

**Rochester
Public Library**

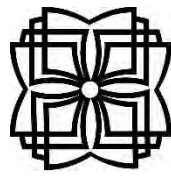
More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

**Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building
October 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Agenda**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| I. PUBLIC COMMENTS | Gardner | |
| II. ACTION ITEMS | | |
| 1. Minutes of Prior Meeting | Gardner | page 3 |
| 2. Personnel Changes | Suro | page 7 |
| 3. Financial Reports | Harrison | page 9 |
| 4. City Capital Improvement Request | Harrison | page 13 |
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| 6. Grant Acceptance, New York State | Clasper | page 16 |
| 7. Agreement, Archival Services | Clasper | page 16 |
| 8. Election of Nominating Committee | Gardner | page 16 |
| 9. 2024 RPL Board Meeting Schedule | Uttaro | page 16 |
| III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS | | |
| 1. Liaison & Committee Reports | | |
| a. Liaison to the MCLS Board | Uttaro | |
| b. Friends & Foundation of RPL | Borgus | |
| 2. Staff Reports | | |
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| IV. OTHER BUSINESS | | |
| V. ADJOURNMENT | | |

**Next Meeting:
November 29, 2023
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building, 3rd floor, Board Room,**



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**Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building, Board Room
September 27, 2023
Minutes**

RPL Trustees Present: Katherine Baynes, Ellen Brenner, Alinda Drury, Glenn Gardner, Daniel Karin, Sharon Salluzzo (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: Donna Benjamin, James Kraus, Marilyn O'Connor

Staff and Guests: Friends & Foundation of RPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Tonia Burton, Shareka Jackson, Melanie Lewis, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order

Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

No members of the public were present who wished to address the board.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 23, 2023, meeting were approved without objection.

Personnel Changes

On behalf of Ms. Suro, Ms. Uttaro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for August 15, 2023–September 8, 2023, and offered to answer questions. Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Reports

Ms. Jackson reviewed the financial reports with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Karin MADE A MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

She added that the Year End Report is included as an information item for the Board and shows the year ending with a \$1.4 million fund balance.

NYSED Grant Approval

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with everyone and offered to answer questions. Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to approve the grant application and acceptance of \$435,000 from the NYSED Division of Library Development for the construction projects described; the total projected awards to the RPL are \$606,190 for 2023-24. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2024 Holiday Schedule

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with everyone and offered to answer questions. Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to approve the 2024 holidays as proposed. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Appointment of MCLS Board Liaison to the RPL Board

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with everyone and offered to answer questions. Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to approve the appointment of Suzanne Stockman as the MCLS Board Liaison to the RPL Board. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation for Appointment to the Board

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Karin recommended the Board appoint Dr. Jeffrey Tucker to fulfill the remaining term of former trustee Dick Hamilton. His term will run through December 31, 2024. Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to appoint Dr. Jeffrey Tucker to fill the remaining term of former trustee Dick Hamilton. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Liaison to the Monroe County Library System Board

Ms. Uttaro reminded the Board that Dick Hamilton was to be the new liaison to the MCLS Board, but his resignation means a replacement needs to be appointed.

She reported the MCLS Board approved the Monroe County Capital Improvement Program.

Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)

Ms. Borgus reviewed highlights from her written report and offered to answer questions.

Maplewood Community Library Project Update

Ms. Uttaro reported that Ms. Harrison is absent from the meeting because she is at the Maplewood Library Staff Meeting to update the staff on the progress of this project. The search for an alternate site to house the library while building renovations happen is fully underway and Ms. Harrison is pursuing several potential sites. The tentative date to have the temporary site up and running is May 2024.

She then reported there is a \$2.5 million shortfall due to an expansion to the roofing portion of the project. She will be meeting with the City’s Budget Director to discuss the funding and anticipates the money will be found.

Director’s Report

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She shared that she was at the City’s Employee Recognition Ceremony the night before and was proud to see so many library employees recognized.

She reminded everyone that Literacy Rochester’s Brain Games is coming up on October 19 at 5:00 p.m.

RRLC has been selected to receive the Chairman’s Award from Causewave Community Partners.

The Tech Rochester Awards are coming up on October 10. MCLS & RPL are nominated for a Great Award in the category of Tech for Good for the MiFi program.

She shared that she is now a member of the Bivona Child Advocacy Center Board of Trustees.

Lastly, she reported the Lincoln Branch grand opening was a success and was covered by all the local news outlets.

Raising a Reader

Ms. Burton confirmed that everyone received her written report last month and offered to answer any questions. In response to a question about tracking children’s progress, Ms. Burton explained that this is one of the most challenging aspects of the program. The library attempts to get parents and caregivers to complete surveys, however, that is not always easy, especially if the adults are not proficient readers themselves. Despite best efforts, the library has been unable to get data from the local school district. The other challenge is staffing changes at service sites. If a teacher knows about Raising a Reader and is enthusiastic about the program, the librarians will focus their efforts there. What all this means for the children is that it is nearly impossible to get reliable data over enough years to draw any conclusions about the efficacy of this early literacy intervention on academic success in later grades. Ms. Burton shared that the national leadership for the Raising a Rader program is looking into these issues, and she is hopeful they will be able to assist in getting data to measure success. In the meantime, she has mostly anecdotal evidence to support the success of the program.

Mr. Gruber offered to make a connection between Ms. Uttaro and the leadership of an initiative called Together Now which is working to enable data sharing and may be able to assist with connecting the library and the school district.

Ms. Burton then explained the data that is shared for the Raising a Reader program is things like number of books read, frequency of library visits, and frequency of children asking to be read to by their caregiver.

Central Library

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She shared that Ms. Clasper is focusing on staffing issues across the Central Library. She reported that when the entire Reynolds Media Department attended the Employee Recognition Ceremony, Ms. Clasper helped staff the Media Center despite having no experience.

Ms. Smathers added that more “Read” posters will be on display soon.

Community Libraries

Ms. Lewis offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that library cards have increased significantly in the branches since the library went fine-fee on July 1. She acknowledged that many staff members from the branches received recognition awards at the recent award ceremony.

Next, she reported the RIT students have started their work on the designs for the bookmobile and the reconfiguring of the Lyell branch to accommodate the hybrid service model. The students have been to the Lyell Branch, have heard presentations about library services, and have met with the city’s Communications Director, Barbara Pierce.

Executive Session

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:08 a.m. to discuss the work responsibilities of a specific employee.

The Executive Session adjourned without objection at 10:24 a.m.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Mr. Gardner adjourned the meeting without objection at 10:25 a.m.

Submitted by Donna Benjamin, Secretary

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PERSONNEL CHANGES
September 11, 2023 to October 6, 2023**

➤ **NEW HIRES**

Austin, Ray-Jean	Security Guard/PT/Monroe Branch	10/02/2023
Brennan, Natalie	Clerk Typist/PT/Winton Branch	09/25/2023
Eckerson, Rachael	Library Page/PT/Central/Circulation Department	09/11/2023
Neumaier, Anna	Librarian I/Sub/PT/Branch Administration	09/15/2023
Rus, Nelleke	Library Page/PT/Central/Circulation Department	09/11/2023
Torres, H. Eric	Security Guard/PT/Central/Security Division	09/25/2023

➤ **RESIGNATION**

Blanding, Lee	Security Guard/PT/Arnett Branch	09/19/2023
Davis, Damoni	Library Page/PT/Sully Branch	09/18/2023
McCullough, John	Security Guard/PT/Maplewood Branch	09/13/2023
Saccente, Michele	Library Assistant/PT/Wheatley Branch	09/14/2023
Zapata, Courtney	Library Assistant/PT/Charlotte Branch	09/30/2023

**STAFFING
September 11, 2023 to October 6, 2023**

Full-Time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	77	26
Filled	74	25
Vacancies	3	1
Part-time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	122	136
Filled	72	106
Vacancies	50	30

**Rochester Public Library
Financial Report Summary
October 2023**

Central Financial Report, September 2023

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages, and overtime within budget. The annual retirement lump contribution will occur in January.

Equipment & Supplies: Materials purchases and other expenses are projected within budget.

Services & Charges: Utilities charges are not yet posted. Professional services include OCLC lump-sum charges for the year.

Cash Capital: Funds are reserved for planned expenses (HVAC) and unknown needs with upcoming construction projects.

Community Financial Report, September 2023

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages, and overtime are within budget – little use of overtime as almost no “Cool Sweep” heat support hours.

Equipment & Supplies: Materials purchases and supplies are within budget.

Services & Charges: Utility charges are partially posted. Facility maintenance includes cleaning and other supply orders for the year.

Cash Capital: Funds are reserved for planned expenses including some exterior painting and site work.

Please note an error in the prior month's reporting on Community “Other” expenses – this report ran an incorrect line overstating this total and as a result expense totals

**Central Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24
September**

Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget	
Salary & Benefits	Full-Time Salaries	4,765,600	4,765,600	872,874	3,892,726	18.3%	
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,518,200	1,518,200	233,455	1,284,745	15.4%	
	Overtime	15,000	15,000	2,140	12,860	14.3%	
	Employee Benefits	3,201,300	3,201,300	355,703	2,845,597	11.1%	
	Employee Development	21,000	21,790	2,177	19,613	10.0%	
	Other	118,400	118,400	5,904	112,496	5.0%	
	Sub Total	9,639,500	9,640,290	1,472,253	8,168,038	15.3%	
	Equipment & Supplies	Materials Budget	504,800	660,728	144,630	516,099	21.9%
		Other Furnishings & Equipment	8,500	8,631	277	8,354	3.2%
		Office Supplies	52,100	62,392	15,724	46,668	25.2%
Other Materials & Supplies		50,500	54,050	5,164	48,885	9.6%	
Sub Total		615,900	785,801	165,794	620,007	21.1%	
Services & Charges		Utilities	464,600	583,964	65,102	518,861	11.1%
	Facility Maintenance	121,900	173,679	24,826	148,853	14.3%	
	Professional Services/Fees	266,000	289,098	147,449	141,649	51.0%	
	Chargebacks	80,100	85,340	3,753	81,587	4.4%	
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	11,905	39,495	23.2%	
	Telecommunications	16,700	17,794	2,735	15,059	15.4%	
	Other Expenses	210,200	221,495	11,702	209,793	5.3%	
	Sub Total	1,210,900	1,422,770	267,473	1,155,296	18.8%	
	TOTAL EXPENSED		11,466,300	11,848,861	1,905,520	9,943,341	16.6%
	Central Cash Capital	Facility Maintenance Allocation	92,000	139,890	0	139,890	0.0%
REVENUE RECEIPTS		11,466,300	11,466,300	697,643	10,768,657		

Original Budget Revised Budget Outstanding Revenue

**Community Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24
September**

Category	Description	Expenses FISCAL			Remaining Balance	% of Budget
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	YTD		
Salary & Benefits						
	Full-Time Salaries	1,095,500	902,568	163,128	739,440	18.1%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,296,600	2,108,896	389,282	1,719,614	18.5%
	Overtime	1,170,900	1,093,905	198,312	895,593	18.1%
	Employee Development	22,900	35,679	848	34,831	2.4%
	Other	68,900	68,900	867	68,033	1.3%
	Sub Total	4,654,800	4,209,947	752,438	3,389,477	17.9%
Equipment & Supplies						
	Materials Budget	109,700	543,082	73,903	469,179	13.6%
	Office Supplies	37,700	46,561	8,320	38,241	17.9%
	Other Materials & Supplies	491,500	434,529	75,365	359,164	17.3%
	Sub Total	638,900	1,024,172	157,588	866,584	15.4%
Services & Charges						
	Utilities	222,000	225,433	39,912	185,520	17.7%
	Facility Maintenance	21,500	22,969	7,697	15,272	33.5%
	Professional Services/Fees	404,600	441,801	10,636	431,165	2.4%
	Chargebacks	36,900	46,667	1,686	44,981	3.6%
	Telecommunications	13,100	13,100	3,060	10,040	23.4%
	Other Expenses	47,300	62,549	300	62,249	0.5%
	Sub Total	745,400	812,519	63,292	749,227	7.8%
TOTAL EXPENSED		6,039,100	6,046,638	973,318	5,005,288	16.1%
Community Cash Capital	Computers & Equipment	10,000	77,672	1,024	76,648	1.3%
	Library Furnishings	22,000	44,000	0	44,000	0.0%
	Library Facilities	54,000	146,449	0	146,449	0.0%
	Library Capital Projects*	576,000				
	Cash Capital Total	662,000	268,121	1,024	267,097	0.4%
		390,461	390,461	164,705	225,756	

Original Budget Revised Budget Receipts FISCAL YTD Revenue
Outstanding

* Projects administered by City DES

Trust Funds Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24
Fiscal YTD (through September 30, 2023)

	Allocation	Carry-forward	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Reynolds Fund - RPL	\$143,734	\$968	\$144,702	\$25,142	17.4%
Fenevessy (Central + Branch bal)	\$30,006	\$8,448	\$38,454	\$0	0.0%
Kenyon-Jeffries Fund	\$19,863	\$6,633	\$26,496	\$0	0.0%
Purton Fund	\$16,714	\$0	\$16,714	\$3,686	22.1%
Gleason Fund	\$15,590				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)	\$12,144	\$28,125	\$55,859	\$4,919	8.8%
Gervickas Fund	\$5,942	\$6,391	\$12,333	\$373	3.0%
Taylor Fund	\$3,548	\$3,351	\$6,899	\$852	12.4%
Boland Fund	\$1,514	\$443	\$1,957	\$0	0.0%
Carnahan Fund	\$1,529	\$799	\$2,328	\$1,544	66.3%
Poletto Fund	\$1,529	\$2,233	\$3,762	\$0	0.0%
Beeney Fund (FFRPL)	\$4,839	\$60	\$4,899	\$43	0.9%
Craig Fund (FFRPL)	\$2,708	\$738	\$3,446	\$125	3.6%
Holtzman Fund (FFRPL)	\$1,551	\$474	\$2,025	\$0	0.0%
Lee Fund (FFRPL)	\$1,477	\$1,694	\$3,171	\$0	0.0%
Vietnam Veterans Fund (FFRPL)	\$698	\$1,390	\$2,088	\$0	0.0%
Tummonds Fund (FFRPL)	\$35,562	\$20,956	\$56,518	\$10,358	18.3%
TOTAL	\$298,948	\$82,704	\$381,652	\$47,042	12.3%

Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2022-23
Fiscal YTD (through September 30, 2023)

Fund	Allocation	Transfer In	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Gift Fund	\$10,252	\$500	\$10,752	\$5,754	53.5%



TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: October 25, 2023
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–October 2023

Action Items

City Capital Improvement Request (Harrison)

Below is a listing of City Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY25 to FY29 funding cycle. The RPL’s capital improvement program requests falls into two categories; library operations requests and building repair and renovation requests, which we submit in collaboration with the City’s Department of Environmental Services (DES), Architectural Services Division. Library operations requests included in the Director’s Report are as follows:

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

2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
\$10,000	\$50,000	\$125,000	\$10,000	\$50,000

2. Branch Facilities Annual Allocation: Our requested allocation for FY25 is \$56,000 and we incorporate inflationary increases for the proceeding years, ending with \$60,000 in FY29. This covers finish replacements and minor repairs to building systems and envelopes.
3. Branch Furniture and Equipment: We request an annual allocation of \$24,000 to replace chairs, tables, shelving, and equipment as needed in each branch, with inflationary increases for the proceeding years, ending with \$28,000 in FY29.
4. Central Facilities Annual Allocation: Each year the City provides an allocation for the general upkeep of the Central Library. Our requested allocation for FY25 is \$94,000 with minor inflationary increases for the proceeding years, ending with \$98,000 in FY29.
5. Central Inspection Allocation: This allocation is 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 and the Library are jointly working on a cyclical schedule of inspection types, dates, and funding needs for all CIP years.

Library facility repair and renovation requests are prioritized by the Department of Environmental Services (DES) Architectural Services, in consultation with RPL staff. Estimated costs are developed by Architectural Services and include design, construction, and a contingency allocation. A summary of requests for Community and Central funding in FY24-25 through FY26-27 is as follows:

Community Library Requests

NE Library: The Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) and its developer, Edgemere Development, have submitted a second round of NYS Community & Housing Renewal financing for its Fernwood Avenue apartment complex. RHA will renovate a multi-acre parcel with a new mixed-use apartment complex fronting Fernwood, and a new street with single-family homes will be created in the second phase of the project. An approximate 8,000-square-foot library has been designed (in early design phases) to occupy the first floor of the apartment complex's northwest wing, adjacent to parking and future new streetscape. If funding from the state is approved, the City/Library will need to commit \$3.2 million for the library's pro-rated costs for branch construction. Costs for furniture, fixtures, equipment, and materials as well as ongoing operation costs will be developed through the fall and winter for full Board consideration as part of the 2024-25 budget process.

Branch HVAC Assessments: Per a request from DES/Building Services HVAC staff, we are submitting for assessment requests to inform future CIP requests for the Arnett, Wheatley, Monroe, and Charlotte Branches. These locations do not have comprehensive renovations in any upcoming CIP schedule but have aged mechanical components that would benefit from replacement in-kind or improved efficiency options that would be explored as part of the assessment. Costs of \$100,000 for FY25 for Arnett and Wheatley and \$100,000 in FY26 for Monroe and Charlotte would assist with developing preliminary cost estimates and scope for future NYSED construction grants.

Arnett Solar Panel Inverter Replacements: An assessment of the current solar panels was conducted by the Popli Group in spring 2023; the system, installed in 2011, last had minor maintenance in 2015. Overall the system is in good condition. The solar panel inverters work in conjunction with the solar panels as they convert the direct current (DC) generated by the panels into alternating current (AC) for use in the building. In general, high-quality inverters have an expected lifespan of approximately 10 to 15 years. We recommend replacement in FY27 with an estimated cost of \$100,000.

Winton Renovations: A series of interior and exterior repairs and replacements have been recommended and deferred for many years. The renovation would include interior (flooring, asbestos abatement, new lighting, mechanical upgrades) and exterior (masonry repairs, window replacements, and entry vestibule reconstruction) improvements given the current age and condition. Given the scale of needed repairs, the interior floorplan should be reviewed during design, with modifications as recommended to collection and circulation areas. An allocation of \$500,000 for design in FY26 and \$3,000,000 for construction in FY28 are recommended. Costs may be modified in future CIP for construction as the full scope will be explored during design.

Central Library Requests

Rundel Air Quality Improvements: This NYSED-funded project will provide outside air to the portions of the building that are occupied by staff members as well as replace and expand access to the 1930s air handling unit. This will reduce indoor air contaminants that are recirculated in the building and ensure fresh outside air is provided to the public and staff. Additional air handlers will be installed to serve spaces on Rundel's lower stacks, upper stacks, and 2nd and 3rd floors. These units would provide 100% outside air and exhaust and include energy recovery wheels, chilled water (for cooling), and steam heating. The requested match to meet the 2024 bid is \$700,000, to be funded in FY25.

Rundel Mechanical Assessment: Per a request from DES/Building Services HVAC staff, we are submitting for an assessment of the current cooling system and associated infrastructure. The cooling system, first established with building construction and cooling tower replaced in 2012, has suffered performance issues from river water

RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

quality and turbidity. This assessment would look at options to address river contaminants at the intake source, or abandonment of the chilled system for a new system. We are requesting \$140,000 for this assessment in FY25 which will inform a future approach and CIP plan in FY25/26.

Rundel Electrical Service: Per DES/Architectural Services, the building needs upgrades to the existing electrical service from 280/3 to 480/3 service along with a new transformer. This work is recommended now given the potential changes and new mechanical systems coming online in future years (new elevators, potential new cooling system, etc.). We are requesting \$150,000 for design in FY26 and construction of \$1,500,000 in FY27.

Bausch & Lomb HVAC Upgrades: The current project (NYSED-funded and to begin spring 2024) will include a component of heat pump replacements as well as replacement of a rooftop unit and minor other mechanical repairs. Due to budget constraints, not all heat pumps could be replaced with available project funds; an allocation is requested for FY25 of \$800,000 to complete remaining unit replacements.

Central Elevator Repairs: Upgrades and replacements for the Rundel staff and public elevators as well as Bausch & Lomb elevators are recommended across several years for a phased approach. LaBella Engineers and sub-consultant Gannett Fleming will begin the overall assessment and design of Rundel's main public elevator replacement in winter 2023. A separate replacement of the Rundel North Staff elevator (NYSED-grant) will begin in early 2024. Funding of \$1,000,000 for Rundel main public elevator construction is recommended for FY25, and \$1,200,000 for Rundel freight elevator in FY26. The latter is considered a placeholder request until design and cost estimating are underway. Requests for Bausch & Lomb public and staff elevators include a design allocation in FY26 (\$500,000) and placeholder construction funding in FY27.

Rundel Structural Repairs, East Terrace: The East Terrace (entrance facing South Avenue) will include structural repairs of beams, columns, and decks as well as placement of a waterproof system to preserve the integrity of the structural system supporting the terrace and overall building investments. With the ARPA project scale for the City and various departments, DES requested deferral of this project to enable completion of ARPA project schedules. An allocation of \$5,500,000 for construction is in FY27.

Board Action Requested: Approve Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY25 to FY29 funding cycle.

Additional Open Hours at Central (Clasper)

The Central Local History and Genealogy Division requests extended hours from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the Rundel 1st-floor lobby and 2nd floor on Friday, December 1 to accommodate a First Friday event associated with the Clarissa Uprooted exhibit, which will be on display in Rundel from December 1, 2023–November 30, 2024. The Clarissa Uprooted exhibit focuses on Clarissa Street, the once thriving African American residential and business corridor in Rochester's Third Ward, known in part for its celebrated Pythodd Jazz Club. The exhibit was developed by a team of youth history ambassadors from The Center for Teen Empowerment and elders from Clarissa Street Legacy in collaboration with scholars and curators from several local educational institutions, including staff in the library's Local History & Genealogy Division. The exhibit was first displayed June 3–July 24, 2022, at RIT's City Art Space. For more information, visit <https://www.clarissauprooted.org/exhibit/>. Resources required include security and facilities staff.

Board Action Requested: Approve extended hours from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the Rundel lobby and 2nd floor on December 1.

Grant Acceptance, New York State (Clasper)

The Local History Division has been awarded a Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) grant of \$4,210 for services to implement collection recommendations from a 2022 DHP-funded Division archival assessment report. The funds will be used to hire an archivist (below) to support the creation of accession records and for the collection-housing materials for such records.

Board Action Requested: Acceptance of a NYS DHP grant of \$4,210.

Agreement, Archival Services (Clasper)

The Local History Division recommends Stephanie Ball to support the activities under the awarded DHP grant. Ms. Ball will review the approximately 500 objects, manuscripts, and manuscript collections currently un-accessioned within the Division, draft records, and provide final deliverables in a format that will be usable in ArchivesSpace. Ms. Ball will be paid \$20 per hour not to exceed \$3,950. The agreement is funded through the DHP grant and will be completed by fiscal year-end.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an agreement with Stephanie Ball for the services and cost described.

Election of Nominating Committee (Gardner)

Per 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 at the November meeting and voted on by the Board at such meeting.

President Gardner selected Daniel Karin as his appointee to the Nominating Committee. Donna Benjamin and Suzanne Stockman are nominated to fill the other two committee seats.

Board Action Requested: Election of Donna Benjamin and Suzanne Stockman to the Board Nominating Committee as specified in the Bylaws.

2024 RPL Board Meeting Schedule (Uttaro)

The proposed dates are:

January 31	No Meeting in July
February 28 (joint budget meeting with MCLS)	August 28
March 27	September 25
April 24	October 30
May 29	November 27
June 26	No meeting in December

All meetings are held on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Most meetings are held at the Central Library, with the occasional meeting scheduled at a Branch Library.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed meeting dates for 2024.

Report & Discussion Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading & Viewing

- Updated Book Banning Data from American Library Association - <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/book-ban-data>
- Lincoln Library Re-Opens - <https://13wham.com/news/local/lincoln-branch-library-reopens-after-closing-for-renovations-last-summer#>
- Irondequoit Tackles Accessibility Issues - <https://www.wxnews.org/local-news/2023-09-25/irondequoit-public-library-wanted-to-be-more-inclusive-so-it-went-all-in-from-equipment-to-training>
- Rochester NY Library Launches Cannabis Education - <https://hightimes.com/news/rochester-new-york-public-library-launches-cannabis-worker-certification/>
- Local History ROCS! Blog Featured - <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/rochester/rochester-librarian-proves-local-history-rocs/>

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday October 18, 5:00-7:30 pm – Art of the Book Opening Reception, Hacker Hall. The entries this year are spectacular!
- Thursday October 26, 8:00 am Noon – Mayor Evans takes over Bob Lonsberry's radio show. I will join the Mayor from 8:30-9:00 am to talk about libraries.
- Saturday, October 28 – MCLS Staff Association Book Crawl – visit four local bookstores and enjoy lunch with MCLS staff. Trustees interested in this, see Patty.
- Thursday November 2, 7:00-8:00 pm – Final Maplewood Community Meeting via Zoom. Connection details will be sent closer to the event.
- Friday, November 17 – Regional Library Legislative Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Henrietta Public Library. Register here: <https://rrlc.org/event/library-legislative-event-2023/>

Tech Awards –MCLS/RPL won a Tech Rochester GREAT award in the category of Technology for Good for the Mifi program. Rochester City Council provided \$150,000 to keep the program running for FY23-24, but there continues to be an unmet need in the town libraries. Expanding the visibility and awareness of this critical program could help MCLS find funding to expand to the towns. Following receiving this award, I participated in a Digital Equity Summit led by Monroe County's Broadband Task Force. The summit was an opportunity to share the specifics of the work being done by libraries. I hope that this will help us leverage new funding for the Mifi program. There was a lot of interest shown in the library's work by many of the people who attended.

Take It Down Session for Boards – Twelve members of the RPL and MCLS Boards gathered September 28 at Rochester Museum & Science Center for their educational program "Take It Down" which tells the story of the removal of the racist panel from the historic Dentzel carousel at Ontario Beach Park. It seemed this was the first session in the Fall series and the instructors had some issues getting the program started. A key instructor was missing who provided information on segregation and redlining in Rochester and the Charlotte area particularly. However, the instructors provided a broad overview of the activism that led to the removal of the panel and racist imagery in general. Trustees who were not able to attend in September are invited to join the Finger Lakes Emerging Library Leaders class on October 19 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for a repeat presentation. If you would like to participate, please let Debi Mansour know.

RPL Director’s Report–October 2023 (Continued)

Social Media

September 2023	RPL X (Twitter)	MCLS X (Twitter)	Facebook	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	-	-	862	-	125	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	1 (2,130)	4 (2,253)	26 (5,987)	59	47 (2,605)	5 (564)
Engagements	43	62	470	94	214	32
Check-In/ Mentions	-	-	-	-	4	-
Post Reach	1709	2211	6345		931	14578
Video/Story Views	-	-	396	-	138	947

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central/RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)

- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 4,596
- Click through – 82

New subscribers – 15

OverDrive

- Total Checkouts- 82,728
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 647
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 8,860
- SORA Checkouts- 940
- Great Courses- 96

Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- Representatives from the Monroe County Board of Elections and the League of Women Voters held an event in the Central Library on National Voter Registration Day on September 19. This effort, organized by Cynthia Dana, resulted in the registration of 29 new voters, information updates for 2 registered voters, and recruitment of 15 individuals interested in serving as poll workers. Dana also set up a book display to promote the event.



- Emily Clasper attended the New York Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) Advocacy Launch in Guilderland, NY. This event was attended by representatives from library systems across New York State. Information about statewide library programs and initiatives was shared with the attendees, and the new NYLA Advocacy strategy was unveiled for feedback. This year, NYLA Advocacy Day will take place in Albany on February 7, 2024. Messaging will revolve around the phrase “Fund. Protect. Empower.”
- The Foodlink Curbside Market was at the Central Library on September 15, giving library staff and members of the local community a chance to purchase fresh, healthy food at affordable prices. Library staff were offered \$5 vouchers toward their purchases.



Arts/Literature, Robert Scheffel reporting

Programs

- For the seasonal change to fall, the Arts division had 'Cyanotypes for the Equinox' presented by Donald Hyatt. After an introduction to the Cyanotype process, patrons created their cyanotype prints by using images from the local history 'Rochester Images' collection, from waterfalls and early depictions of Rochester, to canals and historical figures. Mixing these images with organic materials such as flowers and leaves, patrons made collages to celebrate the season change. Hyatt explained the simple print frames made from books and old plexiglass, to show how reusing materials can influence the artistic process while increasing accessibility to this printing technique. The afternoon's direct sunlight provided a perfect opportunity to be outside and celebrate the seasonal change to fall.



- In a workshop led by Sigriet Ferrer, owner of Prismatic Gardens, patrons built bright, colorful, attractive, and low-maintenance succulent terrariums. Ferrer brought her expertise and knowledge of succulents and taught patrons how to create and care for these terrariums as a way to relax and manage stress. Patron creations ranged from serious to whimsical. Succulents have seen an extraordinary rise in popularity in the last few years, especially when used in terrariums, and we have had patron feedback indicating that they enjoy and want more programs centered around plants and nature. We have learned from our patrons that they enjoy and want more programs that are centered around nature. Comments from participants in this workshop included: *"I enjoyed learning about a new plant and how to care for it and it was fun building our terrariums to take home!"* and *"I enjoyed being creative. I took the class with a friend which was fun and I enjoyed seeing what other people created and how everyone was so different even though we all had access to the same supplies."*



Outreach/Meetings/Training

Melissa Manczuk of the Arts and Literature Division hosted a craft class at Lifespan. The group of talented crafters created origami samurai helmets, butterflies, and fox puppets. The participants were very enthusiastic about learning this new craft. One lady loved how Manczuk showed how to turn a samurai helmet into a goldfish and inquired about learning more about the craft. Another lady asked for a copy of the directions so she could make more of the fox puppets.



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

- Business First Wednesday: Veteran business certifications with Matthew Lostaglia. During this webinar, Matthew shared the prerequisites for starting the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Certification application process. He also discussed the application process itself, special considerations, operational requirements, and the difference between VOSB and SDVOSB. He shared resources for how to apply for both the Federal SDVOSB as well as New York SDVOSB and conducted a question and answer period for participants.
- Central hosted the Social Equity Empowerment Network Collective Action Tour, a series of workshops and panels throughout the state designed to be a learning and relationship-building space for people interested in doing cooperative business in the emerging cannabis market.



- The first session of the Get Weeding @ RPL program was held. This five-session series prepares students to become budtenders. At the end of the five weeks, they receive a certificate from the Cannabis Workforce Initiative. 67 participants attended the first session.

RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes judged a pitch competition for an entrepreneurship class at the Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Byrnes presented to the Small Business Development Center's Fast Track program.
- BIC had a table at the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library Board Meeting
- Melissa Cobo and Lily Anthony gave a presentation at the Rochester Economic Development Corporation (REDCO).

Anecdotes

- Byrnes received this message via LinkedIn from Barbara Ellen Wilcox: *"Thanks so much for the Business Insight Center offerings! I'm a new small business owner who first spoke with Melissa and found the support so helpful, I left a comment with Central Library. Much appreciation for your time, resources, and expertise!"*
- BIC made *High Times*, the national publication dedicated to all things cannabis!
<https://hightimes.com/news/rochester-new-york-public-library-launches-cannabis-worker-certification/>
- Byrnes was awarded a 2023 Employee Recognition Award for Innovation by the City of Rochester.

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research: 41
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 12
 - Email: 27
 - Mail: 0
 - Phone: 3
 - Zoom: 4
- 3D Printer: 0 (printer is currently broken, needs to be replaced)
- Webpage views: 76
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 16

Database Usage Statistics (August)

- Frost & Sullivan: Downloads: 8 Value: \$26,650
- IBISWorld: Page views: 155 Value: \$62,885
- InnovationQ: Logins: 40 Searches: 205
- Mintel: 17 sessions.
- PitchBook: Logins: 25
- Statista: The reporting feature not working at present.

Central Children's Center & MCLS Children's Consultant, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- Storytime returned to the Secret Room in September. Some of the families who attended storytime in Highland Park now attend in the library, bringing new families into our space. Katie Powell has added activities to the end of each session to expand on the concepts families learn in storytime, including a sensory bin activity and Play-Doh emotions mats. Two mothers, who have been attending storytime regularly, told Powell that they read and talk to their children at home in Spanish and bring them to storytime to expose them to English. Because of the training the department received in early literacy, Powell was able to assure them that reading to a child in whatever language they are most comfortable

RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

with is research-based. They were pleased to know that they are supporting their child's development at storytime and home.

- The Draper Center for Dance offered free introductory dance classes for children ages 3 -4. This was a terrific way for parents and children to experience a dance class before registering for classes.
- Little Movers is offered on Saturday mornings to meet the request of working moms. The program offers music, stories, and playtime with Kate Lynch, a music therapist. This program helps fill the need for children waiting for speech and music therapy.
- Miranda Hazen took the quilt squares that kids and families made over the Summer and sewed them together into a double-sided quilt that will soon hang on the glass wall near the Children's Center entrance so that both sides will be visible. It is Hazen's first quilt!



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Hazen visited TLC Adventures in Childcare for storytime and to lend books to the classroom teachers. TLC is our longest-running childcare collaboration. During the summers they walk older children from their sites on State Street to the library and during the school year, Hazen visits each classroom.

RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

- Burton attended the parent orientation for Rochester Jewels. She shared library resources and programs and handed out library card applications, and free books.
- Burton continues to work with DocGo and the WNY Coalition of Migrant Farmers to serve newly arrived families. Through the MCLS Great Give Back we have collected and donated over \$300 in underclothes for the families. Burton is working to schedule visits to Central for bilingual storytime. The storytimes are being offered with Margarita Chaves (Raising A Reader), Hannah Baumgartner and Ketsia Mari (Webster), and Rosa Diaz (Lincoln). More bilingual staff is needed so we can offer this regularly.
- Burton and Chaves attended the Book Bash at the Avenue D Rec Center. The Book Bash focused on the book *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems. Chaves shared storytime in English and Spanish with families, there were Elephant & Piggie puppets and a Puppet Stage for performing, Elephant & Piggie Toss Across, an Ice Cream Scavenger Hunt, shirt decorating, and of course free books and Ice Cream. The event was a collaboration with the Rochester Education Foundation, Central Library, and the Avenue D R- Center.
- September is Early Intervention Awareness Month. The Golisano Autism Center hosted a playdate for families to learn about all the organizations providing enrichment activities throughout Monroe County. Burton and Jennifer Silsmer (Gates) hosted a table at this year's event. Burton's son Andrew joined to earn volunteer work and served as ambassador. He welcomed County Executive Bello to the library table and had fun stuffing tote bags for families with copies of *Bear Sees Colors*, color activities, and library information.
- Burton participated in the National Association for the Education of Young People's Annual Play Date at Seneca Park. The theme was Color Your World. Julie Rapp (Penfield) joined Burton. The library offered a color sorting activity and color sensory bins. Families were given a Talk Read Sing tote bag with library information,



Anecdotes/Other

- Grupo Cultural Latinos en Rochester has once again filled our display area for Hispanic Heritage Month!



- Back to school season usually brings a slowdown to Children’s but this year we have not experienced it. Our Monday and Wednesday evenings continue to be busy with families playing and using our space. There are still families looking for housing and staying here throughout the day. We have started offering diapers, wipes, and hygiene kits which have all been popular.

Raising a Reader

Chaves and Burton have been working on creating and putting together Fall packets for RAR sites this month. They have been created in both Spanish and English. The goal is to share the fall packets with families during fall celebrations. Chaves and Burton have also been working on scheduling training for sites so that the RAR program can begin for families. *MCLS Board note: Tonia Burton recently submitted a report on the Raising a Reader program to the RPL Board. If you would like to see it, please let Debi Mansour know. This is a Rochester Public Library program so isn't normally shared with MCLS.*

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Outreach

Chad Cunningham attended the Flower City Comic Con to staff the MCLS table. A person stopped by and told Cunningham that he loves the library. He borrows audiobooks from Libby and has listened to more than 50 books this year. He tells everyone he knows about how cool the library is.

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments-2
- New Borrowers-214
- RRLC Access Cards Issued-8
- Notarial Acts-260

Anecdotes

- Cunningham issued a card to a patron who is coming back to reading after a lengthy absence. She now has time to read and is very excited to use her library card.
- Cunningham created a Circulation table display for the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library Board Meeting this month. The table focused on the history of library cards in Monroe County from the 80s to today. In addition to examples of library cards throughout the years Cunningham also set up travel books from countries where patrons have purchased Out of County cards. (Mongolia was the most unexpected by most people who stopped at the table.)



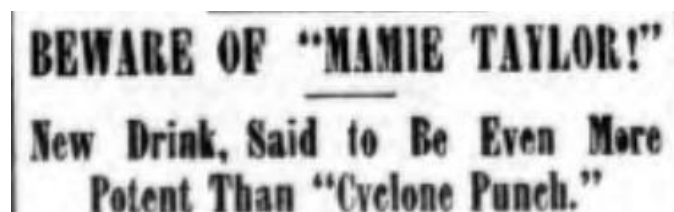
Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- Emily Morry hosted a walking tour of the Washington Square Neighborhood. This was the last of five monthly tours the division scheduled for this summer. It was a very successful series that the division intends to offer again next summer.
- Mario Castillo hosted the first two of a series of five reading and discussion sessions on the theme "Rights and Recognition: The Haudenosaunee in the New Nation." In this program series, Castillo is leading participants through a close examination of the book *Peacemakers: The Iroquois, the United States, and the Treaty of Canandaigua, 1794* by Michael Leroy Oberg, a professor of Native American history at SUNY Geneseo.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Ridarsky and Morry hosted a meeting of the Rochester History Journal editorial board. Finn attended the meeting as a member of the board. The group discussed materials for the upcoming print and digital issues of the journal, suggestions for future content, and the latest submission, "Birth Control on a Local Level: Rochester's Maternal Health Clinic," which will require extensive revision before being published in Fall 2024.
- Ridarsky attended several meetings of Cugini di Roc's Cultural Heritage Committee and Storytelling Sub-Committee this month in preparation for an oral history gathering event to be held at the Rochester Public Market during Italian Heritage Day on October 1. The interviews collected that day will be added to the library's collections.
- Antoine McDonald and members of the Archive of Black History & Culture Community Advisory Board presented on the project as part of the virtual offerings of the Urban League's Interrupt Racism Summit this month.
- There were two new posts to the Local History ROCs! blog in September: "What the Heck is That? An Architectural Mystery" by Chris Brennan and "A Mixology Mystery: Tracing the Origins of a Turn-of-the-Century Cocktail" by Emily Morry. The former post elicited the following feedback from the woman who writes the "Day Trips Around Rochester" blog: *"I wanted to let you know that I enjoy these stories from Rochester's history, and I appreciate you and*



the research you do to make them come alive. I always learn something new about Rochester. Thank you!" The new posts received 132 views. In addition, readers from 31 countries revisited 174 previously published posts for a total of 1,908 views in September. All blog posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Exhibits

- Dick Campbell, a patron who uses the Local History & Genealogy Division to research his family history and other local historical topics that interest him, volunteered to create an exhibit in the display case on the second-floor landing of the Rundel Memorial Building. Historical Druggists of Rochester ca. 1870-1920 features items from Campbell's collection of measuring cups, spoons, and medicine bottles from the turn of the twentieth century. The artifacts are supplemented by trade cards, advertisements, photographs, and information about some of the leading figures in Rochester's druggist industry, including Amy and Isaac Post, R.J. Strassenburgh, Richard Curran, and George Goler. The exhibit will be on display until February 2024.



- Hope Christansen created a new table display in the division this month. Celebrating Hispanic American Heritage Month features a selection of items from the Local History & Genealogy collections, including photographs of Carifest and the Puerto Rican festival, newspaper articles, books, periodicals, and write-ups on "How Rochester Became Home to Thousands of Puerto Ricans," "Hispanic and Latino Heritage and Culture," and Rochester's Ibero-American Action League. The display will be up until the middle of October.

Digital Projects

- Contractor Lisa Buda continued creating item-level metadata for the digital surrogates of the library's postcard collection. This project is funded through a Rochester Regional Library Council Collections and Access grant. It will run through December 31, 2023. When completed, the postcard collection will be added to New York Heritage alongside the other collections from Rochester Images.
- The division is still waiting for FamilySearch to assign a replacement volunteer scanning team to the FamilySearch digitization project. Meanwhile, digital products from this project continue to be made available through the FamilySearch site, which now features an [institutional portal](#) that links directly to the content contributed by the Rochester Public Library. There were 120 items from the Rochester

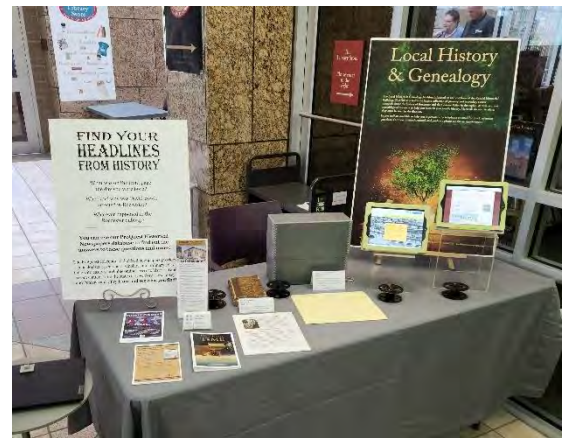
RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

Public Library added to the FamilySearch site in August, with 50 views of RPL content reported on the site that month.

- The division continues to contribute digitized content to a handful of online platforms, increasing discoverability and access to these materials. There were 1,623 page views of content available through the library's Rochester Voices site (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/>) in September. Unfortunately, the September statistics for New York Heritage and New York State Historic Newspapers were not available at the time of this report.

Anecdotes

- The division received a very pleasant surprise this month in the form of a letter Brandon Fess received from the Baptist Temple. Having dissolved its corporate existence and seeking to disperse its remaining assets, the Baptist Temple wished to provide a gift of \$10,000 to the Local History & Genealogy Division! Over the past 18 months or so, Fess has had several conversations with members of this congregation seeking advice and assistance with their archives. (Most have been sent to the American Baptist Historical Society; some may still come to the Rochester Public Library.) Mention had been made in more recent conversations that a financial gift to the library would probably be forthcoming, but nothing concrete had been said until now. Fess has turned over the letter and other documentation to the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library so that this most generous gift can be properly received.
- The Local History & Genealogy hosted a table at the Four Boards Reception sponsored by the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The event was a nice opportunity to showcase the division's collections and services and to connect with library board members both new and longstanding.



Upcoming Events/Programs

- Wednesdays, October 11 & 25, November 8, 6-7:30 pm, "Rights and Recognition: The Haudenosaunee in the New Nation," a reading & discussion series centered around Michael Oberg's book *Peacemakers: The Iroquois, the United States, and the Treaty of Canandaigua, 1794*, facilitated by Mario Castillo. Visit <https://calendar.libraryweb.org/calendar/Central/Peacemakers> for more information.
- Saturdays, October 21, November 18, and December 16, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, "Family Finders Genealogy Club," facilitated by John D. Caufield, Rochester Genealogical Society. A new monthly genealogy group that will meet in person in the Local History & Genealogy Division every third Saturday beginning in October.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

RMC handled 776 reference questions and 739 non-reference transactions for a total of 1015.

Programs

- See It First Saturday Matinee was *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3*
- The Summer Concert Series in the Doris Carlson Reading Garden averaged 30-40 patrons per concert.
- Brown Bag Book Discussion: *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie Farrell
- RMC performed 24 A/V setups for programs in Central Library.
- 1 Books Sandwiched In program streamed via YouTube Live

RMC Circulation

- RMC loaned 7 pieces of equipment and 403 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 3,927 items. Total circulation of RMC materials, including those that occurred at other libraries was **8,808**.
- RMC materials accounted for 37% of the overall Central Library circulation (before renewals).



Hoopla

Circulation

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Audiobooks – 1131 | • eBooks – 349 |
| • Binge Pass – 40 | • Movies/TV – 267 |
| • Comics – 133 | • Music – 71 |
| | • Total Circulation – 1991 |

Anecdotes

- The Reynolds Media Center staff received a City of Rochester Team Meritorious Service Award for our work on the Mi-Fi collection!



- Diane Premo published a book review in *Audiofile Magazine* for the book *The Whole Animal* by Corinna Chong

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- NASA's Planetary Missions, presented by NASA Ambassador Jim Porter. The program was well attended. The participants were engaged throughout the program and several questions were asked! Mr. Porter is an animated presenter and is enthusiastic throughout his presentations. This series of NASA programs is in preparation for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse that will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024.
- Got Health? Online video series, presented by and in partnership with the Center for Community Health and



Prevention at the University of Rochester Medical Center, resumed for the fall with Warning Signs of Alzheimer's & Other Forms of Dementia. The Central Library promotes the program through its Facebook page, by creating an event for each month's presentation, and sharing the video once it has aired live.

- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors remained at a high number for September, despite one cancellation from Legal Assistance of Western New York. The Division continues to see private appointments taken at the library on non-LROC days from Person-Centered Housing Options. This indicates the need is higher than what can be provided during the regular LROC schedule.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

As part of the Central Library's partnership with the University of Rochester Medical Center (which includes the Health Central office), the Science, History & Social Sciences Division was chosen to host a CPR-training kiosk, provided by an additional partnership with the American Heart Association. The Central Library was chosen because of its community resources available to the public, aligning with URMCC's aim of connecting with local underserved populations. The kiosk has attracted the attention of many patrons, including several teens. While easy to use, we have asked the American Heart Association for some additional support materials. The Science Division thanks Central Library Automation Services for their assistance in the proper setup and installation of the unit. The kiosk displayed prominently in the center of the Science Division, will remain at the library through December.



Grants

Lily Anthony assisted patrons with grants in subjects such as job creation and theatre.

Anecdotes

- Florence Morris helped a patron last week. Morris frequently used to help this patron when working in another division a few years ago. This time the patron called to say she was looking for research on bees. A nest in some goldenrod was disturbed and the patron had gotten stung. The patron wanted to know about bees, and Morris suggested that she could look up more information. The patron let Morris know that she was parked outside in front of the Rundel Memorial Building and had a brace on her leg, so getting in and out of her vehicle was difficult. Morris offered to check the catalog and pull a few books on bees for her, finding three recent titles. Morris thought about how to get the books to the patron, so she took the books over to Rundel and then went outside to get the patron's library card. Morris then went back inside, checked the books out on the patron's library card, and brought the books out to her vehicle. The patron was incredibly grateful to be able to get some books on bees and their behavior. Morris said it was nice to see the patron again.
- The Science, History & Social Sciences Division, along with other Divisions, Departments, and Branches, created a table display of the Division's activity, as part of the Friends of the Rochester Public Library Board Meeting. The Friends have been invaluable in their generous support of the library. The Science table included various handouts and displays of the Division's collections. In addition, the table featured a fanciful art creation, a bookcase that has been converted into a display on the evolution of subjects that can be found in the Division. Alaikia Miller created this artwork, which has a brief discussion on each subject with the appropriate Dewey Decimal number assigned.



Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

The Technology Center's computer use has declined slightly from August's all-time highs of computer sessions and total time of computer use. Through a longer lens, the overall shifts in computer use are easily appreciated; September's 2023 computer sessions increased 20% over September 2022 total use, but oddly the total computer time used in the month increased only slightly with the average session length decreasing from 70 minutes to 60 minutes.

Programs

- Pedro Nunez continues to infuse more technologies into the gaming experience he provides to the TableTop Gaming Group. Currently, he is working with AI-generated voices to allow players to express themselves more fully through their characters. The integration of this technology creates a more enveloping experience for the players. This is an especially helpful tool for several members of Pedro's gaming partners. Pedro's creation of a welcoming and inclusive environment has attracted several players who are transgender. For some of these people, the sound of their voice is something they are not comfortable with as they transition. By offering the option of having their characters speak in a voice of their choosing, these individuals can more comfortably express themselves and grow more

comfortable with their shifting identities. Customizing the relevant software is not a trivial task, but the benefits are well worth the extra effort.

- During September, Ginger Brewer continued to teach the Computer Tutor program at Central Library. The staff and she continue to schedule one-on-ones with individuals needing assistance in understanding the basics of Microsoft Word and their cell phones. Patrons are shown skills repeatedly until they are confident that they can do it on their own. The Tech team utilizes a great deal of patience and empathy when interacting with patrons.

Anecdotes

We often talk about the digital divide. Generally, the term is used to refer to the wide gaps in access to technology regionally, locally, or as a function of socioeconomic strata. The Reynolds Media Center's wildly successful MiFi program underscores the reality of the digital divide in our community. The staff of the Technology Center have a unique opportunity to directly address another form of the digital divide. This month two older men came in on different occasions. Their histories were remarkably similar. They had both had successful careers starting and operating restaurants in Rochester and other cities and other states. Both are now retired and were looking for something to fill their time. Neither wanted to see the inside of a restaurant again. One had never touched a computer in his life because he "had people for that." The other had retired from the business before using computers was a basic requirement for operating a restaurant. Neither man had an email account. It took a few hours over a few visits in each case, but staff worked in tag team mode to transfer the needed skill sets. Both men left with basic email accounts, an introduction to Indeed, and a path to the future. The digital divide isn't always something that hardware and fiber optic cables can solve. In cases like these, it takes a team of patient, talented people, who understand the impact they can have on a community, one person at a time.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- **ESPORTS MONTH:** The 585Fighterz hosted a 16 teen Mortal Kombat 1 tournament this month. The winner not only got a \$25 gift card, but his mother also bought him the game! More kids have joined the team. The Liberators will be promoting with business cards soon.



RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

- **GRAPHIC DESIGN:** One of our patrons utilized our Udemy classes and Adobe software to design t-shirts. She was able to get them printed this month.

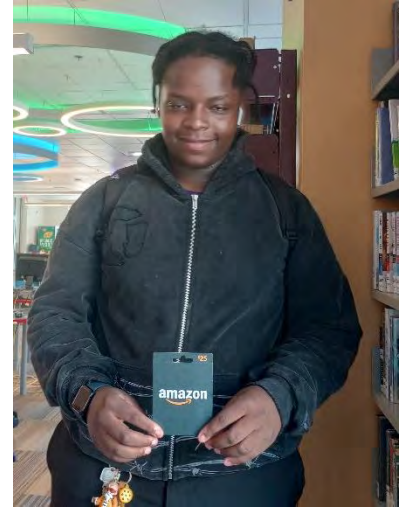


- **AI COMIC BOOKS:** This month the media lab hosted its first AI Comic Book Lab for kids. Six kids were able to work through the lab utilizing their verbal literacy skills to prompt images for their inspiring stories.



RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

- Summer Reading winner: Jayden has been an avid library visitor since he was a child. He enjoys the programs and services provided for teens. He completed The Demon Slayer Manga series over the summer which catapulted him to the Teen with most entries for Summer Reading.



Community Libraries Updates

Melanie Lewis reporting

September was a month of celebration. Lincoln hosted its official grand opening, and the Arnett branch held a centennial celebration. Both events were attended by community members, stakeholders, and public officials. The celebrations were highlighted with keynote addresses by Mayor Malik Evans.

RPL Branch Administration also participated in a joint board event hosted by the FFRPL. The event had a celebratory feel. Erin Clarke and Deputy Director Lewis met board members and shared information about the mobile library project. This was also an opportunity to visit other tables hosted by Central divisions and Branches who shared information about their services.

There were three meetings with the RIT Team around mobile library design recommendations. The team will make recommendations around interior and exterior design, graphics, and branding. The RIT team met with the Lyell branch and MCLS Outreach staff at the Lyell Branch for a Q&A session and an assessment of the Lyell branch layout. The third meeting was at Central; the RIT team met with the Children's Center Staff and was given a tour by the RPL Finance Director. Later there was a meeting with Barbara Pierce, City of Rochester Communications Director, and Corinne Clar, Manager of RPL Graphics for feedback on marketing and branding the project.

The branches continued promoting RPL's Fine Free Campaign. Each time a patron registers or reactivates their card, a decal of a library card is placed on a display board. During a visit to Lincoln, the Manager stated she needed to request a new board! Each participant is also encouraged to enter a drawing for a gift card. The campaign will run through October.



Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

A very nice time was had by library patrons celebrating the Arnett Branch Library's centennial on September 18. Attendees were quite touched by Mayor Malik Evans, Senator Jeremy Cooney, Assemblyman Demond Meeks, Councilwoman LaShay Harris, Monroe County Legislature President Sabrina LaMar, and Donna Benjamin from the Rochester Public Library Board for honoring the Arnett Branch Library Community.

Big thanks go out to the Arnett Branch Library Friends and Volunteers for working with Nancy Cholewa during the planning and execution of the event at which Nate Rawls and his jazz trio played wonderfully. The decorations by Celebrations Unlimited Balloons were beautiful, the games supplied by our neighbors and friends, the Monroe County Library System and the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library were well enjoyed, kids had fun vying for prizes as did the adults, one of whom won a gift card to the Arnett Cafe, the booklet created by the Rochester Public Library's graphics department was a hit, the button souvenirs created in our teen area were lovely, the bookmark reading recommendations our patrons gave us went like hot cakes, the gingerbread library display was fabulous, the cake and ice cream were delicious, and the library history facts scattered through the building were super interesting.

Many library friends from our partner organizations attended the event including the Westside Farmers Market, the 19th Ward Community Association, the Rochester Police Department, the Arnett Block Association, Southwest Rochester Rotary, and the First Tuesday Book Club. It was a joyous night where friends, neighbors, and past and present staff members mixed and mingled and celebrated the library that they make so special.

Community Outreach/Meetings

Bruce Wilbur, Bruce Tehan, Colleen Murray, and Kate Peck all conducted outreach during September which included visits to farmers markets, local schools, and a Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library event. Books By Bike and numerous games including a portable putting were used at the different events.

Anecdotes/Other

Carmetha Jones, Ceola Bacot, Colleen Murphy, Linda Smith, and Prudence Anderson-Leusch were honored by the City of Rochester at its 2023 Employee Recognition Ceremony receiving a Customer Service Award from Mayor Malik Evans, Council President Miguel A. Meléndez Jr., and Patricia Uttaro. Arnett Branch Manager Bruce Tehan received a Sunshine Award at this event, acknowledging his skill as a supervisor.



Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Karen Duff reported the Food for Thought book discussion group met via Zoom to share thoughts and opinions regarding *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger.
- Presenter Laura Jackett led a workshop teaching the art of paper making. Patrons enjoy Laura's workshops and end up with wonderful creations to take home!
- Dennis Williams reported that the Local History program about the local pastor who was accused of burning down a local church was extremely well attended.



Anecdotes/Other

Jennifer Cherelin received the City of Rochester's Public Service Award from Mayor Evans in an Award Ceremony at Hochstein Music Hall.

Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting.

Programs

- Introduction to 3D printing: Kids and adults have seen the things made from the 3D printer and wonder how they were made. Isaac Lewis explained to them the step-by-step process, finding a file to use, loading the filament, using supports as needed, and then watching until it finishes. (Education & Engagement)
- Seneca Park ZooMobile: Douglass kids had a great time learning about animal defenses with the Seneca Park Zoo. They brought cockroaches, a toad, rats, and a bearded dragon for the children to see. They also had inanimate objects like porcupine quills and faux fur for the kids to touch. (Education & Engagement)
- Peer-to-Peer New Americans Program: The first match was made this summer and they have been meeting once or twice a week in the library. A member of the South Wedge community has been helping a young man from Brazil with conversational English, verb tenses, job hunting, and interviewing. He has reported that he will start a job with the Rochester City School District in October! (Education & Engagement)



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Anna Murray Douglass Academy School No. 12 Open House was attended by Roarke Delany, Hayley Geier, Jennifer Nesbitt, and Evanna DiSalvo. Delany and Geier hosted a table to tell people about the library's programs and services. Nesbitt and DiSalvo toured the school, visiting areas like the library, art room, and music room, and

RPL Director's Report—October 2023 (Continued)

talked with other exhibitors at their tables. It was an excellent networking opportunity. Staff was also able to view the library's green roof from the school stairwell. (Sustainability & Resources)

Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- The Lincoln Branch was very excited to have its official re-opening celebration and ribbon cutting on Monday, September 25th. It was a fantastic celebration, and it was wonderful to see so many community partners come out to support the new library.
- Teen Talk Tuesday is a weekly program where Vera Haygood interacts with teens by communicating with them about their potential goals using the SMART goal method and building a rapport with them.
- Wednesday Chess Club helps teens learn about strategy.
- Griffin Van Ostrand and Rosa Diaz coordinated a "Back to School Sundaes" event where kids and families had ice cream and watched the movie Luca. The kids had a fun time enjoying the different toppings and having the chance to relax.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Sarah Lehman was excited to attend an event for the different Boards of Directors for the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, Monroe County Library System, and Rochester Public Library. It allowed the branches and divisions to represent their buildings or divisions and all the hard work that they do.
- Lehman attended the Joseph Ave Business Association meeting, and the members voted for Lehman as the new secretary.

Anecdotes/Other

- September saw the beginning of the new mural on the Avenue D side of the building by artist Chloe Smith, close to the entrance for the food pantry. It already is brightening up that side of the building and is getting wonderful feedback from the community as they see it unfold.
- While Lincoln's Maintenance Helper position is still vacant, Lehman has been working with Project SEARCH to have one of their interns help with the maintenance of the library three days a week. Gloria started at the end of September and is a huge help.

Lyell Branch Library, Cathy Kyle reporting

Programs

- Cathy Kyle and Manju Sharma are offering story times to a small but very enthusiastic group of children.
- Kyle had a program for adults where they made pumpkin tea lights. Patrons were excited and wanted to make more with their friends when they got home. Kyle promised to help them make leaves with the Cricut machine.

RPL Director's Report–October 2023 (Continued)

- Teens decorated a light-up Frisbee DIY craft and had fun playing games on the PlayStation5.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Kyle met with the North West Quad on Zoom to share with them what was happening in the library and learn what was happening in the rest of the sector.
- Kyle met with a group throughout New York State to discuss the use of digital equity booths to assist in telehealth.
- Artemis Markakis worked with Healthi Kids and the University of Rochester to install a photography exhibit entitled “Photovox: Picturing Play” throughout the library.
- Manju Sharma assisted with a tabling event with Monroe County Library System staff at Flower City Comic con at Total Sports Experience.
- Sharma visited the Phillis Wheatley Library to shadow Michele Saccente and learn more about Michele’s programming and positive interactions with the teens.



Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- After meeting with the library’s kid council, the council decided to shut down the art club, modify the dance club, and start a new film club. While there’s no longer an art club, the library will continue to have arts and crafts programs. There was a Play-Doh day as well as an origami day. Patrons learned to make tulips and swans out of paper.
- Patrons are enjoying film club and the participation has grown each week. They have finished their first film and concluded their discussions. They have picked their next film and seem excited to discuss the different aspects of creating a movie.
- The creative writing class discussed cliches, tropes, and writer’s block during their sessions.

Anecdotes/Other

- Staff attended the open house at Virgil Grissom Elementary School No. 7 where they met dozens of families and handed out free books.
- Brian DiNitto worked with a recent immigrant from Mongolia on his conversation skills. The patron works full-time teaching ballroom dance instruction at a local studio, so staff focused on phrases and terminology that he could easily transfer to his dance teaching.
- DiNitto worked with a recent immigrant from Poland. She is re-establishing her RN license as a surgical nurse. Staff gathered resources on American English names for surgical instruments and English verbs used with surgical procedures.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Matthew Hoople hosted a school visit with the sixth-grade class of the Genesee Community Charter School.
- The library has received 82 titles from the Indigenous Peoples' Day Committee as a special collection for the Branch. The age ranges for these titles are children through adults. These books will be housed in a special location on the adult floor.
- On Thursday, September 28, the library was closed for Branch Staff Day. In the morning, the staff cleaned and worked on special projects. After a lunch break, everyone went to the Ganondagan State Historic Site for a tour. This site was chosen due to the new Indigenous Peoples' collection that was donated to Monroe.

Anecdotes

One night, a mom and her two children came into the library. The elder child used to attend the St. Paul's Daycare and her younger sister currently attends. The elder child, Nora, was excited to see Hoople and asked if they could do a story time right then and there. The younger child grabbed a Halloween book and started chanting "Matthew, Matthew, Matthew." Hoople continues his policy of "If you ask me to, I will stop what I'm doing and read you a book."

Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- Alex Haehn and Michele Saccente joined the teens and the children in one more mix and mingle before Saccente retired. The children and teens learned about healthy snacks and portion sizes. *(Priority #1 Education and Engagement)*
- Volunteers from First American came to help at the library for Impact Day. They painted the raised garden beds and weeded the front garden. *(Priority #2 Create and maintain essential library relationships)*
- The library is partnering with LifeSpan, which has been holding a caregiver respite center in the library meeting room on Tuesdays. LifeSpan representatives come to engage with elders who are dropped off so their caregivers can have some time to themselves.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Haehn went to Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School No. 19 for their open house. Haehn signed up 11 kids for their first library cards.
- Sheilah Murphy held a book club meeting at the River Edge Manor Episcopal Home on Mt. Hope. The book discussed *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. The group overall liked it but felt it was predictable.

Anecdotes/Other

- Shamere and Drake came during the summer to practice reading and to have fun in the library. Both wrote thank you notes saying how much fun they had in the summer at Wheatley!

RPL Director's Report–October 2023 (Continued)

- Abdirahman is in kindergarten this year. He has been coming in to get help with homework from our volunteer tutor, Mr. Ron. He has for the second time been able to read off all his alphabet letters without circling letters he doesn't know.

Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

Jacob Bigelow booked a steel drums program with Ted Canning. All the participants loved learning about the history of steel drums and got to play together in one large steel drum band! It was a wonderful experience that the participants enjoyed.

Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein rode the Book Bike to the Connected Community's Fall Extravaganza. The beautiful day brought out many community members, and Heeks-Heinlein was able to talk to many of them about the library. Thank you to the Wheatley library for letting us borrow Books by Bike, and to the Shipping department for transporting the bike between libraries.
- George Carter and Heeks-Heinlein attended the board meeting event at the Central Library. We were able to share information on the Vocational Virtual Reality headsets, highlight the Safe to be Smart program, and talk about Sully's board game, fishing pole, and sewing machine collections. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to talk about the library.



Anecdotes/Other

Bigelow was told by a father that he and his young son considered Sully to be their "super library" because of our large tabletop roleplaying game and manga collection. During COVID the father had been playing Dungeons & Dragons with his family and was looking for a new game to try. Bigelow was able to convince him to try playing Pathfinder.

Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- Emily Smith hosted a Make Your Own Shrinky Dink Pin craft program. None of the attendees had ever done Shrinky Dinks before, so Smith was excited to help them through the process.
- Local author Alex Sanchez came to the Winton branch to teach a class on comics for tweens and teens. Sanchez brought a copy of the comic he had worked on, titled *You Brought Me the Ocean*, and led an inspiring and entertaining class on how to draw comics. A particularly enthusiastic tween approached Smith after the program and asked if we could "have the same program again and with Alex, because Alex was awesome!"

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Winton Branch Library Staff rode the Book By Bike to the North Winton Village Festival this month where we offered discarded books and library information.
- Wolf attended a seminar at Ganondagan led by nationally known expert Dr. Debbie Reese entitled *Explore Native Cultural Representation through an Inquiry Lens*. In addition to a long list of approved children's and teen books, Wolf was given a checklist of things to look for when selecting items for purchase.



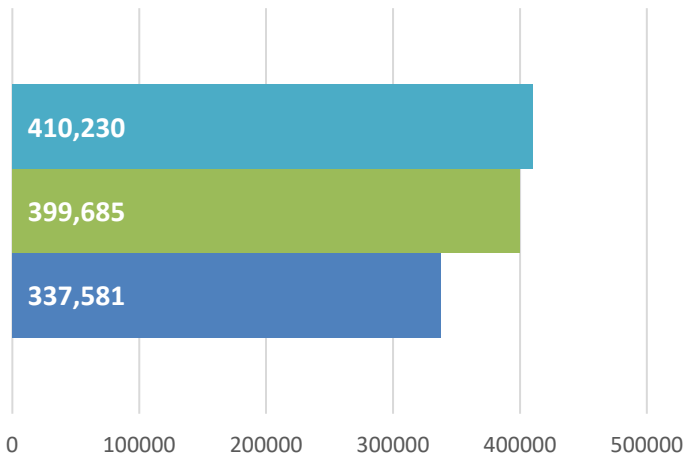
Anecdotes/Other

- World Relief Western NY is a nonprofit organization in the North Winton neighborhood that helps to resettle refugees and immigrants. Mary Fraser met with a class of World Relief students from Afghanistan, India, and Ukraine to let them know about library services. Most said that they had not used the libraries in their countries of origin and were happy to find out that Rochester Public Libraries are free and have more than just books.
- Winton Branch Library Teen Volunteers created enough heart-shaped bookmarks to be distributed to patrons in the library. One young boy loved the bookmarks and told Smith that if he folded the bookmarks a certain way, it looked just like a little airplane. He informed Smith that "flight mode" is his preferred setting for his free bookmark.

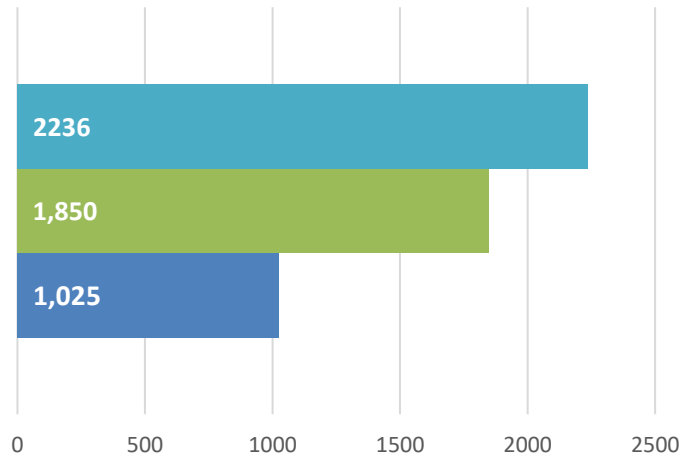
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Jan--Sep



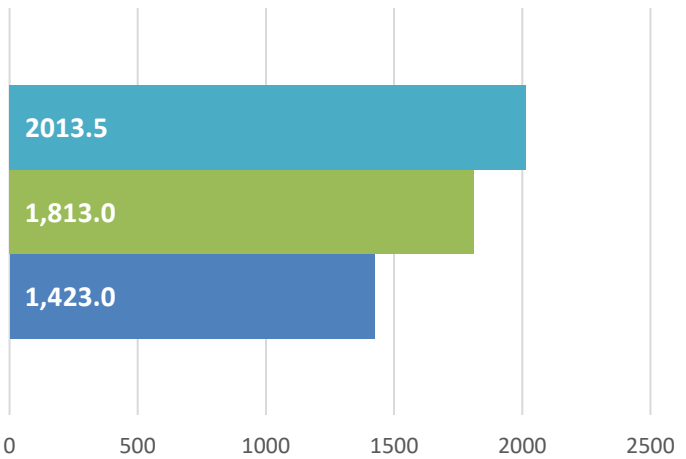
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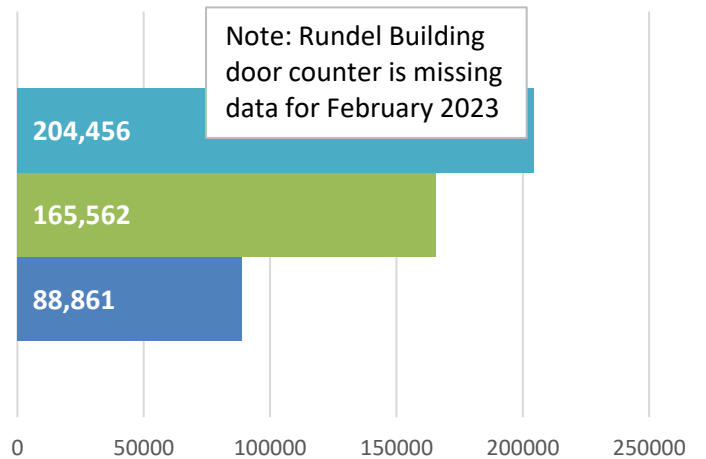
LIBRARY CARDS



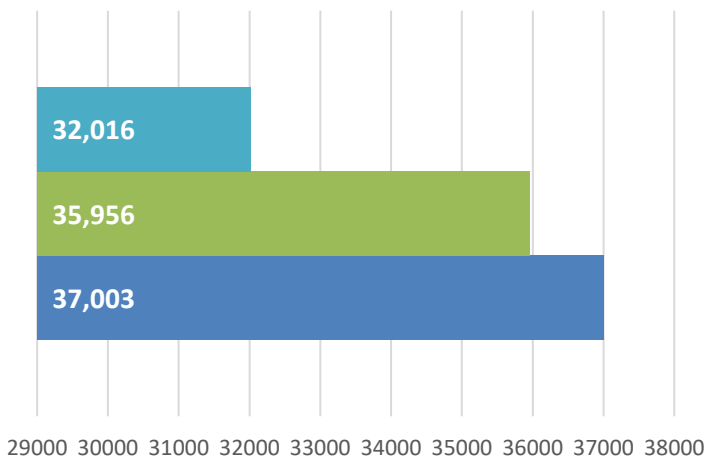
SERVICE HOURS



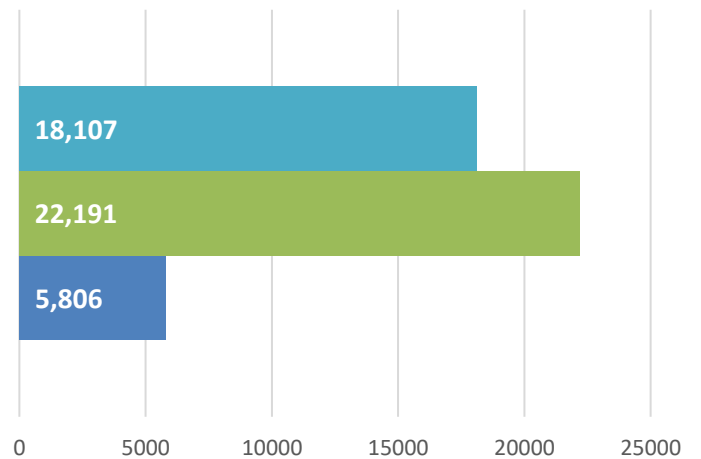
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



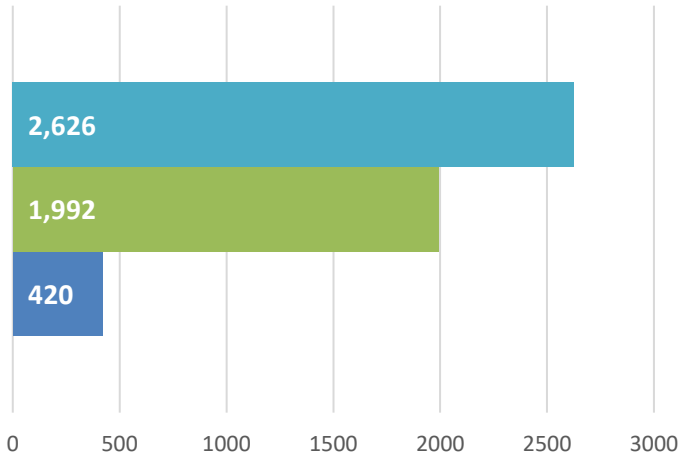
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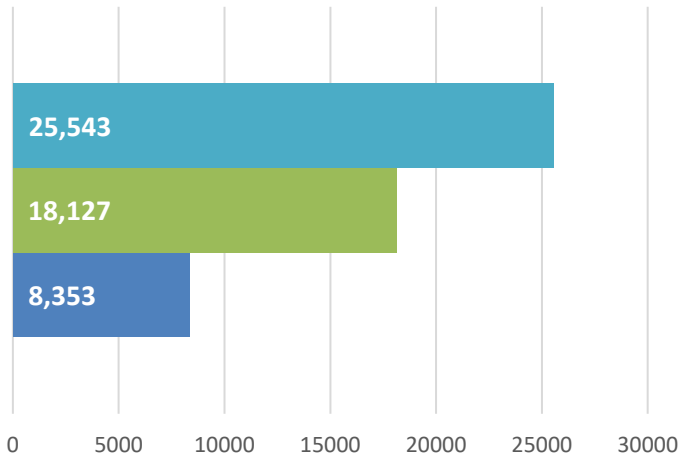
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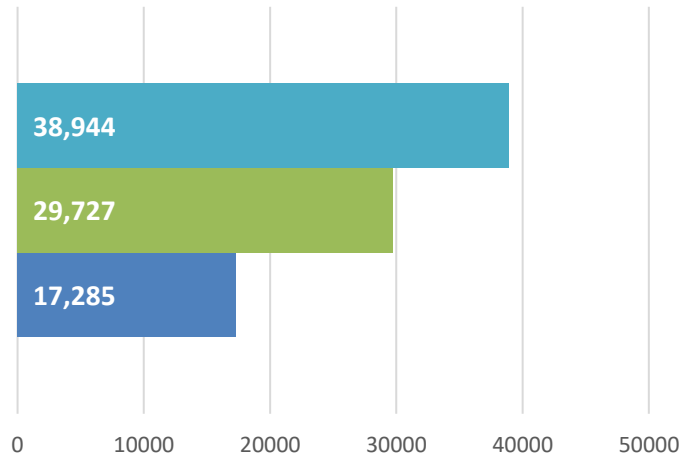
DEFINITIONS

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- Program Attendance:** Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes staff and presenters.

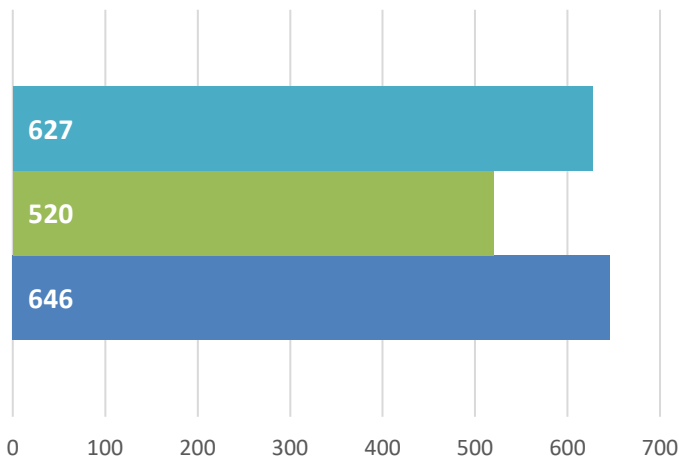
COMPUTER HOURS



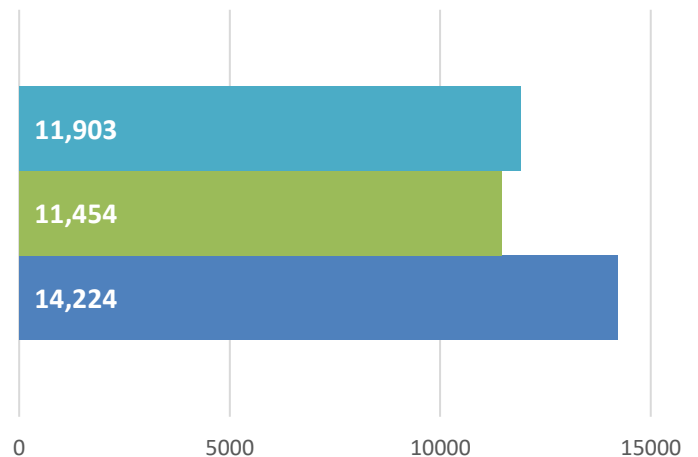
WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



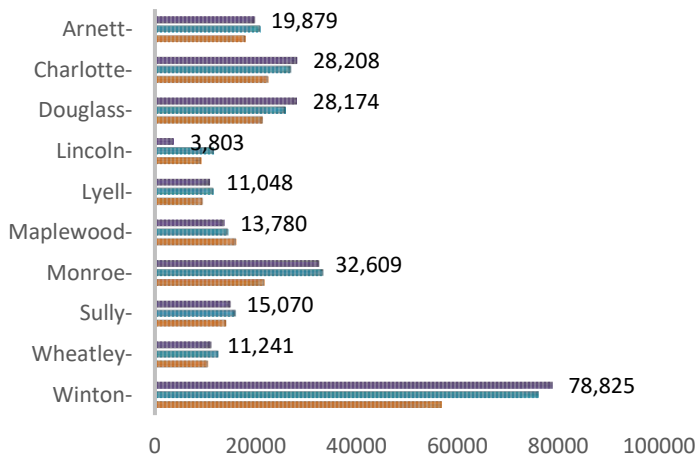
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



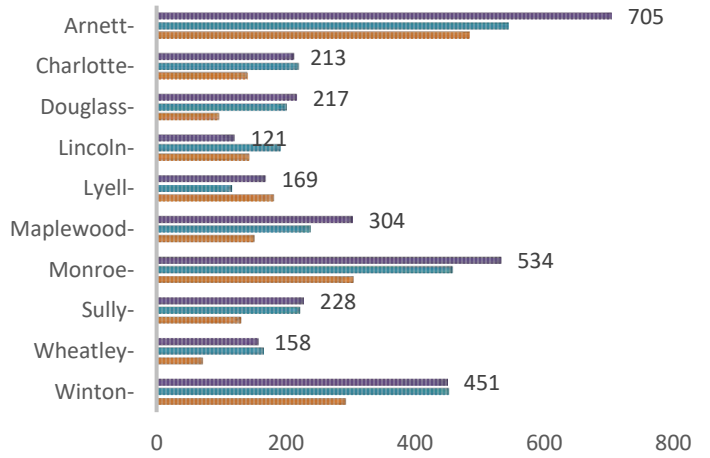
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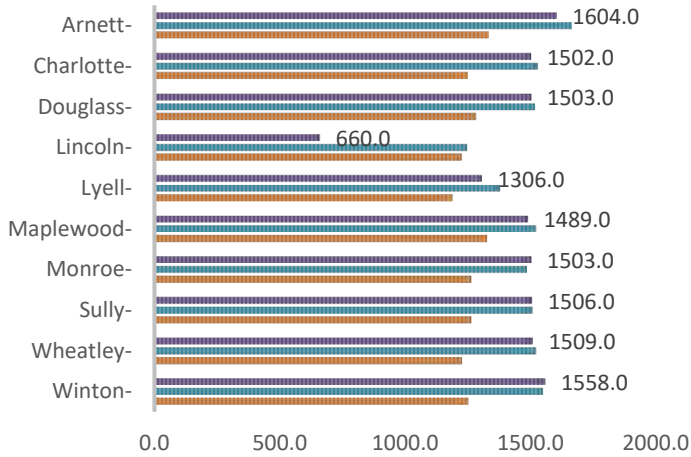
CIRCULATION



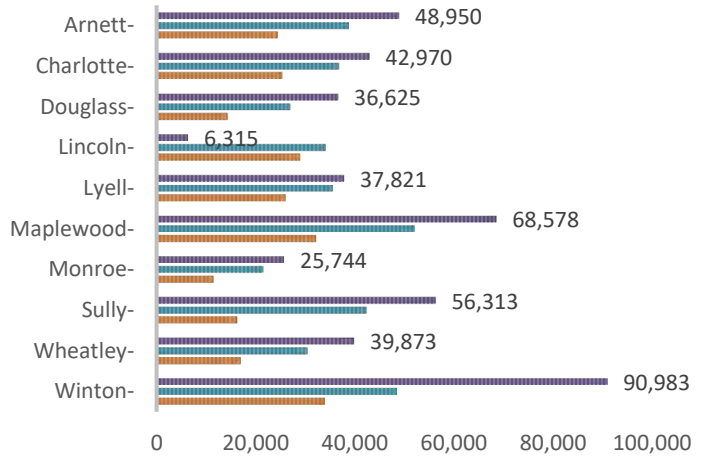
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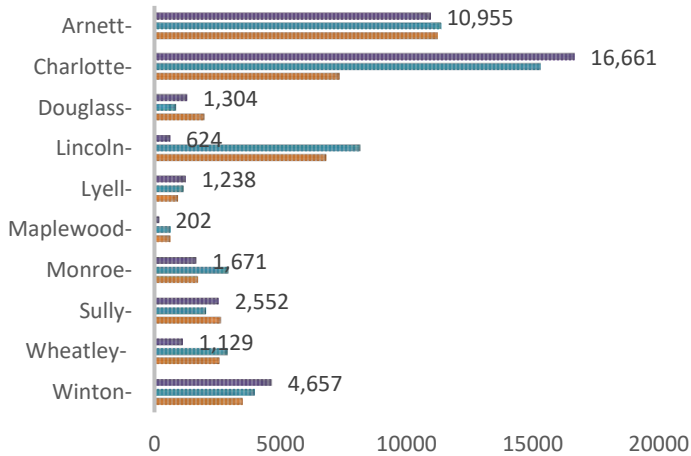
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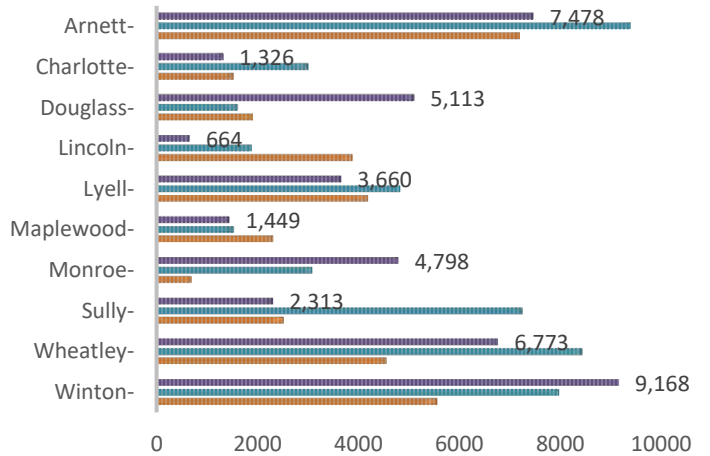
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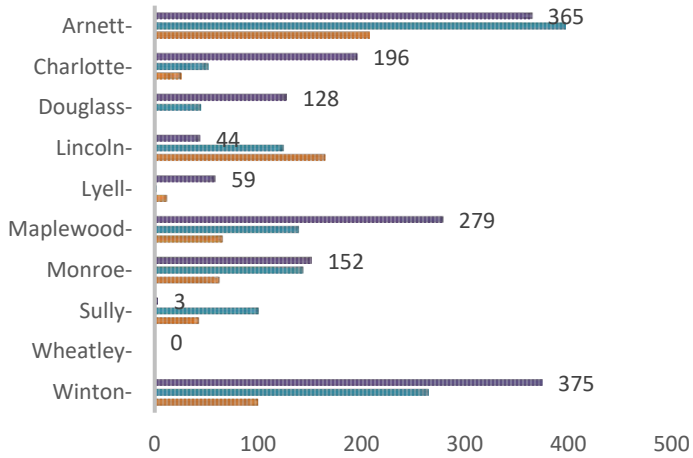
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RPL Branch Statistics YTD Jan--Sep

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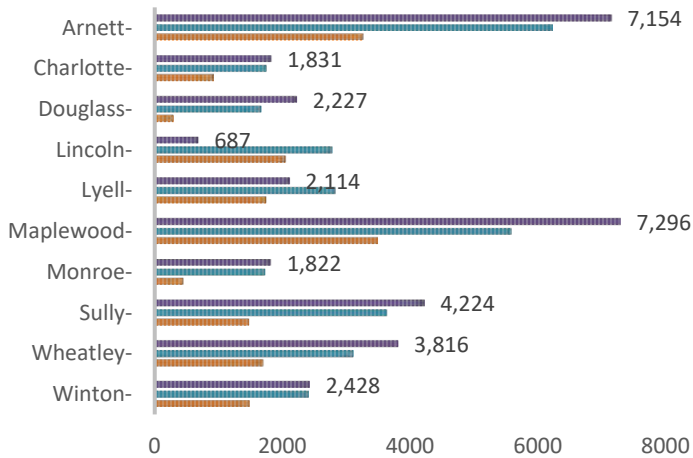
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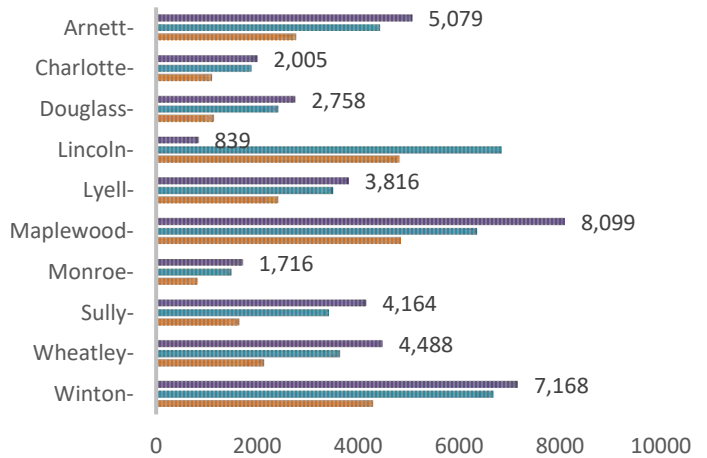
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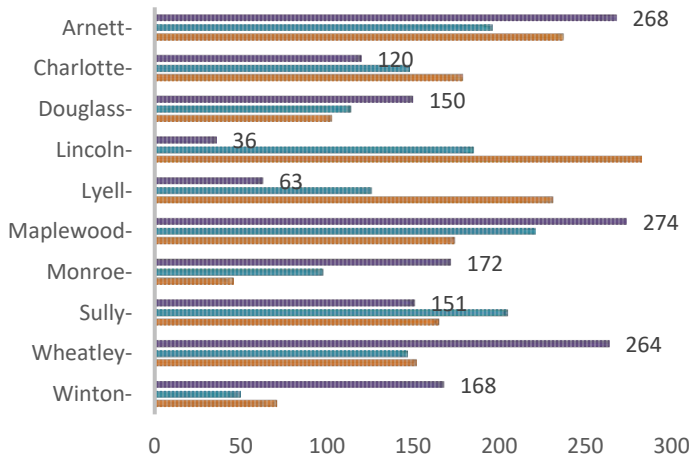
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI SESSIONS



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

