

Rochester
Public Library

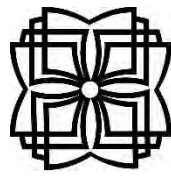
More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building
November 29, 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. Library RPL-MCLS Staff Association Vending Agreement | Harrison | page 13 |
| 5. Term Services Agreement, Digitization Services | Clasper | page 13 |
| 6. Appointment and Reappointment of Trustees | Karin | page 14 |
| 7. Election of Officers | Karin | page 14 |
- III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| 1. Liaison & Committee Reports | | |
| a. Liaison to the MCLS Board | Uttaro | |
| b. Friends & Foundation of RPL | Borgus | |
| 2. Staff Reports | | |
| a. Director's Report | Uttaro | page 14 |
| b. Central Library | Clasper/Smathers | page 19 |
| c. Community Libraries | Lewis | page 28 |
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting:
January 31, 2024
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building, 3rd floor, Kusler-Cox Auditorium



Rochester Public Library

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**Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building, Board Room
October 25, 2023
Minutes**

RPL Trustees Present: Katherine Baynes, Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, Glenn Gardner, Daniel Karin, James Kraus, Sharon Salluzzo, Suzanne Stockman, Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: Alinda Drury, Marilyn O'Connor

Staff and Guests: Mayor's Office Liaison, Tammy Mayberry; City Council Liaison, Mitch Gruber; City Law Liaison, Johanna Brennan; Friends & Foundation of RPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, 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

Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2023, meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Personnel Changes

Ms. Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for September 11, 2023—October 6, 2023, and offered to answer questions. Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financial Reports

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

City Capital Improvement Request

Ms. Harrison reviewed the item with everyone and offered to answer questions.

Ms. Benjamin joined the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve Capital Improvement Program requests for the FY25 to FY29 funding cycle. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Additional Open Hours at Central

Ms. Clasper explained the request to everyone. Ms. Benjamin MADE A MOTION to approve extended hours from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the Rundel lobby and second floor on December 1. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Grant Acceptance, New York State

Ms. Clasper presented the request. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to accept an NYS DHP grant of \$4,210. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agreement, Archival Services

Ms. Salluzzo MADE A MOTION to approve an agreement with Stephanie Ball for the services and cost described. Mr. Kraus asked if the salary was typical and was told it was. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Election of Nominating Committee

Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to elect Donna Benjamin and Suzanne Stockman to the Board Nominating Committee as specified in the Bylaws. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. President Gardner then appointed Dan Karin as the third member and chair of the committee.

2024 RPL Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Uttaro presented the item. Dr. Tucker shared that the RPL Board Meetings are at the same time as his English Department Faculty Meetings making his ability to attend the Board meetings difficult. Ms. Uttaro clarified that the Board could change the timing of the meetings if they choose to. She further shared that the MCLS Board recently moved their meetings to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate a trustee in a similar situation and so far, the new time is working well. Ms. Benjamin MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2024. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Liaison to the Monroe County Library System Board

Ms. Uttaro reported that the MCLS Board approved the NYS Construction grant applications.

Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)

Ms. Borgus reported that Roc the Day is coming up on November 28, and FFRPL will be fundraising to buy new tables and do some wallpaper repair for the Kate Gleason Auditorium. She thanked trustees for pledging ahead of time for matching funds during the fundraiser. She gave a brief description of ROC the Day for Dr. Tucker's benefit.

The Books Sandwiched In program is ending soon for the season. It has been successful with an average of fifty attendees in person each time.

The Sokol High School Literary Contest is coming up soon and trustees are asked to promote this to any young people who may be interested in entering. And lastly, a book sale will happen October 23–27.

In response to a question about prioritizing projects, Ms. Borgus explained there is an annual Memorandum of Understanding between FFRPL and RPL. She has added details to that document specifying the funding requests for the upcoming year and that serves as a guide for most of the projects.

Director’s Report

Ms. Uttaro invited Ms. Harrison to update the Board on the Maplewood Branch expansion and renovation project. She shared that the next meeting will be virtual on November 2. She encouraged everyone to visit the RPL Website where the prior presentations and information for the project can be found. After the November 2 meeting, the project will move along quickly. The bids will be done over the winter and the construction is expected to take 18 months. The timeline is strict due to the project being funded with Federal ARPA monies. She reported that the neighbor will have a new fence and driveway and they have been incredibly supportive. The new parking lot is only adding one space despite the clear message from the community that they want more parking. A potential solution for that will be to create some staff parking at Aquinas with a pathway and gate in the fence.

In response to a question about the ARPA funding and time limits, Ms. Harrison explained the contracts are being written with provisions for damages from the contractor if they do not meet timelines. She also speculated that an extension may be granted from the Federal Government due to many municipalities being unable to complete their ARPA-funded projects by the current deadlines.

Ms. Uttaro announced that Shareka Jackson will be leaving the library to take the role of Deputy City Treasurer. She thanked Ms. Jackson for her work supporting the library and congratulated her on her new position.

She reported that she will be touring a tool library on University Avenue and will discuss how the city libraries might partner with them.

Next, she reported that the RRLC is being honored with a Chairman’s Award from Causewave Community Partners at their Wave Makers Celebration. She has two tickets to the event if anyone is interested.

Tomorrow morning, she will be joining Mayor Evans as he does a “take-over” of the Bob Lonsberry radio show on 1180 AM. She will be on from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. talking about libraries.

Lastly, she reported that the RFP has been released for social worker services at the Central Library. The mayor held a press conference and there is some buzz in the community. She is hopeful to receive some good responses.

Central Library

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She shared that she has recently received several comments from patrons about being open on Saturdays and how much they appreciate that.

Ms. Brenner shared that she attended the Sunday Open House at the Monroe Branch and found it to be remarkably busy and she personally loved that it was on a Sunday.

Community Libraries

Ms. Lewis offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that Amy Discenza is moving from the Outreach Department to Branch Administration. Ms. Discenza brings a wealth of knowledge and skill to the branches and is a welcome addition to the team.

Next, she asked everyone to mark their calendars for December 8. RIT students will be doing their final presentations for the Mobile Library concept for the Lyell Branch. The initial presentations were on October 20, and the teams were very receptive to feedback.

In response to Ms. Brenner’s earlier comment about the Sunday Open House at Monroe Branch, she shared that the event drew ninety-two people and was considered a success. She also reported that the Branch Manager at Monroe has said there is a much more relaxed environment in the branch since they were able to hire a security guard.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Brenner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, and the meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Submitted by Donna Benjamin, Secretary

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PERSONNEL CHANGES
October 10, 2023 to November 9, 2023**

➤ **NEW HIRES**

Francis, Morgan	Clerk Typist/PT/Monroe Branch	10/30/2023
Micoli, Ava	Library Page/PT/Lincoln Branch	10/21/2023
Padilla, Maggie	Library Page/PT/Wheatley Branch	10/30/2023
Pietrowski, Sheila	Clerk Typist/PT/Central/Local History	10/13/2023
Rebholz, Kathryn	Library Assistant/PT/Wheatley Branch	11/09/2023

➤ **TRANSFERS**

Anthony, Lily	FROM: Librarian I/PT/Central/Science Division	11/06/2023
	TO: Librarian I/PT/Central/Business Insight Center	
Ford, Anajah	FROM: Literacy Aide/PT/Lincoln Branch	10/30/2023
	TO: Literacy Aide/PT/Charlotte Branch	

➤ **PROMOTIONS**

Discenza, Amy	FROM: Library Outreach Coord/FT/Central/Outreach	11/03/2023
	TO: Librarian III/FT/Branch Administration	
Griffith, Zoe	FROM: Library Page/PT/Sully Branch	10/30/2023
	TO: Clerk Typist/PT/Charlotte Branch	
Torres, Yamilet	FROM: Clerk Typist/PT/Charlotte Branch	10/16/2023
	TO: Library Assistant/PT/Charlotte Branch	

➤ **RESIGNATION**

Abukar, Halima	Library Assistant/PT/Central/Children's Center	10/10/2023
Pereyra, Adrian	Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Outreach Department	10/26/2023
Santiago, Jasmine	Library Assistant/Bilingual/FT/Sully Branch	10/20/2023

**STAFFING
October 10, 2023 to November 9, 2023**

Full-Time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	77	26
Filled	73	25
Vacancies	4	1
Part-time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	122	136
Filled	71	99
Vacancies	51	37

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

Central Financial Report, October 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 includes 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, October 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. Professional fees includes first System Services billing for MCLS.

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

Central Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24

October

Category	Description	October			Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Excess Budget			
Salary & Benefits	Full-Time Salaries	4,765,600	4,765,600	1,230,398	3,535,202	25.8%	
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,518,200	1,518,200	333,059	1,185,142	21.9%	
	Overtime	15,000	15,000	4,474	10,526	29.8%	
	Employee Benefits	3,201,300	3,201,300	476,685	2,724,615	14.9%	
	Employee Development	21,000	21,790	5,028	16,762	23.1%	
	Other	118,400	118,400	8,528	109,872	7.2%	
	Sub Total	9,639,500	9,640,290	2,058,171	7,582,119	21.3%	
	Equipment & Supplies	Materials Budget	504,800	657,728	181,804	475,924	27.6%
		Other Furnishings & Equipment	8,500	8,631	277	8,354	3.2%
		Office Supplies	52,100	62,392	20,024	42,368	32.1%
Other Materials & Supplies		50,500	54,050	9,821	44,229	18.2%	
Sub Total		615,900	782,801	211,926	570,875	27.1%	
Services & Charges	Utilities	464,600	583,964	102,886	481,078	17.6%	
	Facility Maintenance	121,900	173,679	35,953	137,726	20.7%	
	Professional Services/Fees	266,000	289,098	155,433	133,665	53.8%	
	Chargebacks	80,100	85,340	9,825	75,515	11.5%	
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	11,905	39,495	23.2%	
	Telecommunications	16,700	17,794	3,722	14,072	20.9%	
	Other Expenses	210,200	223,910	34,198	189,712	15.3%	
	Sub Total	1,210,900	1,425,185	353,923	1,071,262	24.8%	
	TOTAL EXPENSED	11,466,300	11,848,276	2,624,020	9,224,256	22.9%	
	Central Cash Capital		92,000	139,890	17,840	122,050	12.8%

REVENUE RECEIPTS	11,466,300	11,466,300	697,643	10,768,657
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Original Budget Revised Budget Outstanding Revenue

Community Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24
October

Category	Description	Expenses FISCAL			Remaining Balance	% of Budget
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	YTD		
Salary & Benefits						
	Full-Time Salaries	1,095,500	902,568	222,259	680,309	24.6%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,296,600	2,108,896	545,114	1,563,781	25.8%
	Overtime	1,170,900	1,093,905	278,555	815,350	25.5%
	Employee Development	22,900	35,679	2,279	33,399	6.4%
	Other	68,900	68,900	1,421	67,479	2.1%
	Sub Total	4,654,800	4,209,947	1,049,629	3,092,839	24.9%
Equipment & Supplies						
	Materials Budget	109,700	543,082	110,475	432,607	20.3%
	Office Supplies	37,700	46,561	10,691	35,870	23.0%
	Other Materials & Supplies	491,500	434,529	106,228	328,301	24.4%
	Sub Total	638,900	1,024,172	227,394	796,778	22.2%
Services & Charges						
	Utilities	222,000	225,433	54,522	170,911	24.2%
	Facility Maintenance	21,500	22,969	8,596	14,373	37.4%
	Professional Services/Fees	404,600	441,801	168,735	273,066	38.2%
	Chargebacks	36,900	46,667	3,794	42,872	8.1%
	Telecommunications	13,100	13,100	4,119	8,981	31.4%
	Other Expenses	47,300	62,549	1,291	61,258	2.1%
	Sub Total	745,400	812,519	241,058	571,461	29.7%
TOTAL EXPENSED		6,039,100	6,046,638	1,518,081	4,461,078	25.1%
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 October 31, 2023)

	Allocation	Carry-forward	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Reynolds Fund - RPL	\$143,734	\$968	\$144,702	\$27,031	18.7%
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	\$5,611	33.6%
Gleason Fund	\$15,590				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)	\$12,144	\$28,125	\$55,859	\$5,446	9.7%
Gervickas Fund	\$5,942	\$6,391	\$12,333	\$673	5.5%
Taylor Fund	\$3,548	\$3,351	\$6,899	\$1,359	19.7%
Boland Fund	\$1,514	\$443	\$1,957	\$0	0.0%
Carnahan Fund	\$1,529	\$799	\$2,328	\$1,613	69.3%
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	\$12,948	22.9%
TOTAL	\$298,948	\$82,704	\$381,652	\$54,848	14.4%

Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2022-23

Fiscal YTD (through October 31, 2023)

Fund	Allocation	Transfer In	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Gift Fund	\$10,252	\$500	\$10,752	\$5,779	53.7%



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TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: November 29, 2023
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–November 2023

Action Items

Library RPL-MCLS Staff Association Vending Agreement (Harrison)

Since the advent of vending machines at the Central Library, the Staff Association has monitored the terms and conditions of the contract with the vending company and has managed location, selection, pricing, and customer complaint issues. In return, the Staff Association has received vending commissions of up to \$2,500 per year to support Staff Association operations. Funds above that amount will be used to support Library programs that are mutually agreed upon by the Library Director and the Staff Association Board. Each year, the Staff Association has provided support for retirement coffee hours, the annual retiree luncheon, and various Library programs and events. This agreement will run from December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024.

Board Action Requested: Approve the Vending Commissions Agreement with the RPL-MCLS Staff Association for December 1, 2023, to November 30, 2024.

Term Services Agreement, Digitization Services (Clasper)

Local History is requesting a Term Services Agreement for digitizing historical newspaper microfilm records, which will include inclusion in New York State Historic Newspapers (www.nyshistoricnewspapers.org).

Northern New York Library Network is the sole vendor that manages/administers the New York State Historic Newspaper project, in partnership with the Empire State Library Network. The vendor will scan and process the collection in a searchable format (PDF, TIF, and/or JPG) for Division use, with some collections being added to the Newspaper website. In addition to sole-source status, the amounts digitized annually will be less than the Division's operating budget for this purpose (less than \$6,000 per year), rendering this service not eligible or recommended for a Request for Proposals process.

Under a Term Services Agreement, the Northern New York Library Network establishes standard rates for scanning and imaging, with Local History supplying individual requests for service that are created as Purchase Orders for each application. The term of the agreement will be from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026. An optional two-year extension may be mutually optioned with accepted amendments to pricing terms.

Board Action Requested: Approve a Term Services Agreement with the Northern New York Library Network for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026.

Appointment and Reappointment of Trustees (Karin)

Trustee Donna Benjamin's term expires on December 31, 2023. She has expressed interest in being reappointed. The Nominating Committee recommends that her name be submitted to the mayor for consideration and recommendation to the City Council for reappointment to the RPL Board with a 5-year term from January 1, 2024—December 31, 2028.

The Nominating Committee further recommends that Dr. Karen Soanes fulfill the new term left vacant by former trustee Marilyn O'Connor. Dr. Soanes is the Director of Instructional Technology & Professional Development for the Bloomfield Central School District and lives in the South Wedge neighborhood. The Nominating Committee recommends that her name be submitted to the mayor for consideration and recommendation to City Council for appointment to the RPL Board with a 5-year term from January 1, 2024—December 31, 2028.

Board Action Requested: Approve the forwarding of Ms. Benjamin's and Dr. Soanes' names to the mayor for recommendation to the City Council for reappointment and appointment, respectively, to the RPL Board of Trustees for 5-year terms from January 1, 2024–December 31, 2028.

Election of Officers (Karin)

The Nominating Committee recommends that the following trustees serve as officers for 2024:

President– Donna Benjamin (first term)

Vice President– Katie Baynes (first term)

Treasurer– Ellen Brenner (second term)

Secretary– Daniel Karin (first term)

Board Action Requested: Approve the slate of officers for 2024 as presented and recommended by the Nominating Committee.

Report & Discussion Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading & Viewing

- New York State Digital Equity Plan – DRAFT document - <https://broadband.ny.gov/new-york-state-digital-equity-plan>
- Decades-Long Travesty that Made Millions of Americans Mistrust Their Kids Schools - <https://slate.com/human-interest/2023/10/reading-phonics-literacy-calkins-curriculum-public-school.html> - Interesting assessment of the need for phonics-based reading instruction.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, December 2 – Rochester History Journal Fall issue release with the author, Lisa Kleman. 1:00 p.m. in Kate Gleason Auditorium.
- Friday, December 8, 9:00 am – Noon – Final Bookmobile Design Presentation, at RIT in The Shed A950 Atrium. If you wish to attend, please let Branch Administration know (Deputy Director Lewis or Erin Clarke)

Initial Fine-Free Results – Since going fine-free in July, Director Uttaro has been tracking several data points: number of new library cards issued, circulation, number of lost items, and number of accounts turned over to collections. For July, August, September, and October the numbers show

RPL Director's Report–November 2023 (Continued)

- 33% increase in new library cards issued
- 2% increase in circulation
- Slight increase in the number of lost items
- Reduction in collection agency turnovers

This data reflects the trends we saw in 2017-2018 when we piloted the elimination of fines on materials for children and teens. While we hope to see a much bigger increase in circulation, we are very satisfied with the number of new library cards issued.

FY25 Budget Preparations – Annual budget preparations have begun for the FY2024-25 budget year. Finance Manager Harrison has distributed the budget planning kits to supervisors and will hold a refresher meeting with supervisors on November 30. We have met with the City Budget Director to review our Maintenance of Effort budget projections and with the City Chief Equity Officer to discuss our intent to incorporate equity-based planning into the budget process. As a result, Deputy Director Lewis and Associate Director Clasper will work with Director Uttaro to identify opportunities for advancement for current employees and consider other ways to provide more equitable service to community members. Most senior managers attended a series of Undoing Racism workshops provided by the City in September and October and delivered by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. We all came away with new perspectives which should assist with short- and long-term planning.

Media & Community Engagement Opportunities – Director Uttaro joined Mayor Evans on October 26 as he “took over” the Bob Lonsberry show on WHAM for a morning. She had the opportunity to talk about some of the more unusual things RPL offers, such as the variety of items that can be borrowed and the various e-content platforms that are available. Uttaro also joined the Mayor at the City's Budget Telephone Town Hall on November 13 when community members were invited to call in to discuss budget priorities. While libraries and R-centers were not specifically lifted as important, investing in neighborhoods was clearly important to callers. Uttaro was asked to speak about the new social services project at Central and one caller offered thanks for the opening at Lincoln and asked about a new branch in the NE quadrant.

Additionally, Associate Directors Smathers and Clasper participated in successful new releases and programs this month. Smathers orchestrated a successful launch of CPR kits being made available through the Central Library and several MCLS locations, in conjunction with URM. Clasper presented on book banning to the Fairport chapter of the American Association of University Women who were curious to know more about the issues nationally and locally.

Uttaro and Lewis met with Nikisha Johnson from TogetherNow, the local agency mentioned at a recent board meeting by Councilmember Gruber. While TogetherNow is not addressing the use of data sharing in the community, Uttaro and Lewis were made aware of the program finder website that has been developed by TogetherNow and provides easy, one-stop-shopping access to a multitude of human services programs and agencies in the community. While exploring the site, we realized that the library entries needed to be updated. Staff are now working on that so we can provide the most updated information possible in this database.

The final Maplewood Community Input Session was held on November 2 via Zoom. While attendance was smaller than we hoped, there was good information shared and we were joined by incoming City Council NW representative Bridget Monroe. Following that meeting, we received a letter from the Maplewood Neighborhood Association reiterating their suggestions and positions on street access and building transparency, which have been shared with the architects.

RPL Director’s Report–November 2023 (Continued)

Social Media

October 2023	RPL X (Twitter)	MCLS X (Twitter)	Facebook	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	-	-	1355	-	140	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	4	9	20	14	40	13
Engagements	58	66	828	27	340	57
Check-In/ Mentions	-	-	-	-	7	7
Post Reach	987	4258	10243	-	1121	20242
Video/Story Views	-	-	227	-	553	1345

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central/RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)

- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 4,341
- Click through – 103
- New subscribers – 5

OverDrive

- Total Checkouts- 86,361
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 672
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 9,842
- SORA Checkouts- 787
- Great Courses- 98

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- New program Little Movers began in response to patron requests for Saturday morning baby and toddler activities. Local music therapist Kate Lynch entertained children and their adults with different instruments, scarves, and songs.
- Katie Powell’s Tuesday storytime incorporated process art and movement activities. Process art differs from the traditional “assembly-style” craft project because it allows for freedom of expression, sensory exploration of materials, and less focus



on the finished product. This is the most developmentally appropriate type of project for young learners who are still developing fine motor control, focus, and spatial reasoning.

- Miranda Hazen hosted visits this month from Webster State Road school, RocSci second graders, Rochester



Christian School, and Kendell Elementary. The Kendell group visited the Hamlin Library after their visit to Central. Since the students loved the Playaways (recorded books) at Central, Hamlin and Central will expand those collections at each library.

Outreach

- There have been ongoing efforts to welcome the asylum-seeking families to the library. Due to staffing within the organizations supporting the families, the visit has yet to happen. Rather than wait, Margarita Chaves and Tonia Burton visited families at the Holiday Inn where they issued library cards and offered storytimes. We plan to begin monthly visits to the hotel to serve families.
- Burton represented RPL at the annual Accessible Trunk or Treat event sponsored by The Center for Disability Rights. This year's RPL theme was "Get Caught in a Book," which featured spiderwebs. Books purchased through FFRPL with the Konar grant funds were given away. This was a great evening that offered sensory-friendly activities for children and adults. Irondequoit Library also attended the event.



Training

The October Children's Services meeting was held at the Lincoln Branch Library. Sarah Lehman and Rosa Diaz gave tours of the branch before and after the meeting. The focus of the meeting was on Community Collaborations and the annual Visiting Artist Showcase. Library staff heard from organizations looking to partner on projects and from artists interested in performing at our libraries. The list of presenters and their projects are:

M3 Youth Programs—Shaheed Ali

- Programming related to Islamic culture
- Flexible based on library needs
- Can provide educational programming, hands-on programming
- Partner with libraries to schedule Muslim author visits (Partnered with IPL for virtual author visit with Reem Faruqi)

Kelly from Seneca Park Zoo

- Book and Beast program -- Story + animal ambassador
- For preschoolers and their families, it is typically scheduled for 11 am on Wednesdays. 30 min program.
- Looking for ways to partner with local libraries
- Utilize library books
- Librarians as guest readers
- Programs held at libraries in addition to zoo

Sharon from Parent to Parent

- Support for families w/ child who has disability
- Parent mentoring program—connect families with each other for support
- Provide parent trainings (can do at the library), referrals to services
- Can be available after storytimes/programs for free consultations
- For all ages, no diagnosis needed
- Free to families and to libraries who want to offer trainings/consultations

Prehistoric World

- From Perry, NY
- Reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, some small mammals
- 1 hour program with 10 animals is \$325
- 30 min program with 1-2 animals (book and animal) is \$125
- Can accommodate any size crowd and any age

U of R MiSo Lab

- Study how kids make sense of the social world
- Current study: how kids and parents choose books together
- Studying ages 3-10
- Looking for libraries to use as locations for field studies

Joanne Brokaw

- Author, performer, teaching artist
- Currently doing improv programs at some local libraries, but flexible on program offerings (community painting is another idea)
- Wants to do regular improv programming at libraries around the county, culminating in show (possibly at KGA)

Nykki Matthews

- President of HPL board, background as school counselor
- Writes children's books about social-emotional learning
- Feature Black and brown boys as main characters

RPL Director's Report–November 2023 (Continued)

- Can do author programs for kids or adults
- Entrepreneurship programs for kids or adults

Raising A Reader

Burton spent a morning at Generations Child Care on South Avenue to introduce and train their staff on the Raising a Reader program. A three-hour visit is not typical; we usually train all the staff at once, but that was not working due to their staffing situation. This different approach, while time-consuming, allowed for stronger relationship building and great discussions about library services and ways to help support the classrooms. We still struggle to train staff at Generations Clinton and our newly added home-based sites. This is due to staffing challenges at the sites and breakouts of COVID. Margarita Chaves was able to reconnect with families at Ibero by joining their fall festival. Information about RAR was shared with families along with a take-home activity. Chaves was also able to complete a short refresher for RAR training with the staff at Ibero. We will continue to work with our sites to meet their needs throughout the school year.

ABC Home visitor Maritza has been excited about the program this year and shared this photo of a mom and her toddler reading together.



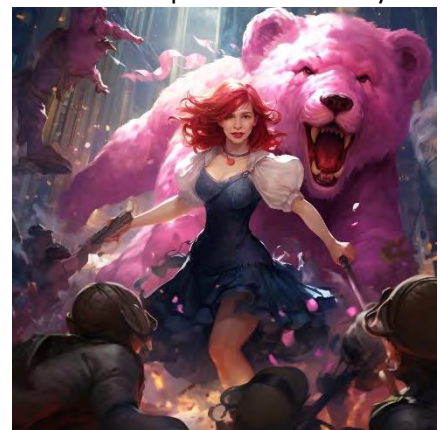
Coming in November

Chelsea Arnold will be the new Family Literacy Coordinator starting November 20! The staff are beyond excited to have her join our team. Arnold has worked at New York Public Library and most recently served as Director at the Bloomfield Library. She also served on different groups within the Association for Library Services to Children and has experience working with families from a variety of backgrounds. Hiring is still in process for the other open positions.

Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- Staff Day at the Central Library saw a varied number of activities across the various departments. While some groups ventured out into the community for activities and team building, others stayed at the library to learn and have fun closer to home. Emily Clasper spent most of the day visiting the staff who remained at Central, observing or taking part in the activities of the various teams. This was an excellent chance to connect and get to know the inner workings of the library's teams a bit better.
- Emily Clasper and Adrienne Pettinelli from the Henrietta Public Library visited the Fairport Public Library to give a presentation on book banning to the Fairport chapter of the American Association of University Women. The presentation was met with strong support for libraries and the defense of First Amendment rights, with a lively conversation on how community members can lend their support to this cause. The event organizers voiced their appreciation for the work our local libraries are doing to defend against book challenges and protect the rights of everyone in the community.
- Emily Clasper and Patty Uttaro participated in a sample comics creation workshop where AI technologies were used to compose comic book adventures and generate artwork to complement the stories. It was interesting to learn more about how AI software works



and how it can be used to encourage the creative process. It was particularly fascinating to see how data fed into image-generating AI can be manipulated to result in a variety of different outputs, relying on strong descriptive skills to get the right results. ImagineYou has already run AI Comics workshops with our teens and is looking to expand the program in the future.

Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent, Don Hyatt, and Melissa Manczuk reporting

Programs

- **Creepy Fun Halloweeny Terrarium:** Patrons enjoyed a creative time creating spooky or seasonal terrariums for Halloween. The terrariums included whimsical ghosts, pumpkins, leaves, and other seasonal items along with succulent plants. Terrariums work well for those who do not have a green thumb because they adapt well to normal home atmospheres. When properly planted and located, they provide a novel way to grow many plants with minimal care, as they require very little maintenance. These classes align with our Mission and Vision statement of promoting learning and providing fun creative innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations.
- **Make a Beautiful Metal Leaf Pendant:** Artist Michele Garlock instructed our patrons in creating a seasonal leaf pendant. Garlock brought all the materials and showed patrons how to wire-wrap the stone for a lovely pendant. Garlock's classes create a friendly easy-going atmosphere, and patrons appreciate that she works in a variety of media, including painting, jewelry, and drawing. One patron remarked, "As always, the social aspects of these classes is rewarding, especially for older adults."
- **Capturing the History of the Bicycle with Original Contemporary Photographica:** Lorne Shields spoke about the early history of the Bicycle with early Photographica Via Zoom. The presenter took attendees on a deep look through the development of the bicycle as well as the development of photographic processes that were used to create the images shown from the presenter's collection. This was the first time many of the images were shared with the public and show the depth of the presenter's knowledge of the fields of bicycles and photography. Even the small details within the images reflect the changing times, and Shields provided context, giving the viewers a deeper understanding of the history of the bicycle and photography. The rise of the social changes that occurred through the development of the bicycle, the rise in women's liberation in America, and the changing social constructs that the bicycle initiated were also discussed.



Outreach

Melissa Manczuk hosted another craft class at Lifespan. The group of talented crafters created Pinecone Zinnia Flowers. Manczuk created this fun project for them during the Covid lockdown and was very excited to finally share it with them in person. One of the crafters commented that Manczuk knew the group very well and they wanted her to come back every Monday for craft day.



Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

- Business First Wednesday: The Importance of Diversity Inclusion and Equity in Entrepreneurship with George Lynch.
- Get Weeding @ RPL! - 33 students attended all 5 sessions and received their certification and can now move on to Registered Vendor Training. Of those, 10 were interviewed for positions.



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Byrnes presented at the Libraries and Small Business conference held in Tehran, Iran (virtual).
- Byrnes and Melissa Cobo presented to the entrepreneurship class at Hobart and William Smith College.

Anecdotes

- Cobo did research for DUTCH Creatives' Collaborative which led to them winning the Rochester Institute of Technology's Center for Urban Entrepreneurship ROC the Pitch competition. The company received a grand prize of \$25,000.
- Regarding the PitchBook database, Doug Buerkle of LTM Ventures said *"I can't tell you how valuable this service is!"*
- The Middle Country Public Library in Long Island reached out to Byrnes for assistance with a cannabis patron.

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 52
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 9
 - Email: 25
 - Mail: 0
 - Phone: 4
 - Zoom: 7
- 3D Printer: 0 (printer is currently broken, needs to be replaced)
- Webpage views: 76
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 12

RPL Director's Report–November 2023 (Continued)

Database Usage Statistics (August)

- Frost & Sullivan: Downloads: 11 Value: \$44,450
- IBISWorld: Page views: 121 Value: \$39,375
- InnovationQ: Logins: 23 Searches: 261
- Mintel: 48 page views
- PitchBook: 22 logins
- Statista: 66 logins

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Outreach

Chad Cunningham, Alexandra Haehn from the Phillis Wheatley Library, and Melissa Manczuk from the Arts and Literature division attended the annual Halloween at the Public Market event. They handed out buttons, candy, stickers, and coloring sheets. They also handed out books supplied by the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The books were a huge hit! Many children were thrilled that there were free books they could keep forever. Cunningham, Haehn, and Manczuk gave out stuff and things to over 1,000 trick-or-treaters. It was a lot of fun!



Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments-3
- New Borrowers-217
- RRLC Access Cards Issued-3
- Notarial Acts-216

Anecdotes

- A long-time regular patron of the entire Monroe County Library System (who has been known to check out many, many items) came to the Circulation desk one Monday night. She told Cunningham that she was going to need two different surgeries in the next year. Cunningham made sure that she knew that, when she had the surgery scheduled, she could check out items for her recovery and we would temporarily change her borrower type to ATHOME so she could keep the items until she was back on her feet. Keeping reading enthusiasts in books is what we do!
- Circulation staff were making buttons for the Halloween at the Market event. Stephanie Penns was wearing a button with a black cat on it. A patron saw the button and told Penns how much she wished she had a button like that. In a moment of absolutely-in-character kindness, Penns gave the patron the button to wear with happiness.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The division kicked off a new monthly genealogy program in October. The Family Finders Genealogy Club is facilitated by John D. Caufield, who is a member of the Rochester Genealogical Society. The club marks a

rekindling of the longstanding partnership between the library and the Rochester Genealogical Society, which had temporarily stagnated during the pandemic.

- Dan Cody hosted a walking tour of the Historic High Falls/Brown's Race neighborhood, which the library offered in conjunction with the City of Rochester's 2023 ROC the Riverway weekend (Oct 6-8). Walking tours continue to be very popular, and the division looks forward to offering more in the future.
- Mario Castillo hosted two sessions of the five-part reading and discussion series 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

- Christine Ridarsky partnered with Cugini di Roc and the Rochester Institute of Technology's Department of Modern Languages and Cultures to conduct oral history interviews with Italian and Italian-American Rochester residents during Italian Heritage Day at the Rochester Public Market. Ten interviews were recorded and will be added to the library's collections. The partners hope to continue to collect interviews in the coming months.
- The division hosted a group of students from St. John Fisher University who were working on a project to document and map the experiences of immigrants from Germany to Rochester from 1848 to 1967. The group learned about some of the key resources available through the division both online and on-site and spent time researching genealogy databases, city directories, maps, church records, and historical newspapers on microfilm.
- Michelle Finn and Brandon Fess each presented on aspects of the Local History & Genealogy Division's collections and services this month. Finn provided an overview of the division at the monthly meeting for the MCLS Adult Services Librarians. This was an opportunity for the librarians to learn more about the resources and services available through the division and to explore ways the division can support MCLS libraries and patrons. As several of the participants remarked, "Wow, Local History does so much!" Fess's presentation was to patrons at the Greece Public Library. It was entitled "Voices from Rochester's Past," and focused on the special collections at the Rochester Public Library. It was also well-received.
- Ridarsky gave a guest lecture on women's rights and woman suffrage to Prof. Tim Madigan's class on "Rochester and the Great Awakening" at St. John Fisher University. Afterward, she met with two other professors to discuss courses they are developing as part of the university's National Endowment for the Humanities-funded place-based learning initiative.
- Ridarsky met with Meaghan McDermott in the Monroe County Communications Department to discuss plans for local commemorations of the semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of the American Revolution (2024–2033).
- Ridarsky attended the dedication of an interpretive sign to mark the previously unmarked graves of Rochester's indigent populations in Mount Hope Cemetery. Ridarsky served on the committee that prepared the marker and contributed to the research and text for the sign.
- Antoine McDonald began another season of mentorship in the City of Rochester's Pillars of Hope program. This will be McDonald's third year with the program and his second year serving as Team Leader at Francis Parker School 23, on Barrington Street. McDonald attended an annual planning meeting (via Zoom) and his first on-site visit to the fifth-grade class he will be working with this upcoming school year.

Special Collections

A new major project began at the end of October: funding received under a New York State Documentary Heritage Program Implementation Grant allowed the hiring of a contract archivist, Stephanie Ball, to carry out the critical recommendation from the 2022 Archival Needs Assessment that all special collections material be

accessioned as soon as possible. Currently, the library has approximately 535 un-accessioned collections. Ball's depth of experience and existing knowledge of the library's holdings will be key to completing the project efficiently. Fess will also contribute considerable time to this project, identifying and creating the subject terms that will be used as part of the collection description in the accession record.

Digital Projects

- Contractor Lisa Buda completed the creation of item-level metadata for the digital surrogates of the library's postcard collection. With the metadata done, Buda and Fess will coordinate with Ryan Hughes from the Rochester Regional Library Council to mount this collection on New York Heritage where it will be more widely discoverable and accessible to researchers. This project is funded through a Rochester Regional Library Council Collections and Access grant. It will run through December 31, 2023.
- FamilySearch has assigned a new volunteer scanning team to the FamilySearch digitization project at the library. They will begin work in November, picking up where the scanning project left off last June. 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 (https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/?search=&sort=_score&perpage=10&page=1&fulltext=1&page=1&refine%5B%5B%5D%5B%5D=Rochester%20Public%20Library).
- The division continues to contribute digitized content to a handful of online platforms, increasing discoverability and access to these materials. There were 1,548 page views of content available through the library's Rochester Voices site (<http://www.rochestervoices.org/>) in October. There has been a lag in statistics reports from New York State Historic Newspapers (<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>) and New York Heritage (<https://nyheritage.org/>). For the former, there were 246 page views of division content in August and 1,166 page views in September. There were 1,279 page views of content on New York Heritage in September (August numbers were already reported). Neither site had reported usage statistics for October at the time of this report.

Anecdotes

- Local History & Genealogy welcomed a new member to the team in October. Sheila Pietrowski started in the position of Clerk/Typist this month. The position had been vacant since June when Jordan Wallance left to take a full-time position in the Technology Center. The division is excited to have Pietrowski on board and to be once again operating at full staffing levels.
- Members of the Local History & Genealogy division participated in the library-wide celebration of Spirit Week leading up to this year's Staff Day events. On Staff Day, the division hosted a Local History ROCs! trivia game in the Kusler-Cox Auditorium. Created and run by Dan Cody, the game was open to all, and staff from the library's Graphics department, Reynolds Media Center, Teen Center, Security team, and Facilities department participated. Prizes were provided courtesy of the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. Afterward, members of the division shared lunch from Neno's, compliments of Patty Uttaro, and then participated in a walking tour of historical landmarks between the library and Canal



RPL Director's Report–November 2023 (Continued)

Street, where the team met up for an exclusive tour inside the old Cunningham Carriage Factory buildings, arranged by Cody. Bob Scheffel from the Reynolds Media Center joined the team for the factory tour.

- Two members of the Local History & Genealogy team appeared in the local media in October. Emily Morry was interviewed by a reporter from WROC-TV Channel 8 about the Local History ROCs! blog. The interview was prompted by the blog's popularity on Reddit.com. The post of the interview on WROC's Facebook page elicited favorable comments about the value of the library and its staff: "Rundel Library downtown is like a miniature 'New York Public Library' on 5th Avenue & 42nd Street in Manhattan" and "Emily [Morry] Rocks! She is kind, intelligent, talented, creative, and devoted to her job and our community. A real asset to Roc and the library." Read the interview here: <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/rochester/rochester-librarian-proves-local-history-rocs/>
- Mario Castillo was a guest on WXXI's "Connections with Evan Dawson" on Indigenous People's Day. Castillo was invited to talk about the reading and discussion series he is facilitating at the library, which is covering a book that examines the complicated history of Seneca land dispossession in Western New York. Michael Oberg (SUNY-Geneseo and author of the book being discussed in the reading and discussion group), and Ansley Jemison (Ganondagan State Historic Park) were also interviewed. Listen to the broadcast here: <https://www.wxxinews.org/show/connections/2023-10-09/understanding-the-big-tree-treaty-of-1797-and-the-canandaigua-treaty-of-1794>

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

RMC handled 883 reference questions and 266 non-reference transactions for a total of 1149.

Programs

- First Friday Film: *Asteroid City*
- See It First Saturday Matinee: *Barbie*
- Brown Bag Book Discussion: *Fairy Tale* by Stephen King
- RMC performed 30 A/V setups for programs in Central Library
- 4 Books Sandwiched In programs streamed via YouTube Live

Displays/Exhibits

RMC posted 6 stories to Facebook, prepared 1 new brochure, and created 2 displays in the RMC division showcasing materials from the collection.

RMC Circulation

- RMC loaned 5 pieces of equipment and 384 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,170 items.
- Total circulation of RMC materials, including those that occurred at other libraries was 8,928.
- RMC materials accounted for 37% of the overall Central Library circulation (before renewals).

Hoopla

Circulation

- Audiobooks – 1251
- Binge Pass – 33
- Comics – 154
- eBooks – 408
- Movies/TV – 258
- Music – 73
- Total Circulation – 2177

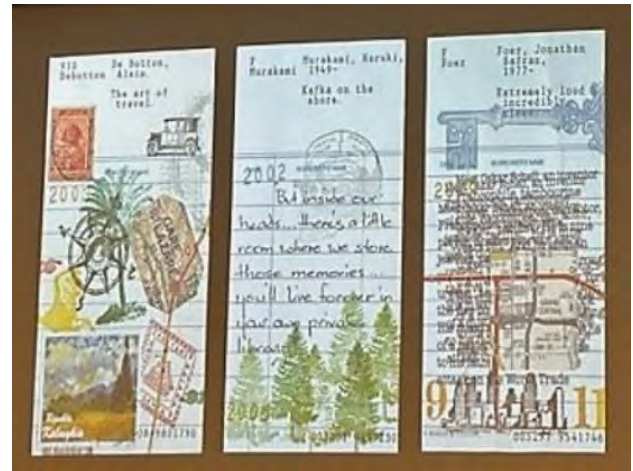
Users

- New users – 49
- Total users – 602

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- **Book Marks: An Artist's Work in Process**, presented by Barbara Page, Artist and Author. Renee Kendrot collaborated with Beth Daugherty, publisher from Bauer and Dean Publishers, Inc. to plan and organize this program. Although there was a small audience, they were very engaged throughout the program. Barbara spoke about two major projects: *Rock of Ages, Sands of Time*, which represents the vastness of the history of life on Earth and is on permanent display at the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca and *Book Marks*. *Book Marks* is an ongoing pictorial survey of the artist's reading history. Barbara uses old 3 x 5 library check-out cards as her canvas. She stores them in a two-drawer card catalog case. Each artwork represents one book that she read from her earliest childhood to today. *Book Marks* was awarded "Best of Show" at the 2022 international exhibit *Art of the Book* organized by the Rochester Central Library and was published in *Book Marks: An Artist's Card Catalog*.
- **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, presented its October program: *Tips for Protecting Children from Harmful Environmental Exposures*. 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. The current program reached about 400 viewers.



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Science Division was the location for a press conference with City of Rochester Mayor Evans' announcement on the expansion of services and investment toward helping homeless families and individuals. Awards were presented to our Library Resource Outreach Center partners, MC Collaborative and Person-Centered Housing Options. Along with comments by the Mayor, Library Director, and Children's Consultant Tonia Burton, Pellegrino provided a discussion on the program, which appeared on various television outlets.
- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors reached a high number of about 90 for October, in addition to private appointments taken at the library on non-LROC days from Person-Centered Housing Options.

RPL Director's Report–November 2023 (Continued)

- Pellegrino again participated on the Monroe County Library System team (2022 winners) for the Literacy Rochester Brain Game 2023. Other Central Library staff included Bob Scheffel, Maren Kyle, and Emily Clasper; Mark Hafer from Maplewood Community Library; Webster Public Library staff Jason Poole and Ketsia Marí; along with Edimar Rodríguez and Maria Pellegrino.
- For Rochester Public Library Staff Day, the Science Division staff, plus Margaret Chatterton of Reynolds Media Center, traveled as a group to the Rochester Museum & Science Center and the Strasenburgh Planetarium. This outing was a perfect fit for the Division, as the museum covers not only Science but also History and Social Sciences. Highlights of the trip were the Survival of the Slowest exhibit, which featured Sash, the three-toed sloth, whom we got to see awake and being fed, and various reptiles; the very impressive and thought-provoking Take It Down! Organizing Against Racism, and the planetarium show The Sky Tonight, along with a discussion and demonstration on the upcoming April 2024 full solar eclipse.



Grants

Grants – in addition to various individual meetings with non-profit grant seekers, Lily Anthony facilitated a class of 14 women from the Women’s Foundation of Genesee Valley’s Immersive Grant Writing Program for Women of Color. They attended a training session on the Foundation Directory Online. It was led by Tracy Kaufman, the education programming manager at Candid.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Anecdotes

A quick examination of the statistics recorded in Gimlet illuminated at least one explanation of the more intense and lengthy computer session in October. One of the most time-consuming tasks for the Technology Center staff is providing support for job seekers. This support is typically in the form of assisting patrons to complete online job applications and create quality resumes. Both tasks became far more significant for staff in the past month. Both job assistance and resume stats increased by 80% in the past month. Evidently, the word is out that there is a resource for people needing this kind of help. The patience and professionalism of the staff are frequently

complimented and commented on by our patrons. The Technology Center team has been consciously built to provide this level of service, and our patrons are recognizing the value of this commitment.

Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- The esports team has continued to focus on building a bigger community this year. We now have business cards that allow teens to sign up for the team or find our Twitch channel to view the streams. The Liberators Discord channel is beginning to have opportunities for the kids to participate in events outside of the library. This month an esports internship, an AGN tournament, and a National Rocket League video contest were all posted in the Liberators Discord.
- This month the media lab hosted an Artificial Intelligence Comic Book lab for library administrators and others. This lab was able to demonstrate how AI comic book creation works. The lab now has access to Midjourney, the image-generating AI, so that any teens can create, edit, and/or blend images.

Anecdotes

Teen Central staff has been diligent in helping one of our teen regulars who recently became homeless and is struggling to live independently without any family support. The young man has been using Teen Central as a safe place that allows him to find some peace and friendly faces to assist him with bettering his situation. The teen staff has helped find the resources to get this young man back in school, find a job, and hopefully soon, permanent housing. It is very reassuring to know that the help that Safe to be Smart teen centers provide will ensure that our Rochester teens are learning valuable life skills for successful outcomes.

Community Libraries Updates

Melanie Lewis reporting

The highlight of the month was attending the 3-day Undoing Racism Community Workshop facilitated by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. Participants in this session included staff from various City of Rochester Departments, the City Council, and the RASE Commission (Racial and Structural Equity). This workshop elicited intense emotional reactions from many participants but was a valuable experience; I am looking forward to seeing how the sessions will translate into continuing to create a more equitable workplace.

Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

The Dave Jeffers' Fall Festival was popular with families. The event featured a magic show and an outdoor farm scene where visitors could interact with farm animals, make scarecrows, play games, pose for photos, and pick out a pumpkin.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library and several branches donated youth books for a Halloween Book Giveaway hosted by Arnett neighbors Dan and Joanne



RPL Director's Report–November 2023 (Continued)

DeMarle. On Halloween, the DeMarles distribute books to trick-or-treaters in addition to giving out candy. Each year, kids look forward to receiving these literary treats. This is one more way Arnett supports the development of a Culture of Reading in Rochester!

- Many of Arnett's programs for youth and adults have art themes, so part of the branch's staff day activities was a team visit to the Memorial Art Gallery. Here's a photo of the team posing at MAG.



Anecdotes/Other

In honor of the branch's centennial, Arnett volunteers posed with City, County, State, and Federal proclamations and certificates from Mayor Malik Evans, County Executive Adam Bello, County Legislature President Sabrina LaMar, Council President Miguel A. Melendez Jr., Councilmember Lashay Harris, U.S. Representative Joseph D. Morelle, NYS Senators Jeremy A. Cooney and Samra Brouk, NYS Assemblypersons Demond Meeks, Harry B. Bronson, Sarah Clark, and Jennifer Lunsford.



Charlotte Branch Library, Dennis Williams reporting

Programs

- Dennis Williams reported an air terrarium program was well received.
- The branch hosted a family Halloween party featuring juggling, crafts, music, games, and storytelling. Staff are grateful to student volunteers from School Without Walls for helping to make it a great celebration.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Cherelin attended the Open House at Abelard Reynolds School No. 42. She interacted with over 60 families and shared information about the upcoming eclipse with interested faculty and teachers.



Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Early in the month, Douglass experienced an unfortunate incident when a window was smashed by a brick. A passing RPD cruiser noticed the broken window around 11 a.m. on a Saturday and called it in. City Security responded as did Director Uttaro, Branch Manager DiSalvo, and RPL Facilities staff Frank Russo & Mike Miller. The glass was cleaned up and the window was secured within a couple of hours. Fortunately, no one gained access to the branch so there was minimal damage.

Programs

- Healthy Highway, Rules of the Road: Local teacher and author Wendy Cooper shared a lifestyle approach that uses fun, traffic-themed vocabulary and visuals to create a road map to healthy choices in all areas of one's life. Participants took a pledge saying, "I promise to make one healthy choice each day" and received Healthy Highway pledge bracelets.
- Family Yoga: Children and adults enjoyed two sessions of creative Movement & Yoga, one held after school and the other after work. Students learned healthy techniques to connect with their inner self for self-care, customized to meet the students' abilities.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Evanna DiSalvo, Anthony Rodriguez, and Carmen Jones met on Zoom for the first fully represented Douglass Family Campus meeting since Rodriguez became principal. DiSalvo invited teachers and staff from the Anna Murray-Douglass Academy School No. 12 to use the branch as a resource; as a result, a seventh-grade bilingual Social Studies teacher is bringing classes to the library to sign up for cards and receive bibliographic instruction.

Anecdotes/Other

- It was a big costuming month for staff with spirit week leading up to staff day, "Thwacky Thursday" (crazy hats), and of course Halloween! For Halloween, staff chose to dress as superheroes or supervillains. The truest hero on staff is Bridget Toth – a Breast Cancer Survivor!
- Book Sale: The Douglass book sale netted just over \$100. People in the neighborhood look forward to the quarterly event and several were waiting at the door for the "grand opening".
- Melissa Meehan, a frequent library user and member of the puzzle club, won the drawing for a Walmart gift card in the library card contest.

Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Griffin Van Ostrand held a Batty Arts & Crafts event where patrons made origami and paper bats and enjoyed a creepy sweet treat afterward. Kids and families had a lot of fun collaborating step-by-step to create their batty friends.
- The Toy Library held a costume festival; children came in and showed off their costumes in exchange for a treat and, if they dared, a trick.
- The Joseph Avenue Arts and Culture Alliance organized a performance by the Scio String Trio at the Lincoln Branch. The trio played for roughly an hour and was greatly appreciated by patrons and staff.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Diaz visited Helen Barrett Montgomery School No. 50 for their Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration and had story time with students. Family and food traditions were shared by all, and the students had a great time.

Anecdotes/Other

- The MCLS J librarians group held their October and Visiting Artist Performers showcase meeting at Lincoln. It was nice to have our colleagues visit the newly renovated library. A tour was given to all who attended the meeting.

RPL Director's Report–November 2023 (Continued)

- The library card contest to celebrate RPL going Fine Free was a great success. The Lincoln Branch registered over 60 new cardholders.
- The Lincoln Branch used RPL Staff Day to catch up on leftover projects from the renovation.

Lyell Branch Library, Cathy Kyle reporting

Programs

- Cathy Kyle hosted a program called Pathway to Resistance about how the Underground Railroad is tied to the Erie Canal. Attendees really enjoyed it. They took notes and requested the presenter's business card.
- Kyle and Natasa Prelevic held a Harvest Festival with Lyell Otis Community Association (LOCA) and PBS Kids. A very enthusiastic group of kids attended and especially enjoyed the crafts provided.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Kyle attended the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Annual Conference and made some great connections with Outreach staff from outside the system and toured a vehicle comparable to Lyell's mobile library.
- For RPL Staff Day, RIT students visited Lyell to present their suggestions for the mobile library project. After lunch, Lyell staff went to the Rochester Museum and Science Center.
- Lyell staff hosted a series of speakers for their Fall Staff Development Day including April McCloud (safety), Alicia Gunther (eclipse), and Chad Cunningham (circulation best practices).



Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- Crafts: Children and teens created origami grim reapers, masks, and spiders, and designed pumpkins for the branch's jack-o'-lantern. There were over 20 designs submitted. The winner received a pumpkin that was carved into a jack-o'-lantern of his or her design.
- Laser Yarn, Spiderweb Edition: Children and teens wriggled their way through webs as fast as possible without touching any yarn. When participants reached the creepy skull, they claimed their treasure (snack) and had to sneak back out of the cavern.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Brian DiNitto set up an event for native English speakers to meet with new English speakers at the City of Rochester Public Market on a Saturday. The group shopped at the market and then had breakfast together.
- Staff attended the Maplewood Neighborhood Association monthly meeting.

Anecdotes/Other

Maplewood staff set up a laptop so a patron could take an online nursing test. The patron had visited three other libraries, but their computer systems wouldn't allow for the download of the required software. Maplewood staff assessed the situation and put in a help desk ticket requesting the hardware and software

needed to make the remote test possible. Jim Whittemore from LAS came to Maplewood to set up a laptop for the patron. Without Whittemore, the patron would not have been able to take the exam.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

Monroe staff held an Open House to reacquaint the community with all the library has to offer. There was trivia, a scavenger hunt, pumpkin painting, a mini-book sale, refreshments, and entertainers including a henna artist and local musician Leah Ou who played the pipa, a four-stringed Chinese instrument. Over 90 people attended.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Matthew Hoople held story times at St. Paul's Daycare weekly.
- Theresa Filo met with counselors from the Center for Youth to promote the branch's new Dungeons & Dragons Club.
- Filo hosted a class visit from the Genesee Community Charter School. She gave a quick introduction to library services and gave students a building tour, highlighting the young adult, graphic novel, and manga collections.

Anecdotes

During a pumpkin painting program, Hoople painted his story-time prop "Mr. Turtle" in the fashion of the Mona Lisa. There was such a positive response both from staff and on Monroe's Facebook page that Hoople purchased a canvas and painted a life-sized recreation of the Turtle-Lisa to hang in the Children's Room.



Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- Wheatley kids love playing math and reading games with Lisa Singletary after their homework is done. Their favorites are Dino Math Tracks, which teaches them about place value, and Create a Story, which inspires them to work as a group to make their own fictional stories.
- Suzanne Kolodziej from the George Eastman Museum presented a youth program about thaumatropes. A thaumatrope is an optical toy that was popular in the 19th century. A disk with a picture on each side is attached to two pieces of string; when the strings are twirled quickly, the two pictures appear to blend into one. Each child made four thaumatropes and learned about early filming.
- Sheilah Murphy hosted a pumpkin-themed paint night taught by local Corn Hill artist Nitza Nater. Patrons expressed gratitude and said they thought Nater was a great teacher.
- The Office of Adult and Career Education Services (OACES) and Phillis Wheatley Library collaborated to host a job fair. Representatives from Amazon, Heritage Christian Services, Monroe County Board of Elections, and Monroe County were in attendance.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Alex Haehn participated in Halloween at the Public Market with the RPL Team from Central. They passed out buttons, books, stickers, and candy.

Anecdotes/Other

- A patron who is not a native English speaker expressed gratitude to library staff for helping her resolve an issue with RG&E. Murphy was able to work with the company to help the patron get her account in order.
- Abdirahman is just learning to read and enjoys it when the RocDogs visit the library. His older brother Abdiasis helps him read the text, and he describes the illustrations to the dogs.

Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- Maria Heeks-Heinlein collaborated with Uplift Irondequoit to participate in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. They collected 10 pounds of medication to be safely destroyed and distributed medication lock boxes to families to help them keep medication out of the hands of children.
- Jacob Bigelow ran a craft program that encouraged participants to get their creative energies flowing while decorating drawstring bags.
- April McCloud assisted the children with a spider craft on Halloween. Despite the multitude of eyes and legs, these spiders were not scary at all.

Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

- Heeks-Heinlein attended the John James Audubon School No. 33 PTA meeting to discuss library resources. She shared information about the social work intern who is available to patrons in the library, Sully's new board game collection, and information about the Rochester Public Library going fine-free.
- Heeks-Heinlein visited the Friendship Childcare Center, bringing stories and songs to all five of their classrooms.

Anecdotes/Other

- A pre-K teacher from School No. 33 visited the library to share that after their last visit to Sully for storytime, she received a phone call from a parent relaying how much their child enjoyed the story and couldn't stop talking about the cat book and song they danced to.
- During Sully's Staff Training Day, staff learned about brain development in youth and played a round of Fibbage as a team-building exercise. Afterward, they had time to work on some cleaning projects. They are grateful to the RPL Board of Trustees and library administration for staff development days.

Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- As part of The Greater Rochester Teen Read, patrons enjoyed an intimate talk by Liza Weimer as she discussed the motives behind her novel *The Assignment* and the importance of the book's existence in the context of current and ongoing events. She did a wonderful job speaking on a diverse array of topics, and it was clear the audience loved hearing from her.
- Local author Alex Sanchez presented *Shaping Your Memories and Experiences into Fiction*. One workshop participant commented: "I was able to try something I had never done before. I hope to continue writing as a result of this exposure. Thank you for having the class!" Another stated, "I love my library!"

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Kathy Wolf attended Charles Carroll School No. 46's Open House, hosting an informational table where she dispensed program flyers and other brochures detailing materials and services that many people don't generally know libraries provide. She distributed VIP and Empire Pass brochures as well as information about Learning Kits, Hoopla, Libby, and the Toy Library. The prize wheel attracted a crowd and everyone who visited the table was invited to spin to win.

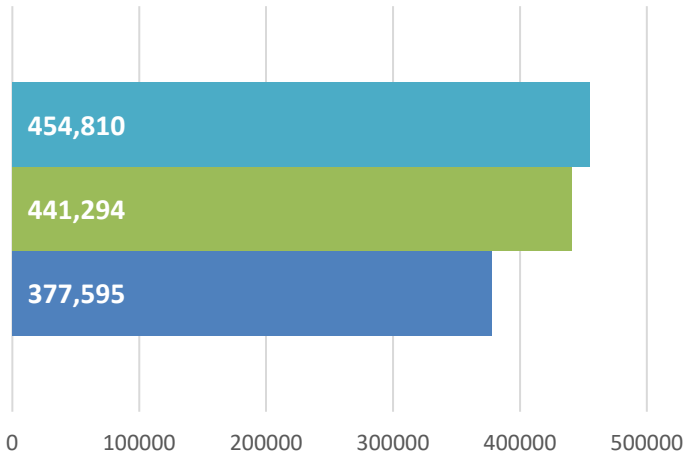
Anecdotes/Other

- The Smith Family boys—a dad and his three sons, James aged 11, Owen aged 9, and Felix aged 6—visit the Winton Branch Library religiously every third Monday. James is the shyest of the three but has been reading a multi-volume series called *The Warriors*, which is very popular. The novel James left off on wasn't available at the branch so staff placed a hold on another copy. Since the Smith family only visits every three weeks, the item must have been sent back. James was crestfallen when he discovered that he missed his book. Since the Smith house is almost exactly between Wolf's house and the library, Wolf was able to drop it off on the way home one evening. The whole family greeted her with smiles and hurrahs.

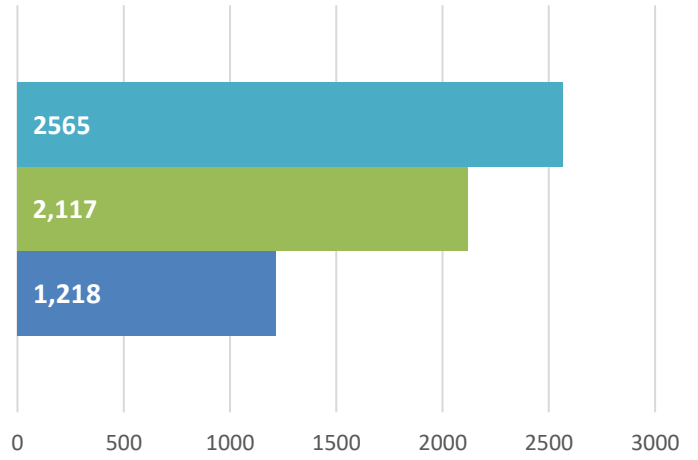
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Jan--Oct



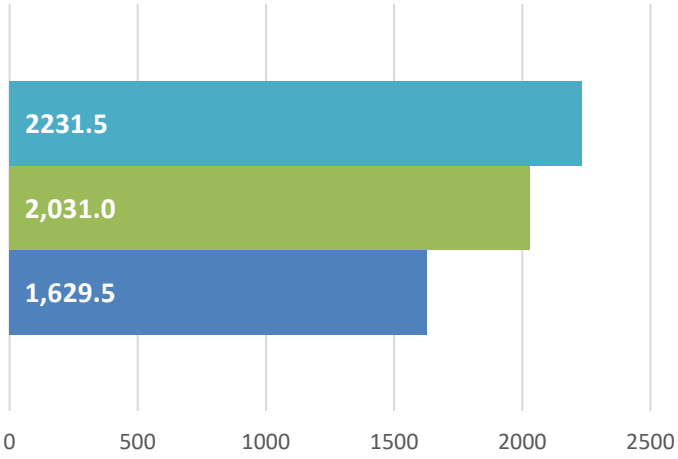
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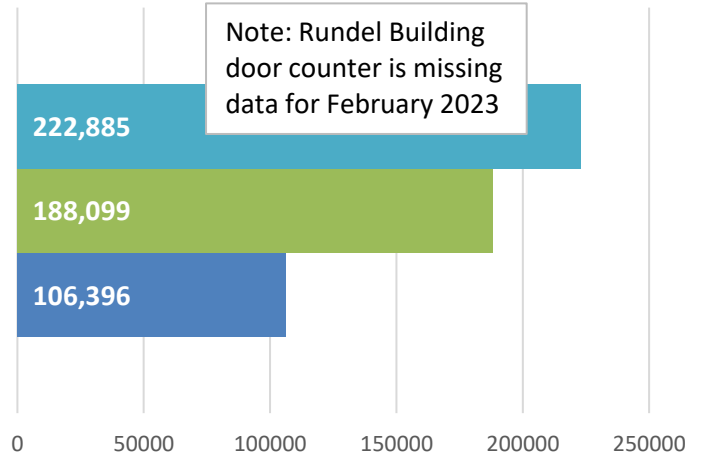
LIBRARY CARDS



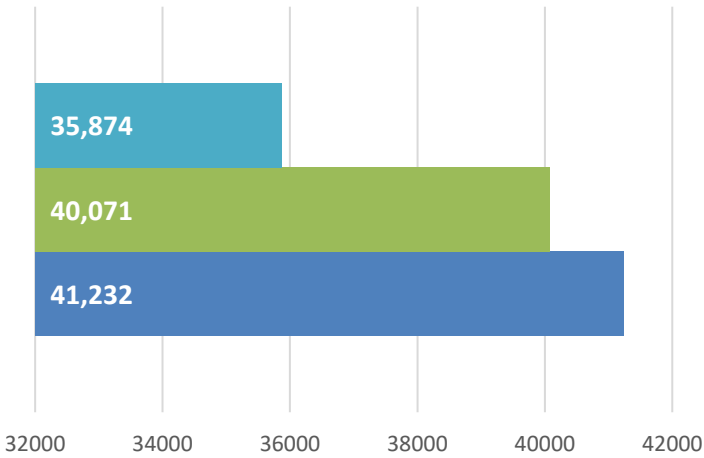
SERVICE HOURS



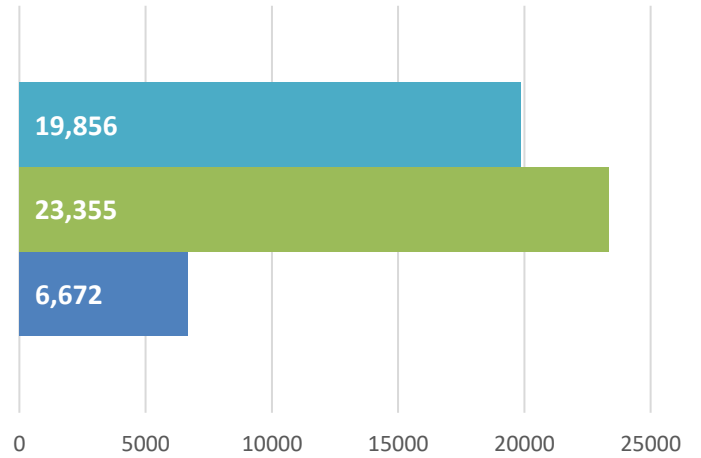
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REFERENCE QUESTIONS



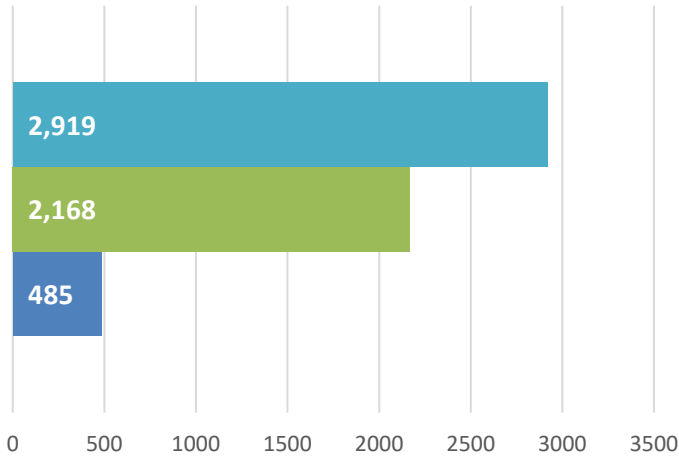
NON-REFERENCE



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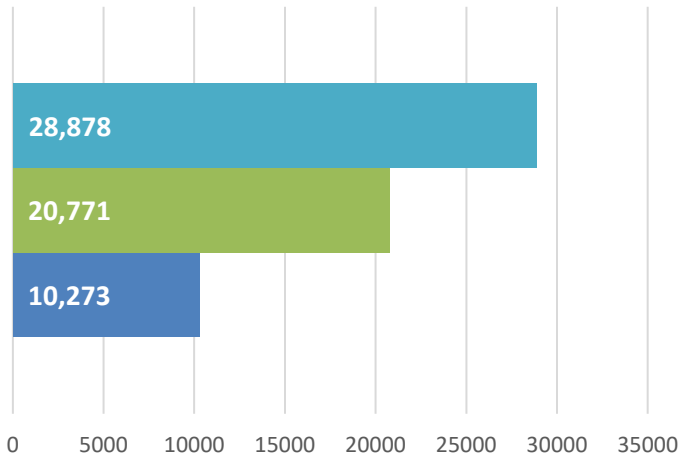
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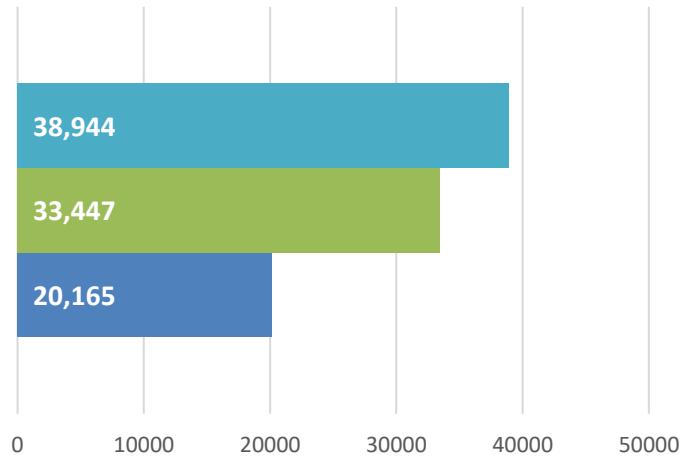
DEFINITIONS

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- Computer Hours:** Hours patrons used the public PCs.
- WiFi Uses:** Number of log-ins to the public WiFi.
- Group Programs:** In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.
- Program Attendance:** Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes staff and presenters.

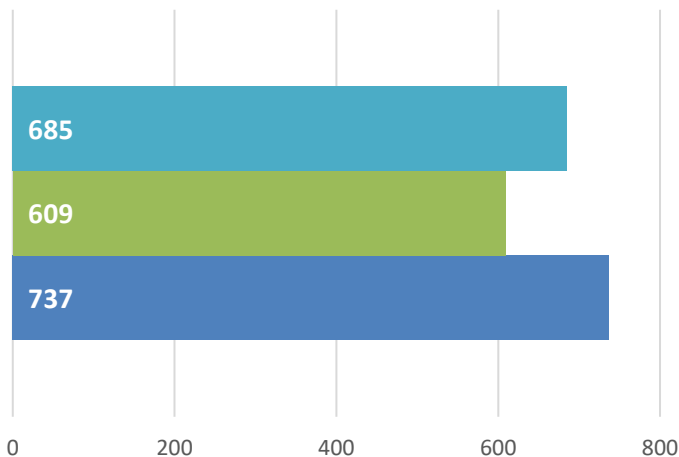
COMPUTER HOURS



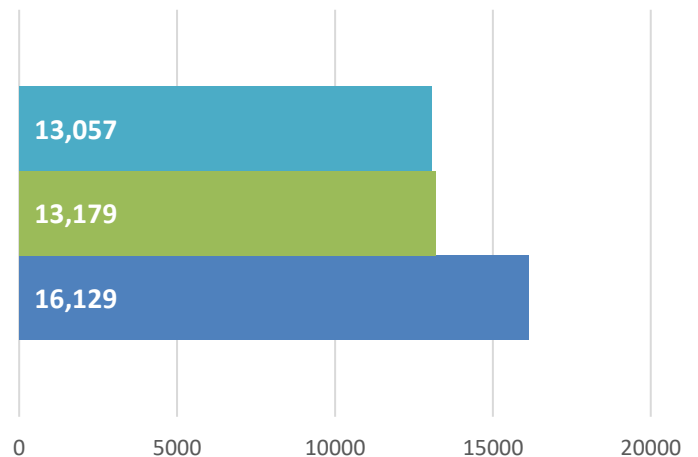
WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



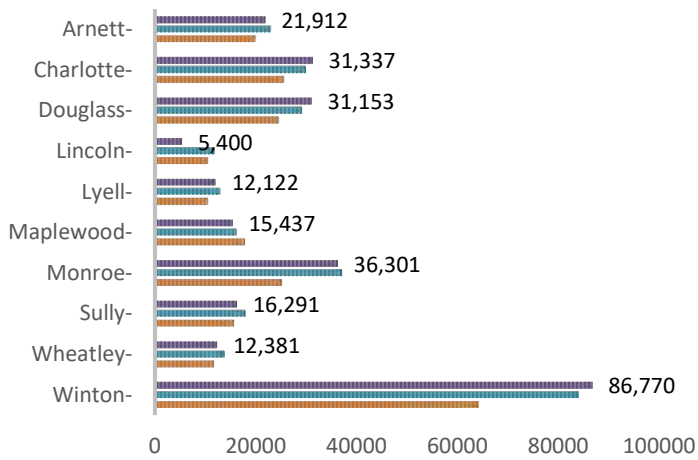
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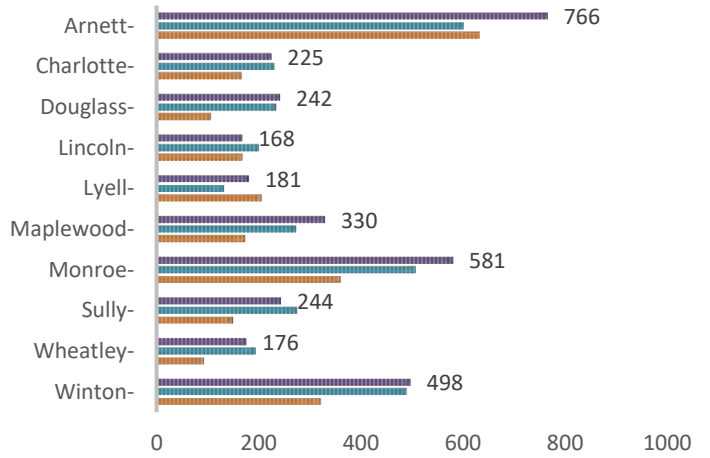
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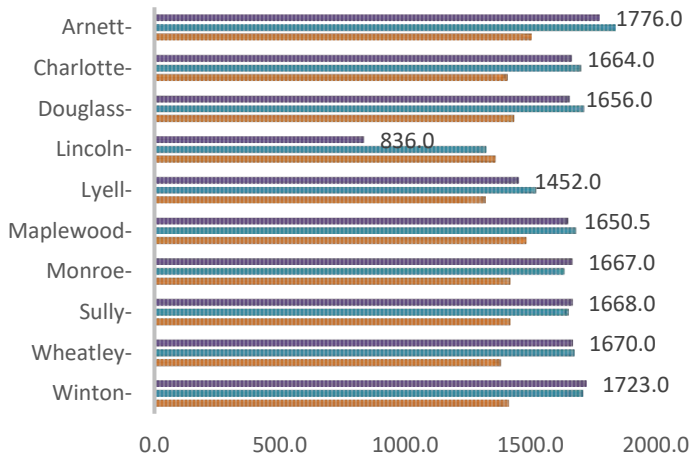
CIRCULATION



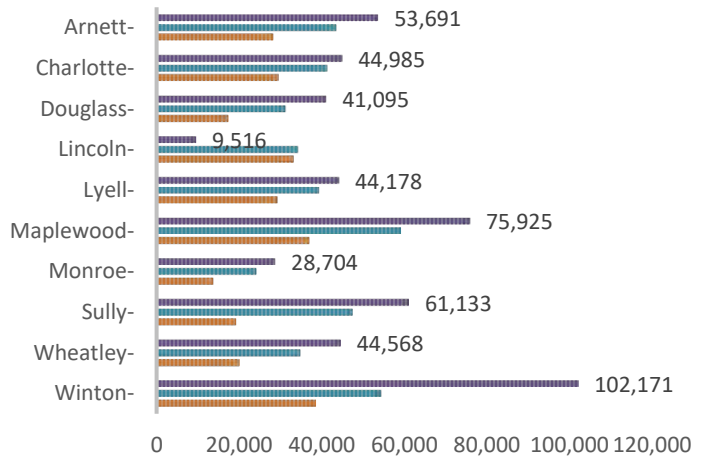
LIBRARY CARDS



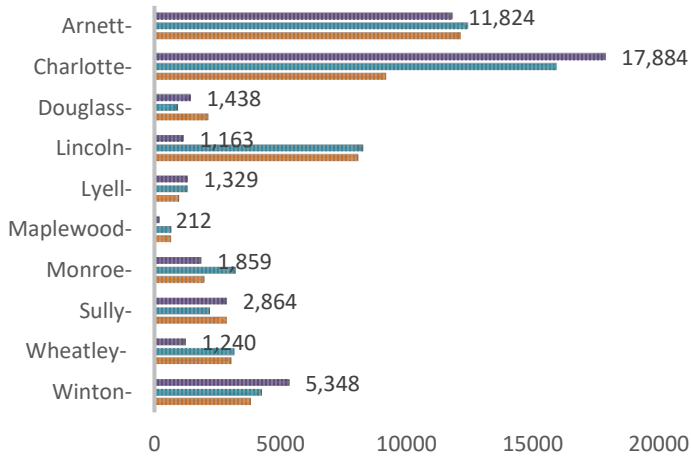
SERVICE HOURS



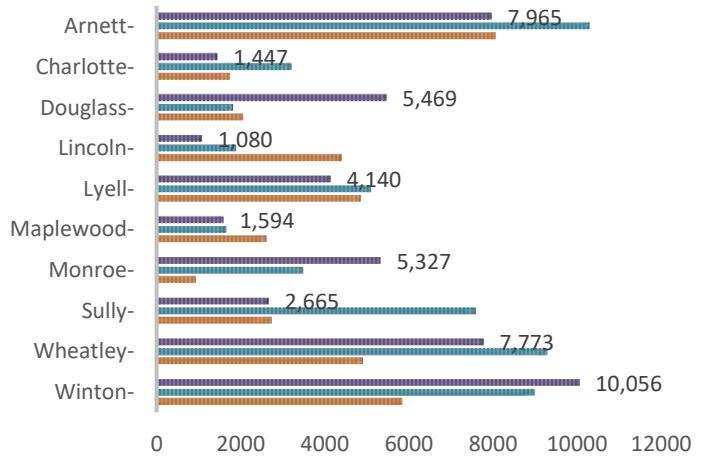
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



NON-REFERENCE



RPL Branch Statistics YTD

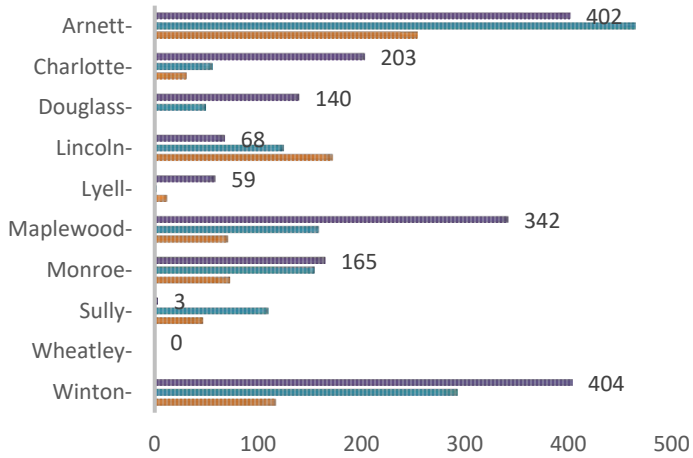
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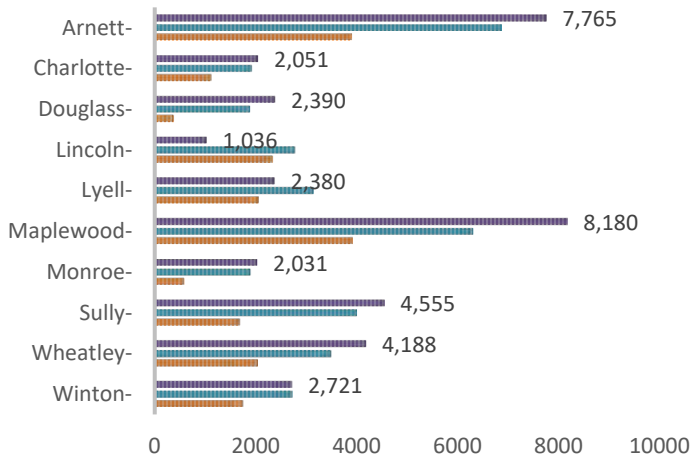
NOTARY



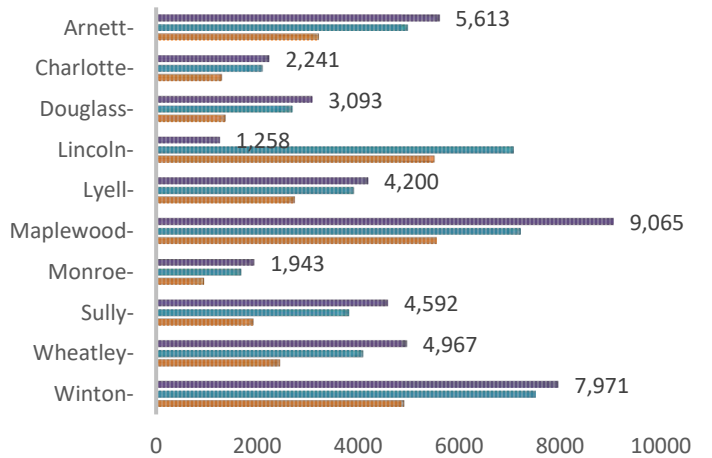
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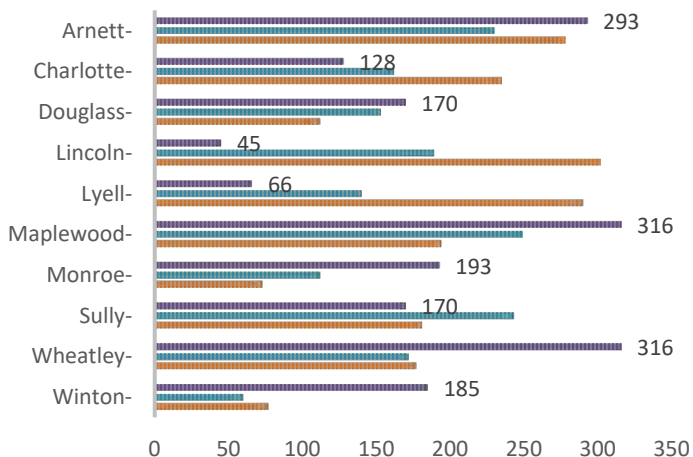
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI SESSIONS



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

