



**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
September 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**

Agenda

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Benjamin

II. ACTION ITEMS

- | | | |
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| 1. Minutes of Prior Meeting | Benjamin | page 3 |
| 2. Personnel Changes | Uttaro | page 7 |
| 3. Financial Reports | Hasselwander | page 9 |
| 4. Request to Eliminate Fee for Replacement Library Cards | Uttaro | page 13 |
| 5. 2025 Holiday Schedule | Uttaro | page 13 |
| 6. Branch Tutoring Agreements | Lewis | page 14 |
| 7. Clarissa Street Agreement | Hasselwander | page 14 |

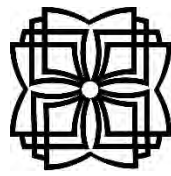
III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. Liaison & Committee Reports | | |
| a. Liaison to the MCLS Board | Drury | |
| 2. Staff Reports | | |
| a. Director's Report | Uttaro | page 14 |
| b. Central Library | Clasper | page 17 |
| c. Community Libraries | Lewis | page 27 |

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

**Next Meeting:
October 30, 2024
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building**



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**Meeting of the RPL Board of Trustees
Central Library, Rundel Memorial Building
August 28, 2024
Minutes**

RPL Trustees Present: Donna Benjamin, Ellen Brenner, Alinda Drury, Glenn Gardner, Daniel Karin, James Kraus, Suzanne Stockman, Jeffrey Tucker (quorum present)

RPL Trustees Excused: Katherine Baynes, Sharon Salluzzo,

Staff and Guests: City Law Department Liaison, Allison Bartlett; FFRPL Liaison, Donna Borgus; City Council Liaison, Mitch Gruber; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Melanie Lewis, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order

Mr. Karin called the meeting to order at 9:03 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.

Ms. Benjamin joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m. and declined to take the Chair's seat noting her lack of voice due to an illness.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 26, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.

Personnel Changes

On behalf of Ms. Suro, Ms. Uttaro called attention to the personnel changes and staffing levels for June 10, 2024—August 9, 2024, and offered to answer questions. Ms. Benjamin 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. Mr. Kraus MADE A MOTION to approve the monthly financial reports as presented and approved by the RPL Finance Committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Allocation of 2023-2024 Annual Campaign Proceeds

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve the proposed 2023-2024 annual campaign earnings allocation as described. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Patent Agent Professional Services Agreement

Ms. Clasper reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Gardner MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with David Bassett dba Bassett Statistical Company, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$4,800 through August 30, 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Website Support Professional Services Agreement

Ms. Smathers reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve a professional services agreement with Mason Digital for an amount not to exceed \$4,000 through August 30, 2025. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Additional Hours for Monroe Branch

Ms. Lewis reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve additional hours for the Monroe Branch on Sunday, November 10, 2024. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Graphics Package for RPL’s Mobile Library

Ms. Lewis reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Trustees agreed that “Lyell Branch” should be removed, and the graphics should brand the vehicle as “Rochester Public Library.” Ms. Brenner MADE A MOTION to approve the graphics package for RPL’s Mobile Library. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NYSED Grant Approval

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Dr. Tucker MADE A MOTION to approve the grant application and acceptance of funds up to \$1,500,068 from the NYSED Division of Library Development for the construction projects described. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MCLS Document of Understanding

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the 2025-2027 MCLS Document of Understanding. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Acceptance of Grant-In-Aid

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the item with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Kraus MADE A MOTION to accept the \$12,000 grant-in-aid provided by Senator Brouk. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Liaison to the Monroe County Library Board (MCLS)

On behalf of Ms. Drury, Ms. Uttaro reported that the MCLS Board approved construction grant applications and a professional services agreement with ClearPath for training for system library directors.

Liaison from the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

Ms. Borgus directed everyone’s attention to the written report and offered to answer questions. She reviewed the highlights of the report with the trustees.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that the mayor has formally identified funding for a new northeast library branch as part of a Rochester Housing Authority complex at Portland and Fernwood Avenues. The City Council will be asked to approve the funding for the library branch, likely in October, which is approximately \$3.1 million. A request for proposal for design services has been released and we are waiting for responses. Rochester Housing Authority expects to receive approval of their state funding this fall, and construction will move quickly once the funding is approved. If this project comes to fruition, it will be the first public library located in a housing complex in New York State outside of the New York City area.

Next, she shared some statistics on circulation, new library cards, lost items, and collection agency turnovers since the RPL eliminated all late fees. All these numbers have increased. Further analysis of the data suggests there is a small number of patrons responsible for a disproportionate number of lost items. Ms. Uttaro also pointed out that while lost items have increased by 42%, the total of lost items is relatively small at 1.5% of the circulation.

Lastly, she provided an update on the Monroe County digital equity initiative. Library employees will be supporting this county-funded project, and the library will manage all aspects of the 2-year initiative. Jennifer Byrnes has agreed to be the project manager and there will be several new positions added in the library to support this project. In response to a question, Ms. Uttaro predicted that any positions added in support of the project will be funded in future budgets to keep those people on after the project completion. The initiative will include digital literacy classes and the county is supporting the purchase of 1000 computers to be given away to the graduates of those classes. There will also be solar powered tables located throughout the county that will provide free charging services as well as free Wi-Fi. The demographics across the county are being carefully considered to locate the areas with the most people who are without access to the internet and who also do not have a vehicle.

Central Library

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She reminded trustees that the Central Library is closed in the mornings on the third Thursday of each month. She is encouraging staff to use this time for projects, meetings and training and has been pleased with the increased communication and collaboration between departments. Upcoming trainings include sessions on mental health and de-escalation. Ana is also working on getting a counselor from our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to be at the library and available to staff on a walk-in basis.

An idea that has really taken off is a Community Resources Expo. The library has so many community partners and many staff are not aware of the partners working outside of their own division. There will be a fair that staff can attend in the morning to meet all the different agencies. The collaborators can also network with each other and then the community is invited once the library opens at noon to come meet with these outside agencies providing a wide array of services. This is happening on Thursday, September 19.

In response to a question, Ms. Clasper responded that she has not received any complaints from patrons about the library being closed in the morning on the third Thursdays.

In response to a question, Ms. Clasper explained that she and Amy Discenza are on a City of Rochester team working on plans for what to do with the opioid settlement money that will be coming into the city for the next 17 years. They are in year 2 of the 17-year period and so far, have used funds to establish a neighborhood ambassador program. There is also a partnership with Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) to work on understanding the research and data regarding opioid problems in Rochester.

Community Libraries

Ms. Lewis offered to answer questions about the written report. She drew everyone's attention to the separate report included in their packets about the Safe to be Smart trip to Washington D.C. It was a tremendous success and Mr. Carter would like to make trips like this a regular occurrence.

She reported that she is hearing anecdotally that summer reading numbers are up this year. She also shared that a group of students in the Pillars of Hope program voted the library as their favorite field trip. The children also choose Librarian Antoine McDonald as their commencement speaker for their sixth-grade graduation.

Other Business

President Benjamin gave an update on the Director Search. She shared that resumes have been screened and several candidates have been given initial interviews online. In-person interviews will be scheduled once all the Zoom interviews are completed.

Mr. Gruber shared that the Foodlink Community Café has expanded hours and is offering some breakfast options. The café will be closed for 2 weeks between the cohorts of apprentices and will open with a new fall menu later in September.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Dan Karin, Secretary

**ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PERSONNEL CHANGES
August 12, 2024 to September 6, 2024**

➤ **NEW HIRES**

Bounds, Paul	Truck Driver/FT/Temp/Central/Shipping	08/12/2024
Forbes, Emily	Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Technical Services	08/12/2024
Parks, Nelson	Maintenance Worker/PT/Central/Facilities	08/26/2024

➤ **PROMOTIONS**

Lockwood, Raina	FROM: Clerk Typist/PT/Central/Circulation	08/19/2024
	TO: Clerk III/Typing/PT/Central/Circulation	

➤ **RESIGNATION**

Diaz, Rosa	Librarian I/Bilingual/FT/Lincoln Branch	08/31/2024
Hoople, Matthew	Librarian I/PT/Monroe Branch	08/22/2024
Iervolino, Trudy	Youth Services Assistant/PT/Central/Teen Center	08/12/2024

**STAFFING
August 12, 2024 to September 6, 2024**

Full-Time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	78	31
Filled	77	27
Vacancies	1	4
Part-time Positions	Central	Branches
Budgeted	122	136
Filled	71	114
Vacancies	51	22

**Rochester Public Library
Financial Report—Summary
September 25, 2024, Board Meeting**

Central Financial Report, August 2024

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

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

Services & Charges: Monthly maintenance and service invoices including utilities begin to occur. Public Services programming expenses begin to hit professional services. Chargebacks have not yet occurred.

Cash Capital: No expenses thus far. Funds are reserved for planned expenses (HVAC) and unknown needs with upcoming construction projects.

Community Financial Report, August 2024

Salary & Benefits: Salaries and wages are within budget. OT is over budget due to Washington, DC trip—previously reported as staffing shortages.

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

Services & Charges: Monthly maintenance and service invoices including utilities begin to occur. Public Services programming expenses begin to hit professional services. Chargebacks have not yet occurred.

Cash Capital: No change in expenses. Small computer equipment and furnishing expenses. The remaining funds are reserved for other planned expenses including for NE branch design services.

Central Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-25
Fiscal YTD (through August 30, 2024)

Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
Salary & Benefits	Full-Time Salaries	4,943,000	4,943,000	578,621	4,364,380	11.7%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	1,597,400	1,589,300	155,850	1,433,450	9.8%
	Overtime	17,500	17,500	4,303	13,197	24.6%
	Employee Benefits	3,310,600	3,310,600	175,748	3,134,852	5.3%
	Employee Development	27,700	27,700	3,895	23,805	14.1%
	Other	59,800	59,800	4,315	55,485	7.2%
	Sub Total	9,956,000	9,947,900	922,731	9,025,169	9.3%
Equipment & Supplies	Materials Budget	505,000	505,000	58,560	446,440	11.6%
	Other Furnishings & Equipment	10,100	10,100	0	10,100	0.0%
	Office Supplies	56,500	56,500	2,508	53,992	4.4%
	Other Materials & Supplies	51,000	51,000	1,634	49,366	3.2%
	Sub Total	622,600	622,600	62,702	559,898	10.1%
Services & Charges	Utilities	467,500	467,500	50,821	416,679	10.9%
	Facility Maintenance	103,400	103,400	1,400	102,000	1.4%
	Professional Services/Fees	221,600	221,600	7,669	213,931	3.5%
	Chargebacks	80,700	80,700	0	80,700	0.0%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	51,400	51,400	0	51,400	0.0%
	Telecommunications	14,200	14,200	75	14,125	0.5%
	Other Expenses	204,400	212,500	20,560	191,940	9.7%
	Sub Total	1,143,200	1,151,300	80,524	1,070,776	7.0%
TOTAL EXPENSED	11,721,800	11,721,800	1,065,957	10,655,843	9.1%	
Central Cash Capital	94,000	94,000	0	94,000	0.0%	
REVENUE RECEIPTS	11,736,100	11,736,100	725,830	11,010,270		
	<i>Original Budget</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>	<i>Central Library Support from City + Central Revenue</i>	<i>Outstanding Revenue</i>		

Community Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-25						
<i>Fiscal YTD (through August 30, 2024)</i>						
Category	Description	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Expenses FISCAL YTD	Remaining Balance	% of Budget
Salary & Benefits						
	Full-Time Salaries	2,080,100	2,080,100	213,993	1,866,107	10.3%
	Part-Time/Temp Salaries	2,026,400	2,026,400	208,380	1,818,020	10.3%
	Overtime	2,000	2,000	5,250	-3,250	262.5%
	Employee Development	22,900	22,900	2,061	20,839	9.0%
	Other	28,300	28,300	1,076	27,225	3.8%
	Sub Total	4,159,700	4,159,700	430,760	3,701,716	10.4%
Equipment & Supplies						
	Materials Budget	496,600	496,600	31,177	465,423	6.3%
	Office Supplies	37,700	37,700	4,399	33,301	11.7%
	Other Materials & Supplies	34,500	34,500	1,994	32,506	5.8%
	Sub Total	568,800	568,800	37,571	531,229	6.6%
Services & Charges						
	Utilities	224,500	224,500	10,952	213,548	4.9%
	Facility Maintenance	39,000	39,000	306	38,694	0.8%
	Professional Services/Fees	376,800	376,800	5,899	370,901	1.6%
	Chargebacks	27,300	27,300	0	27,300	0.0%
	Service Charges - Other Gov't	7,500	7,500	0	7,500	0.0%
	Telecommunications	21,400	21,400	0	21,400	0.0%
	Other Expenses	52,500	52,500	-93	52,593	-0.2%
	Sub Total	749,000	749,000	17,065	731,935	2.3%
TOTAL EXPENSED		5,477,500	5,477,500	485,395	4,964,880	8.9%
Community Cash Capital	Computers & Equipment	10,000	10,000	1,262	8,738	12.6%
	Library Furnishings	12,000	12,000	929	11,071	7.7%
	Library Facilities	41,000	41,000	0	41,000	0.0%
	Library Capital Projects*	40,000				
Cash Capital Total		103,000	63,000	2,191	60,809	3.5%
REVENUE RECEIPTS		390,461	390,461	156,055	234,406	
		<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 2024-25						
<i>Fiscal YTD (through August 30, 2024)</i>						
	Allocation	Carry-forward	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total	
Reynolds Fund - RPL	4229	\$144,857	\$70,945	\$215,802	\$13,556	6.3%
Fenevessy (Central + Branch bal)	4224	\$31,369	\$25,278	\$56,647	\$40,978	72.3%
Kenyon-Jeffries Fund	4233	\$20,191	\$10,806	\$30,997	\$0	0.0%
Purton Fund	4231	\$17,007	\$3,716	\$20,723	\$0	0.0%
Gleason Fund	4225	\$15,862				
Gleason Fund (FFRPL)	4225	\$12,183	\$15,427	\$43,472	\$3,676	8.5%
Gervickas Fund	4235	\$6,045	\$8,157	\$14,203	\$0	0.0%
Taylor Fund	4226	\$3,610	\$4,030	\$7,640	\$0	0.0%
Boland Fund	4232	\$1,541	\$1,535	\$3,076	\$0	0.0%
Carnahan Fund	4228	\$1,555	\$0	\$1,555	\$0	0.0%
Poletto Fund	4234	\$1,555	\$0	\$1,555	\$533	34.3%
Beeney Fund (FFRPL)	4227	\$4,878	\$2,829	\$7,707	\$212	2.8%
Craig Fund (FFRPL)	4236	\$2,716	\$1,209	\$3,925	\$0	0.0%
Holtzman Fund (FFRPL)	4239	\$1,560	\$1,851	\$3,411	\$0	0.0%
Lee Fund (FFRPL)	4237	\$1,475	\$2,581	\$4,056	\$0	0.0%
Vietnam Veterans Fund (FFRPL)	4238	\$688	\$2,161	\$2,849	\$0	0.0%
Tummonds Fund (FFRPL)	4241	\$88,391	\$54,141	\$142,532	\$15,877	11.1%
TOTAL		\$355,483	\$204,667	\$560,150	\$74,833	13.4%
Gift Fund Financial Report, Fiscal Year 2024-25						
<i>Fiscal YTD (through August 30, 2024)</i>						
Fund	Allocation	Transfer In	TOTAL	YTD Expenses	% of Total	
Gift Fund	4230	\$4,244	\$0	\$4,244	\$0	0.0%



115 South Avenue | Rochester | New York | 14604

TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: September 25, 2024
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–September 2024

Action Items

Request to Eliminate Fee for Replacement Library Cards (Uttaro)

The Monroe County Library System recently agreed to absorb the cost of new library cards for all members, which led many member libraries to stop charging \$1.00 to replace library cards. RPL would like to follow suit and eliminate the \$1.00 fee for a replacement library card. While the expected loss of annual revenue cannot be determined exactly, it is expected to be less than \$3,000. We view this as yet another way of removing financial obstacles for community members wishing to use the library.

Board Action Requested: Approve eliminating the \$1.00 fee for replacement library cards.

2025 Holiday Schedule (Uttaro)

We ask for approval of the following holidays for RPL staff in 2025:

- New Year’s Day..... Wednesday, January 1, 2025
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Monday, January 20, 2025
- Spring Floater to be taken between..... February 1 and April 30
- Memorial Day Monday, May 26, 2025
- Juneteenth..... Thursday, June 19, 2025
- Independence Day..... Friday, July 4, 2025
- Labor Day..... Monday, September 1, 2025
- Indigenous Peoples’ Day Monday, October 13, 2025
- Staff Day Friday, October 24, 2025
(Library buildings will be closed to the public – staff reports for Annual Staff Day)
- Veterans’ Day Tuesday, November 11, 2025
- Thanksgiving Day..... Thursday, November 27, 2025
- Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24, 2025
- Christmas Day..... Thursday, December 25, 2025
- Director’s Discretionary Day to be taken during calendar year 2025

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

Board Action Requested: Approve the 2025 holidays as proposed.

Branch Tutoring Agreements (Lewis)

The RPL recommends continuation of the afterschool tutoring programs through the Wheatley and Maplewood library branches with the current instructors, Lisa Frazier-Singleton, and Melissa Parrish, respectively. Ms. Frazier will continue to tutor pre-K through sixth grade and Ms. Parrish will continue to provide adult literacy services, albeit she will be transitioning to virtual services. Both vendors will provide tutoring services beginning October 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025. Their rates and maximum compensation are listed below.

Vendor	Clientele	Location	Rate	Maximum Compensation
Lisa Frazier-Singleton	Pre-K–6 th grade	Wheatley Branch	\$29 per hour	\$4,930
Melissa Parrish	Adults	Virtual	\$29 per hour	\$5,017

Board Action Requested: Approve two professional services agreements for branch tutoring services for the amounts stated, through May 31, 2025.

Clarissa Street Agreement (Hasselwander)

The Center for Teen Empowerment has operated the Clarissa Street Uprooted exhibit at the Central Library since August 2023. That agreement expires on December 31, 2024. Clarissa Street Legacy has agreed to take over the operation of the exhibit and the group is pursuing grant opportunities to cover their staffing, community engagement, and advertising costs.

Board Action Requested: Approve termination of the existing agreement with The Center for Teen Empowerment dated August 8, 2023, and approve an agreement with Clarissa Street Legacy to operate the Clarissa Street Uprooted exhibit at the Rundel Memorial Building through September 30, 2025.

Report & Discussion Items

RPL Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading & Viewing

- Why Do Families Choose the 19th Ward? <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2024/08/09/why-do-families-choose-the-19th-ward-a-family-finds-community/74682054007/>
- Security Incidents Rise in Canadian Libraries - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/public-library-security-incidents-1.7302588>
- Big Five Publishing Houses, Author John Green Sue Florida Over Book Bans - <https://www.cfpublishing.org/education/2024-08-30/the-big-five-publishing-houses-john-green-sue-florida-over-book-bans>
- Alaska's Public Libraries Sound Alarm - <https://alaskapublic.org/2024/09/06/alaskas-public-libraries-sound-alarm-over-abrupt-loss-of-state-grant-funds/>
- Libraries Evaluating or Planning for AI Integration - <https://www.researchinformation.info/news/60-libraries-evaluating-or-planning-ai-integration-report> This is something that both MCLS and RPL leadership should be thinking about and incorporating in the next strategic plans.

National Medal Nomination

RPL has been nominated for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service through the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS). I submitted the nomination on September 5, along with a nomination letter

from Congressman Morelle and letters of support from the Mayor, United Way, CASH, Children's Agenda, and the State Librarian. The finalists for this prestigious award are usually announced in early spring and the winner in late spring. I decided to nominate RPL as a parting gift to the staff and board who run this remarkable institution. If RPL is selected, my hope is that there will be a way to send a large group of line-level staff to Washington with the new Director to accept the award. Everything RPL does for the community happens because of the staff and I'd love to see that recognized.

What Libraries Really Do

Bruce Tehan recently posted this on Facebook, and I thought it aptly described what happens in our libraries daily:

Looking around the Arnett Branch Library just now I noticed two kids playing chess, a mom reading a book to her little girl, several adults happily attending a computer class, three kids doing homework, a bunch of folk of all ages playing and/or working with computers, four adults using the WIFI in the reading area, a mom and daughter being inspired to get library cards in the hopes of winning a treasure chest, five kids playing with board games and toys, a Literacy Volunteer wrapping up a successful digital help session, a dozen people checking out books, two passersby admiring the Book Spine Mural, a gardening volunteer being excited to plant mums the Rochester Public Library's branch admin team is going to supply, a teacher and student finishing a productive tutoring session, a group rolling in to use the meeting room, and an entire crew of dedicated team members expertly helping with all the things just mentioned. Life is good at the library.

Facility and Capital Updates

Finance staff met with City Architectural Services staff in late August for the upcoming City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as well as updates on current project schedules. Changes and any new project requests will be submitted to the Board for consideration in October. Project updates are as follows:

Branch Updates

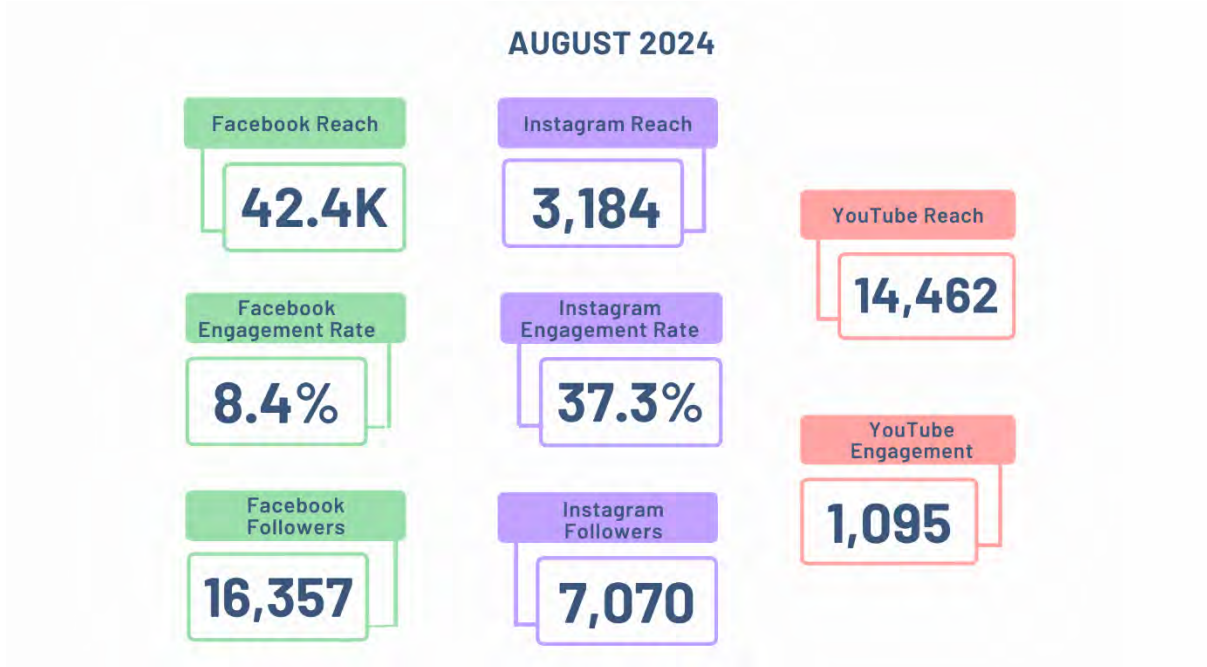
- Charlotte Roof Replacement: Davis-Ulmer has completed the work with some unplanned disruption to operations due to fumes from sealant work. Some minor work is scheduled this fall with a City term contractor to repair and patch ceilings on the second floor that were damaged from prior leaks. We anticipate everything to be complete by end of October.
- Arnett Solar Panel Updates: City Term electrician Connors-Haas is replacing aged solar panel inverters that reached end of life. Equipment is on order and dependent on delivery, this will be either an October 2024 or March 2025 replacement. This will not impact public or staff areas.
- Maplewood Renovation & Expansion: Maplewood staff have settled this summer in their temporary location at 414 Lexington (former Holy Rosary Church) and are sharing space and programming with Mary's Place Outreach. Exterior site work and interior abatement has begun at Maplewood – there is now fencing around the building which has been turned over fully to the General Contractor Javen Construction. This will be a 500+ day construction schedule – we do not anticipate reopening celebrations until spring 2026. A future agreement for the design, furnishing and installation of furniture (shelving, tables, chairs, etc.) will be brought to the Board at a future date.
- Douglass & Sully Lighting Upgrades: The RPL has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City School District for their energy efficient lighting upgrades for the libraries' exterior and interior fixtures. As of this writing, we do not have a schedule from the Rochester City School District but anticipate a start before calendar year end. There should be minimal disruption to operations during this project.
- NE Branch Library: A Request for Proposals for the design of the library site buildout was issued in late August, due September 20th. The intent is selection of a design firm that will provide detailed finishes to be incorporated in project construction, coordinate with the Rochester Housing Authority's design team and

act as Library representative during construction. This design agreement will come to the Board for consideration in October – the timing is such to allow for completion of internal design documents for final financing and closing of the project, which is anticipated in February 2025. Under this scenario construction will commence by August 2025.

Central Updates

- **Bausch & Lomb HVAC:** Pipitone Enterprises and Invictus Electrical have been working in various spaces in BLB for ceiling heat pump unit replacements, working closely with the Library to avoid major disruptions to staff and public areas. We have requested pricing to replace all remaining heat pumps as originally planned but not awarded due to budget constraints, as additional cash capital was made available in July to potentially incorporate as a Change Order to the project. If accepted this will extend the construction schedule from December 2024 through spring 2025.
- **Bausch & Lomb Roof Replacement:** Titan Roofing is complete with this large roof replacement with the exception of new ladder installations and the repair of a broken skylight (which is sub-contracted to a window contractor). We anticipate these last items will be done by November and the project will be substantially complete. Titan will support new curbs for a roof top HVAC unit that will be installed at a later date.
- **Rundel Masonry & Window Restoration:** The re-bid was successful with DGA Builders as the Contractor for this extensive project. This month scaffolding goes up around the building, and there are barriers to Court Street terrace for the staging of equipment and materials. There is some asbestos abatement of caulk on the exterior that will occur this month. This is a long project – roughly a two-year schedule, to repair and replace parapet (top) masonry, west façade masonry and restoring windows.
- **Rundel Ventilation Upgrades:** Design continues with LaBella for this project, with a focus on fresh air intake on the second and third floors as well as units located in the penthouse roof area in the building, which are original. Bid is planned for December.
- **Rundel North Elevator:** This staff elevator will be replaced by KONE, Inc. this month. This is a delay from the original schedule of spring 2024 due to difficulty sourcing equipment and order lead times. We expect the project to be complete by December.
- **Rundel Elevator Assessment & Main Elevator Replacement:** There are three remaining elevators that are to be modernized under the project, including the main/lobby passenger elevator (priority #1), freight elevator and passenger elevator to the B&L link. LaBella and sub-consultant Gannet Fleming shall provide evaluation, design, and commissioning services. Design was delayed by DES due to commitments for existing ARPA-funded project schedules but will begin this month.

Social Media



Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

- The Central Library hosted the first meeting of a joint City and County Opioid Steering Committee. Representatives from various City and County Departments attended, along with partners from community organizations and local residents impacted by the opioid crisis. Both the County and City have access to funds designated for use in education, treatment, and prevention of opioid use and abuse, and it makes sense that both groups should coordinate efforts to ensure that these funds are put to the best use. Emily Clasper and Amy Discenza attended as members of the City Opioid Team. Clasper spoke to the group about the impact of opioid use on the libraries and the role of libraries in addressing the issue. Clasper was approached afterward by numerous people from this group who wanted to express their appreciation for the work our libraries do to help people impacted by the opioid crisis across the County.
- Emily Clasper, Jennifer Byrnes, Melissa Cobo, and Frank Russo met with representatives from the CASH Tax Assistance program to discuss potential improvements to the 4th floor office space, including reorganization of several areas to accommodate additional CASH staff. The group was able to quickly address the needs of CASH and their growing staff, with RPL facilities agreeing to help move space dividers and furniture to make the work areas more practical.
- As a member of two ALA Leadership Committees, Clasper has taken on a liaison role to encourage collaboration between the various areas of the association. Through the ALA Core Equity and Access Leadership Committee, she has assumed responsibilities as Liaison with the Technology Section. As a member of the ALA Core Tech Technology Leadership Committee, she is now the Liaison to the Emerging Technology Trends Committee and the Imagineering Interest Group. As a past Chair of the Emerging

RPL Director's Report–September 2024 (Continued)

Technology Trends Committee, she is looking forward to again helping to plan and coordinate some of the most popular annual programs at the ALA Conference.

- The Central Library Department and Division supervisors are currently working on a collaborative assessment of supervisory skills and responsibilities with an eye to identifying areas for growth. Supervisors were surveyed to identify areas of supervision and management where they felt the least comfortable and in need of additional support. Over the next few months, the group will participate in a gap analysis exercise to develop a plan to improve skills and support in the areas where the group feels it is most needed.
- The team implementing the new Patron Incident Tracking System has been meeting regularly to configure the system and set up the software for use by all RPL branches. The group expects to have everything tested and ready for staff training within the next few weeks.

Arts/Literature,

Nothing to report.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Consulting

- Hours of in-depth market research/prior art searching: 50
- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:
 - In person: 6
 - Email: 19
 - Phone: 3
 - Zoom: 5
- Webpage views: 18
- Referrals to Tracy Jong (Intellectual Property Attorney): 1
- Referrals to Davis Bassett (Patent Agent): 3

Database Usage Statistics (April)

- Frost & Sullivan: Page views: 44 Value: \$162,780
- IBISWorld: Page views: 166 Value: \$87,680
- InnovationQ: Logins: 21 Searches: 151
- Mintel: Sessions: 82 Page Views: 110 Downloads: 111
- PitchBook Logins: 12
- Statista: Page views: 138 Downloads: 44

Anecdotes

- Jen Byrnes received this from a tech startup:
"This is awesome! Thank you so much!!! I learned new things from our competitor and will use the market research to answer questions from investors and accelerators. Your work is incredibly helpful."
- For Bitter For Worse, a beverage company that Byrnes has done extensive research for, has made it to the Grow-NY finals.
- MicroEra Power, a company that Byrnes has been working with for years, has been named a finalist for the QBE AcceliCITY Resilience Challenge. In collaboration with Leading Cities, the challenge is open to global entrepreneurs who have developed pioneering ideas to tackle risk, equity, and sustainability challenges in

urban environments. QBE AcceliCITY is one of the Top 5 GovTech accelerators in the world. It serves as a runway for emerging urban solution providers while simultaneously reducing the risk and cost of innovation for cities. The down-selection to Top 50 stems from an original pool of 740 applicants from over 70 countries! The Smart City Track winners will receive up to \$150,000 in prize money to fund a city pilot project.

- Lily Anthony was researching patents granted for companies in the Rochester NY area and came across a patron that the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted a few years ago. The United States Patent and Trademark Office granted her patent application!
- Melissa Cobo attended Don't Roll the Dice on IP: Protecting Creativity in the Tabletop World, sponsored by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programs

- The Children's Center staff continued summer reading programs including a program on sword fighting, science adventures, and an end-of-summer ice cream truck party. The Children's Center had many drop-in visits from summer camps. Library staff worked together to keep children entertained by doing crafts, playing, and using computers and the Nintendo Switch.
- Miranda Hazen had one more Making Adventures craft program where kids made their own bottle cap magnets using old, discarded comics and bottle cap sized epoxy stickers.
- Hazen also built a Big Maze out of the big blue building blocks that Children's was keeping for City Rec for the last year or so. Kids and families enjoyed finding their way through and finding the small prizes hidden throughout!



- MCLS offered a system-wide reading incentive program called The World of Work. Children were encouraged to read and fill out an entry form for every book they read. Each member library had the option of participating and choosing one winner to receive tickets to the game and talk with Naomi Silver, Red Wings president, CEO and COO of the team. Silver talked about her job and all the other positions beyond baseball players that are needed in the baseball industry. One mom was so excited when she received the call about tickets. She shared that her family were not able to go on vacation this summer so this would give them something great to remember from 2024. When the Dubois Family arrived, Natalie hugged me and insisted we take a photo. Since they entered at the Penfield Library and Julie Rapp was there, she joined in. After the game, Mrs. DuBois sent Burton this email:

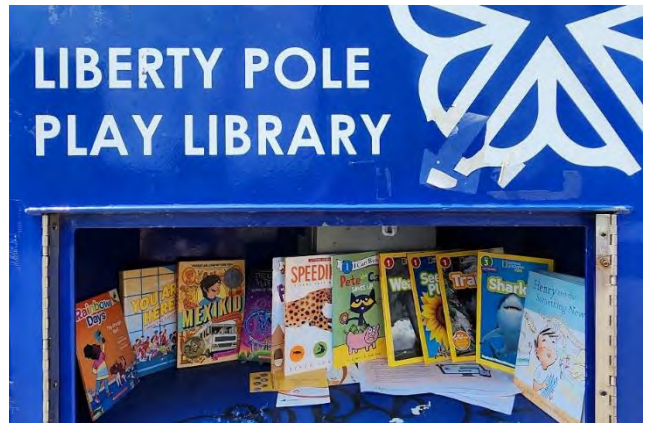
RPL Director's Report–September 2024 (Continued)

We want to say Thank you again for such a wonderful thing your organization does for our Monroe County Families! Autumn is so excited to go to the Red Wings game tomorrow and take her whole family! It means a lot to us to see how happy you make our children. It's above and beyond! We are thankful to have such fun libraries to take the kids to and to be given a fun outing for our family is an unexpected gift! We appreciate all your organization continues to do for our communities. Please share our appreciation with your staff. - Natalie DuBois



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- The Annual National Night Out was held at various locations around the city. Burton was joined by Natalie Soto (Lincoln) and Becca Rodriguez (Central Summer Support Staff) at International Plaza. Families played Minute to Win It to win books.
- Burton and Chelsea Arnold were invited by Father Tracy to table at a community health fair event off Joseph Avenue. They gave out information about the library as well as free books.
- Burton gave out free books at Little Free Libraries around the city and at El Camino Park. Burton also joined Shalis Worthy (Lyll Library) at a Back-to-School event at school #54.



- Arnold and Margarita Chaves attended a back-to-school event at School 35. They met many families and spoke to them about all the things the library offers and gave away more free books.
- Several groups of resident physicians from University of Rochester visited the Children's Center to discuss library access for disabled patrons. They report having a positive experience in the library. Their professor noted, "Many of the doctors described being incredibly impressed by the number of different opportunities available at the library. It felt like each group seemed to find one more resource that I was not yet familiar with." They also commented that "the librarians were incredibly friendly and helpful." They suggested that

RPL Director's Report–September 2024 (Continued)

clearer signage be considered to direct patrons to the library from the garage, and more prominent information about translation by phone services.

- Interim RCSD Superintendent Demario Strickland visited the Children's Center, ImagineYOU, and Teen Central. Burton gave him a tour of the second floor and introduced him to the staff. Mr. Strickland loved the Secret Room but was especially impressed with the A.I. Comics in ImagineYOU. He would like all RCSD seventh graders to visit Central this year and discussed his desire for the library to partner with the Parent Engagement Department during the school day to help teens not in school.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments-1
- New Borrowers-309
- RRLC Access Cards Issued-4
- Notarial Acts-139

Anecdotes

- A Nazareth student applied for an Out of County card, not knowing that college students are eligible for cards without having to pay the Out of County fee. Circulation staff worked with her to issue her a card. She used this as a chance to come to the Central Library for the first time.
- A patron left a book from the Victor library with his Central library returns. He was glad to know we still had the book, but also interested to learn that we return items to the owning library if they get left behind.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

Programs

- The Local History & Genealogy Division's walking tours continue to be popular. In August, 67 people joined Dan Cody for the “Beyond Flour and Flowers” tour.
- Christine Ridarsky and Emily Morry collaborated with teaching artist Joanne Brokaw to teach a workshop for eight East High School teachers on creative uses of local history resources. After Ridarsky and Morry provide an overview of the Local History & Genealogy's services and collections, the group explored unsolved crimes by using our newspaper clipping files, microfilm, and ProQuest Historical Newspapers database. Lead instructional coach Kerry Meehan-Richardson followed up with an email message:



"I can't thank you enough for collaborating with Joanne and preparing pieces for us today! Our teachers are very eager to continue to collaborate with you both! I will be in touch about our upcoming conference days--hopefully when we can get a larger block of time to dig into more of what you have to offer! You will hear from us soon! Again, I can't thank you enough for today--you have re-energized our teachers to think more about how we engage our students in the thinking and with key historical resources!"



Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Ridarsky participated in a virtual Erie Canal Bicentennial Preview hosted by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Subsequently, she shared information about events being planned locally and statewide in 2025 with Monroe County's municipal historians and started a discussion about coordinating and jointly promoting activities being planned in each of their communities.
- Ridarsky attended the unveiling of and presentation about the Landmark Society of Western New York's Jewish Landmarks Survey at the Jewish Community Center. Ridarsky served on the project advisory committee. Two copies of the resulting publication, *Jewish Landmark Survey: The History of Rochester's Jewish Community Through the Built Environment*, have been added to the Local History & Genealogy Division's Collection.
- At the request of the City's Bureau of Communications and Special Events, Ridarsky met with local entrepreneur and media content producer David Mammano to discuss his forthcoming documentary film on the history of entrepreneurship in Rochester.
- Ridarsky met with former Monroe County Airport Director Rick Ikel to discuss his desire to celebrate the airport's 100th anniversary. Although there are various milestones that could be marked, he and Ridarsky agreed that the most reasonable celebration date would be in 2028, 100 years after the first airplane landed in Monroe County. Ikel is also interested in rehabilitating one of the original airport hangars for use as an aviation museum. Ridarsky advised that the centennial planning could provide an opportunity to explore the feasibility of what would potentially be an expensive project given the hangar's current condition.
- Ridarsky and Emily Clasper met with representatives from the University of Rochester to discuss a potential collaboration to hold talks in the university's Neilly Author Series at the Central Library. The series, established in 2001 and funded by an endowment from Andrew H. and Janet Dayton Neilly, "brings a diverse range of authors to the University for talks on their process, their recent publications, and the ideas presented in their work." The university hopes to attract a broader audience for the free talks by moving

them off campus and into the community. For information on past speakers, visit <https://www.library.rochester.edu/about/neilly>.

Digital Projects

- The FamilySearch scanning team continued operations in August. A total of 62 items were scanned this month. This included a few yearbooks, but as the main yearbook project is over, most of the work consisted of monographs and special collections, some of the latter being intended solely for the Rochester Public Library's use. Interesting items that were scanned included some photo albums containing images of the construction of the Rochester Subway tunnels and a hand-painted picture of a uniformed Civil War soldier.
- On August 8, we received notice from New York State Historic Newspapers that the Daily American is now live on the website. While one of Rochester's lesser-known daily papers, the Daily American is notable as having been the city's Whig newspaper in an age of highly partisan presses. The digital mount can be accessed here: <https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=rda>.
- Two articles were posted to the Local History ROCs! blog in August:
 - "Wine, Wine, and More Wine," written by Hope Christansen
 - "Dreamland: the story of one of Rochester's earliest Amusement Parks," written by Emily Morry, who also edits the blog.

The posts received a total of 190 views in August. In addition, readers from 30 countries revisited 185 previously published posts for a total of 2,599 blog views. Read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.



rpc0988a.jpg Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Anecdotes

- Brandon Fess met with a potential donor to evaluate a collection of material on the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 and Buffalo Pan-American Exposition of 1901 that she had inherited. While Fess doubted this material would fit the Rochester Public Library's collection development policy, taking such a meeting is an example of the informal outreach work he does regularly when approached by potential donors. Fess met Hill at the Pittsford Community Library and immediately saw that the material was not appropriate for our collections. Instead, he provided Hill with contact information for repositories in the cities where these events occurred and encouraged her to reach out to find proper homes for what is rare and important material.
- Ridarsky and Emily Morry both assisted a visiting researcher from South Carolina, whose ancestor, Alexander Millener, was reportedly George Washington's drummer boy and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Morry helped Millener find 19th century newspaper articles about his local ancestors as well as various genealogical resources from Québec while Ridarsky connected him with people and resources in other local repositories. Millener sent thank you emails stating, "My time was well spent at the Rochester Public Library, thanks to your kind and expert support!"

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Programs

- First Friday film: *Wicked Little Letters*
- August Concert Series:
 - *Still The One*
 - *Paxtor*
 - *Crossfire*
- August Movie Matinee films:
 - *Jaws*
 - *The Sandlot*
 - *Dirty Dancing*
 - *Ghostbusters*
 - *American Graffiti*
 - *In The Heights*
 - *Jurassic Park*



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Joseph Born has discussed the upcoming addition to the Mi-Fi collection, due to the County's Digital Equity Grant, with T-Mobile reps. They are giving us a better rate on our current data service for the Mi-Fi units. We immediately received a discount from \$28.00/month to \$21.00/month. This allows us the ability to add up to another 150 Mi-Fi at the same cost we planned for 400.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

- Find it in the Finger Lakes Travelogue, presented by Lisa Wemett and Terry Mulee. Lisa and Terry shared the places they visited and their experiences while traveling through the Finger Lakes. This included state parks and waterfalls, places to eat and drink, art museums and historical places, and many hidden gems located in the Finger Lakes. There were 22 people in attendance, and everyone was engaged and interested in Lisa's and Terry's presentation. A handout was provided that listed all the places Lisa and Terry talked about during their presentation to share with people who attended the program. Renee Kendrot and Melissa Manczuk from the Arts/Literature Division collaborated to plan, promote, and host this program. There were a lot of positive comments from the people who attended the program!





Outreach/Meetings/Training

- LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors continued to be busy; even with multiple cancellations, about 30 people were seen. Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY) saw five people during their August visit, which was good because they made a last-minute change on their date. They also tabled on the first floor. In addition, Pellegrino handled five LROC referrals through the UniteUs platform, connecting the individuals with needed help.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Outreach and Training

- We pride ourselves on responding fluidly to patron needs. As an example of this, Cy Shropshire hosted an outreach senior tech help event at the Wolk Senior Café at Sibley Square. Though just down the street from the library, these seniors appreciate having resources brought to them to solve transportation issues that can depend on health needs. One gentleman asked about how to block spam calls. The solution to that issue is a multi-pronged approach that requires a bit of effort and tech savvy at first, so Shropshire explained a few of the options briefly and then took down his contact information to get back to him with more. Shropshire then created a resource list for blocking spam calls that we can keep and utilize as a handout for others with this issue or to walk patrons through the process. Shropshire emailed him the resources and offered to walk him through it at the next outreach tech help event if he needs any further assistance. From what we've heard from Outreach staff that hold other events there, both the staff and the patrons are excited to have us in again to assist with any technical issues they may have with their devices. In addition, we now have a template for drop in help or class instruction on this subject when requested.

Anecdotes

- During the month of August, the Tech team has seen an increased number of patrons needing assistance uploading identifications and other papers for onboard job training. A few patrons have thanked the staff for helping them build impressive resumes and then obtaining employment. Though we face challenges at times with employers' websites, staff assure that patrons needs are met, and they are able to walk away from the Tech Center with a smile on their face. The team continues to display professionalism and

patience. Many patrons have thanked the library for offering programs available to the public. One morning this month, a younger patron walked through the space and noticed staff preparing to give a tour of the Technology Center to representatives from Constellation brands. He asked a few questions about the presentation and expressed how happy he was to know the library was being recognized as a critical asset to the city. He said *“I come to the Tech Center all the time. I practically grew up in this library. I have learned so much here, I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't been able to be in this place. I really consider myself to be graduate of the Rochester Public Library.”*

Teen Central, Jeff Bostic reporting

Programs

- August was Esports Month, with an esports tournament held every Monday and all month long. Two events were hosted and shoutcasted by the 585Fighterz. The Fried Fish Shack sponsored the major Roblox tournament and brought full fried fish meals for every participant including a full fish, fries, and hush puppies. This program engaged and fully fed 12 teens. They were able to compete, have fun, and win prizes. There was also enough food to feed the other teens in the room who were not participating.
- Action for a Better Community's Summer Youth Employment Program continued this month. The teens of the Adolescents Inspiring through Multi-Media group finished producing their video presentation, websites, and posters. The kids of this program were taught all aspects of digital media including photography and videography. They were also able to utilize artificial intelligence. This summer they got work experience while also getting the opportunity to express themselves through digital media.
 - You can check out the website here: <https://express.adobe.com/page/8cmyE1pd1hn2a/>
 - The portfolio can be seen here: <https://jnbostic532d.myportfolio.com/>
 - The group's final video can be seen here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z5ik0ILfR2o3YhsLPBr7fv5T9qN1EBYa/view?usp=drive_link



RPL Director's Report–September 2024 (Continued)

- Teen Librarian Courtney Withey held a pop-up DIY Sticker making craft program in Teen Central. The teens who participated were enthusiastic and eager to get creative!
- Hungry teens were thrilled to have an opportunity to make (and eat!) trail mix in early August. Antoine McDonald coordinated this activity as a way to encourage the teens to choose healthy snacks and show them how easy it can be to make something nutritious for themselves. Teens have repeatedly asked the library to provide some programs focused on making food, so this was a good first step in that direction.

Anecdotes/Other

- The dedicated supporter website for the Liberators is complete. This year we hope to focus on sustainability and getting the team to a point of generating monthly income.
<https://roccitylibrary.org/spotlight/dedicated-supporter-liberators/>



Community Library Updates

Melanie Lewis reporting

Erin Clarke visited Sully to check on staff and drop off some snacks and drinks after the shootings and murder in their neighborhood. They knew at least one of the children who was a victim; they and staff at the Ryan Center were devastated and were thankful to have a day to process the news. Dr. Matt from the Employee Assistance Program came out for a few hours the next day and several of the Sully staff members met with him and made a real connection with him. Maria Heeks-Heinlein was grateful for his presence and Clarke suggested she try to schedule him for a Sully staff training day.

Working as a substitute librarian isn't always easy. With each shift comes many unknowns, from navigating unfamiliar buildings to working alongside different staff to the patrons themselves, who may be wary of a "new" face in their local branch. Public service is all about building relationships, and it can be intimidating to correct a behavior or step into a potentially messy situation without having a history—or, as Ryan Dowd would say, pennies in the cup—with the patron to fall back on. Here in the RPL Branch Library world there is a hardworking team of substitute librarians, one of whom published her first book this summer. Congratulations to April McCloud! Amy Discenza recently stopped by the Sully Branch to have McCloud autograph her copy of *The Switch*.



Arnett Branch Library, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs

- The children's, teen, and adult summer reading programs were wildly successful this year, with many participants and prize winners. Two fun Back to School Bingo events, organized by Nancy Cholewa, helped ensure kids and teens would start the new school year with fresh supplies. The whole team at Arnett did their best to make sure patrons had a memorable summer at the library.
- Kate Peck hosted a well-attended and much-enjoyed party for Arnett's teen readers. Attendees had ice cream treats and engaged in a variety of games, from miniature golf to large format versions of classic games generously purchased by the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library.
- Writers & Books conducted a wonderful free writing camp for children. The kids had a blast and developed new reading and writing skills.
- A homeschool group visited the branch to learn about the library and how to conduct research. The visit ended with a fun, prize-filled activity which tested their library skills.

Community Outreach/Meetings

Arnett staff visited the Westside Farmers Market, a family resource fair, and a welcome back-to-school party this month, distributing nearly 1,000 gently used books, as well as prizes, activities, library cards, and information about library programs and services.



Charlotte Branch Library

Programs

- Karen Duff reported that Charlotte hosted a successful adult summer reading program. Each week the branch raffled off a Wegmans gift card; there were nearly 200 entries.
- Young patrons enjoyed a visit from Prehistoric World, featuring stories and a bearded dragon; an end-of-summer reading party; a bubbles and rain stick craft; juggling; Nintendo Saturdays; story times; and a series of musical programming.



RPL Director's Report—September 2024 (Continued)

- Jennifer Cherelin and a team of ten volunteers fed 85 families and donated to a church blessing box. Produce was secured from vendors at the Rochester Public Market.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- Cherelin offered Playtime at the Beach at Ontario Beach Park. Participants were invited to show off their hula-hooping skills, parachute games, jump rope, bean bag toss, and more!



Douglass Community Library, Evanna DiSalvo reporting

Programs

- Douglass staff hosted a successful Community Resource Rally featuring Monroe County's Department of Human Resources, Board of Elections, Environmental Services, and Public Health; the Hearing Loss Association of America and Lifespan also joined.
- Robin Jaekel of Henna Rising impressed patrons with her intricate designs while sharing knowledge about the art of henna and how it's used in different cultures.
- On National Tell a Joke Day, patrons were invited to tell a joke to win a prize. Classic knock-knock jokes proved popular. Adults received a squeaky rubber chicken, and kids were given a sticky chicken slingshot.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Douglass staff attended the South Wedge Farmers Market on four occasions, highlighting play kits from the Toy Library and large format games from the MCLS Office. Visitors were always excited to learn more about the library's Very Important Places (VIP) and Empire Pass programs.
- Staff also participated in the South Wedge Festival—engaging in meaningful conversations with attendees, issuing library cards, and recruiting volunteers—and the Anna Murray Douglass Academy School No. 12 Back to School Bash, which attracted nearly 600 participants. The library's table was strategically placed in the path of the food line, and it was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the school community.
- A meeting of the three organizations comprising the Douglass Family Campus—Anna Murray Douglass Academy School No. 12, the Frederick Douglass R-Center, and the library—convened to share news before the start of the school year. The library will remain open until 7:00 pm on September 26 to support the school's Open House event.



Anecdotes/Other

- A family who registered for library cards at the South Wedge Farmers' Market was recognized and greeted by Evanna DiSalvo when they visited Douglass. They shared how much they appreciated the convenience of registering for a library card at the market, and now they regularly visit the library.

RPL Director's Report–September 2024 (Continued)

- The renovation of Room 138, a space shared by the library and the school is coming along. The ceiling is done, the walls painted, and the sink and cupboards installed. The school's goal is to have the project complete by its open house event.
- Take-home bags of school supplies assembled by Isaac Lewis and Bridget Toth have been well-received and popular!
- A big thank you to Mike Miller and Frank Russo from Maintenance for removing the half-dead tree in front of the library. Now, the brightly colored Shawn Dunwoody mural can be fully appreciated, and the name of the library on the front of the building can be seen when traveling north on South Avenue.



Lincoln Branch Library, Sarah Lehman reporting

Programs

- Lincoln staff held a Space Cadet Training Camp for kids. Participants were invited to complete scavenger hunts, crossword puzzles, and rearrange galaxies in a relay race to receive a special certificate of completion. The kids had a STELLAR time!
- Families enjoyed ice cream, prizes, board games, and good company at Lincoln's Back-to-School Send-Off. Spikes, one of the Rochester Red Wings mascots, made a guest appearance to visit with patrons and play in the Toy Library.
- Jennifer Cherelin, visiting from the Charlotte Branch, held a wonderful story time for a parenting group from a private preschool/daycare organization and an in-home daycare located down the street.
- Henna Rising provided a hands-on workshop for teens. Participants got to create their own designs and learn about the significance of hennas use in different cultures.
- Vera Haygood held a backpack giveaway for teens sponsored by the Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library. Teens, along with their parents, expressed their appreciation.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Natalie Soto attended the National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie at the International Plaza, with Tonia Burton.

RPL Director's Report–September 2024 (Continued)

- Sarah Lehman met with a representative from HealthiKids about a potential infant play day. The idea is to hold an event similar in nature to the organization's Roc Play Days but targeted specifically toward infants. They are interested in having the Toy Library serve as one of the sites for the event and are working on finalizing details.
- Lincoln participated in the University of Rochester's Wilson Day and hosted ten new students from the University of Rochester to volunteer at the library for the afternoon. The students did a wonderful job cleaning up some of the weeds and overgrown plants in the garden beds around the library. Spikes was also here that day and very generously lent a hand!



Anecdotes/Other

- Lincoln was closed to the public for a staff training day on Monday, August 26. Staff used the day to rearrange how the collections in the Toy Library are organized. In the past, it has been confusing and frustrating for patrons to differentiate between toys available for in-house play versus some of the more complex backpacks and kits designed to be checked out and played with at home. The staff moved all the items that are just for circulation to the back section of the room to make it easier for patrons to tell the difference and allow them to enjoy their time without worrying about playing with the 'right' toys. The new layout will also allow staff to continue developing the 'in-house' play space to focus solely on play, engagement, and learning for patrons instead of focusing on dual circulation and active play space.

Lyell Branch Library, Cathy Kyle reporting

Programs

- Cathy Kyle hosted a well-attended terrarium workshop for adults. Participants had a good time and enjoyed the opportunity to exercise their creativity.
- Shalis Worthy held a Bluey party that attracted over 30 participants – including a group from an East Avenue daycare who traveled by bus to attend. The kids had a blast playing library, keepy uppy, charades, freeze dance, crafting, eating Bluey-themed snacks, and enjoying the photo op wall.
- Manju Sharma kept Lyell teens engaged and entertained all month. Highlights included a boba tea adventure – where participants decorated cups and got to take home a kit to make their own boba tea – and the end-of-summer reading party which featured cotton candy, oversized games, and pony bead bracelets.



Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Artemis Markakis provided technology assistance at the Lifespan Lily Café at the Maplewood YMCA and led a class about internet safety and avoiding scams at the Charles Settlement House. Both sites serve older adults.
- Worthy led story times for babies, toddlers, and school-aged children at Sunshine Village Daycare.
- Kyle and Worthy attended the Summer Bash at Flower City School No. 54.



Anecdotes/Other

Sharma's twisty pull-string flying saucer craft for teens attracted a group of adults and resulted in an afternoon of intergenerational fun.

Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- This year's backpack giveaway was a happy hybridization, combining elements from years past in the building on Dewey Avenue with traditions from Mary's Place. Over 220 backpacks were distributed overall, 190 of which were given out in one day.
- The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library supported a series of summer library field trips to the Rochester Museum and Science Center, the Strong National Museum of Play, and the beach. The Museum of Play turned out to be the fan favorite.



Anecdotes/Other

- Maplewood staff welcomed over 20 New American children to the library this month.
- Brian DiNitto has been working with two teenagers visiting their sister from Turkey. They visit the library twice a week for help with English grammar and conversation.
- An older patron stopped in to get help setting up his home Wi-Fi router. Staff reviewed the instructions with him, and he left feeling confident about completing the task independently.
- Staff helped a patron set up a series of rides through Medical Motor Service for upcoming appointments.

Monroe Branch Library, Mary Clare Scheg reporting

Programs

- Nearly 50 book and movie reviews were submitted by adult patrons participating in Monroe's adult summer reading program. Three lucky winners received Barnes & Noble gift cards.
- Matthew Hoople's end-of-summer reading party was a success with over 30 attendants.
- Young patrons enjoyed stories and songs with Hoople during weekly story times.



RPL Director's Report–September 2024 (Continued)

- Theresa Filo's Dungeons & Dragons Club met three times this month and has an enthusiastic following.
- Visitors to Monroe joined forces to complete a 1000-piece puzzle and are looking forward to getting started on the next.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Filo tabled at a back-to-school event held at Pinnacle School No. 35. She interacted with 21 families.
- The collaboration between the Monroe Branch and the Center for Youth "Bridge to Peace" program saw classes visiting the library on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays to read, play games, and connect with one another.

Anecdotes/Other

- Hoople is moving on to a new full-time job; his last day at Monroe was August 22.
- Since learning that Hoople was leaving, a young patron known to frequent the Children's Room on Thursdays started making daily visits.
- The children at St. Paul's Daycare were informed by their teachers that Mr. Matthew is going to work at a new library. So, on his last visit, he was greeted with many well wishes and good lucks. However, the children didn't realize that this meant Mr. Matthew wouldn't be coming back, as they kept asking him to bring specific books "next week." Hoople didn't have the heart to tell them.

Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting

Programs

- Alex Haehn and Katy Rebholz set up an obstacle course outside the library, and kids and teens competed to see who could complete the course the fastest. There were individual and group races.



- Visiting artist Lizz deSimone taught young patrons how to create their own stamps by transferring drawings onto rubber blocks and carving them with a gauge.
- Wheatley's end-of-summer reading party featured large-format games, face painting, and ice cream. Prizes were distributed to readers of all ages.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Lori Frankunas attended the Corn Hill Gazebo Concert Series to share information about services available at the Phillis Wheatley Library. The neighbors held a fundraiser for the library, and around \$500 was received. Funds will go toward arts and crafts supplies for all age levels.
- Library staff participated in a collaborative summer block party with play advocate Heather Feinman, the Cub Scouts, the Rochester City School District, and Rec on the Move (among others). Olean Street was closed to create a safe route from the library to the park. Featured activities included archery, chalk art, and music.



Anecdotes/Other

- Heather Ahearn joined the Wheatley team this month. She is the new part-time Adult Services Librarian.
- Frankunas spoke with numerous community members in Corn Hill who appreciate the proximity of the neighborhood library and the variety of programs available for children, teens, and adults.

Sully Branch Library, Maria Heeks-Heinlein reporting

Programs

- Crunchy Sam and his zoo visited Sully to teach kids about insects, arachnids, and reptiles. He was a fantastic presenter and kept the audience enraptured with facts and creatures. To everyone's delight, Jacob Bigelow even wore a Ball Python for part of the show.
- Bigelow presented Sword Fighting 101 with great success.
- Ms. Mariposa visited Sully to share a beautiful story about feelings. Participants enjoyed discussing various emotions and engaging in the craft that followed. Sully staff often interacts with children who are dealing with strong emotions, so having the opportunity to talk about them in a safe environment was a valuable activity for all.
- Safe to Be Smart teen reading group participants selected books based on their individual interests, then courageously introduced themselves and presented their choices to the group. Each young person who read won prizes for their participation. Over the month, 18 teens, 12 tweens, and nine children participated!



Community Outreach/Meeting/Training

Maria Heeks-Heinlein and George Carter attended a safety meeting with members of the Department of Recreation, City Security, and John James Audubon School No. 33. They discussed lockdown procedures and the importance of using common terms to reduce confusion.

Anecdotes/Other

- Recently, two Sully teens tragically lost their older sister; she was a victim of gun violence. In a gesture of support, Sully staff contributed food and beverages to the victim's family to be shared at the young woman's repast. In the victim's honor, George Carter also participated in a balloon release on Parsells Avenue.
- A patron stopped in for help with a resume. Heeks-Heinlein offered him a flash drive to save his work, as he'd recently lost a document when his computer timed out. When he asked how much the flash drive was, Heeks-Heinlein said it was free thanks to a generous gift from the Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library. He replied, *"With the time I have been coming here, I qualify as a friend. The library has helped me get a car, a house, and a job!"*
- Heeks-Heinlein was working with one of Sully's new Pages and said, *"This is well done, excellent work."* A young patron was in earshot and replied, *"Ohhh, that was a very nice thing to say to her."*



Winton Branch Library, Kathy Wolf reporting

Programs

- The Winton Branch Library hosted a robust summer reading program again this year. Each Wednesday there was an activity geared toward elementary school-aged kids, while on Fridays the branch offered a Family Story Time for families with children ages three through eight. Tuesdays and Thursdays were baby days featuring Rhyme Time. Summer reading program registrants were encouraged to track how long they read each day and attend library programs for a chance to win prizes, including tickets to the Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Genesee Country Village and Museum, Strong Museum of Play, and gift cards to the Children's Bookstore Hipocampo or a Book Bundle. This year Winton offered a special drawing for kids who finished their reading logs.
- This month's Comic Club read *Nimona*. Participants were challenged to complete Emily Smith's "Knight Academy," which featured a series of challenges. The kids lost their minds selecting knight names from the Knight Name Generator; there was a Sir Rude Liver, Queen Happy Heart, Mistress Super Spleen, and perhaps the most tragic, Sir Smelly Armpit. The group went on to design personalized shields using crayons and paper and play a round of games during which the energy was high, and the laughter plentiful.
- Romance author Theresa Leigh enthralled her audience of readers and writers at a program on "Crafting Dynamic, Character-Driven Plots in Genre Fiction." Some comments left on the after-program surveys included, *"Theresa was fantastic and well prepared! Definitely have her again."* *"Thank you! This was helpful: a combo of confirming some of what I've been trying to do, plus specifics for actually doing it."* *"Great program! I'm not a writer, but an avid reader, and Theresa's presentation will make me a more critical and appreciative reader. Lots to think about. Thank you!"*
- This month's bouncing frog take and make was a hit with patrons of all ages.



Anecdotes/Other

- One family who visits more than once a week and participates in many programs wondered if the Winton Branch would take some donations in good condition. Of course, the answer was a resounding yes! Among the books was a complete set of the Laura Ingalls Wilder *Little House* books. Mom and Kathy Wolf had a long discussion about the controversy surrounding these books, and she admitted that she had read them to her two older children but decided that she would not read them to her youngest.
- A mother brought her young son to the reference desk so he could tell Mary Fraser some exciting news. Jumping up and down with excitement, the boy said that he planted seeds that he'd gotten from the Winton Branch seed library, and he grew a BIG zucchini and a red tomato! His mother said the seed library inspired them to plant a garden for the first time.

FFRPL Report to RPL Board – August 2024

Recent FFRPL expenditures for RPL:

\$27,259 for the Safe to be Smart D.C. trip (delayed due to Covid). Funds were held from 2019 restricted donations from Reynolds Library, Konar Foundation, FFRPL's ROC the Day Campaign, and additional current FFRPL unrestricted funds were used to cover the balance.

\$11,197 Summer 2024 children's literacy programs

\$6,266 Relocation expenses for Maplewood Library

\$2,000 Pilot program for Patron Incident Tracking System

\$3,800 Rundel Building landscaping (and we have secured a volunteer to help maintain the gardens)

Annual Campaign:

The fall Annual Campaign letter will be in homes around September 5th.

The theme is based on how the library must adapt to meet the changing needs of the community it serves. Fall letter features Lincoln as an example and stresses the needs of other branches in the future (not named).

FFRPL is grateful for your support! Please give generously and early.

FFRPL will participate in ROC the Day again this year. The date is December 3. We thank many of you who participated in the "Board Challenge" that we added three years ago as an opportunity for all 4 boards to participate. We will be offering a "Board Challenge" again this year and we will be seeking board member participation. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support!

Grants:

Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library has been approved for an award of \$18,370 for Incorporating Intersectional Experiences into the Shoulders to Stand On LGBTQIA2+ Archive from Rochester Area Community Foundation for RPL's Local History and Genealogy Division.

Our thanks to Christine Ridarsky for her partnership on this grant application.

The final report is due on 9/26/25.

BOOKSALES: (ON-SITE AND ONLINE)

Planned book sale dates for FY25:

Fall Sale: Monday, October 21 – Thursday, October 24 and Saturday, October 26 (National Friends of Libraries Week!)

Please note: The library will be closed to the public on Friday, October 25 for staff training.

Season's Readings Sale: December 2 – 13

Spring Sale: April 6-12 (National Library Week)

Summer Sale - June 23-27

13 partner contracts have been signed and returned: East Rochester, Gates, Henrietta, Irondequoit, Macedon, Medina, Mendon, Parma, Rush, Scottsville, Strong, Nazareth and Webster.

Brighton, Chili, Greece, MCC and Seymour remain pending.

Community Outreach:

3 boxes of various age level books were given to Strong Pediatrics. We were also able to include 2 children's books written in braille.

200 books were donated to a RCSD teacher for a student project.

200 books were provided to Hope Christian Fellowship for a backpack giveaway.

Programming: Events, Exhibits:

The library's annual juried *Art of the Book* exhibit is on view now through November 30 in the Anthony Mascioli Gallery in Harold Hacker Hall. Save the date for the **reception** to be held on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm (included as a Fringe Festival event this year)**. FFRPL has supported Central Library's Art of the Book exhibit since the first show in 2011, which was held in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Rochester Public Library. The exhibit has grown to include work from all over the world.

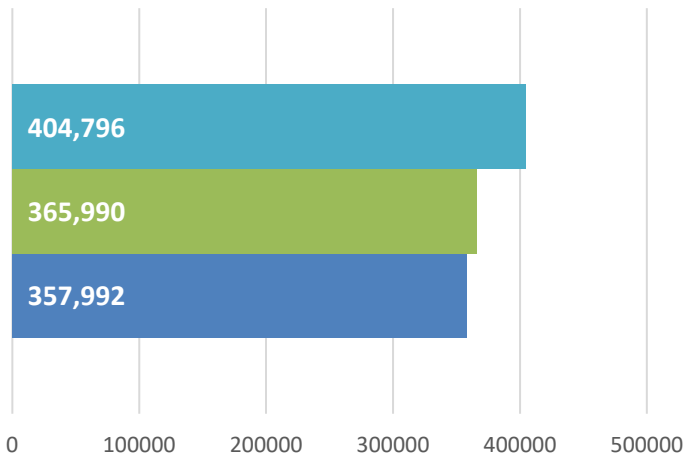
FFRPL's Fall **Books Sandwiched In** series occurs every Tuesday from 12:12 – 12:52 pm in the Kate Gleason Auditorium between September 10 - October 29.

Refer to the [brochure](#) provided or FFRPL.org for the calendar of Fall FFRPL events. Please share this information with your family and friends!

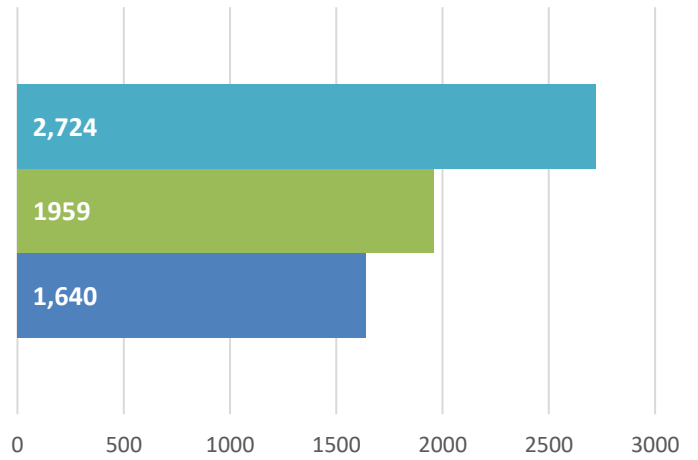
RPL Central Statistics YTD
Jan—Aug



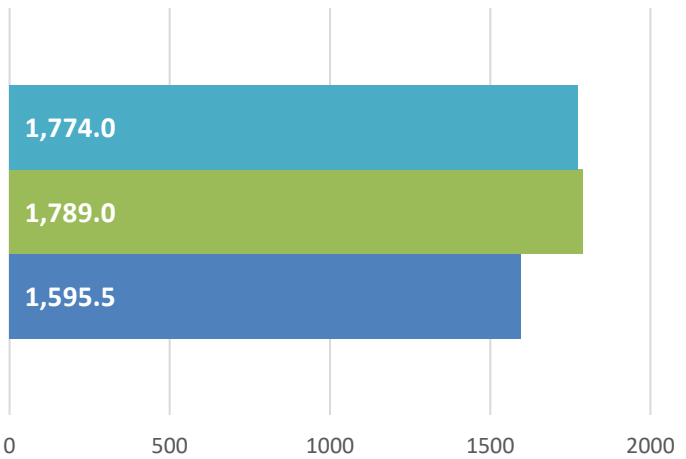
CIRCULATION



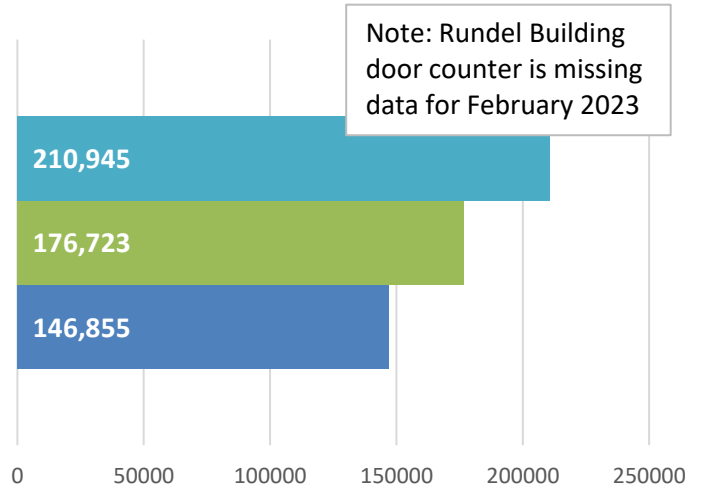
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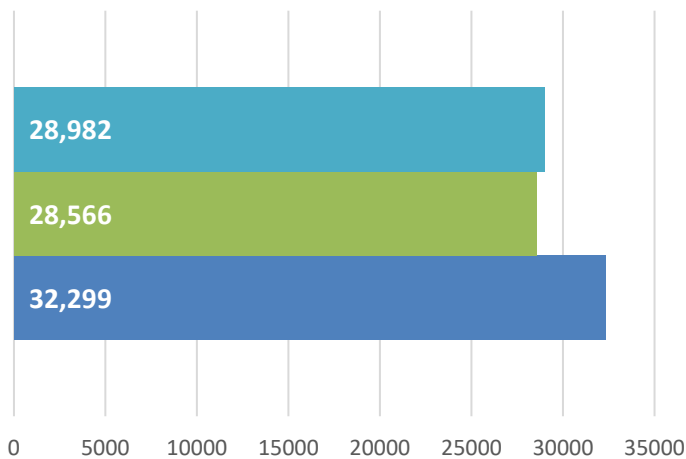
SERVICE HOURS



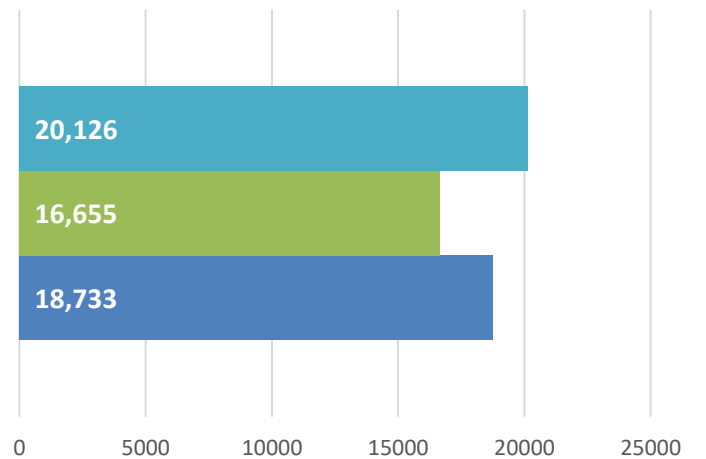
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



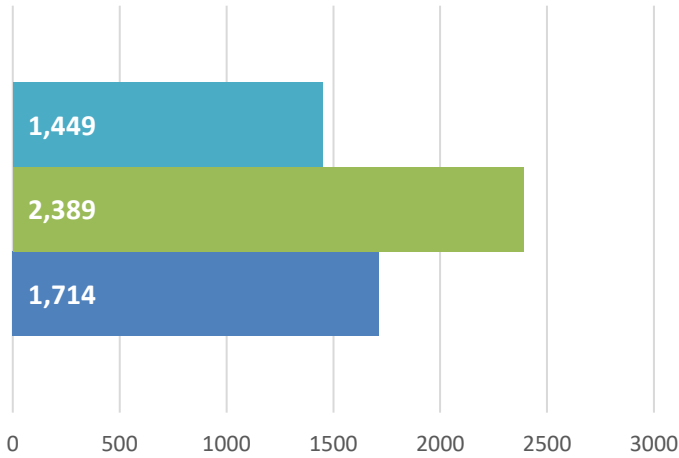
NON-REFERENCE



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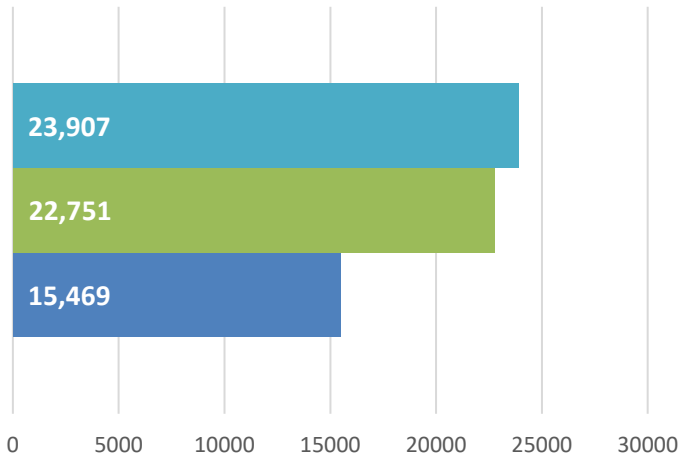
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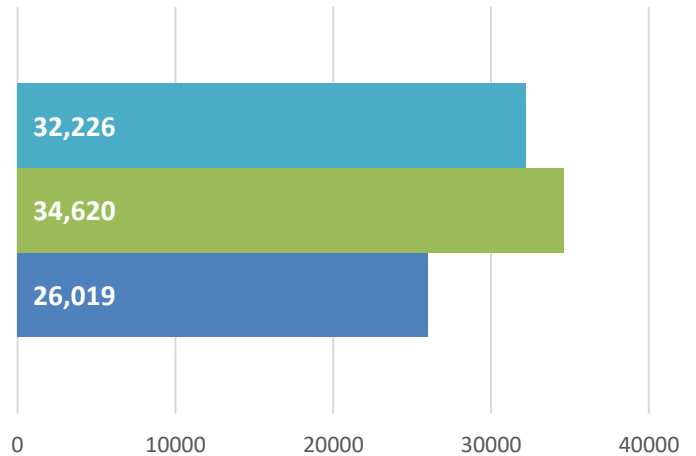
DEFINITIONS

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- Notary:** Notary Public acts. Each signature counts as one act.
- 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.

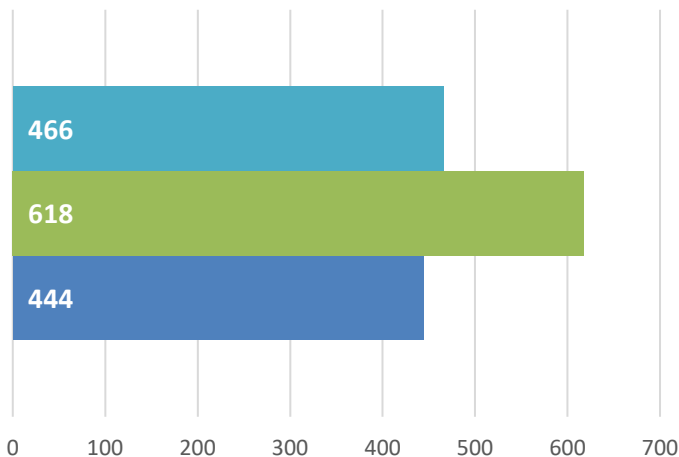
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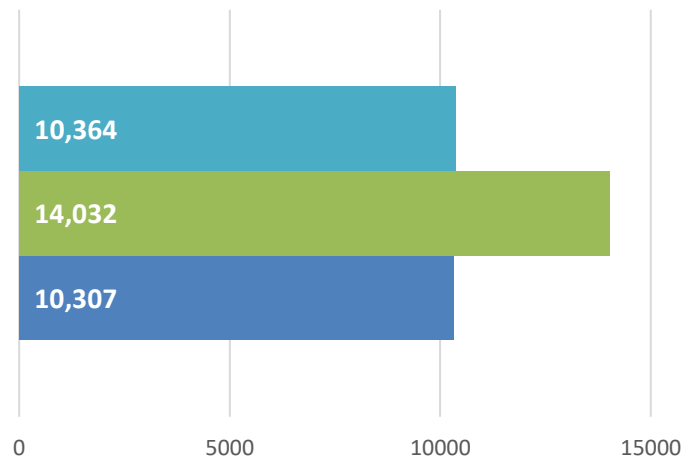
WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



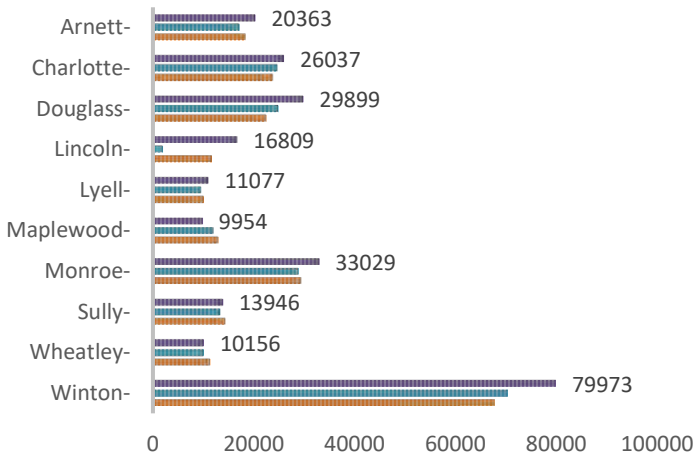
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



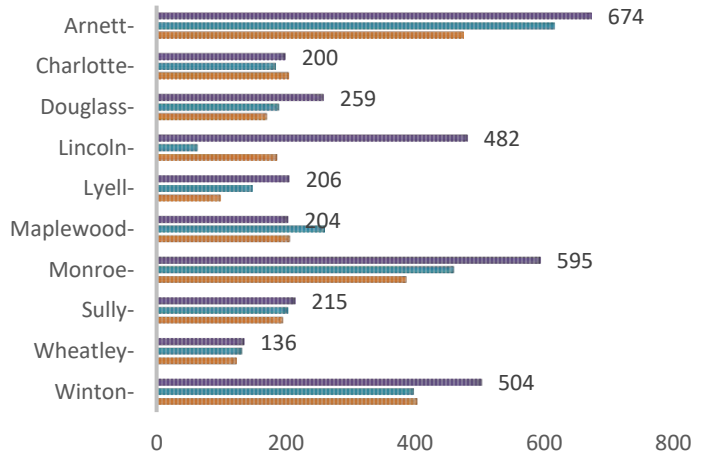
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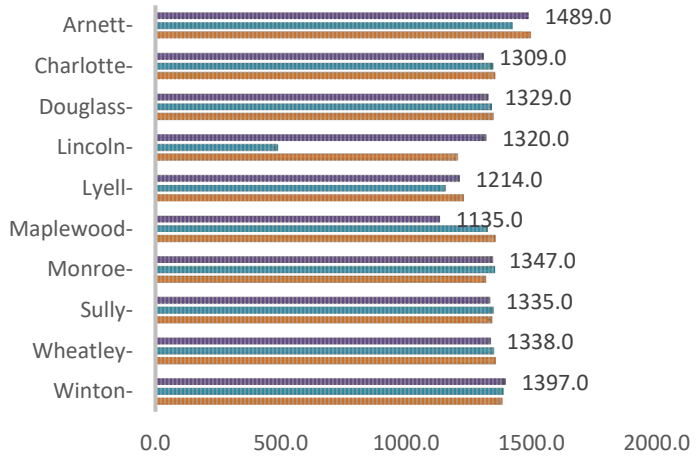
CIRCULATION



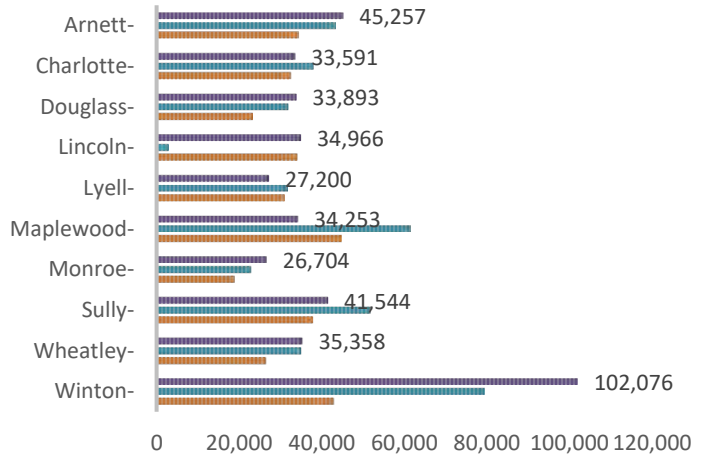
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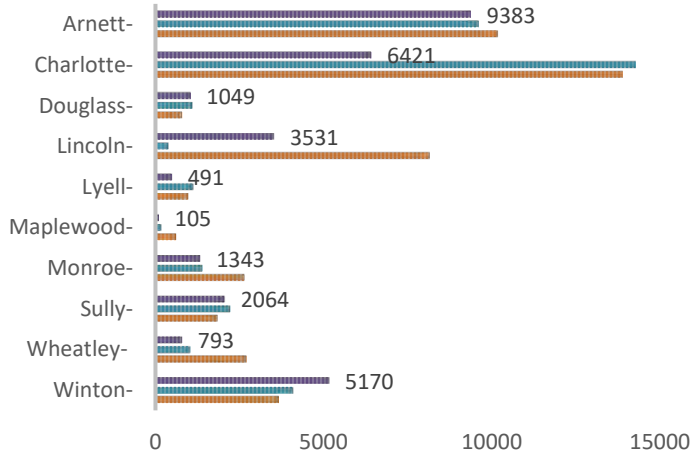
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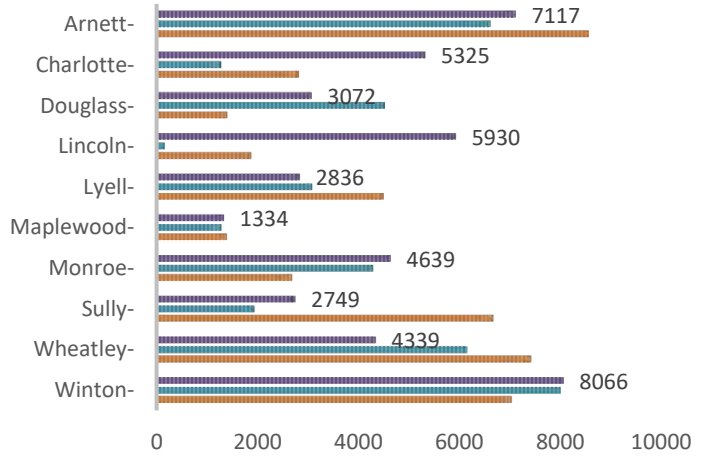
VISITS



REFERENCE QUESTIONS



NON-REFERENCE

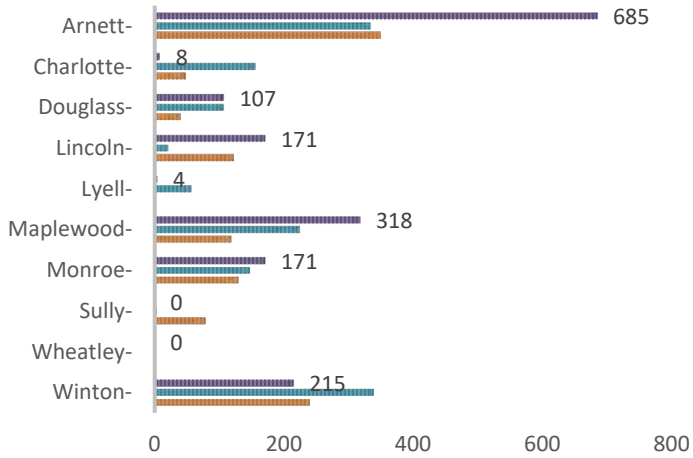


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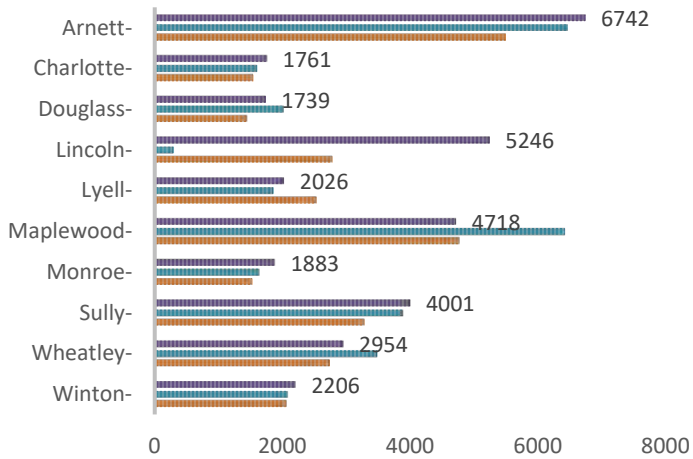
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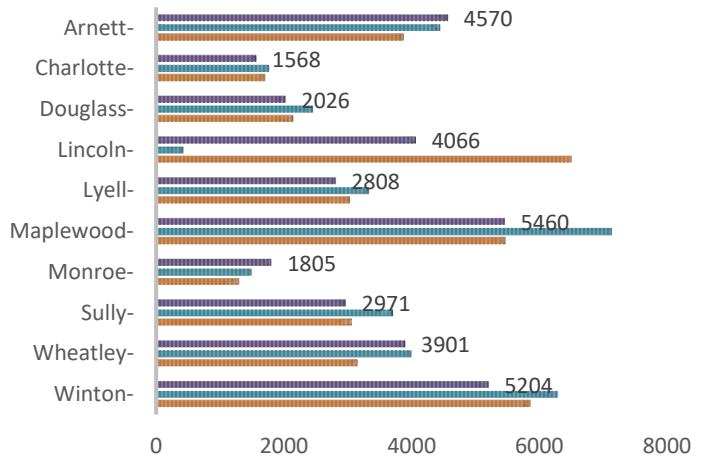
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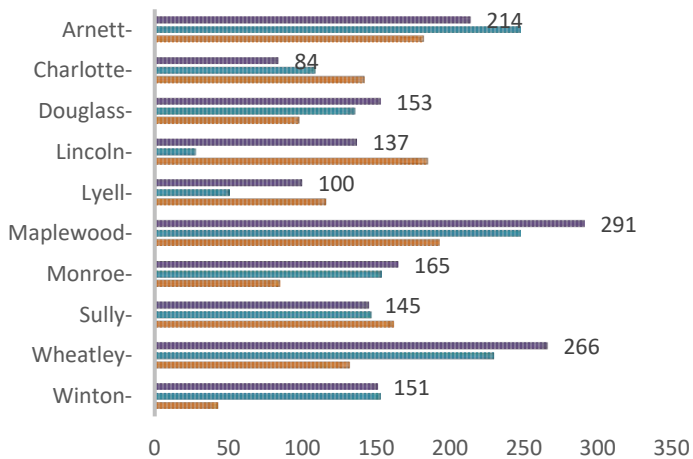
COMPUTER HOURS



WIFI SESSIONS



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

