing is inexpensive. Frank Wolfs, a local artist, is another favorite here in the Arts Division. Printing always creates a sense of accomplishment for the student, especially when they pull their paper off the linoleum block and see what they have created. Wolfs taught patrons how to use all the linoleum cutting tools to create different effects and how to bring dimension to their work. Patrons enjoyed this class, and a few comments were, "the class was well planned, with a very helpful instructor," "happy with classes



offered, “[Instructors] were a delight - - lovely people. They were very well organized and explained everything so well. They were positive and encouraging too.”

- Making Paper Flowers -Paper flowers have come a long way from cutting simple one-dimensional flowers. This beginner class is taught by Rochester-based Deaney Weaney Blooms. As this was a class for beginners, Weaney taught students how to create simple and seasonal 3-dimensional sunflowers. They were taught how to cut the petals as well as the leaves.

***Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting***

Statistics

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 1 in person, 1 by Zoom, 13 by email, and 7 by phone.
- Hours of in-depth market research: 57
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 4
- Tracy Jong appointments: 45 minutes, 1 individual served

Database Use

- Frost & Sullivan: 10 Page Views; Value \$ 47,950
- IBISWorld: 84 Page Views; Value \$ 28,530
- InnovationQ: 3 Logins; 33 Searches
- PitchBook: 11 Logins
- Statista: 44 Visits; 24 Downloads

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Kate Meddaugh and Melissa Cobo met with the leadership of Grow-NY. They will be assisting participants in the Grow NY competition focused on growing an enduring food and agriculture innovation cluster in the Grow-NY region.
- Byrnes was a panelist for an entrepreneurship conference sponsored by Social Cypher, Rochester's 1st quality of life seminar and community pop-up.

Anecdotes/Other

- A patron was using Hoover's Company Directory and reported that access to this product saved her business \$10K.
- Byrnes received this e-mail comment from a client, “This is exactly what we needed and I appreciate you producing this for us. I am thrilled that we have this resource in Rochester and that you didn't mind rushing this out today.”

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

Programs

- August was a busy month for the Children's Center and even though summer reading finished in the early part of the month group visits did not stop. It was great to have unplanned group visits once again to remind us that we should not over plan so we can offer unplanned group visits quality programs during their visits.



- **Kindercamp-** This Transition to Kindergarten event was held in collaboration with New York State Council on Children and Families Transition Coordinator, the Rochester City School District, WXXI, Monroe BOCES 1 Early Childhood FACE Center Mid-West Head Start, Quality Stars, and Rochester Child First Network. This was supported through a grant from the New York State Council on Children and Families, and The Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library. Camps were held at Central, Maplewood, and Wheatley at different times and days to offer families a variety of opportunities to attend. Each camp was designed to help children get comfortable with a typical day of school. There were centers for Morning Meeting, walking in a straight line, writing their name, carrying a lunch tray, Music Class, and Art Class where each camper made their Class of 2035 t-shirt. Everyone left with a brand-new backpack, homework folder, composition notebook, pencils, erasers, markers, ABC flashcards, pencil case, and books about school. Everything was developed from focus groups held with current kindergarten teachers and parents who had a child in kindergarten during the 2021-2022 school year. Rochester City School District also gave out bags stuffed with early childhood items such as puzzles, music scarves, clipboards, books, construction paper, and watercolor paint.
- **Maker Friday** activities included Soap Making by microwaving Ivory soap into soap clouds and coloring and molding new hand soaps with sea creature cookie cutters, Coffee Filter Fish and sea creature color diffusing paper with washable markers and water, and Spin Art with our box fan spin art machine.



#### Outreach and Training

- Burton visited Friendship Children's Center to share early literacy techniques with staff and gave examples of how to infuse early literacy information into storytimes. She also shared several new books that highlight the beautiful selection of diverse books available at our libraries. After her presentation, the staff was broken up into groups to practice the strategies discussed.
- Burton also did a full day of training for ABC Head Start staff. The first part of the day was Supercharged Storytime training, and the second half was on Raising a Reader program management. While similar to Friendship training, Supercharged Storytime had extra time to explore books and brainstorm ideas for future parent engagement events.

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

##### Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments -11

New Borrowers -211

RRLC Access Cards Issued -2

Notarial Acts - 168

##### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Chad Cunningham represented the Rochester Public Library at Compeer's Roc the Block Summer Send-off event. Cunningham issued library cards, handed out information about the library's programs and services, and gave away rubber duckies. Attendees were excited to learn about renewing items the same day they check them out, the library's digital offerings, and the VIP Pass program. Everyone loved the cool rubber duckies.

##### Anecdotes/Other

- Lisa Rogers assisted a family new to the area at the Circulation Desk. They were extremely impressed with the library- especially our framed print collection- and they told Rogers that the library is a hidden gem.

- In a similar vein, a patron came into the library and told staff that his boss (who is also a good friend) didn't have a library card. He told his boss that he wasn't going to talk to him until the boss came in to get a library card. The boss came in to get a library card. Our newest patron was impressed with all that the library has to offer. He did, however, wonder why it took his friend so long to tell him about the library.
- When talking to people who do not work in libraries, staff often try to convey that libraries are more than just warehouses for books. Libraries are truly open to anyone who walks in the door. This leads to libraries developing their own community and culture. Patrons experiencing homelessness - whether living in shelters or completely unhoused- come to the library and are a vibrant part of our community. One of our patrons was displaced when House of Mercy closed recently. Staff attempted to help her in any way they could - whether that was renewing items she didn't have access to due to the closure or encouraging her to use library services and 211 to find a new place to stay. She did find a place to stay, which was a relief to the staff. Sometimes the most valuable service the library offers is a safe place to spend a day while you figure out your next steps.

**Local History & Genealogy, Christine Ridarsky reporting**

The library began recruiting members of the community advisory board that will set the mission, vision, and strategic plan for the new archive on Black Culture and History. A grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation (via FFRPL) provides an annual stipend of \$1,200 each for 10 board members; 29 applications had already been received as of the end of the month. Selection will be made by a committee comprised of library staff and representatives from our partner organizations. We hope to hold the first meeting of the advisory board in October.

The Local History & Genealogy Division continues to see a high demand for Life Records, Newspaper Index orders, and Rochester Images orders since removing the barrier of fees for these services in July. This has resulted in a need to reprioritize staff assignments to ensure that orders are fulfilled on time.

<b>Orders Fulfilled:</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	<b>August 2022</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Life Records	7	58	714%
Newspaper Index	3	21	600%
Rochester Images	2	63	3,050%

**Community Outreach/Meetings/Training**

- Dan Cody led a walking tour of the Downtown Heritage Trail for the City of Rochester's "Flower City Feeling Good" summer series.
- Cody presented a talk on "Unique Women of Rochester" for an audience of older adults participating in the day program at LifeSpan.
- Michelle Finn gave an impromptu presentation on Frederick Douglass and the Douglass Family for a group of young people visiting Teen Central from Agape Haven of Abundance, Inc.
- Ridarsky participated in a teacher training workshop in her role as regional coordinator for the Consider the Source NY Finger Lakes Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge Project. Following the meeting, Ridarsky met with Jason Schwingle, president of the Washington Square Community Association, and Marjorie Searle, a representative of the Rochester Olmsted Parks Alliance, to discuss interpretive signage for the park, including a historical marker highlighting a speech Austin Steward gave on July 5, 1827, to mark the abolition of slavery in New York.
- Brandon Fess attended the Cultural Heritage Imaging, Preservation and Research (CHIPR) open house at the Rochester Institute of Technology. CHIPR represents a coming-together of the various projects underway at

RIT in which advanced imaging technology is being used to better understand, interpret, and preserve cultural sites and materials. These included the multispectral imaging work which the library assisted with last summer, along with other advanced imaging projects for color-accurate imaging, paramagnetic resonance imaging, and the ongoing work in sustainable preservation carried out by the Image Permanence Institute. Another presentation discussed preserving aural heritage – the sound characteristics of a given acoustic environment. This event both contextualized Fess' previous experience with multispectral imaging and was an opportunity for free professional development hours.

### Special Collections

- Fess accessioned four new collections in August. Of these, the most significant is the Dan McBride Collection on the Rochester Fire Department (a research collection assembled by the well-known local author in authoring his book *In The Finest Tradition*) and the James DeVinney/Corn Hill Historian Papers (papers of and collected by James DeVinney during his time as Corn Hill historian).

### Digital Projects

#### *Rochester Voices*

Jordyn Bagley (Nazareth College) completed her summer internship during which time she prepared 11 recorded oral history interviews for publication in the Latino Oral Histories collection on Rochester Voices: <http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/latino-oral-histories/>. Finn will review and publish this content on the site in September.

### Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 63 views in August: "The Red Flag of Socialism: The Labor Lyceum Building" by Christopher Brennan and "In Search of Lost Suds: Rum Running in Rochester, Part 1" by Emily Morry. In addition to these posts, readers from 24 countries revisited 162 previously published posts for a total of 1,913 views. All posts can be read online at [www.rochistory.wordpress.com](http://www.rochistory.wordpress.com).

### Interns/Volunteers

The division's work was supported by four volunteers and one intern in August for a total contribution of 57.75 hours. Linda Lopata contributed 5.5 hours rehousing and cataloging items in a collection of pinback buttons in the Office of the City Historian. Meghan Dale contributed 15.25 hours completing a finding aid for the Canfield Post Card Collection, finalizing the arrangement and description of materials in the James DeVinney Papers, and beginning a finding aid for the DeVinney collection. Stephanie Ball contributed 3.5 hours arranging an assortment of unsorted archival material. Kaye Knoll provided 3 hours of entering slides from the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club into ArchivesSpace.

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

### Programs

Our very own Diane Premo was part of The Rochester Mandolin Orchestra that played at Central.

### Statistics

In August, RMC rented 20 pieces of equipment and 279 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,944 items.





Database Use

Hoopla

Circulation

- Audiobooks –995
- Binge Pass – 15
- Comics –138
- eBooks –333
- Movies/TV –303
- Music –74
- Total Circulation –1858

Users

- New users – 38
- Patrons using all 7 borrows – 83 (18%)
- Total users – 480

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

Programs

- Assassinating Hitler, hosted by Monroe Community College history professor Mark Sample, was an in-person program presented in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. The evening program, full of interesting content, brought in large attendance.
- Growing Root Vegetables in the Home Garden Zoom program was presented by Jarmila Haseler, Agricultural & Food System Director, and co-hosted by Gwen Bell, Agriculture Program Educator, and Alexandra Miller, Nutritionist from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. Renee Kendrot planned and publicized this program using online community calendars including City Newspaper, WXXI, Beyond the Nest, and the library's social media platforms. There were a lot of positive comments in the Zoom Chat for this program session.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Gabe Pellegrino attended the video workgroup meeting of the Community-Driven Cancer Research team, part of the CCAC (Cancer Community Action Council) partnership, which discussed the importance of marketing to the Black/Latinx community in Rochester. Advice on encouraging participation was imparted by Paula Cupertino, Associate Director of Community Outreach, Engagement, and Disparities from the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Institute.
- LROC visitors were down to about 25 this month. Part of the drop was due to services not being offered on Wednesdays starting this month. PCHO (Person Centered Housing Options) was unable to provide services at the library on two Tuesdays, because of the House of Mercy assault and staff training. Help was provided for those who had been moved to temporary quarters at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park at Manhattan Square. LawNY sees 3-5 people each week and was unable to be with us for one week.

Anecdotes/Other

The Mitchell1 ProDemand automobile repair database has seen exceptional use this month.

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

#### Programs

- Pedro Nunez has used the Technology Center's Tabletop RPG Gaming program to introduce many people to this gaming environment. New to RPG players found a socially interesting alternative to the isolating experience of first-person shooter games. Experienced players learned about the new online environments that contrast with the older pencil and paper player and campaign creation. Would-be storytellers found a new outlet for their creativity. There is a strong appetite for this kind of programming and the opportunity to participate in an open and inclusive community is appealing.
- With the return of Saturday hours, we anticipate that the time slots for the Technology Center's scheduled in-person weekly Tech Talk and Device Advice sessions will see increased attendance. Collaborations with Digital Literacy Volunteers and Rochester Works should deepen the classes and training opportunities available through the Technology Center.

### **Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting**

#### Programs

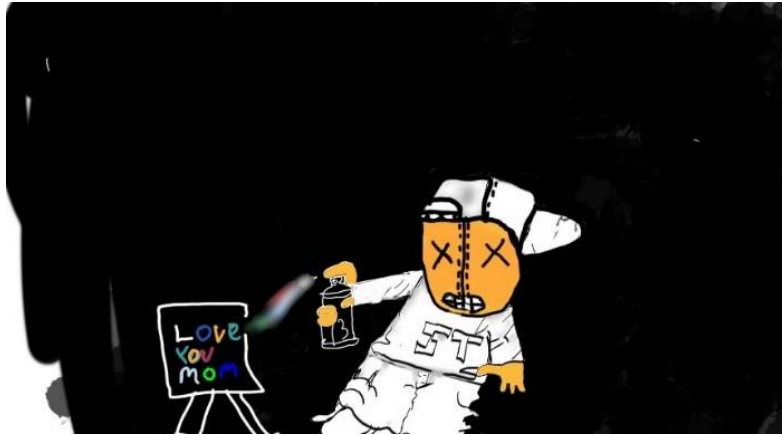
- AIMM (Adolescents Inspiring Through Multimedia) – The AIMM and EPIC (Equipping, Performing, and Inspiring in the Community) summer programs finished all their digital media work and presentations this month. Check out the [behind-the-scenes website](#) and [ABC Full Presentation.mp4](#).
- E-Sports – The Central Library E-Sports team will start in September. As a warm-up, there were several tournaments in August. Di Pisa's Subs sponsored a Fortnite tournament and Lory from Cuts and More Barbershop sponsored an Apex Legends tournament.
- CLAMOR, the group running Frontier's Building Gigabit America Tour, has reached out to get t-shirt sizes for the e-Sports team and equipment requests. They hope to deliver in the next two or three weeks.





- Music Studio – Destined 4 Greatness, the music-based violence prevention program, ran their program in the lab throughout August. They also participated in the first studio certification class of the year. Two youths were certified to use the equipment in the lab.
- Summer Reading, Explore the Possibilities: We had an awesome level of participation in this program. A few teens have turned in their reading logs and received their free book prizes.
- Learn to Make Your Own Website with WordPress: We had a satisfactory level of participation and interest in this class. A few participants found it particularly useful and started building their websites on WordPress.
- Visit From AGAPE group: We had a visit from a local youth group who were highly interested in Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X. They enjoyed touring the Teen Center and ImagineYou Lab, learning about opportunities to compete and create. Michelle Finn, from Local History, was able to join us and share some cool visuals and facts about Harriet, Malcolm, and his family. The youth then put their knowledge to the test in a scavenger hunt.
- Digital Art – Some young artists utilized our drawing tablet this month. Check out their drawings:





#### Anecdotes/Other

Jeff Bostic has also been named a NASEF (North America Scholastic Esports Federation) Scholastic Fellow for the 2022-2023 school year. The NASEF Scholastic Fellow Program provides a professional learning community, mentorship, tools, resources, and instructional coaching for educators interested in connecting e-sports and learning in and out of schools and in community-based organizations across the globe.

### **Community Library Updates**

***Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting***

In August we completed our first full Summer Reading Program since 2019. The branch staff was excited to host unrestricted programs, desiring things to be returned to “normal.” Staff put forth a lot of time and effort planning a generous selection of programs; the results were mixed. Some tried and true draws, such as the Zoomobile were successful. Other programs that historically attracted crowds were not well attended. While foot traffic increased this Summer, we are still somewhat challenged with program attendance. We will continue to examine our offerings while waiting for the public to feel comfortable attending community activities again. Some programs were winners; we received positive feedback from our Writers and Books partner around the SummerWrite camps held at Arnett, Lyell, and Maplewood. The program manager called the program “wildly successful” and will submit a full evaluation sometime this Fall.

During this period, staff from Branch Admin, Lyell Branch, MCLS Outreach, and RPL Children’s Center met to put together a draft outline for a potential RPL Mobile Library program. During September, we plan to reach out to community partners for commitment and feedback.

This Fall all branch staff will participate in Mental Health First Aid training provided by Wellness Associates of Greater Rochester. Staff at Central and Branches have consistently communicated to management that they feel ill-equipped to handle the complexities of serving some of our more challenging patrons. We also need to learn how to recognize and address mental health issues in ourselves and our coworkers. We hope that this 8-hour training will provide some insights and tools on how to better manage difficult customer situations and support ourselves and our colleagues.

Joan Lee worked collaboratively with Delia Smith, (RochesterWorks) and Jamila Crossdale (Youth Workforce Development Coordinator for Department of Recreation) in the recruitment, training, and placement of summer youth interns. There were fifteen youths from the Rochester community placed at six branch sites. Youth were also placed at City Recreation Centers. The youth received a full day of training from RochesterWorks before

placement, and two additional workforce training sessions were held. (Priority: Create and maintain essential library Relationships)

**Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting**

Programs

- Arnett's summer reading program was popular with children, teens, and adults.
- One very popular event was a story time and book signing by local author Brandon Hester-Harrell. Nancy Cholewa reports that it "was a very successful event with well over 100 people in attendance. Everyone seemed to have had a good time and the author was thrilled with the turnout at his first major promotional event for his book."
- Other programs included Oceans of Possibility themed kids' arts and crafts, teen maker events, a Healthi Kids PlayROCs session, and an all-ages summer reading celebration which included games, ice cream, music, and prizes.



Community Outreach/Meetings

- The Arnett Branch Library team attended numerous outreach events and is involved in the Kaboom playspace community garden being created at 133 Kenwood Ave. The grand opening for this garden is September 13. While pedaling Books by Bike to a community resource fair, Tehan was able to provide books to volunteers working in the garden. Visit <https://www.kenwoodkaboom.com/> to learn more about the Kaboom playspace garden.



**Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting**

Programs

- Karen Duff, Heather Sessler, and Dennis Williams reported that the summer reading program for adults and teens was extremely popular and everyone loved the prize drawings.
- Rachel Barinas and Jennifer Cherelin reported a very well-attended string of simple science programs each Thursday.
- The live Rehabbed and Rescued Owl program was presented by Gary of Black Creek Wildlife Rescue and Rehab.
- Cherelin reported the third Charlotte Produce Distribution would not have been possible without the help of our library volunteers: with pick-up volunteers and our other 13 volunteers, 20 families were served



Anecdotes/Other

- Sessler reported that two patrons came into Charlotte to print off some Greyhound tickets. While one was finding the tickets in his email inbox, the other spotted the video game display. To say they were excited would be an understatement. One immediately called his nephew to let him know that the library had video games. Both young men filled out library card applications and left with three games. They were so happy and promised they'd be back to visit soon.

**Douglass Branch Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting**

Programs

- There was a fun and educational visit from the Seneca Park ZooMobile. A real snake, gecko, cockroach, and the star of the show - a tortoise – visited the library
- The Douglass R-Center reopened just in time for the summer. The “Douglass Family Campus” partnership includes using their space for library programs and hosting small groups of R-Center kids at the library for crafts, movies, and reading! (Education & Engagement)
- Storytime kicked off this summer with some new toddler friends! We've enjoyed having little ones come to read stories, sing songs, and dance with us at the library.
- Celebrating the Neighborhood included a yoga class with neighborhood resident Jessica DiSalvo, stylized street paintings by local artist Tim Mack, “Local history Q & A” with community resident Gerald Honadle, and cake! Tim Mack’s paintings were also turned into coloring pages and used on the cake.



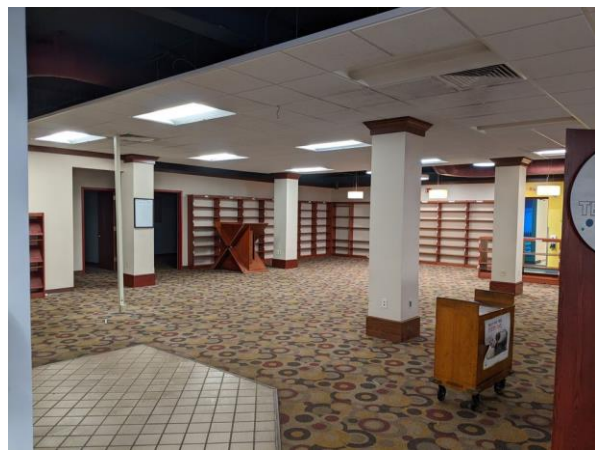
Anecdotes/Other

- A grandparent told a terrific story to children’s librarian Jen Nesbitt. She said that she had visited the library while waiting for someone at the hospital across the street and checked out a stack of Easy Readers to share with her grandchildren while they were visiting. The book *Ice Cream Soup* was such a hit with the kids that they asked Grandma to read it to them over and over. After they returned home the patron bought a copy of the book to have it available whenever they came to visit. Then the kids asked their grandma to read it to

them over FaceTime every time they had a call with her. She sent them ingredients to make ice cream soup, and they read the book over FaceTime and made ice cream soup at the same time! The patron could not stress enough how libraries provide magic not found anywhere else. She thanked Nesbitt for having this book available and marveled at how a simple, silly book could make such an unforgettable impact on people's lives and create a new family tradition.

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

Much of the activity at Lincoln focused on preparing the branch to close on August 15. Branch Administration spent many hours with staff managing the logistics of this momentous event. Staff are now redistributed at other locations and/or preparing to open a satellite location at the Jackson R-Center. Here are some photos of how Lincoln looked after August 15!



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Liz Kurz attended the Front Porch Festival with Jordan Health as outreach for the library. At this event, Kurz gave out small toys and picture books to children and family and made connections with the community, including kids who spent the day “assisting” with the booth and learning how to talk to people about the library, as well as connecting directly with Tess Padmore, a local businesswoman and author of 2 children’s books, who is enthusiastic about doing a story time with the Lincoln Branch once it is open for programming at the satellite location.
- Matt Seidel participated in an outreach event at For the Love of God Dentistry event in the park, offering games and free toys to neighborhood kids.
- Jasmine Santiago visited Don Samuel Torres Park for outreach with the El Camino Summer Playgroup, which is an Ibero summer camp. Santiago provided a building activity and a free play activity that included bubbles, hula hoops, and a catch and throw activity.
- Branch Manager Sarah Lehman assisted Tonia Burton in conducting outreach at the Annual National Night Out event held at the International Plaza. They were able to give away many books and make some great connections with members of the community.

Anecdotes/Other

- The Lincoln teens Instagram page has also been useful in terms of communicating with teens in the neighborhood during the closure process, and there have been messages with questions. This has proven to be very useful and has teens actively engaging with the library while it has been closed.

- All the Lincoln staff has worked very hard this month at packing up the building and preparing for the renovation. They have been able to get through an impressive amount of work and have found many old documents in the building. The oldest one that was found was an invoice for a bookshelf from 1969. The decision to shred it was made quickly. The majority of the staff has dispersed to their temporary locations (except for a few particular dates) and look forward to seeing the building completed in 2023!

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

Programs

- End of Summer Reading Fun Day: Families celebrated the End of Summer Reading with a video game truck, fire truck visit, cotton candy, garden volunteering activities, final check-ins, prizes, and lots more!
- Minute to Win it challenges: Manju Sharma offered activities for teens who looked forward to participating in this challenge and winning the prizes.
- Teen Make & Take Craft (Jelly Fish Lantern Craft): Teens spent some quality time at the library decorating jellyfish lantern crafts to hang on the ceiling.
- Ocean Creatures Trivia: Sharma asked multiple-choice trivia questions about sea creatures and this was the biggest hit of all trivia challenges.



Anecdotes & Outreach

- Shamika Fusco attended the Pan Afrikan festival at Highland Bowl. She was asked to create a literacy space so that families could have somewhere to sit, read and relax. Families that attended the space also went home with a free book and library information.
- This summer Lyell hosted an amazing collaboration with Writers & Books. The program was well attended and the kids did an amazing job on their final performance. One of the instructors would like to offer a program to support single moms in the Rochester area based on the success of this programming series.
- The Rochester Housing council offered a program for area residents to attend and answered questions regarding housing quality. The event was well attended.



***Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting***

Programs

- August was busier than July for the children's department with more children, programs, and attendance. After reading the book *The Cardboard Kingdom* every day at lunch, the children make their creations out of cardboard. Some of the creations were masks, houses, swords, a SpongeBob SquarePants, a shield, and a big robot.
- The children went to the Memorial Art Gallery this summer. They enjoyed the mummy, the armor, sculptures, and the pictures that are made of beads. The pictures that are created using beads are part of an exhibition called *Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence*.
- The children's department closed out the last full week with a Library Olympics. Children made teams of three and competed in physical activities, mental challenges, and tests of skill.



- The yearly water balloon battle was held on the last day of August. Kids dressed accordingly and brought extra clothes this time leading to a more comfortable and less soggy afternoon. Water balloon battle is in the top two activities that the children look forward to every year.
- Maplewood Community Library was able through donations to give out backpacks and school supplies again this year. A total of 42 children were given supplies.

#### Anecdotes/Other

- Many families were grateful for the school supplies. One woman said she didn't have anything extra, so it was a relief to get some help in the neighborhood.
- Family members of a newly arrived Venezuelan family have been working on their English during the walk-in tutoring time at the Maplewood Community Library.
- A Russian-speaking woman came into the Maplewood Community Library for in-person English instruction. She traveled for an hour from a far corner of Monroe County and was very grateful for the English classes. Zoom classes will be available for her in the future.
- A senior Social Work major from SUNY Brockport has started interning at the Maplewood Community Library. She works with new English speakers and her Spanish language skills and familiarity with her parents' immigrant experience help her better understand the patrons.



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

#### Anecdotes/Other

- One afternoon, a lady who had worked as a Page 50 years ago stopped in to see the library and to reminisce. She was very nostalgic when seeing the children's room. She enjoyed working at Monroe and had some wonderful memories. The following day, one of our Pages who had left for college came back to visit before moving to France. She also was very nostalgic about working at Monroe.
- Rebecca Hudson organized copy and graphics for the monthly newsletter for the branch and prepared the monthly email newsletter. Hudson created a pathfinder for LGBTQ titles at the branch with an accompanying display.
- One night a young child ran into the children's room, declared that he could only stay for 15 minutes, and asked if Matt Hoople could play a game with him. Hoople of course obliged and asked him why he could only stay 15 minutes.  
    "Because I have to go to a birthday party."  
    Hoople followed up. "Whose birthday is it?"  
    "Mine."  
    His mother explained that even though it was his birthday party, it was also a Thursday, and "Thursdays are Mr. Matthew Days!"
- During outreach storytime, Hoople read *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins, which is about a dinosaur that struggles to not eat her classmates. In it, she justifies her actions by stating "children are delicious." When Hoople read that line in Storytime, one child gnawed on her hand and declared "He's right. I'm delicious!"

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

Programs

- Alexandra Haehn and Wheatley's Safe To Be Smart team member Michele Saccente put together a Kids and Teens Game Day! Through the MCLS office, they were able to borrow giant games for everyone to play. They also collaborated with a local cub scout troop, which set up a safe archery range. The children, teens, and parents had fun. *(This event ties in with Priority #1- Education and Engagement, promoting learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations.)*



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Sheilah Murphy hosted a book club at the Episcopal Senior Home on Mt. Hope Ave. The book *Wild* by Cheryl Strayed was read and discussed among the members.
- Lori Frankunas met with Martha O'Connor from the Office of Adult and Career Education Services Literacy Zone to talk about setting up a Literacy Zone Welcome Center at Phillis Wheatley Community Library

Anecdotes/Other

- A teacher came into the library looking for a particular braille book for her student, who wants to be an astronomer. It is an out-of-print book, but Haehn was able to find the book at Central. The student's professors don't understand why she is interested in astronomy when it is a visual subject. The teacher said that most of the professors at the school would not have put the time into ordering a book like this for her student.
- An elder patron was one of our Adult Summer Reading winners. She was thrilled at being a winner because she had never won anything in her life before. Murphy was happy to share this positive moment in her life, especially as it was a result of the patron's reading efforts.

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

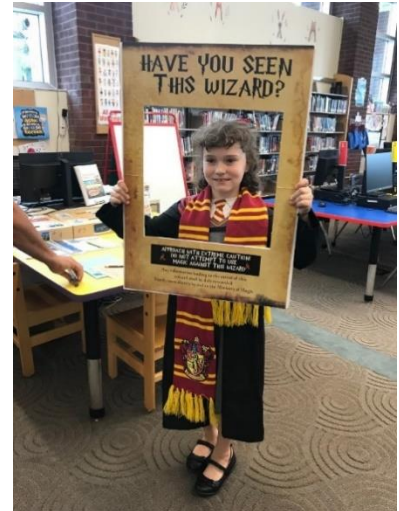
Programs

- The return of local drumming sensation Mayukwa Kashiwa brought out a good turnout. His high-energy program engaged our young audience; they appreciated his attention and they loved participating in the rhythms.
- The Harry Potter Birthday Party was well-received. Visitors enjoyed taking selfies in front of the Hogwarts backdrop and behind the "wanted" poster, along with playing "Pin the Scar on Harry". The Summer of Opportunity Literacy Aides helped oversee activities, especially the steps involved in folding a chevron-patterned bookmark in



“house” colors. The highlight of the event was either “Potions Class” with Professor Whittemore or digging into the birthday cake. Thanks go out to Seymour Library for the loan of many accessories!

- It's hard to read a book when you're hungry. Thanks to a partnership with Foodlink, Sully was able to provide lunches and snacks to patrons under the age of 18 during the Recreation Center closure at the end of the month. Kim Whittemore, Damoni Davis, Jahmiere Moton, and Khajari Marshall-Hosier passed out the nutritious and delicious food during our pre-planned mealtimes.



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

#### Programs

- The Adult book discussion met in person outside in the back garden. This is the first time the group has met in person since the pandemic. The group read *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley, and everyone loved this whodunnit. Two new people joined the discussion.
- Winton has a Cricut die-cut machine and offered a class taught by Maureen Elliot to introduce patrons to using Cricut and to give them tips and tricks on how to use it. (Priority 1, 3)
- Adult Summer Reading was a huge success. 57 people registered for the program by taking a Summer Reading Bingo Board and filling it out based on what they had read over the summer. Winton received this note from a patron:

*Dear Winton Library,*

*Thank you for having an Adult Summer Reading contest. I want to mention that I read far more this summer motivated by your delightful contest. It encouraged different genres of books and made me more open-minded. Continue your great work keeping us all reading.*

*Thanks again,*

- Some of the Exploration Stations that were developed by Children's Center Staff are available for branches to borrow and adapt. The Winton Branch Library adapted the Exploration Station for the book *A Big Mooncake for Little Star* by Grace Lin. There were six different “stations”: Reading the story, Word Search, Story Board, Cooking Match Game (match a picture and word with the definition of the process), Moon Phase Viewer (made with two clear plastic cups, a cutout illustration from the book, and a sharpie marker), Oreo cookie/moon phase activity, and a snack table where they could sample mooncakes. Although a bit chaotic – especially when a large day camp group entered – everyone had a good time, and we hope people learned a little something about the phases of the moon. (Priority 1)

#### Anecdotes/Other

- A regular patron relayed a conversation she and her three-year-old had as they were driving past the library on their way to run an errand:

*3 yo: I want to go to the library*

*Mom: Me too, but we have to go to the store.*

*3 yo: You can just drop me off there.*

*Mom: No, I can't. You can't be there by yourself.*

*3yo: Why not? Kathy Wolf will watch me.*

*Mom: I'm sure Kathy Wolf would love to watch you, but it's not her job.*

*3yo: Her job is to do stuff with kids, she will watch me.*

- The Winton Branch Library was delighted to host Janessa Melendez, a student Literacy Aide through Summer of Opportunity. In addition to assisting with programming and weeding some of our collections, Janessa created many beautiful nursery rhyme flannel board pieces to be used in preschool story times. Having these new flannel pieces, coupled with the story time attendance this summer, has inspired Wolf to offer a preschool storytime series this fall.

