

**Rochester  
Public Library**

**More Than You Think**

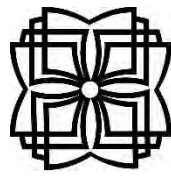
115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

**Rochester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building  
April 24, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Agenda**

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Benjamin
  
- II. ACTION ITEMS**
  - 1. Minutes of Prior Meeting Benjamin page 3
  - 2. Personnel Changes Suro page 7
  - 3. Financial Reports Hasselwander page 9
  - 4. Amended Library Capital Improvement Program Harrison/Uttaro page 13
  - 5. Request to Amend RPL Charter Uttaro/Benjamin page 14
  
- III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**
  - 6. Liaison & Committee Reports
    - a. Liaison to the MCLS Board Uttaro
    - b. Friends & Foundation of RPL Borgus
  - 7. Staff Reports
    - a. Director's Report Uttaro page 14
    - b. Central Library Clasper page 15
    - c. Community Libraries Lewis page 25
  
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS**
  
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:  
May 29, 2024  
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building**





# Rochester Public Library

More Than You Think

115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

## Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building March 27, 2024 Minutes

**RPL Trustees Present:** Katherine Baynes, Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, Alinda Drury, Daniel Karin, James Kraus, Karen Soanes, Suzanne Stockman, Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)

**RPL Trustees Excused:** Glenn Gardner, Sharon Salluzzo

**Staff and Guests:** City Law Liaison, Johanna Brennan; Friends & Foundation of RPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Brian DiNitto, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Ana Suro, Patty Uttaro

### Call to Order

Ms. Baynes called the meeting to order at 9:01 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. Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the February 28, 2024 meeting minutes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Personnel Changes

Ms. Suro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for February 12, 2024—March 8, 2024, and offered to answer questions. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve the personnel changes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Financial Reports

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

### Request for Closure at Central May 9

Ms. Clasper reviewed the item with the trustees. There was a discussion of the safety issues at all locations and what measures are being taken. Ms. Clasper explained this closed day will be used to provide training and support for staff.

President Benjamin joined the meeting at 9:07 a.m. and took the chair's seat.

Ms. Drury MADE A MOTION to approve the closure of the Central Library to the public on May 9, 2024, for staff training. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Revision to RPL Code of Conduct**

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the proposed changes and offered to answer any questions. After discussion, Ms. Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the revision to the RPL Code of Conduct with the addition of the word "possession" to the language prohibiting drugs. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Early Closing on April 8 Eclipse Day**

Ms. Uttaro explained that the original proposed action is being amended to a full-day closure of the RPL on April 8 for the eclipse. After discussion, Ms. Baynes MADE A MOTION to approve the closure of all RPL locations on April 8. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Search Firm Selection**

Ms. Benjamin explained that the joint Search Firm Committee has decided to use RRLC to coordinate the search for a new Library Director. She further explained this item is only an endorsement of that decision, not an approval. Dr. Soanes MADE A MOTION to endorse the RPL/MCLS Search Firm Selection Committee's choice of the Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) to perform the search to find the next Library Director. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library (FFRPL)**

Ms. Borgus offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that the FFRPL Board has already approved the Professional Services Agreement for RRLC to conduct the Director Search and that it should be executed very soon.

Next, she reported that FFRPL has agreed to provide supplemental sponsorship and marketing support of up to \$5000 to the MCLS Spring Author Series.

Lastly, she reported that an invitation for 2024 proposals for the FFRPL advancement of libraries grants will go out on April 1 with a deadline of May 1. Proposals will be reviewed in early May by a committee of three volunteer FFRPL board members and \$7,000 is available for award.

### **Director's Report/Community Libraries**

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that Ms. Mansour is preparing binders for trustees with important documents and the new Trustee Handbook, however, if any trustees wish to take a copy of the new handbook now, they are available.

Next, she shared that in a recent Trustee Handbook Book Club training, it was stated that sexual harassment training is mandatory for library trustees. Ms. Uttaro has not been able to find any mandates to support this claim and has asked Ms. Brennan and Mr. Crumb, the County Law Office Liaison, to research the law and regulations. She is also trying to determine if sexual harassment training would be counted toward a trustee's annual 2-hour training requirement.

She reported that the location that was slated to be used for temporary services while the Maplewood Library is closed for renovations has fallen through because the heating system in the building no longer works and would be too expensive to repair. Mr. Gruber shared that he may have an idea and he will follow up with her privately to discuss.

### **Central Library**

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report.

**Services for New Americans**

Mr. DiNitto introduced himself and drew everyone’s attention to the written report. He gave a presentation on his work as the New Americans Librarian at the Maplewood Branch Library and provided highlights from the report. Trustees asked questions and shared their gratitude for his work.

**Other Business**

None

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

*Dan Karin, Secretary*



**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
PERSONNEL CHANGES  
March 11, 2024 to April 5, 2024**

➤ **NEW HIRES**

Antonienko, Erin	Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Outreach Department	03/11/2024
Pembroke, Nicholas	Library Cloud Analyst/FT/Central/LAS Department	03/25/2024

➤ **PROMOTIONS**

Bieber, Alison	<b>FROM:</b> Clerk III/FT/Central/Finance Department	03/11/2024
	<b>TO:</b> Clerk I/FT/Central/Finance Department	
Giancursio, Max	<b>FROM:</b> Clerk II/FT/Central/Facilities Department	03/11/2024
	<b>TO:</b> Administrative Assistant/FT/Facilities Department	

➤ **RESIGNATION**

Correa, Natalie	Clerk III/Typing/PT/Lyell Branch	03/23/2024
Eccles, Sean	Building Maintenance Helper/PT/Winton Branch	03/26/2024
Kantor, Alexis	Librarian I/PT/Central/Teen Center	03/23/2024

**STAFFING  
March 11, 2024 to April 5, 2024**

<b>Full-Time Positions</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Branches</b>
Budgeted	77	27
Filled	75	26
Vacancies	2	1
<b>Part-time Positions</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Branches</b>
Budgeted	122	136
Filled	75	111
Vacancies	47	25





**Rochester Public Library  
Financial Report – Summary  
April 24, 2024 Board Meeting**

**Central Financial Report, March 2024**

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages, and overtime within budget. The annual retirement lump contribution was higher than budgeted - \$718K vs. \$682K, but retiree medical is under budget with benefits overall within budget.

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

Services & Charges: Utility charges and refuse chargebacks are posted. Professional services include OCLC lump-sum charges for the year, full expenses to FFRPL for the Spring Author Series and Cloud subscription renewal.

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

**Community Financial Report, March 2024**

Salary & Benefits: Salaries, wages and overtime are within budget.

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

Services & Charges: Utility charges and refuse chargebacks are posted. Facility maintenance includes cleaning and other supply orders for the year. Professional fees include first System Services billing for MCLS.

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

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

Category	Description	March				Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
		Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance			
Salary & Benefits	Full-Time Salaries	4,765,600	4,750,600	3,376,979	1,373,621	71.1%		
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,518,200	1,516,200	1,007,105	509,095	66.4%		
	Overtime	15,000	15,000	10,563	4,437	70.4%		
	Employee Benefits	3,201,300	3,201,300	2,462,701	738,599	76.9%		
	Employee Development	21,000	26,457	13,429	13,028	50.8%		
	Other	118,400	116,100	42,542	73,558	36.6%		
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>9,639,500</b>	<b>9,625,657</b>	<b>6,913,319</b>	<b>2,712,338</b>	<b>71.8%</b>		
	Equipment & Supplies	Materials Budget	504,800	640,156	447,844	192,312	70.0%	
		Other Furnishings & Equipment	8,500	8,500	3,613	4,887	42.5%	
		Office Supplies	52,100	60,245	45,894	14,351	76.2%	
Other Materials & Supplies		50,500	52,197	22,118	30,079	42.4%		
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>615,900</b>	<b>761,097</b>	<b>519,469</b>	<b>241,629</b>	<b>68.3%</b>		
Services & Charges	Utilities	464,600	487,005	306,768	180,237	63.0%		
	Facility Maintenance	121,900	160,840	70,060	90,781	43.6%		
	Professional Services/Fees	266,000	314,667	251,830	62,837	80.0%		
	Chargebacks	80,100	74,620	17,380	57,240	23.3%		
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	44,168	7,232	85.9%		
	Telecommunications	16,700	21,700	7,295	14,405	33.6%		
	Other Expenses	210,200	188,804	65,270	123,534	34.6%		
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,210,900</b>	<b>1,299,037</b>	<b>762,770</b>	<b>536,267</b>	<b>58.7%</b>		
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSED</b>	<b>11,466,300</b>	<b>11,685,792</b>	<b>8,195,557</b>	<b>3,490,234</b>	<b>71.5%</b>		
	Central Cash Capital	92,000	139,890	17,840	122,050	12.8%		
<b>REVENUE RECEIPTS</b>	<b>11,466,300</b>	<b>11,466,300</b>	<b>6,627,115</b>	<b>4,839,185</b>				
	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Central Library Support from City + Central Revenue	Outstanding Revenue				

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

**March**

Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
<b>Salary &amp; Benefits</b>						
	Full-Time Salaries	1,786,900	1,758,900	1,255,079	503,821	71.4%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,008,700	1,997,700	1,316,890	680,810	65.9%
	Overtime	2,000	2,000	1,919	81	95.9%
	Employee Development	22,900	22,900	4,420	18,480	19.3%
	Other	69,400	69,400	18,008	51,392	25.9%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3,889,900</b>	<b>3,850,900</b>	<b>2,596,316</b>	<b>1,203,192</b>	<b>67.4%</b>
<b>Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>						
	Materials Budget	492,600	492,949	316,318	176,631	64.2%
	Office Supplies	37,700	42,459	27,664	14,794	65.2%
	Other Materials & Supplies	31,300	31,300	18,359	12,941	58.7%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>561,600</b>	<b>566,708</b>	<b>362,342</b>	<b>204,366</b>	<b>63.9%</b>
<b>Services &amp; Charges</b>						
	Utilities	213,500	222,545	108,557	113,988	48.8%
	Facility Maintenance	39,000	84,943	57,429	27,514	67.6%
	Professional Services/Fees	366,300	372,708	193,306	179,401	51.9%
	Chargebacks	33,400	38,315	7,529	30,786	19.6%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	7,500	7,500	0	7,500	0.0%
	Telecommunications	19,400	19,569	10,077	9,491	51.5%
	Other Expenses	55,700	67,067	15,657	51,410	23.3%
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>734,800</b>	<b>812,646</b>	<b>392,554</b>	<b>420,092</b>	<b>48.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSED</b>		<b>5,186,300</b>	<b>5,230,254</b>	<b>3,351,212</b>	<b>1,827,650</b>	<b>64.1%</b>
<b>Community Cash Capital</b>						
	Computers & Equipment	10,000	77,672	5,263	72,408	6.8%
	Library Furnishings	22,000	44,000	0	44,000	0.0%
	Library Facilities	54,000	146,449	0	146,449	0.0%
	Library Fleet (EV Van)	0	65,330	65,330	0	100.0%
	Library Capital Projects*	576,000				
	<b>Cash Capital Total</b>	<b>662,000</b>	<b>333,451</b>	<b>70,593</b>	<b>262,858</b>	<b>21.2%</b>
		<b>390,461</b>	<b>390,461</b>	<b>232,163</b>	<b>158,298</b>	
		<i>Original Budget</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>	<i>Receipts FISCAL YTD</i>	<i>Outstanding Revenue</i>	

\* Projects administered by City DES

**Trust Funds Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24**

**Fiscal YTD (through April 5, 2024)**

		Allocation	Carry-forward	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Reynolds Fund - RPL	4229	\$143,734	\$968	\$144,702	\$56,346	38.9%
Fenevessy (Central + Branch bal)	4224	\$30,006	\$8,448	\$38,454	\$0	0.0%
Kenyon-Jeffries Fund	4233	\$19,863	\$6,633	\$26,496	\$2,250	8.5%
Purton Fund	4231	\$16,714	\$0	\$16,714	\$11,075	66.3%
Gleason Fund	4225	\$15,590				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)	4225	\$12,144	\$28,125	\$55,859	\$18,328	32.8%
Gervickas Fund	4235	\$5,942	\$6,391	\$12,333	\$2,594	21.0%
Taylor Fund	4226	\$3,548	\$3,351	\$6,899	\$2,549	37.0%
Boland Fund	4232	\$1,514	\$443	\$1,957	\$140	7.2%
Carnahan Fund	4228	\$1,529	\$799	\$2,328	\$1,613	69.3%
Poletto Fund	4234	\$1,529	\$2,233	\$3,762	\$0	0.0%
Beeney Fund (FFRPL)	4227	\$4,839	\$60	\$4,899	\$571	11.6%
Craig Fund (FFRPL)	4236	\$2,708	\$738	\$3,446	\$315	9.1%
Holtzman Fund (FFRPL)	4239	\$1,551	\$474	\$2,025	\$444	21.9%
Lee Fund (FFRPL)	4237	\$1,477	\$1,694	\$3,171	\$263	8.3%
Vietnam Veterans Fund (FFRPL)	4238	\$698	\$1,390	\$2,088	\$42	2.0%
Tummonds Fund (FFRPL)	4241	\$35,562	\$20,956	\$56,518	\$30,610	54.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$298,948</b>	<b>\$82,704</b>	<b>\$381,652</b>	<b>\$127,139</b>	<b>33.3%</b>

**Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2023-24**

**Fiscal YTD (through April 5, 2024)**

Fund	Allocation	Transfer In	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total
Gift Fund	4230	\$10,252	\$10,777	\$6,108	56.7%



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TO: RPL Board of Trustees  
 FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
 DATE: April 24, 2024  
 SUBJECT: Monthly Report–April 2024

**Action Items**

**Amended Library Capital Improvement Program** (Harrison or Uttaro)

There have been several changes to the Library CIP since Board approval in fall 2023. City DES building services have requested support for mechanical studies at four branch libraries–Arnett, Charlotte, Monroe, and Wheatley–based on current conditions. These study costs are new and incorporated in FY25 and FY26, below. They have modified cost estimates in several areas, including the Rundel mechanical options evaluation, Rundel HVAC intake air (cost match to existing NYSED grant), and Rundel elevator modernization.

In addition, DES is recommending the start of a comprehensive evaluation of mechanical improvements for the Rundel building, starting with an electrical panel and service upgrade as well as potential changes to the cooling system. In future years, there will be a need to replace the air handling unit. For all these projects they are recommending a study for FY26 with electrical upgrades in FY27.

Project Category	Project Description	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Business Equipment	Branch Computer Equipment	10,000	50,000	125,000
Office Equipment	Branch Furnishings	12,000	24,000	26,000
Municipal Facilities	Branch Facilities - Maintenance	41,000	56,000	58,000
Municipal Facilities	Arnett High Roof	0	0	0
Municipal Facilities	Winton Branch Renovation	0	500,000	0
Municipal Facilities	Arnett Solar Inverter Replacement	40,000	0	0
Municipal Facilities	Branch HVAC & building assessments	100,000	100,000	0
Central Facilities	Rundel Cooling/Mechanical Options Evaluation	140,000	0	0
Central Facilities	Rundel Roof Replacement	0	0	0
Central Facilities	Rundel Structural Repairs (East Terrace)	0	0	0
Central Facilities	Rundel HVAC (Filtration, Intake Air)	700,000	0	0
Central Facilities	Bausch & Lomb HVAC (Heat Pump)	800,000	0	0
Central Facilities	Rundel Elevator Modernization	900,000	1,200,000	0
Central Facilities	Bausch & Lomb Elevator Modernization	0	500,000	1,000,000
Central Facilities	Central Facilities - Maintenance	94,000	94,000	96,000
Central Facilities	Central Cyclical Inspection Svcs	0	20,000	20,000
Central Facilities	Rundel Phased Mechanical Improvements	0	150,000	1,850,000

***RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)***

A future Board request will be submitted to support the Bausch & Lomb HVAC/Heat Pump project through a Fund Balance appropriation to complete all remaining heat pump replacements as originally planned in the project but removed from the revised bid due to budget constraints.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the Capital Improvement Program as amended.

**Request to Amend RPL Charter (Uttaro/Benjamin)**

The charter which authorizes the Rochester Public Library to function as a public library in New York State currently designates the size of the library board to be no more than 11 members. The RPL Board President and the Library Director are recommending an amendment to the charter which will increase the size of the board to no more than 15 members. This amendment is intended to add diversity to the board by adding additional members who represent areas of the City not currently represented on the board. In addition, this increase will broaden the pool of trustees available to serve on committees. If approved by the RPL Board, this amendment will be submitted to the New York State Education Department Division of Library Development to be presented for a formal vote by the NYS Board of Regents.

Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed amendment to the RPL charter to increase the size of the board to 15 members.

***Report & Discussion Items***

***MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro is reporting***

Recommended Reading & Viewing

- Books & Beds: Build Housing on NYC Libraries, Council Speaker Says - <https://patch.com/new-york/new-york-city/books-beds-build-housing-nyc-libraries-council-speaker-says>

Upcoming Events

- Friday, May 31, 10:00 am – Ribbon Cutting for the new El Camino Trail Storywalk at 92 Conkey Avenue. This literacy-based activity will bring a fun story to kids and families walking the trail.

Issues at Central – A good portion of the last month was spent addressing a variety of security and staffing issues at the Central Library. The Director and senior staff will discuss this in more detail at the board meeting. We are grateful for the tremendous support provided by the City of Rochester Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit, City Security, the Department of Human Services Pathways to Peace, Street Outreach, and Person in Crisis teams. All of these units provided onsite assistance over several weeks.

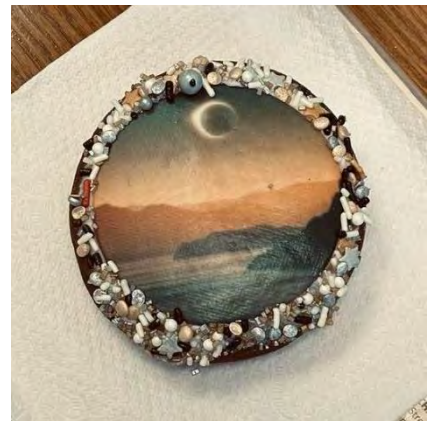
Social Media



**Central Library Updates**

*Emily Clasper reporting*

- On March 14, the Central Library staff enjoyed an “Eclipse Party” where they shared some treats, listened to Eclipse-themed music, engaged in Eclipse-related Trivia, and learned more about the plans for celebrating the big event at the Central Library. While RPL was closed on that day, there were many activities planned leading up to and following that day, and staff needed to learn more about the other festivities happening in the region.
- Ana Suro, Emily Clasper, and Frank Russo met with a representative from the Brave company to get more information about their [Overdose Detection Sensors](#). These devices can be installed in public restrooms, and are configured to alert staff via text message when there is no movement in an occupied restroom or stall, or when the restroom has been occupied for an extended period. Upon exploring this option, it was decided that RPL would test one installation of this system in the All-Gender restroom in the Technology Center of the Central Library. Wiring for the system has been run, and the sensors are scheduled for installation in late April. The current plan is to test the system for a few months, documenting alarms and gathering feedback from both library staff and patrons. Once enough data has been gathered, we will consider seeking funds to expand the program to other restrooms at Central, or to other RPL branches.
- Clasper has continued to serve on the City Opioid Team, sharing information with other City departments about the impact of opioid use on our community. This has resulted in some valuable conversations about the ways departments can work together to mitigate the impacts on City employees and residents.



**RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)**

Following Clasper's most recent meeting, she and Suro met with City Crisis Intervention Services to begin discussing establishing a more regular partnership.

- Clasper met with BJ Scanlon from the County Executive's Office and Denise Read from the Monroe County Department of Human Services to discuss the potential of locating DHS services in the library as part of their services integration efforts. There was overall agreement that this partnership has a lot of potential benefits for everyone, and the group is moving forward to determine the necessary steps to create a regular DHS presence in the Central Library.



**Arts/Literature, Melissa Manczuk and Don Hyatt reporting Programs**

- Local artist Ola Kraszpulska returned with another popular painting class. The group of enthusiastic and talented crafters created a "Hello Spring" sign to welcome the changing season. Everyone loved the class and requested more paint classes in general.
- Making and Meaning: Margret Lejune continued this series with session three called "Family Ties: Artists Exploring Kinship, Bloodlines, and Chosen Families." This program was an informative look at the history of art through the lens of how family is depicted, from ancient Egyptian times to contemporary art movements. Through various mediums such as relief sculpture, sculpture, and contemporary mediums such as photography, this lecture was a view into a theme of the human experience, family, and what it means to be human in our relations with others.
- Museum Quality Storage: Kate Jacus presented this program for both the Local History and Arts Division. Jacus covered the basics for starting a process for preserving photographs, items, and family keepsakes. The program ended with a discussion and questions relating to storing important items. This program was presented in collaboration with Local History to reach a larger audience.



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

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes was interviewed by City Newspaper about BIC's cannabis programs and services in their April issue.
- Lily Anthony and Melissa Cobo had a table at the SBDC Funding for Small Businesses to let people know about the business services the library provides.
- Byrnes presented virtually at the Small Business Development Center's FastTrack program.
- Byrnes was a coach for a pitch competition team from Alfred University.

Consulting



**RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)**

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 115
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
  - In person: 1
  - Email: 21
  - Mail: 2
  - Phone: 1
  - Zoom: 5
- 3D Printer: 2
- Webpage views: 36
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 35

**Database Usage Statistics**

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 52 Value: \$137,750
- IBISWorld: Page views: 133 Value: \$54,175
- InnovationQ: Logins: 17 Searches: 120
- Mintel: Sessions: 18 Page Views: 36 Downloads: 5
- PitchBook: Logins: 56
- Statista: Page views: 72 Downloads: 20

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

- Katie Powell hosted a 6x6 Art-Making program for families and submitted completed projects to Rochester Contemporary Art Center's 6x6 show. Families may view their art in the show this spring.
- Second-grade students from Plank Road South Elementary School visited the library for a tour. They enjoyed a storytime, craft, and scavenger hunt related to their current lessons on Greek mythology.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Tonia Burton participated in GRSA (Greater Rochester After School and Summer Alliance) professional development. The event was a chance for networking and learning focused on the types of training youth services staff have available, as well as the importance of supervisors providing access to training.
- GRSA brought in a speaker from the Search Institute. Search is a national organization that promotes positive youth development and enhances equity through research and accessible methods.
- Burton joined the City of Rochester Children's Savings Account Advisory Council as a design team member. The team will meet each month to plan the implementation of a new city initiative designed to help children in the City of Rochester get financial security and upward mobility. The Child Savings accounts are long-term savings accounts for children in families with limited income. They are for children ages 0–18. Account withdrawals are restricted.
- Burton met with the local chapter of the National Association for the Education of Young People to plan the yearly celebration of our youngest learners during April which is The Month of the Young Child. A kickoff event will be on April 1 at Central Library to honor teachers and aides and the work they do with children.
- Burton attended the Monroe County Youth Bureau annual meeting. Under new leadership, the Bureau is looking to create a youth board with teens from all over the county. Each year the Bureau works with County Legislators and schools to recognize teens of distinction. This year there were more than one hundred teens nominated. A ceremony to honor the teens will be held on April 18 at MCC.
- GRASA (Greater Rochester After School and Summer Alliance) Executive Director Raegen Lawrence met with Burton to discuss possible training for children and youth services staff. The mission of GRASA is focused on social and emotional learning and STEM, Training would provide staff with a framework for how social and emotional development can be integrated into working with children and teens.

Anecdotes/Other

Father Tracy Advocacy Center has been busy helping patrons with a variety of needs. Their assistance this month included finding housing for two different families living in their car, providing food and bus passes, Narcan training for an individual who recently lost a friend at a party, guiding a teen with their resume and interview practice, and several referrals to mental health agencies. This partnership has been incredible. We have access to staff during all open hours of the library, including Saturdays, which other agencies do not offer. During February and March, staff handled 32 inquiries from families and teens.

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

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments- 4
- New Borrowers-304
- RRLC Access Cards Issued-9
- Notarial Acts-230

Anecdotes

- Chad Cunningham was notarizing a document for a patron when out of nowhere the patron asked Cunningham how he would make a baked potato. Cunningham finished the notarial act and the two had a lengthy conversation about baked potatoes. The two concurred that sour cream and cheese were a must.
- A patron came to the desk to pick up a hold. He told Stephanie Penns that he was here to pick up his "internet doohickey." (MiFi device) This was very amusing to everyone at the desk, including the patron. This led to a discussion about how long it had been since the people present had heard the word "doohickey."

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

Programs

- Dan Schneiderman, Eclipse Partnership Coordinator at the RMSC (Rochester Museum and Science Center) and co-chair of the Rochester Eclipse Task Force presented a talk, Preparing For Totality. Schneiderman provided an overview of Rochester's past eclipses, including informative illustrations and timelines, as well as tips and suggestions to ensure that people could enjoy the April 8, 2024, eclipse safely and effectively.
- Christine Ridarsky and the City's Planning Manager, Kevin Kelley, presented a talk comparing and contrasting the 1911 and 2034 city plans at a sold-out event hosted by the Highland Park Conservancy. Ridarsky shared examples of many of the historic city plans in the library's collection and discussed ways of accessing them.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Michelle Finn presented to the Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs on "A Modern Necessity: Feminism, Popular Culture, and American Womanhood, 1920-1948." The talk took place at the Perkins Mansion, the headquarters of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. It included information about some of the resources and services available at the Central Library's Local History & Genealogy Division.
- Antoine McDonald attended the Pillars of Hope Fireside chat as the team lead for the School 23 Pillars group. During this meeting, participants reflected on their experiences in the classrooms thus far. McDonald was highlighted for leading the first Pillars group field trip of the 2024 year when he hosted School 23 Pillar students on a visit to the library. McDonald also led a tour of the Local History & Genealogy Division in March for students from School 8's Pillar of Hope group. McDonald explained the division's purpose and discussed its resources, including maps, city directories, yearbooks, and microfilm of local newspapers. He also spoke to the students about career paths and librarianship. Students also viewed the Funky Turns 50 exhibit.
- McDonald met with Timothy Howard and Carol Wheeler of the city's Rochester's Black Heritage Committee to discuss the Ancestors Committee's plan for a second volume of its 150 Ancestors book and a June 2024 commemoration. McDonald will assist the committee with research on African American leaders.
- Emily Morry met with David A. Riley (Principal Transportation Specialist, City of Rochester), Susan Charland (Transportation Planner, Stantec, Doug Pippin (Archaeology Services Leader, Environmental Design & Research), Moira Magni (Project Archaeologist, Environmental Design & Research), and Jim Finelli (Senior Architectural Historian, Environmental Design & Research) via Zoom regarding Inner Loop research resources.

Special Collections

- Finn facilitated the donation and relocation of the Dinkle Family Collection to the Rochester Museum & Science Center. This collection has been temporarily held in the Local History & Genealogy Division since Karen Dinkle Bunton and her husband, Jerry Bunton, brought it to the library for the development of the Everyday People exhibition in 2018. The museum is a more appropriate repository for the collection, as it comprises material culture and three-dimensional items that the library is not as well-equipped to preserve.
- With assistance from interns and volunteers, Brandon Fess completed finding aids for five collections:
  1. The records of the Rochester Preschool Parent Program
  2. The Merritt Collection on the Progressive Working People's Lyceum Turn Section (Turnsektion)
  3. The records of Lozier Architects/Engineers, a scrapbook on the 1984 Memorial Day Parade (a contentious event)
  4. The Beech-Nut Family Album

**RPL Director's Report—April 2024 (Continued)**

- Work continued on the accessioning project funded by the 2023–24 New York State Documentary Heritage Program Grant (see October 2023 report for details). Contract Archivist Stephanie Ball created 77 accession records. She is working on the most difficult part of the project—evaluating, arranging, and accessioning materials from unlabeled and poorly documented “mystery boxes” of manuscript material that have been sitting undisturbed in Shared Stacks for decades. Much of the material appears to have been either donated or purchased in the 1940s and 1950s.

Archive of Black History & Culture

- McDonald and Fess met with Buddy Granston to discuss the possibility of borrowing his collection for digitization and inclusion in the Archive of Black History & Culture. The collection is comprised of CDs, VHS tapes, clippings, and photos that document his school life, Baden Street Settlement, and the Gaylords, a 1960s social club on Rochester’s east side, as well as materials from former club staff member and author Ted Lewis.

Digital Projects

The FamilySearch volunteers scanned 226 items in March, all yearbooks:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Publication date</b>	<b>Total</b>
Arista Brockport HS	Brockport HS	2002-2013	11
Apogee Cardinal Mooney	Cardinal Mooney HS	1966-1989	17
Crest	Churchville-Chili Sch	1951-1999	40
Cobblestone School	Cobblestone Middle	2000/2001-2012/2013	9
CREST	Churchville-Chili	1983	1
GAGASHOAN	East Rochester High	1931-2010	74
The Hour Glass	Fairport High School	1933-1996	39
Gateways	Gates Chili HS	1961-2017	35

Late in March, roughly 36,000 pages of historic Rochester newspapers, representing 27 unique titles from the library’s collection, were uploaded and are now available on the New York State Historic Newspapers Website (<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>). Titles include:

- Douglass Monthly
- Monroe Republican
- Rochester Antimasonic Inquirer
- Rochester Observer
- Tenth Ward Courier
- Tenth Ward Courier Pennysaver
- Tenth Ward Post & the Northwest News
- The Daily Sun
- The North Star
- The Rochester Sun
- The Sun
- The Vicinity Post
- The World as It Is and General Advertiser
- Frederick Douglass Paper
- Northwest Courier & Vicinity Post
- Rochester Gazette
- Rochester Republican
- Tenth Ward Courier & Vicinity Post
- Tenth Ward Post
- The Album
- The Enquirer
- The Rochester Freeman
- The Rochester Weekly Flash
- The Veteran's Viewpoint
- The Working-Man's Advocate.
- Veteran's Voice

## ***RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)***

The value of online access became immediately clear when the patron asked for an article from the Tenth Ward Courier & Vicinity Post on the very same day that the paper became available through NYS Historic Newspapers!

### Social Media

- Two new articles were posted to the Local History ROCs blog this month: “Wave Goodbye: The All Too Brief Life of Irene Conole” by Emily Morry, and “Musical Haven: War Memorial Memories” by Dan Cody.

### Interns/Volunteers

- Karen Sue Brown continued working on sorting and filing newspaper clippings. She provided 12.25 hours of service in March. The focus of her work continues to be clippings that were left unfiled in 2012; she also spent considerable time in March continuing a needed revision and reorganization of clipping files on research projects at the University of Rochester and Strong Memorial Hospital.
- Owain Gray provided 15.75 hours of work in March. He assisted Fess with finding aids for a scrapbook on the 1984 Memorial Day Parade (a contentious event) and the Beech-Nut Family Album and began arranging and creating a finding aid for the James Barclay Photograph Collection.
- Noeme Liestman provided a total of 4 hours of volunteer time this month. She continued processing the Whitelaw Roemer Photograph Collection, a large collection of documentary, experimental, and fine art photographic prints from a local amateur photographer.
- Intern, Ronald Martin-Dent, contributed 7 hours in March identifying priority areas for re-folding of maps (due to overcrowding in existing folders) and developing a process for systematic map repair work.

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

### Reference

RMC handled 927 reference questions and 367 non-reference transactions for a total of 1294.

### Programs

- Brown Bag Book Discussion: *Demon Copperfield* by Barbara Kingsolver
- First Friday film: *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*
- Our See It First film: *The Holdovers*
- RMC sponsored a program with Eastman School of Music called “Eastman To Go”

### RMC Circulation

RMC loaned 7 pieces of equipment and 411 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,268 items.

### Anecdotes:

- A patron came in on a Monday night, around closing, to ask for Young Adult audiobooks for her daughter, who is in her 20s but has some developmental disabilities. She said her daughter was spending all her time watching TV and playing video games, and she wanted to introduce her to reading. The patron was shown the Playaway collection, and she thought these might work for her daughter, and selected a few YA titles to bring home. The same patron came in this month with her daughter to select more Playaways for her and to say that we “changed her life” because her daughter was now totally absorbed in listening to the books. The daughter picked out three titles and seemed very excited to listen to them. They said they'd be back!

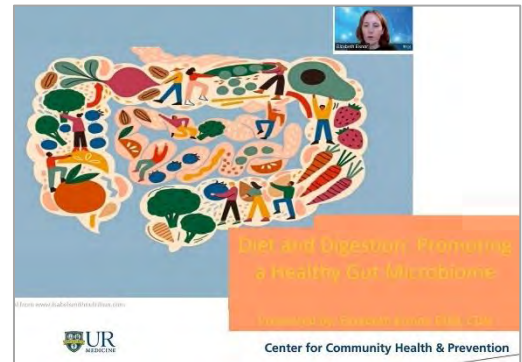
**Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting**

Programs

- NASA and the Weather, presented by NASA Ambassador Jim Porter- Jim returned to Central Library and did a presentation about the importance of weather prediction. Jim's programs continue to be popular, and attendees were engaged throughout his presentation. Lots of questions were asked after Jim's presentation. There were 26 people in attendance. People in the audience are excited to hear that Jim will come back to do a few more presentations about finding water on planets (Waterworlds) and a presentation about aliens. This series of NASA programs is in preparation for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse that will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024.



- Learn to Code – Formerly called Girls Who Code, Faezeh Jahanshiri now holds these programs for all teens and adults. They continue every Wednesday afternoon as joint programs between Science and Teen Central and continue to be popular. These programs are still connected to the Girls Who Code general website, which encourages women to pursue engineering careers.
- 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 February program: Diet and Digestion: Promoting a Healthy Gut Biome. Presenter, Elizabeth Eisnor, RDN, CDN. 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.



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors count reached about 40 in March. This seems to be an undercount compared with previous months. They are typically very busy. Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY), which has been one of our LROC partners, offering legal assistance, continues to be suspended while they work out staffing issues.
- Health Insurance Navigator Adedoyin Bishi has returned for her monthly visits. She works with Legal Assistance of Western New York. Bishi is stationed in the Health Central booth in Science. She saw about six clients in March.
- Among partnerships with the University of Rochester Medical Center/Wilmot Cancer Center/Cancer Community Action Council, Pellegrino is a community representative for the Biobank Advisory Committee. He attended a video seminar on the Biobank Shared Resource, which presented an overview of the Biobank as well as how researchers can access the samples and utilize them in their projects. Pellegrino also attends the monthly sessions of the Cancer Community Action Council and is a part of the Education and Outreach subcommittee.
- Pellegrino regularly receives requests from various organizations, usually health-related, to do partner tabling. These requests are now being handled through the use of an electronic form filled out by the partner organizations, so that a schedule may be created by Central Library Administration.



**RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)**

- Pellegrino attended the monthly meeting of the Education and Outreach Team of the Hearing Loss Association of America, Rochester Chapter. The bookplates for the donations of Hear and Beyond to all MCLS libraries are nearly completed and books will go out soon.

Anecdotes

- Alaikia Miller expanded the Eclipse display which sits on top of a large display unit, by creating a sun side to the previous giant moon sculpture that was built. This side of the display case features books on the sun and a map of the eclipse's path.
- Pellegrino set up a display on Ireland – history, travel, and culture as a tie-in with St. Patrick's Day. The existing displays on heart health and Black History from February were retained for the month.
- Several seasonal puzzles and coloring pages were made available to artistic and creative patrons. Topics included spring, Easter, gardens, and eclipse.



**Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting**

Anecdotes

- The Technology Center staff have seen an increased number of patrons needing assistance obtaining their Monroe County and City of Rochester annual tax bills to proceed with filing their taxes with the CASH program. The team has gained knowledge as to what patrons may need for their taxes. Team members continue showing patience and consistency. Many patrons have given the Technology Center team acknowledgment for their hard work and dedication.
- An excellent example of the Technology Center's impact occurred on the final day of March. One patron returned to us after several months. This patron turned his life around in a dramatic way after spending a few decades segregated from the rest of society. He needed a cell phone. He needed to get a driver's license. He needed an apartment. He needed a job. His first stop was the library. He asked for help and he got it. He kept coming back and, over a brief span of months, he had accomplished most of his immediate goals. He traded his first job for a much better one. He got a better apartment. After a few years of hard work, he met one of his highest goals: going to college. Any time he needed help, he came to the Technology Center and was always welcomed with a smile because he genuinely appreciated the work staff were putting in to make sure he was equipped to reach his goals. On his most recent visit, he needed a little help putting together the paperwork for a proposal he was submitting to a Fortune 500 company. He is very excited at the prospect of landing a life-changing opportunity. The team members on hand congratulated him. He responded "*Thanks! You guys have been with me every step of the way!*"

**Teen Central, Shetora Banks and Jeff Bostic reporting**

Programs

- John James Audubon School#:33 fifth grade class came to Central Library for a visit. They are participants in the Pillars of Hope program. They were able to sign up for library cards, choose interesting literature of their liking to take home, learn the basics of ping pong, and compete with their classmates on the various game

systems and board games available. They can't wait for seventh grade when they can come to the library for regular visits to the Teen Center.

- In honor of Women's History Month we viewed a documentary of the Teen's choosing. They chose Jennifer Lopez's *The Greatest Love Story Never Told*. We used Google to research some of the early years of her life they were unfamiliar with, like her time spent dancing on the comedy sketch show *In Living Color*. One popular opinion was that they loved her lavish lifestyle.
- Jeneah, a coordinator of the Summer of Opportunity Program, came to Teen Central and discussed the application and interview process with the teens. She confirmed that teens ages 14-20 are encouraged to apply for a 6-8-week paid local work experience, earning potential of up to \$15/hr. Many students have completed the application at their respective schools, and Teen Center staff also encourage youth to participate. Jeneah plans to drop into the Teen Center a few more times to assist any youth who may have questions.
- ESPORTS: The 585 Fighters, who hosted last month's tournament, have agreed to run a monthly streamed tournament next year. They will start a "Fight Club" with monthly prizes for tournament winners. Several first-time streamers streamed this month on Twitch.
- AI COMICS: The second issue of teen-made comics was completed this month. Version 2.0 includes nine origin stories. The teens also made apparel such as hoodies out of their AI-generated characters. AI Comics will be a lab program next year.



- GLOWFORGE: Phone pictures were a big hit on the Glowforge this month. Several teens got wooden pieces with their best friends.





## Community Libraries

Deputy Director Melanie Lewis reporting

While vacationing I was reminded of the diverse and relevant services provided by the RPL. A friend texted while I was out of town: “I heard a rumor that the library was giving out eclipse glasses. Is this true? How can I get a pair?” Another friend called, stating they had an expired non-profit 501(c)(3) status, and wanted to know the steps needed to be reinstated. I referred them to the Business Division. I borrowed a sewing machine to take a class. The machine lived on my dining table for a while, seen by another friend who was amazed that this was available with a library card. My devices were loaded with content from Hoopla and Libby for travel. The RPL is a modern institution that provides services far more than the circulation of books.

Amy Discenza had the opportunity to team up with colleagues on a few different projects this month and was reminded of the power of collaboration. She worked with Jessica LaManna in Technical Services to explore a new vendor for video games, with Lynette Alley in HR to develop a database of clerks willing to provide coverage at alternate branch locations, and with Erin Clarke to distribute bottled water to branches affected by the boil water advisory. No matter the magnitude of the task, working together is better. We have a lot to learn from one another.

### Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

#### Programs

- The Arnett Branch Library hosted several popular programs in March, including a lovely concert featuring musicians Grace Browning and Ben Krug from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Both Browning and Krug are residents of the 19th Ward and generously donated their performance to the library as part of the Arnett Friends and Volunteers Winter and Spring Music Series.
- Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Kate Peck and Nancy Cholewa, Arnett's Young Adult Job Fair was a smashing success. Twenty-three representatives from 15 organizations were on site, accepting applications and resumes and providing career information to teens and adults of all ages. Feedback from the vendors and the job seekers was overwhelmingly positive.



#### Anecdotes/Other

- On Arnett's spring training day, staff ventured outside the library to visit the George Eastman Museum together. The Arnett team enjoyed the opportunity to gather socially in a Rochester landmark and to learn more about the significance of George Eastman, Kodak, and Rochester's history as a center for film and photography.

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

Programs

- Local artist Laura Jackett led a Papermaking Workshop this month. Participants enjoyed learning and practicing various techniques to create their own unique paper art pieces.
- The Food for Thought book club discussed *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel. Retired Branch Manager Maureen Whalen leads the group with skill and humor.
- Charlotte Branch Library hosted an all-ages Irish Heritage Celebration, which included a musical performance by the band Himself and a dance performance from the Rochester Academy of Irish Dance.
- Jennifer Cherlin and a team of six volunteers fed 89 families through Charlotte Branch Library's monthly produce distribution. Cherlin has established a steady relationship with various vendors at the Rochester Public Market, from whom she obtained a diverse range of produce. A few patrons even donated pantry foods this month.



Community Outreach/Meetings

Cherlin tabled at the Charlotte Neighborhood Association's Star Gazing and Ice Skating, a pre-eclipse event at the Ontario Beach Park Ice Skating Rink. She met with families and educators and disseminated eclipse-related resources.

**Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting**

Programs

- The Storybook Cook delivered an out-of-this-world snack experience with eclipse-themed munchies at the Eclipsed Eats event. As usual, the Storybook Cook drew a big crowd.
- Laughing Gull Chocolates presented Eclipsed by Chocolate, pairing a demonstration of the eclipse with a short lecture on how chocolate is made. Kids got to taste test samples of dark, milk, and white chocolate.
- Eclipse Ambassadors from Grupo Cultural Latinos en Rochester and City Twirlers brought their telescope to show how it works and the Twirlers performed a routine for a small but appreciative audience.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Evanna DiSalvo represented the library at a project-based learning event at Anna Murray-Douglass Academy School No. 12. Participants were happy to receive free books and a popular My Little Pony-themed craft as a take-and-make project. The event was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the School No. community and share what the library offers.

**RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)**

- Isaac Lewis attended the second annual Unity Summit, You Belong Here, at the Memorial Art Gallery. The event, which was hosted by the New York State Division of Human Rights and the Finger Lakes Hate and Bias Prevention Regional Council, is designed to bring state, community-based, and faith leaders together to share ways they can build stronger communities where hate has no place.



**Anecdotes/Other**

- On a Friday in March, four Social Studies classes from Anna Murray-Douglass Academy School No. 12 visited Douglass Community Library to get library cards, learn about programs, check out books, and participate in a World War I scavenger hunt. Throughout the day, students expressed interest in many topics, from Batman to learning to draw. One student wanted to find books to help her mother deal with experiencing grief. Six students participated in the World War I scavenger hunt – learning to log on to the library computers, search the library catalog, and find nonfiction books in three different collections. All staff participating in the day's events – Jennifer Nesbitt, Haley Geier, Bridget Toth, Roarke Delany, Lewis, and DiSalvo – felt it was a success and look forward to seeing the students again. The teacher returned the next week with the few students who had not yet gotten library cards.

**Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting**

**Programs**

- Two Pre-K classes from Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10 visited the Lincoln Branch and Toy Library. Rosa Diaz kept the students engaged with stories and songs before they moved on to visit the Toy Library and make ice cream cone crafts. Many of the parents visiting with the group signed their children up for library cards.
- Diaz ran a program instructing children on how to safely view the upcoming eclipse by creating viewers out of decorated cereal boxes and watching a short video.
- Sigriet Ferrer of Prismatic Gardens presented a program on how to build your own terrarium. Children and their families used the materials provided to create unique terrariums to take home. The program was enjoyed by all.
- To celebrate Nutrition Awareness Month, teens prepared a healthy meal with the Storybook Cook. The menu, which featured a veggie stir fry and dessert sushi, was inspired by one of their favorite genres of books: Anime/manga.





**RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)**

- Lincoln teens enjoyed a game of Heads Up! The guessing game helps Lincoln teens build relationships while having fun.



**Community Outreach/Meetings/Training**

- Vera Haygood collaborated with the International Commission of Urban Entrepreneurs to begin planning a presentation to empower teens with essential skills for financial knowledge.
- Sarah Lehman met with the team from Aria Consulting to begin planning the unveiling celebration for the mural funded by the Percent for the Arts grant.
- Lehman also met with Tad Mack and Shawn Brown from the Monroe County Clerk's office. Due to the temporary closure of the Irondequoit DMV office, the Monroe County DMV will host a satellite location at the Lincoln Branch three days a week in April.
- Diaz continues to collaborate with community members from the El Camino Storywalk project. The ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for May 31. During spring break, Diaz will work with children who visit the library to add their stories to the panels.

**Anecdotes/Other**

- Jessica Blanco helped a patron sign up for their first library card in March. The individual had recently been released from jail, and one of the first tasks they wanted to accomplish was to sign up for their library card so that they could have access to the internet and other resources to help with their re-entry.
- In mid-March, an adult patron who had been visiting the library daily in search of a job was thrilled to inform the Branch Manager that they had been offered a job at the Seneca Park Zoo. They had been working hard to find employment and were excited to begin this next chapter.

**Lyell Branch Library, Cathy Kyle reporting**

**Programs**

- To build excitement for the upcoming solar eclipse, staff offered STEM-focused kits to help kids understand the phases of the moon—including a moon phase activity featuring Oreo cookies, a flip book, and a journal—to take home or enjoy in the library. Kids also had the opportunity to learn about the solar eclipse through a variety of engaging in-house arts and crafts and educational activities enhanced by the MCLS Office's Eclipse Kit. A commemorative photo opportunity remains on display for kids to enjoy through eclipse day.
- For Women's History Month, teens answered trivia questions about famous female authors for a chance to win K-pop-inspired prizes.
- The Monroe County Department of Health tabled in the library, distributing information about Naloxone.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Lyell Branch was closed to the public on March 6 for its spring staff training day. Members of the Lyell team received Naloxone training, a Kronos refresher, and experimented with the branch's Cricut machine.
- Cathy Kyle attended the Rochester Chamber's Women Empowering Women Conference and the Lyell Otis Community Association meeting.
- Shalis Worthy and Kyle met with Olivia Kassoum-Amadou, Executive Director at Cameron Ministries, and Cara Rager and Angelica Roman from WXXI to explore future collaborations.

**Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting**

Programs

- Pre-K students from Virgil Grissom School No. 7 visited Maplewood Community Library for story time and an introduction to library resources. The students were quick learners with great manners and phenomenal memories. Staff look forward to spending more time with them.
- Maplewood kids let their imaginations run wild on National Children's Craft Day, creating masterpieces out of a hodgepodge of leftover crafting supplies from the depths of the supply closet.
- On National Tool Day, staff assembled a variety of unusual tools and had children guess the name of the tool and its purpose.
- Kayla Lappino's creative writing group focused on the format and structure of non-fiction and fiction writing.
- In partnership with The Office of Adult and Career Education Services (OACES) and RochesterWorks!, Maplewood hosted a pop-up adult education and employment fair.

Anecdotes/Other

- Brian DiNitto attended the Naturalization Ceremony at the George Eastman Museum, in support of one of his students. Two days later, the newly naturalized citizen brought her 77-year-old mother to the library to meet DiNitto and begin her naturalization process.
- After closing the library on a Saturday, DiNitto stopped by the residence of a homebound individual in the neighborhood to notarize a document.

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

Programs

- Young patrons enjoyed songs and stories with Matthew Hoople during weekly story times.
- This month, Dog Man and Martha Speaks were eliminated from Kids Vote, a passive ten-month contest to determine the most beloved children's book character according to Monroe Branch patrons. Porky Pig will be added to the April ballot as a write-in candidate.
- Theresa Filo's Dungeons and Dragons Group completed their starter quest over the course of two Saturdays.
- Wheel of Poultry, Monroe's virtual trivia game, returned this month; the theme was the 50 states.
- Staff from Senator Samra Brouk's office tabled at the library, distributing information about various services.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Filo enjoyed a lively discussion about books, horses, and summer plans with students from the School Without Walls Book of the Month Club. She also contributed a St. Patrick's Day-themed craft.

**RPL Director's Report–April 2024 (Continued)**

- Mary Clare Scheg attended Family Literacy Night at Francis Parker School No. 23, distributing library card applications, bookmarks, and candy to attendees. It was a fun event.

Anecdotes/Other

- During a recent story time, the narrator of the book tells the children how much he loves jokes and invites listeners to share their favorites. Here are a few favorite jokes the kids shared:
  - Knock Knock  
Who's there  
Mr. Matthew  
Mr. Matthew Who?  
(The child gets very confused at this point, and says: "No, YOU'RE Mr. Matthew!")
  - What's the difference between a carpet and a chair?  
I don't know, what is the difference between a carpet and a chair?  
(The child gets slightly annoyed and says: No! I'm asking YOU!)

**Wheatley Community Library, Sheilah Murphy reporting**

Programs

- Alexandra Haehn hosted a seed-starting program for children. This year, participants planted zucchini, yellow squash, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and nasturtiums. They'll sow and nurture the plants until they can be transferred to the community library garden.
- Local florist and paper artist Sarah Haehn taught Wheatley kids to make origami tulips. Participants used their listening skills and supported one another to complete the project.
- Kathryn Rebholz hosted a Teen Tech Week featuring digital literacy as the theme. Rebholz showed teens different ways to vet online sources, including checking the URL, finding the author, year of publication, and citation of information. Teens then completed a worksheet to find this information on their own.
- For craft day, teens painted a flowerpot and put together a bouquet of artificial flowers to adorn it.
- Sheilah Murphy organized a card-making class, facilitated by Cornhill artist Nitza Nater. Participants praised Nater's teaching style and didn't want the class to end.
- Cannabis Workforce Initiative representative April Smith visited the Phillis Wheatley Library twice in March. Patrons frequently stopped by her table to learn more about starting their own businesses and finding local resources and connections.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Murphy presented her final capstone project at the Finger Lakes Emerging Library Leaders training. The project explored unattended minors in the library experiencing trauma.
- Haehn and Clara Barton School No. 2 librarian Christin Babcock, collaborated to get children library cards before spring break to encourage reading while school is out.
- Rochester Early College International High School students visited the library and signed up for library cards. They received a tour of the branch and learned how to search the library catalog for books. Each student checked out a book before leaving the library.
- Rebholz attended a meeting with representatives from Teen Empowerment to discuss a possible program partnership, potential workshops, and an open mic/poetry slam at the library.



Anecdotes/Other

- Roc Paint Division created two murals for the Phillis Wheatley Library Meeting Room, courtesy of funding from the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. The first mural focuses on the connection between the community and nature. The child is a library patron, and the plants/fruit are found in the edible garden outside the branch. Lastly, the Barn Owl is a species that lives in Rochester and in Phillis Wheatley's home country of Gambia. The second mural represents Phillis Wheatley's Gambian culture. The eclipse relates to her poems, which often refer to the moon and sun.
- Social work intern Laura Estroff worked with a patron to create a resume; he came back to let her know that he got the job.



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

- Jacob Bigelow organized a unique craft program for young patrons, using ping-pong balls and tea lights to create a planet lamp.
- Sully's social work intern collaborated with Maria Heeks-Heinlein to present an all-ages program about zines. Participants were provided with a template to create their own zine but could fill the pages with the subject matter of their choice. The intern shared examples of some of the zines she's created, including a guide on how to apply for benefits in Monroe County and another highlighting the locations of Monroe County's Code Blue warming centers.
- Safe to Be Smart Teens used QR codes to learn about famous females this Women's History Month.
- Sully kids completed a sewing project, assembling a heart using precut patterns and child-safe materials. The children enjoyed the project and honed a new skill.





Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

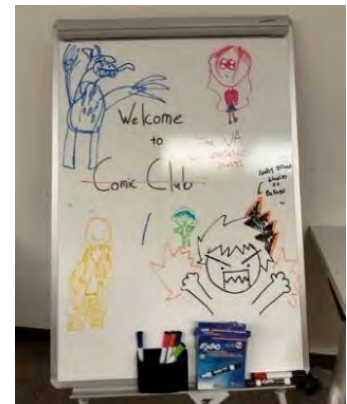
- Heeks-Heinlein met with a representative from the Rochester Latino Theater Company regarding a grant they received to offer dual-language community story times. Sully is planning to host one of their events in the summer of 2024.
- George Carter and Heeks-Heinlein visited Clara Barton School No. 2 to play Black History Bingo, an interactive game celebrating the history and heritage of Black American culture, with students. The incorporation of glow sticks, finger lights, and music, added an extra element of fun to an already entertaining afternoon.



**Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting**

Programs

- For the March meeting of the Winton Comic Club, Emily Smith organized a Minute to Win It challenge inspired by this month's read, *My Hero Academia*. The challenges included picking up pom poms with chopsticks, cup stacking, eating Oreo cookies without using one's hands, tossing balls at a target, and drawing your own superhero costume. Completion of each challenge awarded the tweens points that they could use to figure out where they scored on the Hero Chart. The Oreo Cookie challenge was a fan favorite and had everyone laughing super hard.
- Teen volunteers made and distributed over one hundred take-and-make kits this month. The kits were well-received by patrons, who enjoyed assembling their own cork bunny.
- The March Hot Take asked patrons what useless superpower they would want. One patron responded through Facebook, saying that they would want the power to predict the Wordle—something Smith thinks would be very helpful to many people.



Anecdotes/Other

- The Winton Branch borrowed a vintage card catalog/display case from the Arnett Branch to house a new seed library—packets of seeds of all types were donated by a friend of the library. The seed library was gratefully and enthusiastically received by the North Winton neighborhood gardeners, and others with dreams of growing summer flowers and vegetables. Hundreds of seed packets were given away in March. Thank you to artistic library volunteer Nancy for creating the beautiful sign and display.
- Winton's Cricut machine is available for public use, and it's always interesting to see what our patrons are creating. Recently, a patron used the Cricut to create custom cassette boxes for local bands. He explained that cassette tapes are making a comeback, especially for local bands





that need an affordable way to distribute their music. He appreciated the chance to test his designs with the library's Cricut before investing in one of his own.

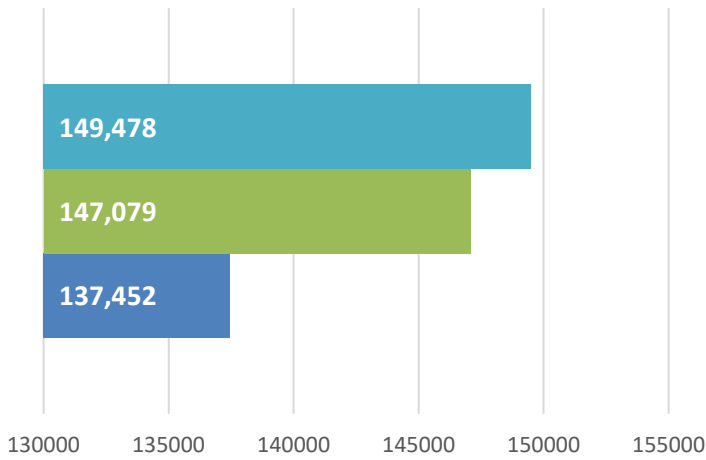
- An elementary school-aged girl came to the library with her adult and asked if she could use the computer to print out something for her science fair entry. Of course, she could! When she said that her project was constellations, Mary Fraser asked for some cool space facts. Did you know that over 30 constellations are visible to us in Rochester? That's pretty cool, but not as cool as a kid who's excited about STEM using her library to help her finish her science fair entry!



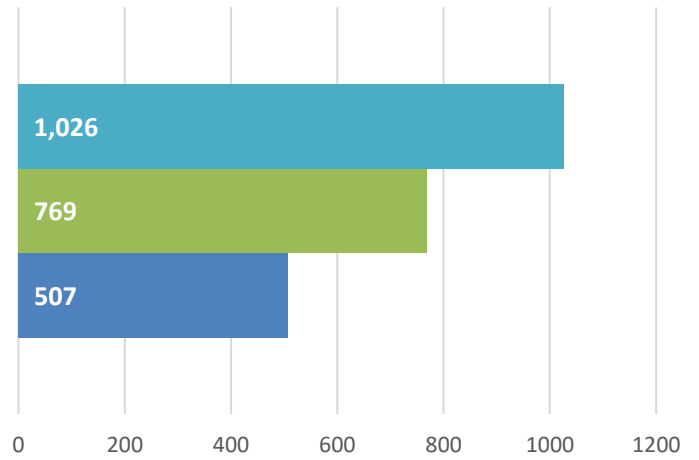
RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan--Mar



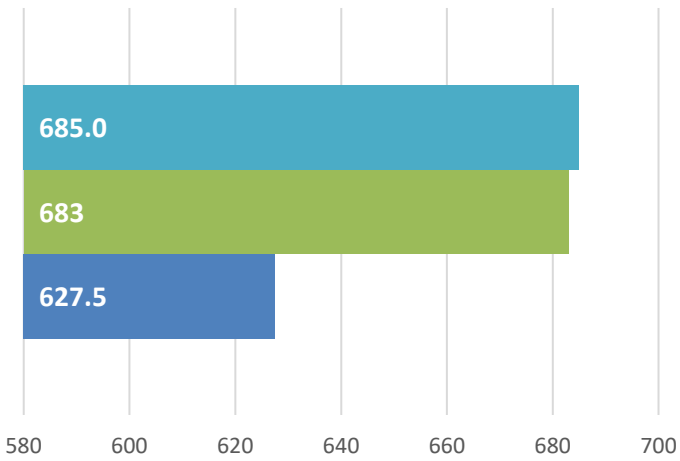
CIRCULATION



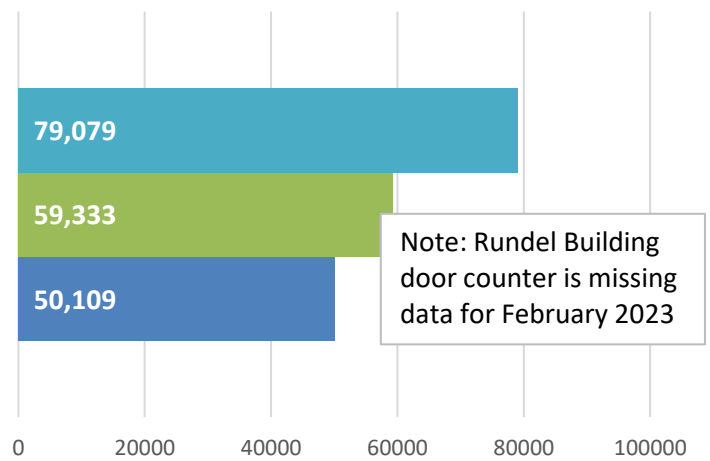
LIBRARY CARDS



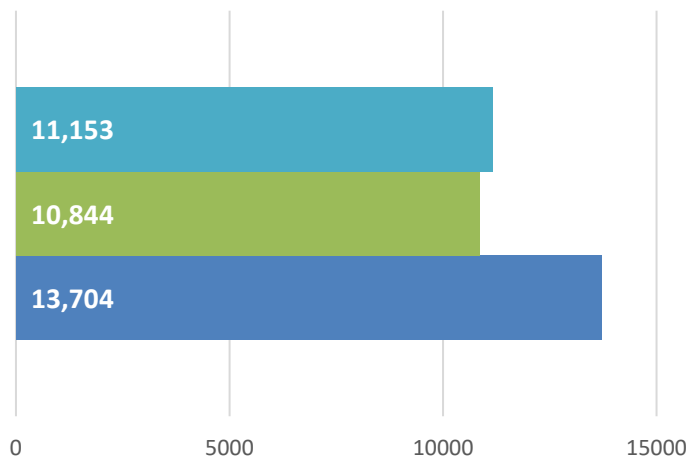
SERVICE HOURS



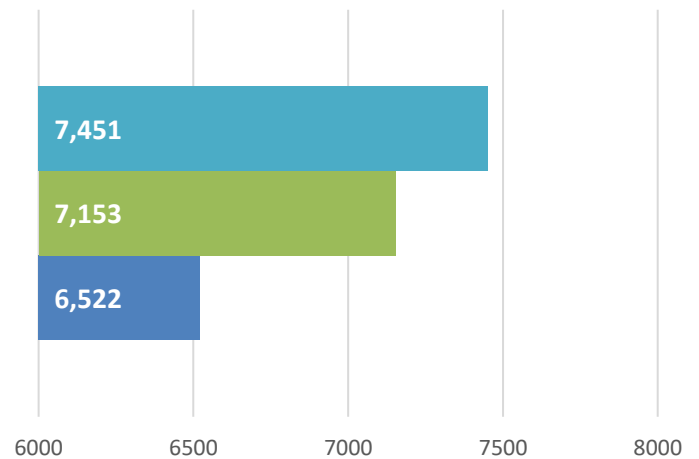
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



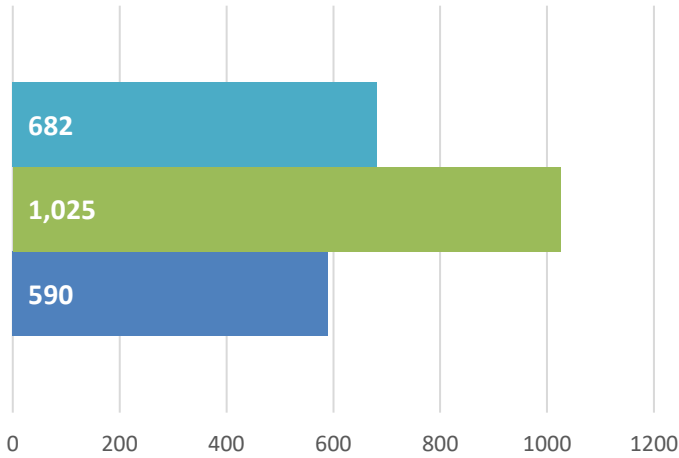
NON-REFERENCE



RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan--Mar



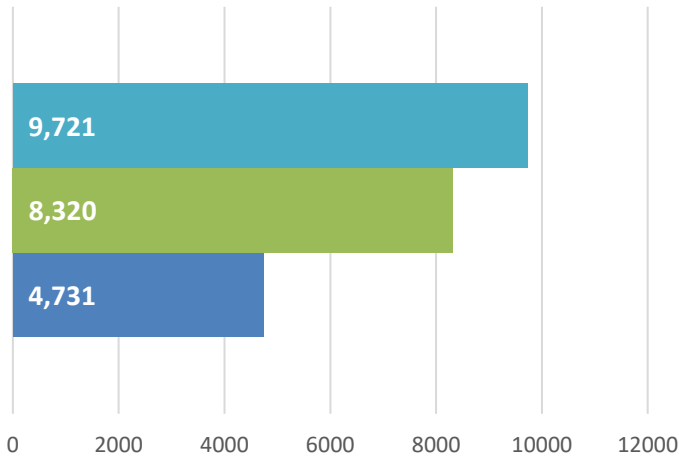
### NOTARY



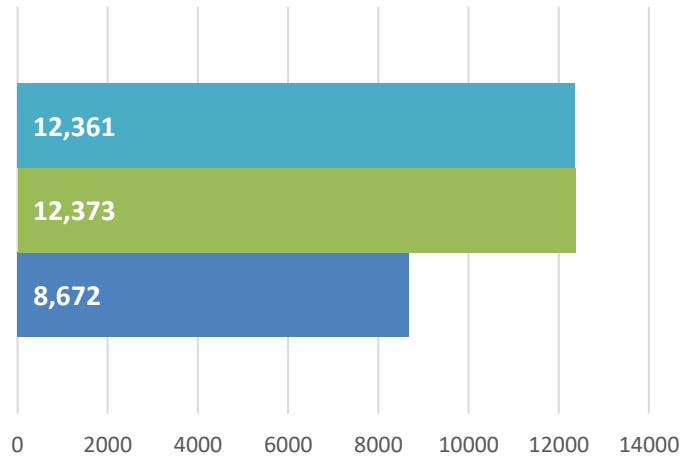
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**Program Attendance:** Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes staff and presenters.

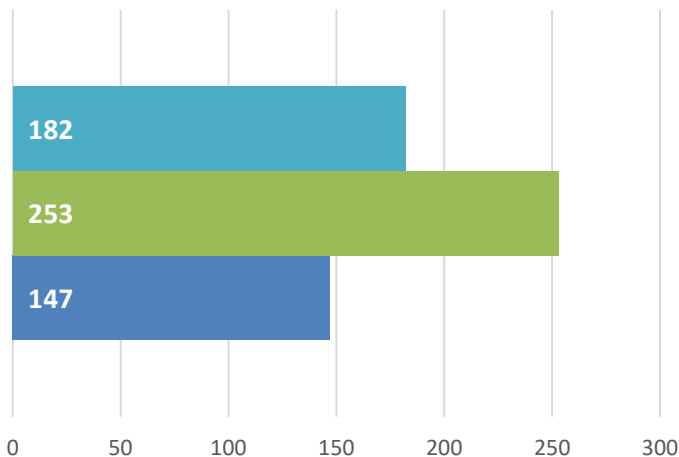
### COMPUTER HOURS



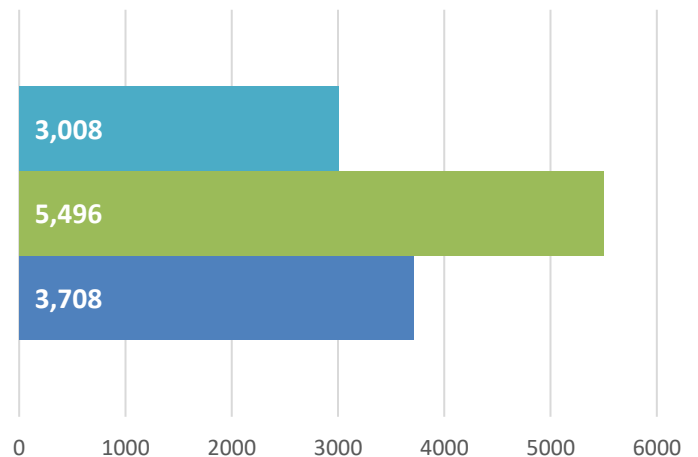
### WIFI USES



### GROUP PROGRAMS



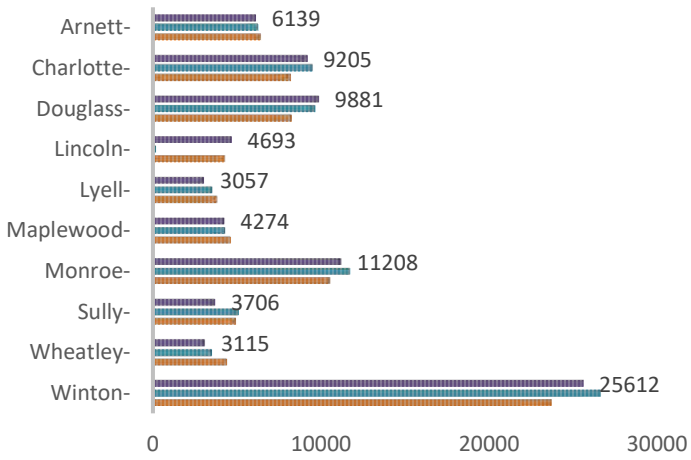
### PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



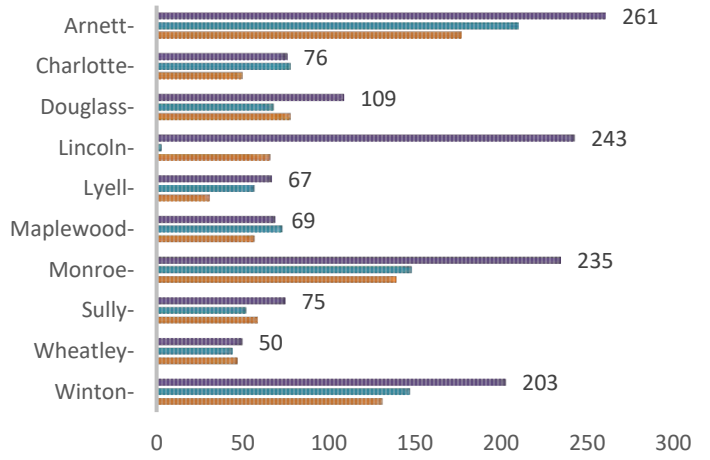
RPL Branch Statistics YTD  
Jan--Mar

2024 2023 2022

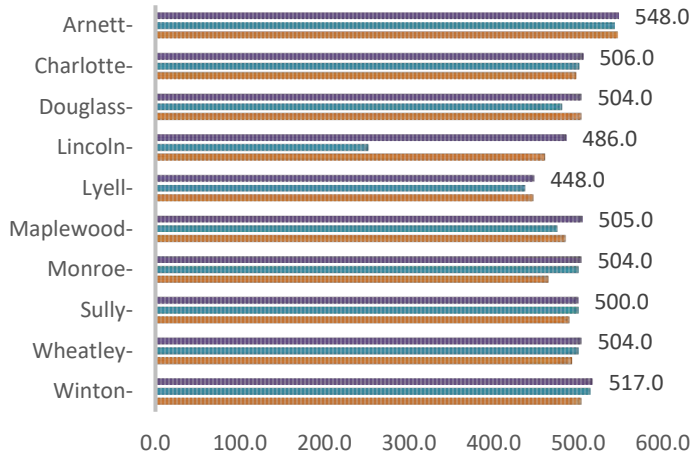
CIRCULATION



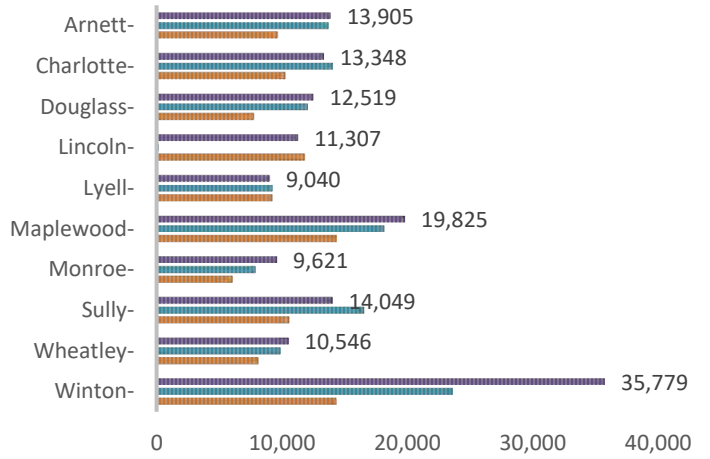
LIBRARY CARDS



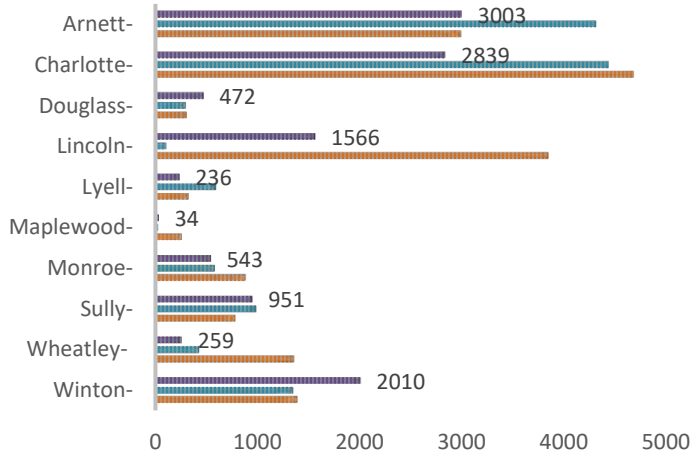
SERVICE HOURS



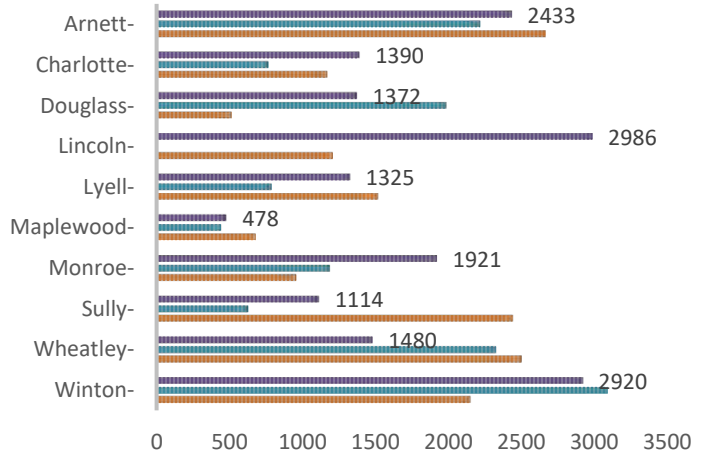
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



NON-REFERENCE

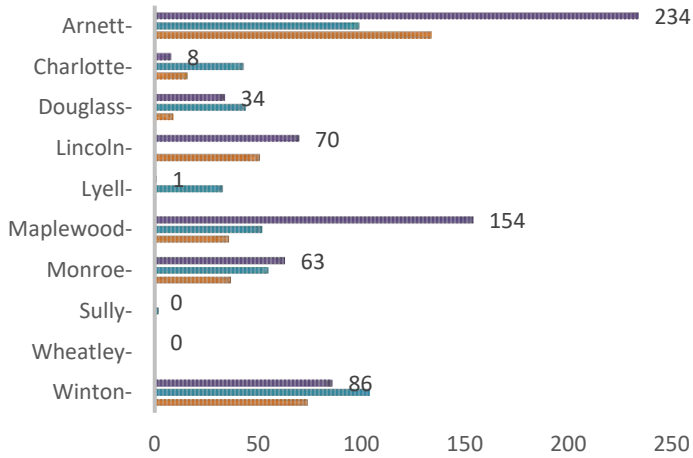


# RPL Branch Statistics YTD

Jan--Mar



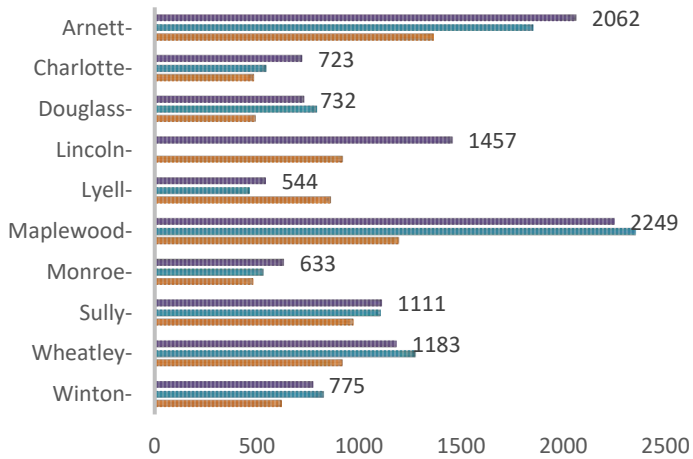
## NOTARY



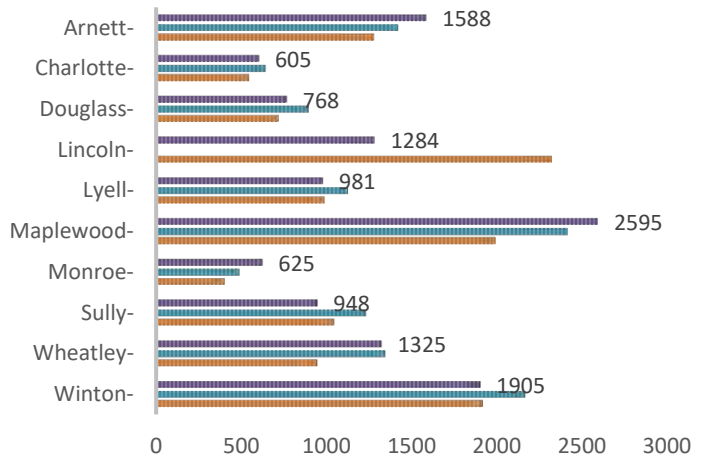
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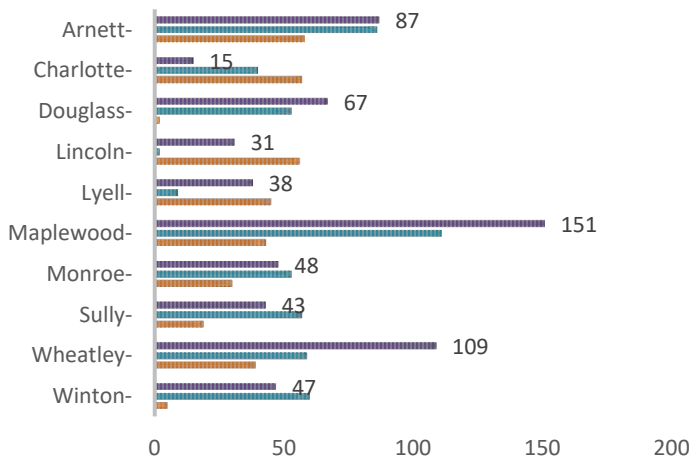
## COMPUTER HOURS



## WIFI SESSIONS



## GROUP PROGRAMS



## PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

