TO: RPL Board of Trustees
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director
DATE: September 26, 2018
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – September

Action Items

Wicked Squid Studios Professional Service Agreement (Reeves)
Josh Pettinger, owner and operator of Wicked Squid Studios, will collaborate with Central Library staff to create an Artist Development Program in the imagineYOU digital media lab in Teen Central. This multi-phase program will develop the music and sound production skills of youth in the Rochester area. In the first phase, Wicked Squid Studios and imagineYOU will create a pre-collegiate program that is flexibly structured to engage and develop students’ initial interest in producing music. The second phase will require the library to partner with a local college to develop a program that results in an Associate’s Degree or an apprenticeship program.

Board Action Requested: Approval of an agreement with Wicked Squid Studios for the services described for an amount not to exceed $7,600.

NYS Library Construction Grant Application (Harrison)
The RPL shall submit one application to the NYSED’s Division of Library Development, as follows:

Rundel Library East Terrace Reconstruction. The application seeks an approximate 50% share of state funding ($269,100) of a $463,000 estimated construction cost for the east terrace portion of the Rundel Library Terrace Reconstruction Project, Phase IV. Due to the advanced age and exposure to the elements, the Rundel north riverfront terrace and east sidewalk have exhibited structural deterioration; the east terrace has several temporary patches and asphalt fills due to concrete caving into the vacant cavity below, formerly occupied by the subway. LaBella Associates, D.P.C. has recommended to fill the cavity and repair utility connections, a component of work not part of the original capital planning for the Rundel terrace work.

The east terrace and sidewalks provide the only public entrance/exit to the Rundel building, and supports all public transportation stops for the Central Library. A full sidewalk replacement will include replacement of damaged and aged amenities such as a covered bus shelter, seating and bike racks. Matching funding for this application is identified from City/Library debt appropriated for the full project. The full project cost (north and east terraces) is currently estimated at $6.9 million.

Board Action Requested: Approval of NYS Library Construction grant application with NYSED support of $269,100, with anticipated Library/City matching debt funds of $193,900, and total estimated construction costs of $463,000 for the east terrace portion of the project.

Discussion Items

Meeting Room Policy - With changes in Master Space Plan projects at Central creating new and renovated spaces, it is necessary to update fees, policies and procedures with respect to public meeting room reservations. The last Board-approved revision to the Central Library meeting room policy was in May 2009. A separate Branch Library meeting room policy was created and authorized in December 2014. Managers
are now considering a single RPL room reservation policy to be utilized going forward. At this time, we seek feedback from the Board on policy-related revisions; administrative features of the policy document are being developed by managers. A full policy document will be presented to the Board for consideration in October. The original and draft revised policies are attached.

Primary changes are as follows:

- Establishing standard descriptions for RPL rooms, in categories of Auditorium, Classroom, Meeting Room, and Conference Room. Determinations are based on size/capacity and audio-visual capability;
- Revising reservation fee rates, based on peer library evaluation and comparison;
- Establishing simplified and universal parameters for use, reservation, payment and fee waiver; and
- Removing references to Central Library events and after-hours use, to be presented as a separate Events Policy at a later date for Board authorization.

The RPL will develop a webpage for room reservations at www.roccitylibrary.org, utilizing the current event and program calendar vendor, Springshare, for online room reservations under the categories of Auditorium, Classroom and Meeting Room. The webpage (via calendar vendor) will be established to accept credit card payment. The webpage will also detail all meeting room sizes, available amenities, and standard seating configurations. Auditorium administration (scheduling, payment) will remain with the RPL Communications Division; other administrative rights for rooms will remain with the respective Central Library Division or Branch where the room is located.

Report Items
Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting

Recommended Reading/Viewing


Upcoming Events

- Thursday October 11, Noon – 1:30 pm – MCLS/RPL Retirees Luncheon in the Kusler-Cox Auditorium (see Ned for details and reservations)

RPL Strategic Plan Progress

Education & Engagement

**Sister Cities Intern** – RPL has been awarded a paid internship position through a new program at the Rochester Regional Library Council. This position will be paid at $20 per hour for a maximum of 70 hours and will produce an inventory of the International Sister Cities of Rochester artifacts currently stored at Central. The intern will develop a classification scheme, then photograph, classify, and prepare each item for storage. A job description will be released in October, with an intern selected and starting in January.
Sustainability & Resources

Investment Advisory & Custodial Services RFP - At the May RPL Board meeting several trustees volunteered to serve on a committee to review and recommend investment advisory and custodial services for the library’s endowment. This temporary committee will be joined by City representatives from Accounting and Budget, and Brie Harrison is seeking an additional representative from the Reynolds Board with investment experience. The Reynolds Board completed their own RFP for investment services several years ago. Harrison is working on convening the committee to review a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) document and proposed schedule. Harrison anticipates releasing the RFP late Fall.

Stewardship & Curation

Facility and Capital Updates - RPL is preparing for both City and County Capital Improvement Program planning, with submissions due in September (County) and October (City). Several project updates are as follows:

Branch Improvements:
- Charlotte’s lighting project, as part of the New York Power Authority’s municipal facilities program, will begin construction in the coming weeks.
- The Monroe branch façade improvements are substantially complete.
- The Douglass Green Roof project will begin design under Stantec Consulting Services in October.
- Improvements for the Winton branch children’s room, funded in July, will be deferred for a few months due to long-term vacancies in the Facilities Division.

Central Improvements:
- The Kusler-Cox Auditorium is substantially complete; final “punch list” items and the installation of the partition wall will be underway through the end of September.
- The Rundel Loading Dock replacement was to begin this month; however, rejection of the initial contractor’s submittal for the lift design has resulted in a delay. We anticipate active construction by Thanksgiving.
- Master Space Plan Phase 4 (Technology Center) design is underway with Edge Architecture and an internal planning team.
- The Rundel Terrace Reconstruction (Phase IV) will be out to bid by December; several grant applications are pending to support this project, in addition to ROC the Riverway funds announced by the Governor.

Technology updates:
- Four branch libraries (Arnett, Charlotte, Lincoln, Lyell) participated in the first phase of network cabling upgrades as part of the MCLS’ E-Rate Category 2 funding cycle. All sites received new Cat6a cabling that will enable future bandwidth expansion, with an estimated life cycle of 20 years. Hewitt Young Electric coordinated installation with LAS through the summer. The RPL pays only 15% of project costs due to the E-rate program.

Social Media Engagement, Alicia Gunther reporting

Facebook
- Page views – 1,401
- New page likes – 21 (3,827)
- Page Reach – 35,003 people
- Post engagements –3,217
- Checked in and mentions – 21 people
- Facebook Events Calendar
Individual events reached – 8,191 times.
Visitors went to our full events calendar 1,118
239 people engaged with the event on Facebook or linked to our website through the event

- Video Views – 482
- Responded to 13 messages on Facebook
- Actions on Page – 2 people clicked on this button.

**Twitter**
Profile Visits
- Rochester Public Library – 342
- Monroe County Library System – 305
New Followers
- Rochester Public Library – 4 (1,655)
- Monroe County Library System – 0 (1,960)
Engagements
- Rochester Public Library – 140
- Monroe County Library System – 24
Favorites
- Rochester Public Library – 49
- Monroe County Library System – 19
Mentions
- Rochester Public Library – 41
- Monroe County Library System – 19

Responded to 0 messages on Twitter

**Instagram**
- New Followers – 24 (1044)
- Likes – 186
- Comments on a post – 6
- Mentions – 6
- Saves – 3
- Story viewers – 96
- Engagements – 195
- Page visits – 28

**Constant Contact Newsletter**
- Subscribers who opened newsletter – 978
- Click through – 87
- New subscribers – 20

**YouTube Channel**
- Video views – 293
- Videos added to playlists – 2
- New subscribers – 3 (72)
- Shares – 5
- Likes – 0
- Comments – 0
Central Library Updates
Assistant Directors Sally Snow & Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

Arts and Literature Division, Carol Moldt reporting

Programs
- Beginning Knitting – Georgia Carney from SewGreen Rochester taught beginning knitting to enthusiastic students. Carney brought all the colorful yarn and knitting needles for students to work with and taught right handed as well as left handed students. They learned the three basics for beginners; the cast-on, the knit stitch, and the purl stitch. Students learned both the English and Continental styles of knitting. Students remarked on how helpful and friendly Carney was and are excited for her to come back to teach an intermediate class.
- Let’s Bead!: Making Hoop Earrings with Fresh Water Pearls – Let’s Bead! is always popular and this class was no exception. Carli Fournier showed students how to make a pair of stunning hoop earring with Swarovski Crystals and Fresh Water Pearls. All the students remarked how fun it was to create these hoops and what a great instructor Fournier is and how they like working in a group as it allows them to get to know other students.

Outreach
- Mary Fraser taught the “Ukulele Basics” class at Lifespan using Central’s set of teaching ukuleles. The instruments were checked out to the students for the 12 weeks of the 6 class course. Ukuleles are easier on the fingers than a guitar, and much more portable, so they are a good match for the seniors, some of whom use a walker or have arthritis. The Lifespan students were an enthusiastic group, eager to help each other out, and not discouraged by the sometimes frustrating process of learning to play chords. For the last class, there was a sing-along of songs that had been taught in the earlier classes. Included in the repertoire was a special version of “The Tennessee Waltz” for one class member who had taught himself to play the melody, and impressed everyone with a solo! By the end of the course, two of the students had bought ukuleles of their own, and three of the students had decided to form a ukulele club that will meet at Lifespan on Monday afternoons. Music, like libraries, can bring people together and change lives, and we hope that the “Lifespan Ukulele Club” will be a great success.
- Melissa Manczuk of the Arts and Literature Division hosted the August craft class. The group of talented crafters created origami stars. The participants were very enthusiastic about learning this new craft. One mentioned that her son used to do origami when he was younger and it was fun for her to now learn the craft. Another was so excited because she had been attempting to make an origami crane for the last few weeks and needed some assistance to perfect it.

Exhibits
- Arts and Literature librarian Mary Fraser organized an exhibit of art made by Central Library employees that will be up through September. The exhibit, titled “On Our Own Time” fills the two Riedman display cases, and includes the art of 10 talented staff from 7 departments at Central.
Business & Social Sciences, Darlene Richards reporting

Programs
- Sarah Bishopp Vélez once again hosted the Bizkid$ program, which brought a large, energetic group of young, aspiring business owners into the library! Bizkid$ is a week-long camp through the City of Rochester that teaches youth ages 10-18 entrepreneurial and public speaking skills. While in the Business & Social Sciences Division, the kids used the library’s resources to write their own business plan. Sarah was kept busy finding online and prints resources for several students who had excellent business ideas! They then went to Teen Central and used the computers to create their business cards.
- Sarah Bishopp Vélez and Sarah Lydon hosted a civic engagement program on how to get your political voice heard. The presenter, Kathleen Donovan – assistant professor in the political science department at St. John Fisher College – started the program with an overview of how politically engaged Americans are, and common barriers to political engagement. She then went over some top tips on how to become involved in issues you care about.

Small Business Consulting
- Sarah Bishopp Vélez helped several patrons this month with small business start-up questions. The assistance provided included one-on-one tutorials on how to use the library’s business databases, market research for specific industries, and referrals to other beneficial organizations such as SCORE and Rochester Professional Consultants Network (RPCN). Some of the businesses people were interested in included couture (luxury fashion) clothing lines, cafes, accounting, medical transportation, and used tire stores.
- Renee Kendrot assisted a small business patron with locating resources pertaining to demographic information in the City of Rochester, more specifically in the downtown area. She also needed information about other restaurants within the vicinity of her restaurant. This information was to complete her business plan for submission. Kendrot sent the patron some websites that had the information she needed.
- A Score Advisor called for one of his clients that he was assisting. His client needed a template of a contract pertaining to hair stylist chair rentals within a hair salon. Kendrot located a contract template specifically designed for his client’s purposes and emailed the information to him.
- Florence Morris assisted a small business patron with information on the pharmacy industry. She also provided them demographics.

Database Statistics July & August
- ABI/Inform Collection: 9 sessions, 33 searches, 23 documents
- Business Market Collection: 12 sessions, 72 searches 19 documents
- CQ Researcher: 1 session, 8 page views
- Entrepreneurship Database: 6 sessions, 25 searches
- Foundation Directory Online Professional: 45 searches
- Ibisworld: 95 hits
- Morningstar Investment Research Center: 47 searches, 45 record views, 60 sessions
- Value Line Usage Statistics: 480 logins, 6851 searches, 1242 downloads

Circulation/Information Services, Kathy Sochia reporting

127 new borrowers
7 RRLC Access cards
109 Notarial Acts
Programs
Brian DiNitto taught 11 computer classes. 33 people attended. Patron comments: “This mixture of lecture and hands on is working.” “I really felt comfortable, the instructor was very patient.” “He is a very good teacher.” “Great teacher. He does a great job.” “Wish the class was a little longer to do more hands on.” “Alternative/flexible class hours are great.”

Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Meetings and Trainings
• Burton co presented Full STEAM Ahead at the Rochester City School Districts Annual Summer Institute for preschool teachers. She presented with Carla Stough Huffman, Coordinator of Professional Development and OST Program Quality, Greater Rochester After School Alliance (GRASA). Burton shared the technology kits that libraries use when visiting classrooms and how to get more comfortable with topics around Science, Engineering, Technology, Math, and Art. One teacher said “Wait a minute, are you telling me that a real human will come to my classroom with these fun tech toys and help me? FOR FREE?!” While it is not easy to get out of the library during the summer, that statement proves how important it is.
• Burton met with Toshia Mitchell, Flower City AmeriCorps member to discuss Toshia’s service with Raising a Reader (RAR) and complete her End of Service review. Toshia has been instrumental in helping the staff at Lincoln get through the summer and organizing the RAR materials for the upcoming year. She has obtained a job with the City School District as a substitute teacher!
• Burton and Mitchell attended Parent Orientation at the VOA child care center on Lake Avenue. An introduction to Raising a Reader was given to a group of 80 parents.
• Burton trained Early Head Start teachers on Raising a Reader. For many it was a refresher which opened into a time to share best practices and how the library can better serve classrooms. Many expressed the importance of stability and dependability. In previous year AmeriCorps members served most of the classrooms and their schedules were not dependable. This year having permanent staff serving the classrooms will offer greater dependability and promote a stronger collaboration.

Outreach/Community Contacts
• This year Central Library collaborated with several R Centers to give children a chance to earn prizes for their reading and activities. Each year we attempt to grow our collaborations between branches and R Centers and this was the first year we were able to ensure game boards were available at the centers interested. Since R Centers are closed the last two weeks of August, participants who won prizes visited Central or their closet branch to pick up prizes. The parents I spoke with were so excited their children won. We were fortunate to have bundles of books, passes to the Seneca Park Zoo, and Rochester Museum & Science Center to give out. R Centers provided pizza parties for their readers. Originally we hoped to set up mini library stations at each center but they declined and purchased books.

Programs
• The Children’s Center wrapped up our summer of tremendous programming. The staff worked diligently to provide a program on almost every day of the summer break! Once again, our partnership with WXXI on our Exploration Stations proved beneficial to our patrons as did collaboration with local area musicians who provided direct instruction and demonstrations to children and families. Stations included a variety of STEAM activities, including LittleBits inventions, harmonica making, sensory stations, and a Sphero obstacle course challenge. Other programs included playing host to a zoo of animals, dance party, and Hall of Fame Toys.
• Our Friday Make & Take craft programs this month included spin art for which we had two different spin art machines. One used an old record player with markers on paper and the other was made out of a box fan inside a big cardboard box into which we dropped paint either onto paper or an old record. We made
Box banjos and guitars and other rubber band instruments and finished with rock painting. One family with several kids, a couple of teens and their mom came to several of our crafts throughout the summer spending an hour or more letting their creative juices flow. After the last one they came too, they returned after about an hour with a bag full of craft supplies for us!

- Our Libraries Rock! Summer Reading Program was a great success. This year’s Game Board was a reading and activity-filled music note song in which children would cross off each activity after it was completed. Children received raffle tickets for registering for the program, attending programs, and finishing the Game Board. There was a great increase in the number of program tickets given as well as nearly doubling the amount of children who finished the game board as compared to last year. Raffle tickets were selected for our large prizes, much to the excitement of many children who received a call from our librarians.

- Pre-K students from Rochester Childfirst Network came to the library for three more story time sessions. One of the sessions was Kindergarten themed. All sessions included songs and movement. We were also able to do a pop-up story time session for a group of mixed-age kids from a local summer camp. The Children’s Center just received a littleBits R2-D2 so Katie Powell tried it out with some interested scientists.

Local History, Christine Ridarsky reporting

High Falls Center
- The Local History & Genealogy Division underwent changes in staffing in August. Librarian Gabe Pellegrino transferred from Technical Services early in the month and was immediately helpful in addressing a difficult situation related to the High Falls Interpretive Center & Museum that we manage in Brown’s Race. High Falls site manager Amy Pepe (Historical Researcher) was reassigned to reference service within the library after an incident with a visitor threatened her sense of security while working at the museum. This created a staffing shortage at High Falls that required us to close the museum for three days while we formulated a new staffing plan. Pellegrino and substitute librarian Christopher Brennan skillfully stepped in and took responsibility for providing service at High Falls for the rest of the month, allowing us to quickly reopen the museum and fulfill our obligation of providing service five days a week through the end of August. City Security personnel are now visiting the Center more frequently, usually once a day. Pepe will continue to schedule and lead High Falls group tours. Beginning September 1, the High Falls Center will revert to its fall operating schedule (Saturdays 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sundays 12 noon – 4 p.m.), relieving the
pressure on staff. (Please note that this is a one-hour reduction in Saturday service, which used to be 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The change was necessary to accommodate staff scheduling needs.) Pellegrino will continue to work Saturdays at the Center; Historical Services Consultant Christine Ridarsky will cover most Sunday shifts; and Brennan will fill in as needed.

Exhibitions

- This month, we hosted a half-day Visioning Session as part of the planning process for the planned 2019 exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in New York City that sparked the modern LGBTQ civil rights movement. More than 15 gathered in Kate Gleason Auditorium to brainstorm a Big Idea (or mission statement for the idea) that will guide exhibit development. Attendees representing the library, Empire State College, Image Out, Landmark Society, Out Alliance, Rochester Institute of Technology, University at Brockport, University of Rochester, and WXXI settled upon this:

  *The Stonewall uprising activated local LGBTQ+ communities to advance human rights in an ongoing revolution that expands Rochester’s social reform legacy.*

  The exhibit, tentatively set to open March 1, 2019, in the Anthony Mascioli Gallery in Harold Hacker Hall of the Rundel Memorial Building, will use the Stonewall anniversary as a jumping off point to explore the history of Rochester’s diverse LGBTQ community. Ridarsky is leading the planning team with assistance from Fess and FT Historical Researcher Michelle Finn. The Stonewall exhibition will follow a development process similar to that used in preparing the 2017 woman suffrage exhibition, *Because of Women Like Her… Winning the Vote in New York State*. A traveling version of that exhibit continues to tour the community. It was on display at the Monroe Branch library this month, where it has been seen by 2,257 visitors.

- Finn continues to coordinate the development of the forthcoming Lewis Henry Morgan exhibit in partnership with the University of Rochester. This exhibit is will be installed in the Local History & Genealogy Division from September 2018, through January 2019.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- Ridarsky participated in a professional development workshop for more than 100 teachers at East High School. She set up a series of stations consisting of primary and secondary sources related to Civil Rights and race relations in the 1950s - early 1970s, including the Rochester Riot of 1964.

- Ridarsky and Finn met with Steve LaMorte, Director of Social Studies for the Rochester City School District (RCSD), and Elizabeth Call, Special Collections Outreach Librarian from the University of Rochester River Campus Libraries’ Department of Rare Books, Special Collections & Preservation (UR_RBSCP), to discuss how we will implement the new program, National History Day for Rochester City Schools. Finn sought advice about this new program from Jennifer Haines, coordinator for the regional National History Day contest at Genesee Country Village & Museum. Haines is very excited (as are we) to have RCSD students involved for the first time in recent memory.

- Reconnect Rochester interviewed Finn for a documentary about the Inner Loop. The film will be screened at the *RazedRise* Rochester Street Films event at the Cinema Theater on September 26. Ridarsky will be a panelist in the discussion portion of the event. The City Communications Bureau relied on Finn’s notes and some additional guidance from LHGD staff in drafting talking points for the mayor’s interview for this same documentary.

- Ridarsky and Finn met with two faculty from the Rochester Institute of Technology’s History Department to determine how the library/City Historian’s Office might support their NEH-sponsored neighborhood/oral history project.
**Collections**

- Fess and volunteer Susan Potera continued to inventory, organize, rehouse, and index our long-neglected map collection. Fess also began the process of cleaning and trying to salvage a group of moldy books that had been quarantined almost two years ago. The books were apparently damaged several years ago when they were subjected to gray water leakage from the floor drain in the 3rd floor men’s bathroom. Approximately 30 linear inches of books are part of the quarantine and recovery effort. It is unclear at this time how many of the books can be saved, demonstrating the importance of safeguarding our irreplaceable historical collections.

- We learned this month that Ancestry.com has expanded online access to New York State vital records to include births from 1881 to 1942. This means that Ancestry’s collections are now more comprehensive than what we have currently received from the state (our collection of microfiche ends in 1937. The availability of vital records online has significantly reduced demand for access to our microfiche collection. However, Genealogy Specialist Barb Koehler has pointed out that many of Ancestry.com’s digital indexes are largely illegible. Thus, staff and patrons are being encouraged to make use of online indexes but also to check our fiche when necessary, as our copies appear to be much more readable than the online scans.

**Social Media**

- Staff from the Local History & Genealogy Division contributed content for six (6) social media posts in May: 2 on Twitter, 72 on Facebook, and 2 blog entries on www.rochistory.wordpress.com. The reach of these posts was an impressive 5,742. This includes 2,418 on Facebook and 3,321 on our blog; 72 people engaged with Local History posts on Facebook and 79 on our blog. Morry wrote our two blog entries this month: “Out of the Loop: A Before and After Look at the Neighborhoods of the Inner Loop, Part 1” (8/2/18) and “Out of the Loop: A Before and After Look at the Neighborhoods of the Inner Loop, Part 2” (8/15/18)

**Volunteer/Intern hours**

- We were assisted by three volunteers (Susan Potera – 4 hours; Nancy Martin – 18.75 hours; Ira Srole – 19.5 hours), one college intern (Karen “Kaye” Knoll, RIT – 2.5 hours) and one intern from Monroe BOCES I (Ethan McBride – 16 hours). In all, volunteers and interns contributed 60.75 hours of service to the division.

**Anecdotes/Other**

- This month our staff helped a reporter from tech magazine Gizmodo track down information for an upcoming story about former Rochester resident Abigail Roberson and her role in the history of U.S. privacy rights. When Roberson was a teenager in Rochester in the early 20th century, her then-boyfriend took a photograph of her. After they broke up, he sold the photo to the Franklin Mills Co. in Lockport, which used it extensively in its advertising. Roberson was shocked to find her photo affiliated with Franklin Mills products in stores here in Rochester and beyond, and the pressure of suddenly and unexpectedly (and with no compensation) being thrust into the spotlight took a toll on her emotional health. She sued the company and in a landmark case, Roberson v. The Rochester Folding Box Co. (64 NY App. Div. 30, 1901), Judge Alton Parker declared that the law did not provide any right to personal privacy. “The so-called ‘right of privacy’ has not as yet found an abiding place in our jurisprudence,” he wrote.

Parker’s perspective shifted a few months later when he sought the Democratic nomination for U.S. President. He expressed outrage at the cluster of proto-paparazzi that dogged his every step. Asked to comment on the irony of Parker’s predicament, Roberson told the press that she was “forced to the conclusion that this incident well illustrates the truth of the old saying that it makes a lot of difference whose ox is gored.”
Though Roberson’s childhood home and most of the neighborhood in which she lived was demolished to make way for the Inner Loop, staff helped the journalist to locate her residence on several maps in our collection. Combining the data gleaned from the maps within information from City directories, the reporter will be able to describe the neighborhood in which Roberson lived and otherwise create a context for her life in Rochester.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

- **Reference**: During August, RMC handled 1,439 reference questions and 450 non-reference transactions for a total of 1889.
- **Circulation**: in August, RMC circulated 12,155 items or 53% of the Central Library’s total circulation of 23,069 (before renewals from Catalog Plus, Classic Catalog and Telephone are added).
- **Hoopla**: Hoopla circulations for August totaled 1194: (338 Movies/TV, 458 Audiobooks, 130 Music, 200 eBooks, 68 Comics.) 319 patrons used the service during August with 35 new users registering and 73 patrons using all seven circs (23%). Average cost was $2.14/item.
- **GoChip Beams Added to Reynolds Media Center** – The RMC at the Central Library has added a new format for borrowing films. GoChip Beams are small devices which act as portable wireless hotspots and broadcast up to 5 feature films or 1-2 seasons of a television series. Up to 8 people can connect to a single GoChip device, which broadcasts a wireless signal up to 75 feet. RMC has purchased 40 GoChips and is preparing them for circulation. We hope to have them in circulation in early September.

Science/History Division, Alla Levi & Jennifer Byrnes reporting

**Meetings**

Jennifer Byrnes met with Michael Kantor, MD, a pediatric resident at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) to discuss partnering to create low literacy level patient information that has a lot of visuals. He reached out to Jennifer because he feels public libraries are the perfect place to disseminate this type of information.

**Programs**

- The Science and History Division started a new program in August 2018. It is called Movies on 3. Every day for the month of August, a different documentary DVD was shown and each day had a different theme: Health & Wellness Mondays, Tech Tuesdays, Food & Cooking Wednesdays, History Thursdays, and Science Fridays. These DVDs were checked out of the Reynolds Media Center. The average number of people per day watching these DVDs was 4. These DVDs were shown on the large TV in the glassed in meeting space in the Science/History Division. Alla selected the DVDs for each day, made the announcement to the Central Library and walked around inviting folks sitting at computers and throughout the building. Several people became regulars and came by each day asking what the movie will be. The movies were shown Monday through Friday from 2-4pm. For August 1-31 (23 days), Monday –Friday with 4 people watching per day, we had 92 people participating in this daily program! This was a successful program and Alla will continue selecting and showing these films for the month of September 2018.
Let’s Build a Robot! - The division’s two Summer of Opportunity students (SOOP), Tay and Shaniah, devised and executed a program on building a robot and putting it through an obstacle course. The participants named their robot “Jerry.” This event inspired another program to be held in the spring, the 1st Annual Robot Derby where people can race their robots.

Consulting
- LROC – 79 people
- Volunteer Legal Services Project – 18 people
- Medical Student – 31 people
- Greater Rochester Coordinated Network – 3 referrals received
- Carlson Patent & Trademark Center – 19 people assisted with intellectual property inquiries

Outreach
Jennifer attended The Entrepreneur’s Network Bootcamp graduation ceremony and networking event at The Strong. The ceremony included talks from Jeff Adair, Chief Economic Development Officer for Monroe County, Steve Dubnik, Director of The Strong, and Jim Senall, President of NextCorps. Out of the 21 companies that graduated, Jennifer assisted 17.

Database Usage
- ADAM Interactive Health – 2 in library/5 remote
- CountryWatch – 1 user/13 views
- VentureSource – 15

Anecdotes
- Jennifer Byrnes was at the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship’s downtown partnership roundtable discussing the virtual patent assistance service and Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, president of the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation, remarked “This is not your grandfather’s library!”
- Local historian and author Rose O’Keefe contacted the Science and History Division with questions regarding Frederick Douglass’ daughter, Rosetta Douglass-Sprague. Jen Byrnes and Steve Nash followed through on the research. After providing the information about Rosetta Douglass-Sprague who was a teacher and a strong social justice activist, Steve asked Rose O’Keefe if she was interested in doing a public program at Central. She agreed and she will present “19th Century Notables in Mt. Hope Cemetery” at Central on October 20, 2018. The program will include information about Rosetta Douglass-Sprague, the Douglass Family, Susan B. Anthony’s family, and other Rochester notables.
- Rolling Thunder is an organization with the mission of bringing full accountability for the Prisoners Of War-Missing in Action (POW/MIA) of all wars, reminding the government, the media and the public by the watchwords “We Will Not Forget.” Rolling Thunder puts chairs of honor placed in community areas to remind the public of these issues. There will be a chair in the Science & History division in the near future. A special ceremony will take place at its installation.
- A friend of Alla’s had mentioned on Facebook that she has a wonderful idea for an invention and would like to know how to patent it. Many people responded and one man wrote that she should “write up a detailed plan and send it to herself via certified mail. Don’t open it and file it away in case you need to prove the date of your idea. Certified or registered mail is officially dated by the US Postal Service.” What he didn’t realize is that “The America Invents Act signed on September 16, 2011, switched U.S. right to the patent from the previous “first-to-invent” system to a “first-inventor-to-file” system for patent
applications filed on or after March 16, 2013.” Levi wrote all this information on her Facebook page and invited her friend to come to the Central Library to meet one-on-one with our Patent and Trademark Librarian, Kate, so her friend will know how to proceed. Levi wrote her friend a private message on Facebook that it will be time well spent. Levi’s friend was very excited to hear this and is now in touch with Kate. Facebook is wonderful and Levi will count this as a reference question!

**Teen Central, Dennis Williams reporting**

**Outreach/Community Contacts**

- Dennis Williams and John Hylton taught several classes and gave in-depth advice on writing script, video, audio, and acting for Action for a Better Community, (ABC) summer students. Their final project “In and Out” video was created using library staff, space, and materials.
- Williams taught several audio classes in the music studio for Justin Ortiz’s group, helping them complete a music video aimed at reducing gang violence. The students did all the video shooting themselves and mixed their own rap song. Hylton spent several afternoons going with ABC for off-site shooting. He guided them through the process of directing and getting the most fluid shots for the scenes they were working on. On August 15, ABC held their practice play and video presentation for all. On August 20, ABC presented their final projects at Strong.
- The Community Place ran a gamers program aimed at twelve and thirteen year old boys and girls. They regularly used the space to play games, and all teen staff pitched in to help them.
- Hylton, Williams, Lydia Williams-Hylton and Melora Miller worked with all forty students from ABC to develop a resume, and create a cover letter, and helped them to apply for a specific job.

**imagineYOU**

**Programs**

- There were 202 youth visitors in the lab this month. Singers and dancers used the piano and glass room for practice.
- New memory cards and batteries are now available to use with lab equipment.
- The full version of ArtRage 5 is now available on the WaCom tablet. A binder containing examples of ArtRage projects is now available to view. ArtRage projects will replace all qualifying ceiling tiles in the lab.
- A binder with a professional movie script is now available to view.
- Champion Academy continued filming their news show. Champion Academy youth utilized the imagineYOU equipment, staff, and space to make videos reporting on the latest news stories relevant to their group. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYk6X8CI_Cw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYk6X8CI_Cw)
- The Roc Fencing Club taught fencing lessons once again in Teen Central. Photos taken with imagineYOU equipment can be found in the following link: [https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/Ek_F3F-PFPNEmXAGpL1Ct8BLFIYN_LUul3eRa1O5YPeGQ?e=g0rUAs](https://mclsny-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/jeffery_bostic_libraryweb_org/Ek_F3F-PFPNEmXAGpL1Ct8BLFIYN_LUul3eRa1O5YPeGQ?e=g0rUAs) The Roc Fencing Club video was also finished and can be found in the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgbe7kZEER4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgbe7kZEER4)
Branch Library Updates
Assistant Director Tolley Reeves, EdD, reporting

Safe to Be Smart, Derrick Coley, Youth Services Coordinator reporting

- **Arnett Branch**: Shetora Banks collaborated with sy-STEM-mic and creator Naomi to conduct science experiments for youth. Naomi conducted a carbon dioxide experiment with cool chemical reactions outside the branch for the youth. Banks recruited youth to the Storybook cooking program for youth. The youth made chicken tacos, cookie pudding and fruit salad. Banks celebrated the end of summer with ROCplays toys. The youth played outdoor games at adjacent park to library and then had a pizza party in the community room.

- **Phillis Wheatley Community Library**: Lynnicsha Bostick-Beckford assisted with teens participating in the traveling farm. The teens got up close and petted a goat, sheep, duck, and miniature horse. Bostick-Beckford had the youth participate in a STEM activity making lava lamps from products in the kitchen. She had all the youth participate in the, “End of Summer Party,” the youth watched movies on the big screen, had face painting, played board games and had pizza and ice cream.

- **Maplewood Community Library**: Mark Dixon had a very active month with STEM gaming for the teens. The teens finally had a full augmented reality Nintendo LABO kit purchased by the FFRPL. Dixon had the youth work in groups together to complete the building tasks. This allowed boys and girls to play equally and have equal input in design of cardboard LABO pieces. The teens made a fishing pole, piano, playhouse, racecar, and motorcycle still under construction. Dixon said “this STEM kit allows the youth to get to know each other in a different way with hands on activities, talking out problems and working together with different races, religions and sexes” Dixon indicated the STEM kits were unlike FaceBook and social media games.

- **Lincoln Branch**: Vera Haygood continues to provide teens with internet, email and job search help. She puts out board and card games that interest teens and encourages them to play and have life skills conversations. The upcoming school year is a huge topic of discussion because of clothes and some students relocating to different schools this year. Haygood assisted with recruitment of teens for the YA Henna program for girls and boys. She had a small group of Hispanic males that are in to Roblox social gaming platform. The teens have been coming daily to play.

- **Sully Branch**: George Carter facilitated a Superhero graphic comic reading group for teens. The teens read for 30 minutes and had brief discussion about their superhero afterwards and received a snack. Carter continues to provide chess instruction to beginning players. For a STEM activity Carter provided the Nintendo LABO gaming system. He continues to assist teens seeking employment and job training programs.

- **Teen Central**: Lydia Williams-Hylton and John Hylton oversaw the new ping-pong table placed in Teen Central and the elated teen players. Hylton and Williams assisted the Action for a Better Community summer youth work program with the final editing of their short film production. The teens learned how to use imagineYOU digital media equipment for shooting and editing their film project. Dr. Reeves was contacted by the Greece Public library about a teen collaboration on the film clip about stereotypes, racism and prejudice, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, called “Single Story.” Hylton and Williams-Hylton chaperoned a group of about 10 teens to the Greece Public library to be part of a larger group of urban and suburban teens. STBS staff reported that the teens were engaged in an open discussion after the film about being judged by their appearance by adults and their peers in the Rochester, and Monroe County community.
Outreach Services, Librarian, Shamika Fusco reporting

Programs
- Front Porch Festival is a community event sponsored by Jordan Health Center. Community vendors, free food, entertainment and giveaways are provided.
- Westside Farmers Market is held every Tuesday on the westside of Rochester at St Monica’s Church Parking lot on Genesee street. Patrons shop in the market and stop by the library table to get free books and information about upcoming events.
- The Save Our Children Community Festival was held this year on Saturday August 11. Participants received free food and fun. Bounce houses and community vendors were available. Free books as well as library information was given out.
- This month I had the opportunity to visit LaGrange Recreation Center. They house a summer recreation program for kids. I brought a bookmark craft for the kids as well as books and book angel bags. They decided to color the bags. They were very happy. I also brought a poster of Ja’lynn (African American girl age 8), a local author. I informed the kids that she wrote a book and they got so excited to hear that.
- I rode the Book By Bike in the Clarissa Street Reunion Parade. I set the book bike up at the festival and gave away free library books and information.
- The Countdown to Kindergarten Event was held at North Street Recreation Center. Families with kids going to kindergarten were welcomed to attend. There was free food, music, games, books, magic and fun.
- School #10 Family Open House: Families were welcomed to the new temporary campus at John Marshall High school.
- School #17 Community Fair: Community families were welcome to join in free giveaways, books, haircuts, health and social services information, food and fun.

Arnett Branch, Bruce Tehan reporting

Programs
- The children’s and teen programs in July and August were well enjoyed and well attended this summer. These successes are a result of the herculean efforts of Prudence Anderson Leusch, Shetora Banks and also as a result Katie Powell’s great work setting a lot of things up for Arnett before she left in July for Central Library. Although it is not counted as a program Foodlink’s daily visits to Arnett to provide free
lunches were very much appreciated by Arnett’s kids and teens. In a conversation with one of the Foodlink team members, I learned that Arnett served the most lunches over the summer.

- To tie in with the “Libraries Rock” summer reading theme, for our August Craft we made mini cactus “rock gardens.” One patron who came made his as a birthday gift for his grandmother, and the other said that she wants to try this project again at home with her daughters. Both of them enjoyed the craft and asked when our next workshop will be. (*Priority #1 Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations.*)

- Our end of Summer Reading concert was a huge success! Women of Note “Rocked the Library” with a performance of pop and rock favorites from throughout the decades, including hits by the Chiffons to the Beatles to Abba. They even came dressed up in tie-dye and accessories reminiscent of the 1960’s. The audience loved this fun group and several asked me when they would be coming back.

Community Outreach/Meetings

- I attended numerous outdoor events in the neighborhood such as farmers markets and block parties. At one block party Anne Brown and I gave away around 500 books using Books By Bike. Here is a picture of Anne about to head to that block party: (*Priority #1C Expand our visible presence in our communities.*)

Charlotte Branch, Paul Tantillo reporting

Programs

- There were plenty of activities for kids in August. We were pleased to welcome Wild Wings Wildlife Rehabilitators back to the library. They presented a program on birds of prey, and brought 4 live birds, permanent residents of their rescue facility, to meet the kids. There was a sparrow hawk, a larger species of hawk and two species of owls. The birds were impressive and amazingly well-behaved. As usual, Wild Wings did an interesting and informative show and held the audience well. Later in the month the Fire Department brought a fire truck to Charlotte for kids to tour.

- Children’s librarian Kim Whittemore threw a Hawaiian Luau party to celebrate the end of summer reading. It turned out to be a big hit, with close to 60 participants. Summer literacy aides Amber and Gay came up with some clever crafts, including a tiki bag, leis made of paper flowers and drinking straws, and balloon animals. Kids got to try fresh pineapple and coconut right out of the shell. Whittemore capped off the month with a Back-to-School party with snacks, games and crafts. Attendees even got a book bag to decorate and keep. (*Priority #1 Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations.*)

Anecdotes/Other

- In mid-August we had a young man in his mid-twenties spend a couple of consecutive days in the library. On the second day, in the course of assisting him to use the library, we realized that he was profoundly deaf and homeless. As he left the library on the second day
he found that his car, in which he was sleeping, would not start. This left him in real difficulty. We thought it might be the battery. Clerk Donna Owen had some cables; I attempted to jumpstart his car, using my own vehicle. We were met with no success. Our next thought was that the battery might be completely dead. Obviously, our new friend was in difficult financial circumstances, I decided that I would pay for a new battery if we could get someone to do it. I called a local garage, but they said they could not come out to us, and that we would have to bring the car in. This complicated the situation, and increased the potential expense. Faced with this new wrinkle, Owen’s “mom” instinct kicked in, and she took over. She called her AAA service to come out and assess the situation and replace the battery if need be. She also determined that the young man had no time left on his cell phone account. Due to his deafness and his very limited ability to read lips, she felt a phone was essential for him. Owen and librarian Karen Duff each chipped in $20.00 and loaded his phone with $40.00 worth of minutes. In the meantime, AAA arrived and determined that the battery was not the issue. The car was old and had had a lot of amateur work done, including wiring, and one of the wires had burned out. It was not a repair they could do curbside. This left us all in a deeper pickle and as we were trying to figure something out, a couple, Manuel and Rafaela R., who live a few houses down from the library on Britton Road, noticed our difficulty and came to help. Manuel is a car mechanic by occupation, he took a look at the car and discovered he could fix it. AAA went on their way and Manuel started working on the car. In the meantime, they took our homeless friend to their home, let him shower, and fed him supper. Soon the car was operational, to the great relief of the young man. Manuel would accept no payment for his service. The story goes on… It turns out that this young man had left his family’s home in Indiana, setting out to find a new life for himself. He chose Rochester because of our relatively large deaf community. He had been in town for a week and had been living out of his car, spending nights in the Walmart parking lot. He had located a room to rent, which would be available in another day or so; but the rent and security deposit would take almost all his money. So Manuel talked to his employers at the automotive center where he works, and got the kid a job as a detailer. Manuel and Rafaela have kind of adopted him and as he begins to establish his new life he has continued to take an occasional meal at their house, as well as finding camaraderie and a family atmosphere there. I just want to wind up this story by going on record to say how proud of my staff and my neighborhood I am. It’s a privilege to work with such caring people.

*Frederick Douglass Community Library, Erin Clarke reporting*

**Programs**

- WXXI Science Friday: Miss Cara joined us for one Friday. We made sun catchers with old DVD discs, sharpies, stickers, and hot glue. The kids were very creative and enjoyed the project. Sarah Ngo conducted Storytime in the Park in August and had so much fun. I did two story times myself which were lots of high energy and dancing. I had two classes from summer school walk up to the park to join us, so we were packed. Missy Reed closed out our summer series with music and games.

- We learned about snakes and slimy amphibians during our Zoo visit. We met a frog, geckos, python, and spider. The kids and parents really liked it or were completely grossed out. We had great questions and interactions throughout the program. *(Priority #1 Promote learning, provide fun and deliver creative and innovative educational experiences for our diverse populations.)*

**Anecdotes/Other**

- I may finally have a connection with Highland Hospital through Lorraine Porcello, the Hospital Librarian at Highland. She contacted me to discuss a potential partnership on the HealthyPeople2020 initiative and continuing education goals for their nursing staff. We had a great discussion on how we could pair adult informational programs with children’s programs on a Wednesday night, which would utilize our new later open hours and the shared space. I’m looking forward to working with her and the nursing staff and hope this will actually work out. *(Priority #1 Every RPL location addresses the unique needs of their communities.)*
August was very busy with neighborhood kids and teens. We had many group visits from the R-Center this month. Ngo went over twice a day to get a group of 5-8 kids to come to the library for an hour. They played on computers, iPads, colored, and played board games.

- Total Library Users for our kid’s space: 885
- Total Number of Rec Participation: 179

Lincoln Branch, Rosa Diaz reporting

Programs
- Throughout the month of August, the children’s department at the Lincoln branch had a total of 681 attendees to programs. These programs included weekly story times every Tuesday, Engineering Challenge activities every Monday and Wednesday that included constructing shoes out of newspaper and creating a bridge out of spaghetti, math challenges for kids Tuesdays and Thursdays and a Fire Truck visit.
- Jacob Bigelow reports that this summer was above and beyond our expectations from last year. Our numbers were much improved with teen program attendance topping at 70 for the popular Wild Wings birds of prey program. Even though we had staffing shortages throughout the summer, Lincoln proved its mettle by rallying together to tackle what was easily our busiest summer in a long time. Teen participation in Summer Reading had a noticeable increase from last year with many books read (one participant read over 50 books during the month of July) leading to an epic $100 grand prize winner (she’s planning on buying a Nook from Barnes and Noble). Manga and Graphic novels continue to be the prize winners in circulation but the recently created “Classics Collection” has been well received by students and parents looking to flush out their school’s summer reading lists. (Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community.)
- August was another busy month for the Toy Library, with 1208 visitors. The summer themes were a big draw and we extended the six weeks of planned themes for two extra weeks by doing the Veterinary theme for one extra week and then finishing the summer with a bonus week featuring Hotwheel Tracks. A big thank you to our literacy aid, Madeline Newsome, she was nothing less than awesome helping us in every way needed from cleaning toys, playing with our youngest patrons and sanitizing the play environment.

Lyell Branch, Pat Connor reporting

Programs
- We had a variety of programs for children and teens including DIY Henna, Zumba, and family yoga.
- Anime Club, which was officially started in July, has been popular with a regular following each week.
- Teens who participated in an Iron Chef program had to be creative and make a tasty treat out of ingredients that included bananas, shark gummies, fluff, and chocolate chips.
- The summer reading program ended with some very excited kids coming in for special prizes including the zoo and museum passes. The child who won the zoo passes came in to get them and they went straight to the zoo! We had 24 teens and 67 children register for summer reading 2018! (Priority #1 - Education and Engagement.)

Community Outreach/Meetings
- The monthly produce distribution continues to grow. In August, 16 families were served by 14 volunteers.
- Lyell was pleased to participate in the annual Community Outreach Night and Pizza party. The event gives everyone a chance to meet their neighbors, discover neighborhood resources and enjoy some great food. It is sponsored by The Lyell Otis Neighborhood Association and the Northwest Quadrant Neighborhood Service Center. (Priority #2 - Sustainability and Resources.)
Maplewood Community Library, Johanna Buran reporting

Programs

- The Maplewood children were visited by Chef, the Breadman, who taught us how to make bread and to be kind to others in our lives. We also spent time with Checkers, he entertained us with his magic tricks and taught us about patience and thoughtfulness. We had two visits this month from Lydon and Lattuca from AmeriCorps. We learned about money and made piggy banks to help us save and we played Money Bingo. A good time was had by all and the lessons well received. There were two rounds of Bingo, one was book bingo and the other was back to school bingo, where the children won school supplies to prepare them for the coming school year. Our bingo events are very popular and the winning of school supplies added extra interest.

- Every Wednesday during the summer the youth have been doing Exploration Stations. In August we held our final three STEM story hours. The children explored the science behind The Three Little Pigs, Chicken Little. Using the story of The Three Little Pigs the children could explore building. Of the many versions, The True Story of the Three Little Pigs which told the wolf’s point of view was shared. After the story, kids and teens were given the challenge of building a structure with Legos, similar to the brick house in the story, and had to think about how to knock it down. The creativity went from there. Everyone broke into groups and worked together to build. Some used the Legos, blocks, Jenga pieces and some even used books. The techniques for knocking them down ranged from creating movement with the table to blowing really hard. Once they finished building, the final task was a Word Hunt which has become very popular. Using vocabulary from the book the words were hidden in the youth area of the library. When a word was found, it could be checked off their list. When all words were found, they brought up their lists and they received a sheet of stickers as their prize. It was very exciting to receive a full sheet of stickers. (Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community.)

- The biggest hit of the month by far was our study of making parachute cord bracelets. Over the course of three days about thirty bracelets were made by our children. Some children made bracelets for themselves and some made them for siblings or friends. A couple of the older teens became turnkey trainers and after they learned the method, they finished their bracelets, and then they helped the younger kids complete their projects. Dominoes were also a big part of the early weeks of August. Ever since we were gifted several bags of dominoes, the kids have been creating runs from table to table, making color patterns, and learning new ways to outdo each other’s runs. They had fun making structures and some just like to line them up neatly and watch them fall. There was even one little one who enjoyed knocking over anything his sister set up.

- Our Pre-School Storytime focused on preparing our summer crew for the return to a new school year. We reviewed basic concepts: colors, shapes, opposites, letters and numbers. We discussed the nervous jitters that sometimes accompany the first day of a new year and read several stories about characters going to a new school. One of our regular preschool attendees started Kindergarten this fall and we were all very excited for him to begin his new adventure. We had nine story time sessions this month and worked with 80 youngsters. We had some extra help from upper elementary school students (mostly older siblings) and relied heavily on one of our literacy aides to help manage the crowds of, at times, fifteen or more children. As always, building is second only to Playdoh in favorite activities. Our kids love to build with blocks, Duplo bricks, Magnatiles and shaped building set.
• Shawn Miles from the YWCA visited Maplewood for a few days to teach the Be Proud, Be Responsible curriculum to the teens. There was a different module for each day and visited in advance to talk with the teens and gain an interest. At the very end, those that attended all three modules were given a party with food brought in by Miles. Food is usually a good draw for teens so being that she also brought snacks during each session drew teens in as well. Be Proud, Be Responsible provides teens with knowledge, motivation and the skills necessary to change their behaviors in ways that will reduce their risk of pregnancy, HIV/STDs and belief in the value of safer sex and abstinence. Shawn also talks about taking pride in being responsible for yourself and your body by choosing responsible sexual behaviors.

• The Adult Educational Opportunity Center (AEOC) held an information session about the free program that provides support and information on educational opportunities to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education or high school equivalency. There is financial and economic literacy which includes financial planning skills along with financial aid options.

• For the ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) classes the topics covered were vocabulary and grammar such as adjectives, verbs and activities.

• The interns from United Nations Association of Rochester (UNAR) have been teaching the classes and finished the last week in August. We were fortunate to have excellent volunteers, one who took the lead and was here five days a week.

• We also provided backpacks and school supplies to 84 young people. These supplies were donated by several groups and individuals. The children were thrilled to be able to start school with most if not all of the items on their supply lists and we are happy to be able to help them. The generosity of this community is nothing short of astonishing.

Community Outreach
Nancy Cholewa and Caitlyn Stahovic-Barnes spent time at Rise Community School (formally Kodak Park School 41) for their Back to School Night. Rise is home to grades pre-K-grade 6. Maplewood had a table with information about the Maplewood Library, library card applications and free stuff such as pencils and stickers. Parents and students walked by and were told about all the activities at the Maplewood Library such as homework help, reading, and computer access. We were happy to hear that many families already had library cards and some even took applications just in case. The school was also giving out backpacks and school supplies along with showing parents and students where their classrooms are and meeting their teachers. *(Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community.)*

• Maplewood was visited by high school students participating in the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP). IYLEP brings English-speaking Iraqi secondary school students to the U.S. for a summer exchange to explore themes of leadership development, civic rights and responsibilities, respect for diversity, and community engagement. Allendale Columbia School's Center for Global Engagement and IYLEP connected Iraqi students with their American peers. There were a total of 20 students (7 Americans and 13 Iraqis). Participants were learning about challenges facing refugees in the United States and what is being done at a community level to integrate and support these populations. They had some great questions.

• Evanna DiSalvo attended “Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program Showcase” at Allendale Columbia School. It was very interesting to hear about the total two week experience in which Maplewood played a
part. One of the students from Allendale Columbia is interested in becoming a volunteer in the citizenship classes at the library. *(Priority #1A Increase use and support of our libraries among our diverse populations.)*

- DiSalvo continues to teach class at the Wachuku Foundation. The Wachuku Foundation is not-for-profit organization to help people get out of poverty by providing English classes and job training to prepare for job placements. There are now a total of ten students with usually six to eight present for a class. They have worked on question words, vocabulary for interviews and job applications, pronunciation, and general conversation. It’s a different kind of class because they are required to be there but DiSalvo is winning them over! *(Priority #1D: provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs, services and technologies based on community needs.)*

**Monroe Branch, Mary Clare Scheg reporting**

**Programs**

- Adult summer reading program: The theme of our adult program was creating a “Memory Journal”.
- Each participant received a small journal to record their responses to the “tags” they pulled off our “Memory Tree”. We had 68 “tags” submitted during this program. Thirteen (13) people participated in this summer program. On Aug. 27, I drew 7 names of participants that won gift cards to Barnes and Noble. I received positive feedback from the adults that participated in this program. *(Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community)*
- Special programs included a World Instrument Petting Zoo, African Drumming and Dance, Magic Show, Pajama Story Time, Sound Wave Art. The summer program ended with a delicious and fun brunch party on August 22. Our grand prize winner is pictured below with his new bicycle. He also won a bicycle helmet!
- Benjamin Berry presented an hour-long hula-hoop program to an enthusiastic audience of 3 adults and 3 children.

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

- As our Summer Reading Program winds down, Margaret Paige, Children’s Librarian has been reestablishing contact with teachers at the RMSC Preschool, #23 School, and the Monroe Family YMCA Preschool to set up visits for the upcoming year. This is the third year in which Teri Kenyon, pre-K teacher at #23, and the Monroe Branch Library have created a collaborative learning and story adventure for the youngest children in the school. Our story time visits include a variety of age-appropriate topics incorporating fine motor skills, book and library orientation, stories, songs, gross motor skills, and snack. *(Priority #1A Increase use and support of our libraries among our diverse populations.)*
Anecdotes/Other

- We have been circulating umbrellas for a while now. We have been getting positive feedback from a few of our patrons. One gentleman came over to my desk and said how much he appreciated this service one rainy day when he had forgotten his umbrella. Since a number of our patrons walk to the library, it is a practical service to provide. I’m very glad they are being used. *(Priority #1D: provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs, services and technologies based on community needs.)*

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

**Programs**

- August was jam packed with fun programs for the kids at Sully. Jennifer Nesbitt had the best summer literacy aides this year and appreciated all of their help and creativity to make sure kids were reading, learning, and engaged in our summer programs. Big thanks to our teen summer staff, Khajari, Yaumira, and Jaequon for helping to make this summer so successful. Nesbitt hired The Happy Pirates to perform at Sully for the first time. What a great time we all had listening to catchy songs and interacting with these hilarious guys. The adults in the crowd had just as much fun as the children. The highlight by far was when one of the pirates unleashed his squirt gun on the group! We also enjoyed making our own pirate treasure chests a few days before this program to really get into the pirate mood! Glitter was unleashed upon the library and traveled to the Rec Center… and beyond! *(Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community.)*

- Tim Ryan gathered a group of teens together to participate in a virtual reality program in Sully’s literacy room. The teens were able to experience VR art programs where they were able to paint and sculpt inside a virtual environment which allows them to directly interact with their artistic creations. Ryan and the teens also played VR street luge which allows the user to participate in a luge street race. The teens had a great time with this game as it really feels like you are on a luge going down hills and racing other competitors online. Ryan tries to balance educational VR programming with entertaining VR programming. So far this model of VR use has been very well received and extremely successful. *(Priority #1D: provide access to an evolving variety of collections, programs, services and technologies based on community needs.)*

- Ryan had a Little Known History program about the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ryan utilized the book *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin. Ryan and the teens took turns reading from several different sections of the book, he also utilized YouTube videos of the bomb droppings in order to give appropriate context to the teens of how devastating these weapons can be. Ryan and the teens also discussed whether the dropping of the atomic bombs was a justifiable action or could an alternative measure have been used to bring about the same outcome of ending WWII. *(Priority #1A Increase use and support of our libraries among our diverse populations.)*

**Community Outreach/Meetings**

- Carmen Gonzales and Ryan attended the Portland Avenue Business Association’s festival at the Gantt Center. It wasn’t as well attended as in previous years, but we were able to promote the library system and all of our events and programming to about 60 people. Everyone is always pleased to see the library at these types of events and this one wasn’t any different. Several people Gonzales and Ryan spoke with expressed their appreciation for all the library system does for the communities they represent. Ryan and Gonzales had a lot of fun and enjoyed getting out and interacting with the public we serve.

- Ryan and James Mitchell completed an hour and a half presentation as part of the RRLC Tech Camp. Ryan and Mitchell presented on virtual reality programming in the library that included hands-on demonstration and plenty of time for those in attendance to play and interact with VR technology. It was very well attended and Ryan and Mitchell were able to expertly display the benefits that can be achieved through the use of VR technology in the library. The presentation was very well received and those in
attendance were able to leave the presentation with an enhanced knowledge of VR as well as gaining an understanding of the vast potential this technology has for library programs now and in the future. 

*(Priority #1C Expand our visible presence in our communities.)*

- Heeks-Heinlein, Juan Santiago, Li’Asia Campbell, Jaequon Nesmith, and Yaumira Hernandez represented the library at the Back-2-School back pack give away on September 28. The shipping department delivered the Books by Bike to us, and we were able to use that to give away books at the event. The Books by Bike was a huge success, and was a popular part of the event. *(Priority #1C Expand our visible presence in our communities.)*

- I spoke to people from school 33, Fidelis Care, Connected Communities, Food Link, and the Thomas Ryan Community center about how the library can assist them. Ryan spoke to Pathstone Mentoring about the possibility of future visits to the Sully Library.

**Anecdotes/Other**

- A teenager that used to visit the library every day afterschool when she was a child, stopped in to the library after a two year absence. Her mother told me about why the young patron has not been at our library lately. “You guys made quite an impression on my daughter, a good impression. She can’t come here after school anymore because she is in an urban/suburban program for school and it’s very difficult to get her here now. When she asked me to take her here today, I had no problem bring her here. She misses it here, so if I can bring her on weekends I will do that.”

- Action for a Better Community and the Rochester Police Department visited the Sully Branch Library and awarded Carmen Gonzalez and Maria Heeks-Heinlein Positive Tickets.

**Phillis Wheatley Community Library, Lori Frankunas reporting**

**Programs**

- As usual the Travelling Farm met with a huge success. This year even more families came to see the animals. All the children enjoyed petting and learning about each of the critters. Of course the highlight of the animals was the chicken because he kept making so much the noise. The older teens said that he needed to wait. It wasn’t his turn to be petted yet.

- End of Summer Reading Party was a blast. There was music and ice cream, pizza and face painting. We had an amazing turnout of 70 children and their families. All of them participated in the reading program. That was more than half of who signed up. Of course the highlight of the party was the two children who won the bike raffle, thanks to the Corn Hill Neighbors Association. They had the
biggest smiles on their faces. *(Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community.)*

- Recruiting on the Road Job Fair- This job fair was put on by Monroe County’s Recruiting on the Road and brought over 200 job seekers to the Phillis Wheatley Library. The Monroe County Executive, Cheryl Dinolfo was here as well as Monroe County Legislator John Lightfoot and Mr. Demps from the Neighborhood Center. Fourteen local businesses were here looking to hire workers. Wheatley staff helped the event run smoothly and helped people create resumes to hand out on the spot.

- The garden has grown beautifully this year and much work was done in August. Children helped with weeding and harvesting vegetables. Students from the University of Rochester’s “Wilson Day” helped to spread the mulch around. We planted more seeds for fall harvest.

### Anecdotes/Other
- Pathstone’s Mentoring for Youth Program reached out to be a part of the health fair to promote life skills and wellness opportunities for our youth. Winners of the summer reading program for Adults expressed excitement over their gift cards and two of the winner’s shared that they have never won anything before and that they would definitely participate next year.

### Winton Branch, Kathy Wolf reporting

### Programs
- Shortly after my arrival at the Winton Branch, I asked parents what kinds of programs they would be interested in attending. One mom asked if we would ever host a dance party, so on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 we had a Family Dance Party. I struggled with the creation of a playlist – who knew that Apple Music is not able to renumber the songs on a playlist? I wanted to get a good mix of traditional toddler dancing songs like “Hokey Pokey,” songs that younger children would know like “You’re Welcome” from Moana, oldies like “Twist and Shout” by the Beatles, and Hip Hop like “Gangnam Style”. I provided scarves and ribbon wrist bands, which some of the youngest dancers enjoyed throwing all over the room while waving them. We had bubbles, juice boxes, and animal crackers while we cooled off. It was lots of fun! *(Priority #1B Promote learning and provide fun, creative & innovative educational experiences for our diverse community.)*

- While I have quite a lot of experience being a Children’s Librarian, I never really planned and presented a craft of any sort. People in this neighborhood have been clamoring for craft programs, so I bit the bullet and scheduled two craft programs this summer, both of which were very well attended. For the first craft, we decorated old DVDs and CDs with colorful sharpie markers, hot glued a marble in the hole, and a bottle cap on the top to make spinning tops. For the second craft, we colored on sandpaper with crayons, and then transferred our pictures on plain, white backpacks using an iron. People seemed quite happy with their creations.
Selected Meetings & Outputs, August 10 - September 10, Patricia Uttaro, RPL Director reporting

Standing Meetings
Brie Harrison; Sally Snow; Ana Suro – one-to-one meetings (monthly)
Tolley Reeves - one-to-one meetings (bi-weekly)
FFRPL Executive Director Ned Davis (monthly)
City Chief of Staff, Alex Yudelson (monthly)
City Senior Management Team (monthly)
Monroe County Assistant County Executive, Michael Molinari (monthly)
Central Library All-Staff Meeting (monthly)
MCLS System Services and Operations Committee (monthly)
New York State Library – Department of Library Development conference call (monthly)
Public Library System Directors’ Organization (PULISDO) conference call (monthly)
RPL-MCLS Management Team (weekly)

Other
Rundel Terrace Artist Presentations (4)
Hester Street Presentation to Mayor Warren
City Senior Managers & Mayor on LaMarketa Project
Roc the Future Branding Webinar
City Council Committee Meeting
Rundel Terrace Artist Selection Committee
NYLA Public Libraries Section Conference Call
MCLS Consultant Report – System Staff Interviews (6)
Kronos Testing – City Payroll Project
Central Technology Center Planning Team Meeting
Roc the Future Early Grade Literacy Meeting (2)
Jeremy Sarachan – interview on Net Neutrality
DRYS Commissioner Dr. Daniele Lyman-Torres and Sandra Simon, City Education Team
Genesee Country Village & Museum Board Orientation
MCLS Trustee Marjorie Shelly
University of Rochester Dean of River Campus Libraries, Mary Ann Mavrinac
Jenn Biedeman, Tonia Burton, Cynthia Dana, Dennis Williams – Corridor of Play (2)
Central Librarian Steve Nash – POW/MIA Chair
Mayor Warren on Rundel Terrace Artist Recommendation
International Sister Cities of Rochester Board Meeting

Email Activity
August 2018

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