



Rochester
Public Library

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: October 26, 2022
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – October 2022

Action Items

Nomination for Appointment to the Board (Karin & Benjamin)

At the September meeting, the Board voted to appoint Aditi Fruitwala to fill the unexpired term of Shawn Futch with an expiration date of December 31, 2023. Unfortunately, Ms. Fruitwala has withdrawn her application to the Board. The Nominating Committee is therefore recommending the appointment of Marilyn O'Connor to fill the unexpired term.

Board Action Requested: Appoint Marilyn O'Connor to fill the unexpired term of Shawn Futch with an expiration date of December 31, 2023, as recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Election of Nominating Committee (Benjamin)

Following the RPL Bylaws, a Nominating Committee shall be elected at the October meeting. It shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by the President and two of whom shall be elected by the Board. The Nominating Committee shall meet as needed and shall make recommendations to the Board for officers and new Board members. The Nominating Committee shall develop a slate of candidates for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, which slate shall be presented to the Board and voted on by the Board at the November meeting.

Trustees Benjamin and Hamilton have served two consecutive terms as President and Vice-President, respectively, and are not eligible to serve additional terms in those offices at this time. Trustee Karin has served for one term as Treasurer and is eligible to serve a second year in the same office. The position of Secretary is currently vacant.

Terms for Trustees Karin and Conklin are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2022; recommendations regarding reappointment to the Board or replacement by new trustees should also be developed by the Nominating Committee for presentation and vote by the full Board at the November meeting.

Board Action Requested: Election of a Nominating Committee as specified in the bylaws.

Board Meeting Dates for 2023 (Uttaro)

The proposed Rochester Public Library Board meeting dates for 2023 are:

January 25
February 22 (joint budget meeting with the MCLS Board)
March 29
April 26
May 24
June 28
August 23

September 27
October 25
November 29

All meetings are held on Wednesdays from 9:00–10:30 a.m. Most meetings are held at the Central Library with the occasional meeting scheduled at a Branch Library.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed schedule of 2023 RPL Board meetings.

2023 Holiday Schedule (Uttaro)

The following dates are in accordance with the recommended holidays for the City of Rochester as agreed to by labor unions and the City.

January 2	New Year's Day (Observed)
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Spring Floater to be taken between February 1 and April 30 (replaces President's Day which is not a closed day for library staff)	
May 29	Memorial Day
June 19	Juneteenth
July 4	Independence Day
September 4	Labor Day
October 9	Indigenous People's Day
October 20	RPL Staff Day (libraries closed; staff report)
November 10	Veteran's Day
November 23	Thanksgiving Day
December 22	Christmas Eve (observed)
December 25	Christmas Day

Director's Discretionary Day is to be taken at any time during the calendar year 2023.

This year, the City has added a new holiday – June 19, in honor of Juneteenth. This holiday would be available to all full-time RPL staff.

Our agreement with CSEA specifies (5) holidays for PT employees working 650+ hours in the preceding year: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Thanksgiving Day, December 24th, and December 25th. Three (3) additional holidays are provided to PT staff with 650+ hours in the preceding year and with 6+ years of service: Memorial Day, Independence Day & Labor Day.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the Proposed Holiday Closings for 2023.

City Capital Improvement Request (Harrison)

Below is a listing of City Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY24 to FY28 funding cycle. Outside of the standard requests for equipment, computer replacement, and Central Library facility maintenance, we are confirming cost estimates for specific capital projects in conjunction with the City's Division of Architectural Services for Central and branch library building-related needs. We will present both at the meeting for Board review and acceptance. Annual library facility, furnishing, fleet, and IT equipment requests are as follows:

1. **Branch Library Computer Replacements:** The Library's five-year cycle for server, large equipment, network/telephony, and computer replacements is as follows:

2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
\$10,000	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$125,000	\$10,000

2. **Branch Facilities Annual Allocation:** Our requested allocation for FY24 is \$54,000 and we incorporate inflationary increases for the proceeding years, ending with \$58,000 in FY28. This covers finish replacements and minor repairs to building systems and envelopes.
3. **Branch Furniture and Equipment:** We request an annual allocation of \$22,000 to replace chairs, tables, shelving, and equipment as needed in each branch, with inflationary increases for the proceeding years, ending with \$26,000 in FY28.
4. **Branch Fleet Replacement:** Our current facilities van for branch services is six years old and has substantial wear and use; our City Fleet staff are recommending a transition to an electric transit van; we are coordinating grant funds for a charge station installation at the Bausch & Lomb lot. The estimate is \$65,000 for FY24.
5. **Central Facilities Annual Allocation:** Each year the City provides an allocation for the general upkeep of the Central Library. Our requested allocation for FY24 is \$92,000 with minor inflationary increases for the proceeding years, ending with \$96,000 in FY28.
6. **Central Inspection Allocation:** This is a new allocation requested based on the growing requirements to inspect the accumulation of Rundel raceway silt, structural inspections of Rundel terraces, and HVAC inspections for the Bausch & Lomb building. DES is recommending \$10,000 for FY24, and we will be jointly working on a cyclical schedule of inspection types and dates for the remaining CIP out years.

Board Action Requested: Approve Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY24 to FY28 funding cycle.

Agreement, Branch Card-Read Access Services (Harrison)

Given the general turnover in staffing at library branches and prior City/Library security recommendations, the RPL shall implement a card-read access system for improved security, reporting, and notification purposes at 9 branch facilities. Currently, physical key assignments are made for branch staff. We have consulted with City IT and applied for NYSED grant funds (as approved by the Monroe County Library System Board in September) to furnish and install a card-read access system at nine (9) branch building exterior entrances (excluding Sully branch, that utilizes the RCSD card access system). A new server and software licenses will be housed at the Central Library data center which currently supports the Central Library access door system. Branch access card programming will be the responsibility of the RPL consistent with the current Central Library status. The access software will assist to develop Branch user group categories to ensure the timely creation and termination of access cards based on employment status.

Convergent is the vendor currently utilized by the City of Rochester and is recommended for the RPL for continuity of access between the Library and City facilities and security staff. They will furnish and install the system, including the provision of network and electrical connections for exterior door entrances, provide programmable cards, and train Library staff in the software and web-based card assignment system. The cost is not to exceed \$100,000; 50% of funding is provided through the NYSED grant, with the balance from Library IT and Facilities cash capital. We anticipate the project to be complete by May 30, 2023.

Board Action Requested: Approve an agreement with Convergent, Inc. for the term, services, and cost described.

Grant Acceptance, Empire State Digital Asset Management (Smathers)

RPL received a grant from the Rochester Regional Library Council for library participation in a digital asset management pilot project. The Northern NY Library Network and RRLC are developing an open-source digital

asset management system for museums & libraries and sought partners to test the system and provide feedback.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Local History & Genealogy Division agreed to add digital assets and metadata to a digital asset management system using various methods which included submitting items through a web interface or batch-adding items in conjunction with a metadata spreadsheet. The time commitment was 60 hours in total.

Board Action Requested: Accept a \$2,500 grant from RRLC for participation in testing of an open-source digital asset management system for museums & libraries.

Grant Acceptance: NY Humanities Vision Grant (Smathers)

The Local History & Genealogy Division requests that the library's Board of Trustees accept a grant from Humanities New York for \$1,500. The funds will be used to contract with Second Avenue Learning to develop a creative vision and technical specifications and provide technological, strategic, and creative input to support the future development of an augmented reality experience that engages with historical themes represented in the artwork on the Rundel Memorial Building's North Terrace.

Board Action Requested: Approve acceptance of a grant for \$1500 from Humanities New York for the purposes described.

Professional Services Agreement with Second Avenue Learning (Smathers)

The Local History & Genealogy Division requests approval for a Professional Services Agreement with Second Avenue Learning for \$1,500. Second Avenue Learning will develop a creative vision and technical specifications and provide technological, strategic, and creative input to support the future development of an augmented reality experience that engages with historical themes represented in the artwork on the Rundel Memorial Building's North Terrace. The project is funded by a \$1,500 grant from Humanities New York.

Board Action Requested: Approve a Professional Service Agreement with Second Avenue Learning

RPL Barring Policy Revision (Uttaro)

The RPL Barring Policy was last reviewed by the board in 2010. There are some revisions to the policy document due primarily to changes in the staffing reporting structure and the addition of the procedural section on barring periods for specific offenses. This policy was originally developed with guidance from the City Law Department and the attorney liaison to the Board and has served us well. The policy is applied in conjunction with the separate Code of Conduct. Trustees Drury and Salluzzo have reviewed the revised policy document and their input is included.

Board Action Requested: Approve the revised Patron Barring Policy.

Report & Discussion Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Joint Board Retreat & Succession Planning

In September, I met with the MCLS and RPL Board Presidents and the Chair of the MCLS Board Personnel Committee to begin discussing succession planning for the Director's position. We discussed a proposed timeline and process for recruitment, the focus of my work for the next 2 years, and the focus of the boards for the next 2 years. We also discussed the possibility of scheduling a joint board retreat in January or February to fully review all these questions, then activating the Joint Boards Personnel Committee immediately after that retreat. Debi Mansour will poll the trustees in November for a date in January.

Social Media

September 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	1586	986	328	3	3	15	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	1 (2,121)	7 (2,261)	39 (5,877)	-	47	23 (2,265)	1 (410)
Engagements	69	77	1288	49	110	211	44
Check-In/ Mentions	27	25	-	-	-	28	-
Post Reach	2402	4658	8060	1779	-	6084	11588
Video/Story Views	-	-	611	-	-	879	800
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	4	-	-	36	-

Central Library Updates

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting

Anecdotes/Other

- Dana, along with Alison Bieber, Mary Fraser, and Jonathan Hammond participated in a play date on the South Terrace. A mom and her two daughters stopped to play badminton, ring toss, and the ladder toss game. Bieber challenged them to a jump rope contest, which she lost when one of the girls jumped backward. A father and son stopped on their way to the skatepark. The staff was able to instruct him on a better parking space than the one he chose. They left with calendars, t-shirts, and a promise to talk up the library everywhere they went that day. The games were also brought out for the ice cream social on the North Terrace; however, the wind was a deterrent to most of the games. Instead, Hammond, Dana, Debi Mansour, and Susan Lusignan created some sidewalk chalk art promoting the library.
- Dana was contacted by Mozart Guerrier, a Police Accountability Board member, who was interested in hosting a table at RPL to dispense information. They have visited twice and can take complaints from the

public on the spot. Dana was also contacted by Ana Martinez, from the Center for Community Alternatives. Ana stopped by one of the play dates and is interested in a partnership with the library.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting

Select Programs

- Sewing to Help Our Community with SewGreen@Rochester--Central Library is always looking for ways to help its community. For this class, Georgia Carney from SewGreen@Rochester taught patrons how to sew baby items to be donated to the Crisis Nursery. Patrons expressed their gratitude to be able to sew and donate and to get helpful sewing tips from Carney. One patron commented, *"I like learning skills and helping the community!"* *"Keep running and informing us about programs like this,"* and *"I thank you for offering the classes, providing great service, and thinking outside the box to come up with more programs."*
- The George W. Cooper Doll Collection Talk-- Patrons learned about this special doll collection, from the former Head of the Children's Center, Barbara Billingsley. Billingsley provided an enlightening history of how the dolls were acquired and also provided information about the detailed ethnic dress each doll wears. One of the many stories that stood out was the one about the Australian doll. A couple visited with a friend from Australia to the Secret Room when it was in the Children's Room on the second floor of Rundel. The Australian visitor was not happy to see that back in 1934, the Australians donated a Koala to the collection. She felt that a doll was much more appropriate than a Koala and followed up by donating a doll representative of Australia. The visitor from Australia also watched Barbara's Zoom video and commented *"Thank you! You have made one Australian very happy on this Spring morning!"* Those who attended very much enjoyed her presentation with one attendee commenting, *"The history of the collection is fascinating and was brought to life by her. Excellent presentation!"*
- Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month: Create a Puerto Rican Viajante Mask-- Patrons created a colorful Viajante mask that is taken from festivals in Puerto Rico. The mask is made to be worn in Carnaval de Ponce, which is held in February and coincides with Lent. These masks were made from a glue/plaster mixture and then were painted in vibrant colors. All supplies were provided to students. Patrons enjoyed making this colorful mask celebrating Hispanic heritage and hearing the teacher, Hector Manuel, talk about the history of the mask and its origins in Puerto Rican culture.



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes reporting

Statistics

The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 5 in person, 20 by email, 0 by mail, and 2 by phone.

Hours of in-depth market research: 61

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 13

Tracy Jong appointments: 2 hours and 45 minutes, 4 people served

Database Use

Frost & Sullivan: 23 Page Views; Value \$69,650

IBISWorld: 161 Page Views; Value \$56,620

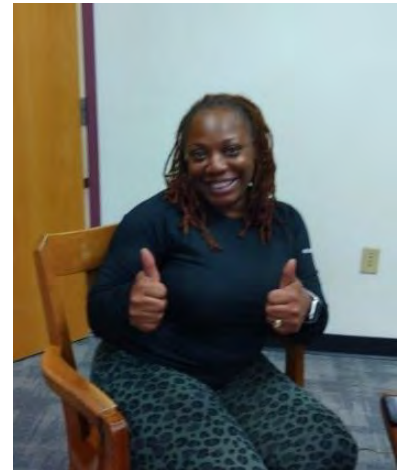
InnovationQ: 8 Logins; 156 Searches
PitchBook: 21 Logins
Statista: 72 Visits; 47 Downloads

Programs

Business First Wednesday: Financial Wellness for Your Business, Part 1 of 3, with Andrea Colline of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Rochester. Business owners learned how to order their credit reports, how to read their credit reports, and how to dispute and correct inaccurate credit reporting information. We discussed the importance of personal credit for business lending opportunities.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes met with the following to discuss BIC services: Albert Rivera of Pathstone Enterprise Center, Maisha Beard-Johnson of Community Wealth Building for the City, Amir Khan of MARL (mobility, AI/VR, robotics, logistics), and Rami Katz of Excell Partners.
- Byrnes had multiple meetings with multiple people who were applying for the Conditional Adult Use Recreational Dispensary (CAURED) license through the Office of Cannabis Management. The license application was extremely complicated and time-consuming. Byrnes estimates she spent 8 hours assisting one applicant.
- Byrnes and Kate Meddaugh met with Elizabeth Dougherty, Eastern Regional Outreach Director, and Stephen Yunchuck, Special Advisor to the Eastern Outreach Office of the US Patent and Trademark Office, who came to the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property and BIC to have a tour of the area and discuss our outreach, training, and community partnerships. They were so impressed with our level of outreach they recommended we speak at the USPTO annual training.
- Byrnes and Meddaugh presented to Syracuse University Innovation Law Center and MARL Accelerator cohort, based in Silicon Valley. Meddaugh and Melissa Cobo went to Canandaigua's Wood Library to present on the services of BIC and the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property.



Anecdotes/Other

Byrnes assisted cannabis Conditional Adult Use Recreational Dispensary license applicants through the laborious application process. Here is one happy patron who completed the process.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

Stories at the Park: Toddler Storytime at Highland Park continued Tuesdays in September. Participants enjoyed songs, stories, and movement activities. Using Talking is Teaching graphics and Supercharged Storytime literary tips, Katie Powell encouraged parents to engage with their infants and toddlers as they go about their daily activities, as a child's brain develops most rapidly in the first 3 years of life. Attendance declined as the weather grew colder, and the program will transition into the Secret Room in the fall.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Association for Library Service to Children Institute: Cathy Kyle and Miranda Hazen attended the Association for Library Service to Children Institute, including Opening Session with Author Christina Soontornvat, Big Ideas Session with Dr. Nicole Cooke: Radically Re-Envisioning LIS and Collaborative Authorship with Adam Gidwitz and Hena Khan.

- Some ideas that they are interested in using here are “Music and Movement,” storytime using yoga, a summer lunchtime book discussion, and “Craft and Chat” an open-ended craft program with an opportunity to speak with a social worker.
- Hoekelman Center 2022 Pediatric Links with the Community (PLC) Advocacy Award: Katie Powell and the rest of the staff were recognized for their outstanding teaching and excellence in caring for the children of Rochester. This is an award voted on by all the residents who participated in PLC throughout 2022. Powell meets with residents to share what services families can receive at our libraries and what library programs are being offered.
- The Children’s Center received funding from the Friends and Foundation to assemble Citizen Science Kits. Citizen Science is the process by which the public shares and contributes to scientific data monitoring and collection programs by crowd-sourcing data. It involves the public in scientific research and is mutually beneficial for professional scientists and volunteer data collectors. Kits are geared towards children 8-12 years old. They contain activity guides (in English and Spanish) and tools used for gathering and reporting observations.



Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments - 14
- New Borrowers - 178
- RRLC Access Cards Issued - 5
- Notarial Acts - 133

Anecdotes/Other

- Miranda Hazen from the Children’s Center helped two different families with one common problem: their children had cards that had been blocked due to fines and fees years ago and they wanted to see if they could get help getting their kids new cards. Hazen brought the information to Cunningham and the two worked to clear the fines and fees from Central. Cunningham contacted the Henrietta Library to get the remainder cleared. Hazen was able to contact the families and issue new cards to the kids.
- Cunningham recently notarized an application for a marriage license for Washington state. The couple were...well...giddy is the only word to describe them. They smiled and took pictures of the application. It was an amazingly sweet moment.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- First Friday Films presented the film *After Yang*.
- See It First Saturday Matinee presented *Elvis*.
- Brown Bag Book Discussion covered *Whereabouts* by Jhumpa Lahiri. There was an in-person group on 9/21 and a zoom group on 9/23.
- The popular Concert in the Garden series continued with: Amanda Ashley on 9/6, Roisin Dubh on 9/13, Katie Morey on 9/20, and Cerberus Trio on 9/27.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

RMC used money from the Kroll fund to purchase streaming equipment for use in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. On Tuesday, September 27th we streamed our first program to YouTube, about the book *The Violence Project*.

Anecdotes/Other

FFRPL has received hundreds of DVD/Blu-Ray donations in the last 4-6 weeks. RMC is checking the condition of these items for our collection. Donations are being added to the collection as new titles, or as replacements for heavily used discs.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

As the number of special collections in Local History & Genealogy has grown, space for properly storing these collections has become increasingly limited. Having been granted additional storage space in the Link level of the Bausch & Lomb Building, the division began cleaning and prepping the space and moving materials into it this month.

Orders Fulfilled	September 2021	September 2022	Increase
Life Records	3	37	1,133%
Newspaper Index	5	10	100%
Rochester Images	4	31	675%

Programs – Priority #1: Education and Engagement

- The Local History & Genealogy Division hosted five programs in September, including a program held in conjunction with the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Celebration and the arrival of the “Journey to Freedom” traveling sculpture that is in Washington Square Park from September 2 until October 31. “Harriet on the Move!” with Delores Jackson Radney of Kummba Consultants was an interactive dance based on a poem by Eloise Greenfield focusing on Tubman’s life and travels. The program was scheduled to be held on the newly renovated Rundel Terrace, but patrons requested to move inside due to the hot temperature that evening.
- The fall series of *Mourning in the Morning*, presented in partnership with the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, kicked off with a talk by Marcia Birken and Marjorie Searl on “Holocaust Survivors in Mount Hope Cemetery.” The program was held via Zoom; a recording is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3hct5eobLDY>.
- The first program in the fall series of *Rochester’s Rich History* featured a talk and performance by Christopher Shannon entitled “A Little Slip of Heaven: Songs and Stories of the Rochester Irish, from Baby Boom to Baby Bust.”

- The division also hosted an open house for the current exhibit in the Local History Exhibits Hall: *Welcome Home: Celebrating Rochester's Immigrants*. The evening event was well attended and included many of the community partners who contributed items to the exhibit (see photo).



Photograph provided by Tamara Denysenko.

Special Collections

- Fess completed a detailed survey of the Mortimer F. Delano papers element of the Montgomery & Angell Family Papers and began working on their final arrangement. Fess continued in-house conservation work on damaged and/or fragile items from the map collection.
- *Archive of Black History & Culture*
Antoine McDonald became the Project Manager for the Archive of Black History & Culture project. The library received 43 applications for 10 paid community curator positions that will constitute the Community Advisory Board tasked with setting a mission, vision, and strategic plan for the archive. The applicant pool is strong and includes people with a range of skill sets, perspectives, community connections, and experience in archival and/or historical work. McDonald formed a selection committee of library staff and community advisors who are in the process of reviewing the applications and identifying leading candidates. Final candidates will be selected in October, to have all 10 positions filled by the end of that month.

Digital Projects

- The library received confirmation that Family Search has identified two volunteers to operate its planned scanning center. Equipment, volunteers, and Family Search staff will arrive in early November to set up the scanning center and train the volunteers. The first items to be scanned include city and suburban directories and yearbooks. Local History & Genealogy Division staff will update the board monthly on which items have been scanned and will seek preapproval from the board before beginning to digitize different types of material.
- Fess arranged to have four maps, all related to Native American sites and trails in the Rochester area, imaged by Editions Printing. This small digitization project was funded by a generous patron who needed copies of the maps for her research. Once the final images are received, they will be added to the division's digital map collection in CARL.

Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 115 views in September: "A Genealogy of Place: Frequently Asked Questions about House Research, Part One" by Christopher Brennan and "In Search of Lost Suds: Rum Running in Rochester, Part 2" by Emily Morry. In addition to these posts, readers from 31 countries revisited 174 previously published posts for a total of 1,973 views. All posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Interns/Volunteers

The division's work was supported by five volunteers and one intern in September for a total contribution of 67 hours. Karen Sue Brown, a long-time volunteer with the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, began sorting and filing the backlog of newspaper clippings this month; she contributed 17.5 hours. Linda Lopata contributed 8 hours to rehousing and cataloging items in a collection of pinback buttons in the Office of the City Historian. Stephanie Ball contributed 10.75 hours arranging an assortment of unsorted archival material. Kaye Knoll provided 9.5 hours working on the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club records. Noeme Liestman provided 3.25 hours finalizing the arrangement and housing of the 35mm slides in the Roger B. Smith photograph collection. Intern George Macko (SUNY Geneseo) contributed 18 hours completing work on the Concert

Programs Collection and beginning work on the Rochester Business Institute Records. Macko will also be editing oral history transcripts.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

The Renaissance, hosted by St. John Fisher University history professor Oliver Griffin, brought in a small group of people who were engaged throughout Professor Griffin's presentation and asked great questions. Lily Anthony, Renee Kendrot, and Gabe Pellegrino planned and publicized this program using online community calendars including City Newspaper, WXXI, Beyond the Nest, and the library's social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Pellegrino attended the Community-Driven Cancer Research Team Meeting (part of the Community Conversations on Cancer – Wilmot CCAC partnership). Discussed were this month's retreat and what would be covered, as well as awards for members, community partners, and community organizations.

All the Science staff attended the two-part 8-hour Mental Health Training given by Megan Clifford and/or Norman Simmons. The general feeling was that the training was excellent but somewhat heavy. Several staff members felt a bit overwhelmed, but overall, a positive, worthwhile experience.

LROC visitors were back up again to about 50. Much of this is due to the return of cold weather. People are looking especially for housing, but we have seen needs for food and clothing return. We will find out if food or clothing can be stored here, which was the case before the pandemic. At this point, LROC is only available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For the time being, LawNY has backed out of the Friday legal assistance; this will be revisited in the future.

Anecdotes/Other

The Mental Health Training was already put to good use by Flo Morris, who was able to assist a patron with a mental health crisis during an evening shift by sharing a list of resources from the training with the patron and by contacting Crisis Health Services. CHS was able to come to the library and pick up the patron who was in desperate need of shelter. Morris again used the resources for a patron who came in asking for information on anxiety. Morris photocopied some of the pages on anxiety from one of the resource books that was given in the two sessions of the mental health training as well as provided some books from the collection.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting

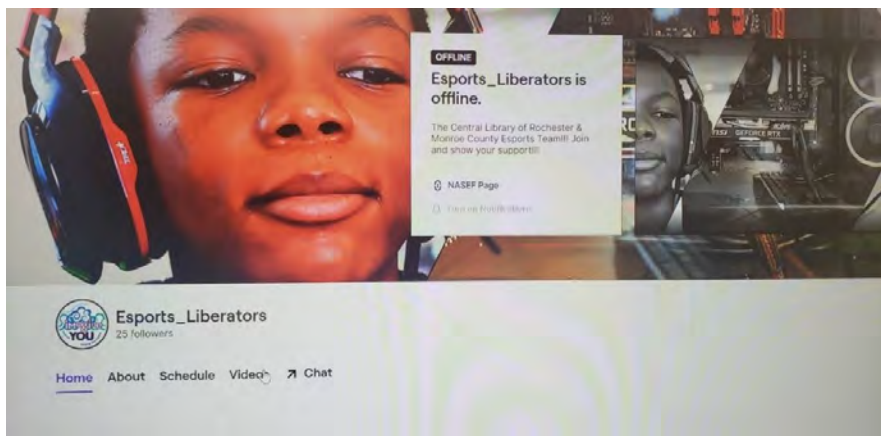
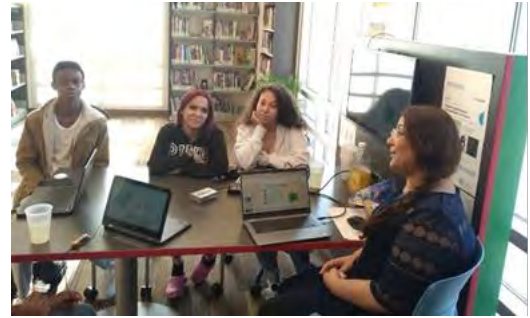
Programs

Collaborations with Digital Literacy Volunteers and Rochester Works are still developing. Shafayet is the Digital Literacy Volunteer who will be teaching some classes here when his training is complete. He will be using the curriculum from North Star Digital Literacy. This curriculum and related study material are freely available online, making it very simple for students to work on their own. Some staff in the Tech Center have used this same curriculum to test and expand their knowledge of productivity software and other topics in computer technology.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- Girls Who Code: The members are working on lessons online at their own pace. There are weekly meetings where participants can discuss the lessons, triumphs, and problem-solving involved in the learning process. All members have access to free online resumes and tech job interview workshops.
- Teens have joined the Teen Advisory Board and Volunteering program to complete their high school community work hours.
- The 4 sessions of “Learn to Make Your Own Website with WordPress” were well attended. A few participants found it especially useful and started building their websites using WordPress templates. Tutorials are accessible through this Google Drive folder. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vV2EmCScLE-HDtJ9Gp9etW2TfZICdwhU>
- E-Sports – The Central Library E-Sports team participated in their first event this month. Frontier Communications bought the team new keyboards, mice, and streaming equipment. One of our team members set up our stream deck, wave 1 microphone, Facecam, and capture card. The team has also agreed on a name: Central Library Liberators. The team’s twitch account has been set up and already has 25 followers.



- Music Studio – Certifications continued as scheduled this month. The music studio continues to get near constant use.



- The Glowforge was used to test different materials this month. Keychains were successfully made. During the experience, participants discovered that engraving photos on acrylic does not work well.



Anecdotes/Other

Ms. Colleen and her students enjoyed a tour of the Teen Center and ImagineYou Lab. They spent some time researching nearby places of interest online, i.e. Strong Museum, the skate park, and places to eat. We checked to see if our new friends had operational library accounts so we could provide replacement cards. No one was in our system, but those who chose to be signed up for library cards did and one young lady checked out a book for the first time that she could ever recall. She also said, *“this is my favorite place in the city, and I will be back soon.”*



Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis, Deputy Director reporting

In September I participated in the City of Rochester's Departmental Leadership retreat. I was able to meet in person several people with whom I've only had familiarity via e-mail. We were given a motivational address by Mayor Malik Evans. We all shared our definitions of leadership; I enjoyed listening to the different perspectives. Challenges and experiences were shared.

The latter part of the month was focused on supporting the work of Local History's Antoine McDonald on the development of RPL's Black History Archive project. Antoine assembled a working group consisting of various RPL staff and community members. Three work sessions were scheduled, and each group member ranked 43 candidates for an advisory board. It is very exciting to see this project come to fruition.

Anecdotes/Other

- Joan Lee worked collaboratively with Delia Smith (Rochester Works) and Jamila Crossdale (Youth Workforce Development Coordinator for the Department of Recreation) on the training and placement of summer youth interns. There were 17 youths from the Rochester community that were placed at six branches and two Central locations. The youth received a full day of training from Rochester Works before placement and two additional workforce training sessions were held during the summer. *Priority #2 Create and maintain essential library relationships.*
- Lee also attended the 2022 Summer of Opportunity Closeout Appreciation Breakfast that was held at Harro East Ballroom. Rochester Public Library was one of the five honorees for this year's Gold Star Award. The library was presented a Gold Star Award that Lee accepted on behalf of the managers and staff who willingly mentored and trained these youth. This year's summer interns were placed at Charlotte, Douglass, Lincoln, Maplewood, Sully, Winton, Wheatley, Teen Central, Circulation, and the Children's Center.
- Erin Clarke attended the Celebrate City Living Mini Expo, organized in conjunction with the Southeast Neighborhood Services Center, the Landmark Society, and several banks, housing experts, and real estate professionals. Designed as a family event, Clarke and Children's Center Cathy Kyle attended so Kyle could chat with children and Clarke could chat with their grown-ups. It was a good opportunity to introduce library

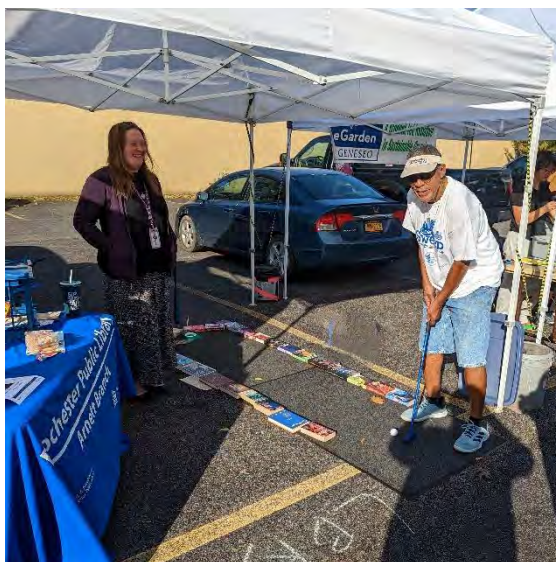
services to the other City representatives there. Clarke spoke with Melissa Berrien, Family Self Sufficiency Supervisor at the Rochester Housing Authority, and will follow up with her to establish a connection.

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting
Programs

- Therapy dogs returned to the Arnett Branch Library for the first time since February 2020. The newly formed organization, RocDog: Paws for Hearts Community Outreach, will be visiting Arnett once a month

Community Outreach

- Arnett staff attended several outreach events. The most popular event with folks of all ages was Arnett's miniature golf stand at the Westside Farmers Market.



Anecdotes

At outreach events, extra efforts were made to sign visitors up for library cards since September was National Library Card Month. Several University of Rochester students who visit the Westside Farmers Market obtained cards and visited the library later in the month.

Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Karen Duff and Dennis Williams facilitated the Food for Thought book discussion group meeting via Zoom to discuss *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. The group decided to meet exclusively via Zoom for the remainder of the program year to accommodate out-of-state participants.
- Linda Bower presented a popular craft program: creating pumpkins using canning jar lids, ribbons, and other elements. Students enjoyed themselves and snapped up seats for the program Bower will be presenting next month.
- Drums are being used to facilitate music programs, both to enhance the regular monthly music programming and for the Music Making workshops: Learn How to Play Musical Instruments.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Cherelin attended Neighborhood Night Out at School #42, along with representatives of the Charlotte Community Association, teachers, families, and Bruce Wilder from the City of Rochester to represent the interests of the Charlotte Branch Library
- The fourth Charlotte Produce Distribution was held on Saturday, September 3rd: the pick-up volunteers and the other four volunteers helped over 20 families. Extra food was brought to Lake Avenue Baptist Church to feed an additional 15-20 families.



Anecdotes/Other

- Heather Sessler shares that Della is a mother of five grown children. Although she has been actively volunteering during the pandemic, she is now seeking permanent employment. Della came to Charlotte toward the end of the day to get help creating a resume. Sessler spent time with her but couldn't finish before the computers automatically shut down. They made an appointment for the next afternoon to work together. Della came back and completed her resume, feeling optimistic about her prospects. She said she would return another day when Sessler was available to learn more computer skills.



Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- Knitting Club – Children ages 8 and up are learning knitting basics with our literacy aide Heather Galetto. Supplies are provided for those who do not bring their own.

- Back to School Coffee Break – Provided coffee and granola bars for adults on the second day of school to celebrate the kids returning to the classroom. The door prize drawing was for an Amazon gift card. (Sustainability and Resources – Create and Maintain essential library relationships.)
- Book Club Interest Meeting – Adults are interested in starting a “Not on the same page” Book Club. They will bring whatever book they are currently reading, tell the others about it, and then have quiet time to read! The idea to hold a book club meeting like this originated from a conversation Evanna DiSalvo had with Brian DiNitto. (Stewardship and Curation.)

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Douglass Family Campus partnership meeting – Jennifer Nesbit and DiSalvo met with Katie Trepanier, principal of School #12, and Carmen Jones, Frederick Douglass R-Center to formulate plans for the Douglass Family Campus. The Family Campus was kicked off on social media with a poster and QR code for a linktree at <https://linktr.ee/amda12>
- Anna Murray Douglass Academy School #12 Open House – Nesbit and DiSalvo attended the open house at School #12. A raffle for a Wegmans gift card was won by a student's grandmother. The participating tables can be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/fYeOPfG-0/>



Anecdotes/Other

- Staff Thwacky Thursday: Sequins – Team Douglass participates in “Thwacky Thursday” once a month. In September the team wore sequins. Mini disco balls were given to patrons who could guess the theme for the day. It was a team event very well received by patrons.
- Special visitor – Two-year-old Caleb came to visit us after a long absence. His mom brought him in, and he enjoyed exploring the library and finding his favorite books again. His mom shared how special the library is to Caleb, and how he talks at home about the library and its staff. Caleb will be a big brother in November which is so exciting. When his mom asked him if he will be a big-boy brother, Caleb responded: “No. I’m going to be a big boy FIRE TRUCK!” He sure does love his trucks, and Team Douglass enjoys his visits.



Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Liz Kurz assisted Michele Saccente at the Phillis Wheatley Community Library in planning and implementing programming during the days Kurz is not working at the Trenton and Pamela Jackson R-Center.
- Matt Seidel started a weekly in-person chess club for all ages at the Winton Branch. At its first meeting, there were three attendees. Seidel has since received emails from adults interested in joining or having their children join.
- Seidel is collaborating with Lauren DelGaizo on possible other programs, such as a retro game club and computer programming club.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Kurz was able to serve as a representative with the Book Bike at a community barbeque held by Senator Jeremy Cooney. At this event, Kurz was also able to connect with a representative of the Finger Lakes division of the New York Immigration Coalition.
- Kurz attended an outreach event with Michele Saccente from Phillis Wheatley at Dr. Alice Holloway Young School of Excellence for a middle school open house event. There was a raffle started for *Love Like Sky* by Leslie Youngblood to advertise for the Greater Rochester Teen Books Festival, and applications for library cards were handed out along with slips explaining the types of identification needed for teens to sign up. They were also able to meet with the local chapter founder of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

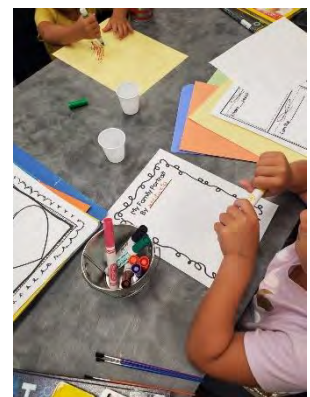
Anecdotes/Other

- While at the Charlotte branch, Safe to be Smart member Vera Haygood has been training on different functions of library operations including opening and closing procedures, circulation, and use of CARL as well as daily register operations.
- Haygood also created a display in the Charlotte Library on creating healthy fall meals using Instant pots or Crock pots.
- While at Phillis Wheatley, Kurz worked with teens on their homework and spent time explaining algebraic simplification through the distributive property to a teen who was stressed about an upcoming test.
- This month Jasmine Santiago relocated to the Central Library. Santiago corresponded with Joseph Avenue ABC Start and organized two school visits, spent time planning takes and makes for outreach, ordered supplies for the take and makes, and created carts of books for future purchases.
- Lehman has spent the month of September finishing packing up the library for renovation, coordinating the move to the satellite site at the Jackson Recreation Center, and getting the satellite site set up. The satellite site is set up and operational. There is a senior group that meets at the recreation center every morning and many have been stopping in to sign up for cards and check out books.
- Haygood, Kurz, Lehman, Santiago, and Seidel along with Victoria Velasquez and Jalen Hicks have all been working to staff the satellite site at the recreation center. Velasquez and Lehman work there daily and the other staff works on a rotating schedule.

Lyell Branch Library, Shamika Fusco reporting

Programs

- Homeschool Hour: Children started their school year at Lyell's Homeschool Hour. We had new preschool families that enjoyed working together and supporting each other. After the kids got their work done, they played board games together.
- Teens Volunteer: After school teens came to the library to volunteer with Manju Sharma to decorate the teen area for fall. They cut some fall leaves, borders, and letters for quotations, and they helped to tape leaves and the quotations on the window.
- Teen Book Talk: Teens participated in book discussions on *Friendship* by Jean Rawitt. Manju Sharma talked about how friendship is so important in our lives. Manju Sharma asked teens "How well do you know me" questions about their friend.
- National Coffee Day: Patrons who came to the library got a free cup of coffee!



Anecdotes

- Shamika Fusco has been part of the Kiwanis Club for five years. She received an award, a pin, as well as a certificate for helping the club stay organized, current, and more technologically savvy.
- Fusco had a chance to attend the Rochester Business Journal Women's Leadership Conference. The keynote speaker was Dr. DeAnna Burt-Nana and she was phenomenal. Her message evolved around the word disruption, and it not necessarily being a terrible thing. The biggest takeaways from the conference were: change is inevitable, avoid complacency, move forward, and know your worth.
- Banned Books Week is an annual awareness campaign promoted by the American Library Association and Amnesty International that celebrates the freedom to read, draws attention to banned and challenged books, and highlights persecuted individuals. "Books unite us, censorship divides us."
- Lyell Branch is on now Instagram! Find us on the 'gram under lyellbranchlibrary to keep up to date on programming, events, and more.



Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- In September there was a Connect 4 tournament which has doubled in size since it returned in July. Word of the tournament spread and brought out some old competitors from the pre-pandemic era. The 2019 Connect 4 champion returned to try and regain his title.
- The Maplewood Library has been very busy in the afternoons helping children and teens with their homework. The numbers can average between twenty to twenty-five on Mondays through Thursdays.
- The library's GED class has returned. It is the same teacher from prior years, but the day of the week has changed. The GED class is now held on Wednesdays from 5 pm to 6:15 pm.
- The Korean language and culture class was well attended. The teacher, who is from South Korea, talked about Korean traditions, and how people address each other in Korean, food, and pop cultures like K-pop and K-dramas. She brought in a traditional dress called a hanbok to show. The group made cards to give to loved ones written in Korean. The teacher was very well-liked and did a wonderful job. It was a great opportunity for library patrons to learn about another culture.

Anecdotes/Other

- A new English student from Ukraine spontaneously shared during the conversation class why she loves America. She loves the freedom of speech and freedom of religion as she grew up in Ukraine when it was part of the USSR, and she never experienced these freedoms in her youth.
- A new student from Liberia is coming to the library for citizenship instruction. She does not have a computer at home, so she comes to the library during the time a librarian teaches the 1.5-hour weekly citizenship class through Zoom. She is very happy to have found this resource.
- An Arabic new-English student continues her weekly reading classes through Zoom. She has moved up to reading books and will complete her first book soon: *The Boxcar Children*. The staff has dropped off a copy of this book to her so she can read it on her own. Due to modesty in her culture, she does not turn her camera on during Zoom class with a male instructor, but she is progressing with reading. Staff will have to figure out a workaround to teach writing through Zoom without a camera.
- Over fifty children and teens received school supplies and backpacks during the school supplies giveaway.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- St. Paul Daycare visits continue weekly. Hoople reads to the Dolphins Class (ages 2-3) and the Dinosaur Class (ages 3-4). A meeting was held to add the Octopus Class (ages 4-5 who miss Hoople from when they were Dinosaurs).
- Hudson worked at the library system's table at Comic-Con, interacting with event attendees, answering their questions, and promoting the library.

Anecdotes/Other

- A very positive thing happened due to having a social work intern at Monroe. On a Thursday, a worker with LROC came to pick up Monroe's intern to take her to Central to work doing outreach. On the way to Central, they stopped to talk with a man at the corner by 490. It turned out that this was Bob, a long-time regular at Monroe. He has fallen on very hard times and now lives on the street. The LROC worker asked Bob to meet her the following Thursday at Monroe. At 11:00 sharp, Bob came and met with them. They worked on filling out the applications for food stamps and housing and will be meeting again to continue this process. This would not have happened so quickly if Monroe didn't have an intern.
- Mary Clare Scheg introduced the intern to the woman who runs the supper program at Blessed Sacrament. The following week she went to Blessed Sacrament and volunteered to help with the meals. She will continue to work there periodically and plans to set up a table to help people with food stamps, housing, etc. once they go back to inside dining.
- There's a teenager who comes often to the children's room with her Rochester City School District Home Instructor. J is several reading levels behind her peers and claims to 'hate reading.' One day in early September, the instructor asked Hoople if he had any recommendations for kids who hate reading. Hoople recommended many books and one caught the student's eye: the graphic novel *Witch Boy* by Molly Knox Ostertag. J (who 'hates' to read) flew through all three books in the series in as many days and asked for more recommendations! She even gave Hoople homework, as he is now required to read *Witch Boy* so that she can have someone to talk to about the book.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- Alexandra Haehn read a book about apples to a group of kindergarteners and discussed the various colors that apples can be. The children then made an apple puppet using their favorite color of apple with the help of Marta Periera. *(Priority One- promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse communities)*
- Sheilah Murphy offered a painted terra cotta pot takeaway craft for patrons to create. A patron provided an image of their completed terra cotta pot craft via Facebook. *(Priority One- Expand our visible presence in our communities and increase the use and support of our libraries among our diverse populations)*



Anecdotes/Other

- Lydia McCarthy, a social work intern from the University at Brockport, has been placed at the library for the school year. A Facebook/Instagram post announcing this new service reached 5800 people and was shared 56 times.
- A patron called looking for a copy of the book *Every Voice Ain't From God: A Christian Romance Thriller* by Tanisha Stewart. MCLS did not own a single copy, so Murphy purchased it for the collection and the book is currently in the process of being added. The patron was thrilled that the library was willing to do this for her.



Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- Literacy Volunteers of Rochester have returned to the Sully Branch Library! Sully now has a Digital Literacy Navigator every Monday and Tuesday morning.
- Sully's Summer Reading Finale featured a backpacks giveaway along with a color-your-own-treasure tote, snacks, and games. Each backpack was loaded up with crayons, chalk, books, and other supplies, making for some very happy families!



Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

- Jacob Bigelow attended the Flower City Comic Con to work at the MCLS table. Bigelow was proud to report that numerous visitors to the convention stopped by the MCLS table to thank the librarians and library staff for the work they do and tell them how much they love their libraries.
- Heeks-Heinlein rode a book bike over to the Connected Communities Fall Extravaganza at Grand Ave Park. She was able to give away all of the books and program flyers that she brought with her. Thanks to the Wheatley Community Library for lending their amazing book bike. The bike received many compliments while Heeks-Heinlein was at the event.
- Kim Whittemore, along with Mark Hafer and Katie Powell, participated in the "Exploring the Great Outdoors" WXXI outreach at Seneca Park.



Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- This month's book group met online to discuss *While Justice Sleeps* by Stacey Abrams. The group thoroughly enjoyed this fictional account of a Supreme Court judge and his clerk in this fast-paced legal thriller. The group enjoyed her writing style and would like to read one of her romance novels under her pen name. The October meeting will be held in the library. (Priority 1: Education and Engagement)
- Lauren DelGaizo began the month with a partnership with MCLS Board Member Emily Hessney Lynch's Serve Me the Sky Book Club, which was highly advertised on both Hessney Lynch's personal and business social media, her business website, Winton's social media, and in-person around the Winton Branch. Book Club was held after hours and facilitated by both Hessney Lynch and DelGaizo. 11 people attended the event, including the Teen Librarian from Seymour Library and the Marketing Strategist from Webster Library. All attendees were in their 20s and 30s, a relatively underrepresented group in Winton's demographic. Author Francesca Padilla joined Book Club halfway through to discuss her writing process, hear our thoughts on the book, and sign copies.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Winton Branch Library was lucky enough for all public service staff to undergo Mental Health First Aid training which took place over two mornings. This was a real team-building exercise that was helpful for those of us who deal with challenging people every day and have never had any training in this area. Perhaps most valuable is knowing that Administration recognizes the fact that branch staff is under a great deal of pressure dealing with vulnerable populations and offers training on how to deal with these pressures.

Anecdotes/Other

- Over the last month, Winton has seen an influx of teens looking for community service opportunities. To accommodate this, DelGaizo developed information and applications to start up a Teen Advisory Board. The Teen Advisory Board will have its first meeting sometime in October.
- The Winton Branch Library is lucky enough to be able to welcome Matt Seidel to join our staff temporarily while the Lincoln Branch Library is out of service for renovation. He brings his expertise and passion for chess and has been working hard to create a chess club here.
- A woman visited the library who had not been there in quite a few years since her children attended story time with retiree Jane McManus. She was very impressed with the new space – the early learning play center has all the toys together rather than spread throughout the Children's Room. She loved the Lakeshore Learning kitchen and the organized and labeled cabinet that allows children to put toys away in an orderly way.

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

- Patricia Finnerty and Kathy Wolf were looking at the magazine shelving and noticed there were quite a few very old magazines on display, so all the magazines were moved to one side of the solarium and the new books were moved to the other side. It is now a warm, welcoming space for patrons to enjoy!

