



TO: MCLS Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: September 19, 2022  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – September 2022

## ***Action Items***

### **Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2024-2029 Request (Harrison)**

The MCLS has two category submissions for the upcoming CIP cycle:

#### *Automation:*

This capital program focuses on annual costs associated with software and hardware maintenance, as well as the MCLS' business continuity planning (Uninterrupted Power Supply System, backup server hardware) and storage needs for the continued expansion of digital asset management for primary historical resources. Several MCLS costs for large network equipment expenses are lower (Firewall, etc.) based on E-rate eligibility for up to 85% reimbursement. An annual cash capital allocation of \$155,000, with a total six-year cost of \$930,000, is requested.

#### *Fleet Replacement:*

MCLS delivery includes daily pickup and drop-off of library material returns, requests/holds, and interoffice mail. The MCLS fleet consists of three box trucks that run three static routes averaging 62 miles per day to 32 library locations, as well as special service support for library material outreach services and special collection partners such as The Strong. Based on previous operating lease and use history, the fleet will be replaced every five years, with the cost of new vehicles offset by trade-in valuation at the point of sale. We are requesting \$280,000 for replacement in 2027, an increase of \$20,000 from the prior year based on consistent inflation trends. The next cyclical allocation will occur in 2032.

Note that with supply chain delays and cost escalation, the current orders of trucks have not been received yet – County Fleet anticipates taking possession in October.

The total CIP request for 2024-2029 will be \$1,210,000.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the 2024-2029 County CIP Request for \$1,210,000.

### **Agreement, Central Library People Counter System (Harrison)**

Library staff has been evaluating various visitor counting systems at member libraries for the past year, given the current system incorporated in Central's security gates is at the end of its life (20+ years old). As door counting systems have evolved significantly, we are recommending a system that is not attached to the security gates and will provide considerably more accurate door counts as well as data for hours of operation. Our current system is manually updated by our Security team once daily; a replacement has been prioritized as the Broad Street entrance counter has malfunctioned with required daily resets.

SenSource, a sole-source vendor, will provide three stereo vision counter units for each of the public entrances (Rundel, South Avenue BLB, and Broad Street BLB). SenSource technicians will run the cable, install the sensor,

and test for functionality and accuracy. They will also train staff on the use of a web-based reporting system, which will provide detailed analytics and reporting tools on building use. Services include one-year maintenance and service, which will be incorporated into future Central budgets. The vendor's system is deployed at several member libraries in the MCLS and other systems.

The cost for system installation, testing, training, and web-based reporting access is \$8,300, which will be funded from the Library Automation capital budget of the MCLS.

Board Action Requested: Approval of the agreement with SenSource for the terms and conditions noted.

**Recommendation for NYS Library Construction Grant Funding (Smathers)**

Each year, the MCLS is awarded a set amount of funding to allocate to member libraries for eligible construction projects. This year, the construction program has \$1,358,344 available for MCLS. The only applications received this year were from the Newman Riga Library and the Rochester Public Library.

The recommended allocations are:

<i>Newman Riga Library</i>	Roof Replacement	\$ 14,496
<i>Rochester Public Library</i>	Lincoln Library Branch Parking Lot	\$ 217,444
	Rundel Building Air Quality Improvements	up to \$ 518,132
	Bausch & Lomb Building Roof Replacement	\$ 522,408
	Branch Library Access Card System	\$ 85,864
		<hr/>
		\$ 1,358,344

Board Action Requested: Approve the recommended allocations of library construction funds.

**MCLS Consortia Application Approval, NYSED Construction Grant (Harrison & Smathers)**

Based on NYSED requirements that multiple library locations be submitted as a consortia application, we are requesting approval of a grant submission for an RPL Branch Library Access Card System project. Given the general turnover in staffing at the branches and the number of staff that can potentially be "in charge" and hold exterior/entrance keys, it is in the best interest of the RPL to implement a card-read access system for improved security, reporting, and notification purposes. The RPL has evaluated and specified a process to furnish and install card-read access systems at all stand-alone branch exterior entrances, noting that shared access facilities of School 33/Sully Branch Library utilize the Rochester City School District's card access system. In addition to the installation of an exterior access system, a vendor's web-based access software will assist to develop Branch user group categories to ensure the timely creation and termination of access cards based on employment status.

Day Automation proposes to furnish and install a card access system at nine (9) RPL Branch locations, with a new server and software licenses to be housed at the Central Library data center. Day Automation will provide a new badging system with access cards that can be programmed into the system, connecting to the existing network for communication for the new access panels at the RPL Branch locations. A grant request of \$85,864 will be met with up to \$85,864 in Library/City project cash capital (FY2022-23 cash capital balance from other facility projects offset from NYSED grant awards) based on the current quote of \$171,728.

Board Action Requested: Approve the consortia grant application for the NYSED Division of Library Development for a card-read access system construction project, inclusive of ten locations (nine RPL Branch Libraries and Central Library, Rundel Building).

## **Report & Discussion Items**

### **MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting**

Emerging Leaders Training – MCLS will be applying for the RRLC Innovation Grant to fund a new cohort of emerging leaders during 2023. It's been several years since we offered this kind of training to staff, and it is needed. We'll likely collaborate with the OWWL System (formerly Pioneer Library System) to develop a multi-week course for staff who are interested in leadership positions. I intend to use local leaders as trainers on various topics. Some of the topics we are considering include:

- Managing People - many iterations of this, such as managing multiple generations, managing with empathy, mental illness, caring for your staff, etc.
- Managing Places - facilities care and development
- Community Engagement - Creating & Telling the LIBRARY story
- Professional Engagement - Creating & Telling YOUR Story
- Inclusive Libraries - Actual vs Performative
- Messaging Marketing & Mind Control
- Program Development & Evaluation
- Politics and Advocacy
- Trendspotting & Risk-Taking
- Municipal Financing, Foundations, and Resource Management
- Working with Boards

Fines Discussion – As more MCLS member libraries move towards eliminating fines, the question of fine payment equity among libraries was raised by one member library. The system has allowed patrons to return materials and pay overdue fines at any library in the system for decades. In the early days, fines owed to other libraries were manually collected and stored by each library, then that cash was delivered to the MCLS Finance Office for redistribution to owning libraries. That changed in the 1980s when it was determined that libraries could keep all the fines paid at their location and that it was an equitable process. Now that some libraries are not charging fines, the equitable process seems to be unbalanced. A lengthy conversation at a recent Directors Council meeting did not yield any solutions. The DC and MCLS will continue to discuss the issue and examine reports showing where fines are paid to determine if any member library is significantly impacted by a loss of fine revenue.

## **MCLS Member Libraries**

**Jennifer Smathers reporting**

### Brighton Memorial Library

A visit from Lyle the Crocodile garnered attention from the Brighton Public Library in Ontario Canada via Facebook.



### Fairport Public Library

- Miss Lauren's storytime at the Inspire Crayon Campus daycare had young and enthusiastic participants.
- The Stock up for September Sustainably event saw new and gently used school supplies gaining fresh life with new students. The library was pleased to be the collection and distribution point of supplies for Future Ready Raiders.

### Gates Public Library

Summer outdoor movie nights continued in Gates with a showing of Disney's Luca, a coming-of-age tale of self-discovery and seaside summer adventure. There were games, classic concessions for sale like popcorn and candy, and free Netsins Ice Cream for the first 50 guests. Guests just had to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and bug spray.

### Hamlin Public Library

Our August patrons had BIG fun with Big Games, the Happy Pirates, ocean-themed escape rooms, and wildlife tracks. A parent commented on Facebook, "Thanks for the great programming! Looking forward to the return of the homeschool classes!"

### Henrietta Public Library

- Many attempts were made to break world records at the library this month. Valiant world-record attempts included post-it



notes, tp rolls, Jell-O, basketballs, pencils, even Mr. Potato Head, and a blindfold. Sadly, no records were broken, but there sure were winning smiles.

- Also bringing smiles, the painted lady butterflies broke out of their cocoons and were given a few days to hang out and stretch their wings before they were released.



#### Irondequoit Public Library

- A circus doubleheader program with Benjamin Berry featured various circus art techniques, inspirational messages, and hula-hoop crafting.
- Later in the month a presentation, Public Art Matters With Quajay Donnell was held, highlighting some of the photographer's favorite public art spots in Rochester. The recording of his behind-the-scenes insights is available: <https://youtu.be/tywLOReaYH4>

#### Mendon Public Library

- Tuesday Storytime at the Gazebo included special guests Sheriff Thurston and retired Manor School Principal Lupisella.
- During this last chance at summer, the library had our second visit with Seneca Park Zoo Naturalist, this time at Devil's Bathtub in Mendon Ponds Park.

#### Parma Public Library

Unboxing videos are all that rage online and at Parma. Peek at the new books that arrived one day in August: <https://fb.watch/frnDgXHh9k/> The library also unboxed some school supplies, making them available for students on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Penfield Public Library

- August saw the release of our next strategic plan. Our dedicated PPL Board of Trustees took all the helpful input provided this past spring by our community participants and library staff and put together a long-range strategic plan that reflects our vision and mission. This gives the library a road map of where we should be in 2026. Check it out



here: [https://www.penfield.org/about\\_us\\_who\\_we\\_are/our\\_mission.php](https://www.penfield.org/about_us_who_we_are/our_mission.php)

- These fish did not get away...1,295 fish! Each fish on the wall at the library represents a book that the kids read this summer. We are very proud of their accomplishments! There were a lot of great books shared!

#### Pittsford Community Library

- Topher Holt, our awesome guitar and harmonica-playing library friend, stopped by Erie Canal Story Time. The performance included a rendition of everyone's favorite, "Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal." <https://fb.watch/fropOHVIQN/>
- Later in the month, Derrick Pratt—museum educator at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse—shared a program about the early efforts to harness New York's interior waterways and the political wrangling that almost kept the "Eighth Wonder of the World" from happening. This was part of Our Erie Canal: 200 Years in Pittsford, a monthlong celebration in the Town of Pittsford.

#### Rush Public Library

An exciting vote to name the library-hatched monarch butterfly concluded with Willa as the winner. Willa grew her wings and was released into the Gazebo Garden.

#### Seymour Library

The end of Summer Reading for grades 6-12 was celebrated on the library lawn with snacks, drinks, pizza, and MCLS giant games. The library participated in the Brockport Arts Festival with a 50-50 raffle alongside the Friends of Seymour Library's raffle of a little library.



#### Webster Public Library

The library celebrated Brian Yanish's new book release, *Shark and Bot: Zombie Doughnut Attack* with a "Building Characters for Comics" workshop. The author/illustrator talked about his working process and different techniques in comics from his graphic novel *Shark and Bot*. He provided a character-building worksheet for students to design a character that they would like to create a comic about and worked with attendees to create a 4-panel mini comic!

## **MCLS Office Updates**

### **Jennifer Smathers reporting**

Smathers engaged in several consultations with member library directors. Topics included: budget and staffing levels, system definitions of Small Libraries, and Budget Kit report sharing. Follow-up was continued for problem behavior patrons, with appropriate updates made to the MCLS e-portal.

Training for Smathers included completion of the Mental Health First Aid Training and Narcan Training.

Smathers oversaw the library arrangements for a press conference with Monroe County Executive Adam Bello and Congressman Joe Morelle discussing broadband availability and the public meeting at the library, later that day, to share the results of a community broadband survey.

Smathers surveyed member libraries regarding their interest in Monroe County offerings such as Nalaxone boxes, a bicentennial photo booth, and site risk assessment. Results were shared back with the appropriate contacts. Ties to the Monroe County government continued to be strengthened; the Monroe County DES-GIS Services Division created a map of MCLS library locations:

<https://maps.monroecounty.gov/Html5Viewer2/index.html?viewer=Library>

### OverDrive

One hundred twenty-four titles were added to the shared collection, including 58 using money from the Tummonds fund. Since purchasing began in March 2022 Gunther and Erin Clarke have spent \$13,095 of the Tummonds fund on 408 units for the shared collection.

In anticipation of Writers & Books 2022 Rochester Reads going on in October and early November; Gunther worked with Kristin Press at OverDrive to get discounted pricing on Cost Per Circ pricing for the e-book and audiobook of *Hell of a Book* by Jason Mott. Simultaneous use of this title will be available to patrons from September 25 – November 5 to align with the Rochester Reads events.

In early August OverDrive launched the “Shelf Talker” feature in Libby. Through OverDrive Marketplace libraries can use this feature to share favorite quotes from a title, book reviews, trivia, and thoughts about a title. On August 30 Gunther hosted a meetup with library staff to discuss how this feature works and the different ways the library/ the system might use the Shelf Talkers to further connect with patrons.

MCLS Great Courses: During August, 111 patrons checked out one-week access passes to Great Courses.

### Events & Meetings

- On August 6 & 7 MCLS hosted a table at the Genesee Country Village and Museums Novel Weekend. During the event, the library acted as the “Reference”/hint station for the museum's Sherlock Holmes Mystery. Participants went to the library table to get clues to solving the mystery and were able to get information about the library system. The event hosted ~500 participants over 2 days.

Social Media

August 2022	RPL Twitter	MCLS Twitter	Facebook	Facebook Calendar	Facebook Groups	Instagram	YouTube
Profile/ Page Visits	910	423	307	5	0	13	-
New Followers/ Page Likes	10 (2,119)	3 (2,254)	36 (5,749)	-	47	26 (2,242)	6 (409)
Engagements	83	30	1,839	70	82	190	29
Check-In/ Mentions	46	34	-	-	-	28	-
Post Reach	4,622	1,259	11,723	1,560	-	5,979	18,732
Video/Story Views	-	-	422	-	-	10	629
Saves/ Actions on Page	-	-	4	-	-	7	-

OverDrive August

- Total Checkouts- 84,808
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 990
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 5,090
- SORA Checkouts- 308
- Great Courses- 111

***Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting***

General Services and Programs

- Outreach staff selected, pulled, charged, and packed materials for 11 library stations and fulfilled special requests for 9 stations.
- Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 22 in-home patrons and made 3 materials pickups. No new patrons were added this month.

Corrections Support

Wes Becker and Discenza presented to a group from the Women’s Unit at the Monroe County Jail about local library and reentry services.

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

Program feedback from St. Anne’s Community at Chapel Oaks (Irondequoit): “We are so grateful for this outreach program. Our residents take full advantage of the large print and audio selections you bring us. We have a collection of avid readers, and while we make trips to the library, and have an in-house library, this is a source of easily accessible new reads for many. One resident reads 3-4 of the collection weekly. Thank you for bringing this well-organized, easy-to-manage opportunity to us!”

### Presentations

- Discenza was invited to speak about Outreach Department Services (and general library services for older adults) at the Monroe County Senior Center Coordinators Team Meeting. Included in the presentation was an overview of library services and events that promote lifelong learning and fun.
- Discenza spoke, via Zoom, to the August cohort of Pathstone's Employment Focused Services Program. Pathstone's Employment Focused Services Program serves individuals 18+ on probation and who are court-referred. All participants are unemployed and have been placed on probation within the last 6 months or have recently been released from the adult criminal justice system. Discenza speaks with a new cohort each month and keeps Pathstone's Water Street office supplied with library events calendars and brochures.

### Events

Walking One-Stop: Discenza and Becker distributed children's books and library information at an event sponsored by the Rochester Police Department, Office of the Mayor, and Community Stakeholders such as PathStone and Ibero at International Plaza. The purpose of the Walking One-Stop—the second held this summer—is to empower the North Clinton community with education and resources to reduce gun violence and increase access to services. Outreach staff tabled alongside service providers from Pathways to Peace, Delphi Rise, G.I.V.E., Rise Up Rochester, BIPOC PEEEEEEK, Helio Health, PathStone, Drug Free Irondequoit, and Endeavor.

### Event Spotlight: Salute to Seniors 2022

Ominous clouds may have loomed overhead for parts of the day, but that didn't stop throngs of older adults from across Monroe County from attending the 17th Annual Salute to Seniors event at Ontario Beach Park. The Outreach Department distributed over 200 large print books and audiobooks on CD to eager recipients, as well as information about library services for older adults and MCLS resources such as eBooks, VIP, and Empire Passes. Many attendees remembered us from years past, making our table their very first stop. According to the Monroe County Office of the Aging, over 800 older adults registered for the event.

## ***Central Library Updates***

### ***Jennifer Smathers reporting***

### ***Patron Services Manager, Cynthia Dana reporting***

### Anecdotes/Other

- The new improved North Terrace was the site of a pop-up play date. Kids and adults enjoyed bubbles, jump ropes, hula hoops, ring toss (Dana and Uttaro are NOT good at this), and free t-shirts. More play dates will take place as weather allows. Some games are suitable also for inside play, so plans are in the works for that.
- Leroy Banks and Lindsay Murphy from Rochester Works hosted their first table here. They were happy with the number of patrons who stopped by to get information. They have plans to come monthly and would like to set up in Tech Center to offer further support not only to job seekers but to the staff working there as well. They are happy to critique resumes and help with job searching. Mr. Banks connected with John Hylton, Safe to be Smart staff member in Teen Central, to offer support to teens looking for employment and needing work permits.
- Dana has been impressed with the level of compassion shown to one of our regular patrons who was recently displaced when her residence, House of Mercy, closed temporarily. Staff from Circulation/Information were concerned about her well-being; they checked in with her daily and offered any assistance that they could. Dana has also become aware of the relationship that Robert, one of the

security officers has with this patron. He seeks her out and engages her in conversation which they both seem to enjoy.

- Dana recently spoke to a patron who was having trouble getting through to a librarian using the phone tree. He stated that he is 80 years old and does not use the internet for information because that's what librarians are for; they know how to find the best information.

### ***Arts/Literature, Nanci Nugent reporting***

#### Programs

- Creating a Fabric Wall Hanging--This was our second class with Kuumba Associates. Kuumba means creativity in Swahili. They are a collaborative of creative Women of Color in Rochester who work to cultivate artistic expression in youth and adults. Within the Kuumba group is WOC-Art and Frances Hare from WOC is a fiber artist who taught this class. Hare taught students how to take a grid and embellish it with colorful strips of fabric, ribbon, and beads. She instructed students on which type of fabric to use to create different meanings. Much of the fabric used was African or African-inspired fabrics, with juxtapositions of color, patterns, and textures that bring the work to fruition.
- Creating a Sunflower Linoleum Print--Printmaking can be an expensive art form to do but Linoleum printing is inexpensive. Frank Wolfs, a local artist, is another favorite here in the Arts Division. Printing always creates a sense of accomplishment for the student, especially when they pull their paper off the linoleum block and see what they have created. Wolfs taught patrons how to use all the linoleum cutting tools to create different effects and how to bring dimension to their work. Patrons enjoyed this class, and a few comments were, "the class was well planned, with a very helpful instructor," "happy with classes offered, "[Instructors] were a delight - - lovely people. They were very well organized and explained everything so well. They were positive and encouraging too."
- Making Paper Flowers -Paper flowers have come a long way from cutting simple one-dimensional flowers. This beginner class is taught by Rochester-based Deaney Weaney Blooms. As this was a class for beginners, Weaney taught students how to create simple and seasonal 3-dimensional sunflowers. They were taught how to cut the petals as well as the leaves.



### ***Business Insight Center, Jennifer Byrnes reporting***

#### Statistics

- The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted: 1 in person, 1 by Zoom, 13 by email, and 7 by phone.
- Hours of in-depth market research: 57
- Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 4
- Tracy Jong appointments: 45 minutes, 1 individual served

#### Database Use

- Frost & Sullivan: 10 Page Views; Value \$ 47,950

***MCLS Director's Report – September 2022 (Continued)***

- IBISWorld: 84 Page Views; Value \$ 28,530
- InnovationQ: 3 Logins; 33 Searches
- PitchBook: 11 Logins
- Statista: 44 Visits; 24 Downloads

**Community Outreach/Meetings/Training**

- Kate Meddaugh and Melissa Cobo met with the leadership of Grow-NY. They will be assisting participants in the Grow NY competition focused on growing an enduring food and agriculture innovation cluster in the Grow-NY region.
- Byrnes was a panelist for an entrepreneurship conference sponsored by Social Cypher, Rochester's 1st quality of life seminar and community pop-up.

**Anecdotes/Other**

- A patron was using Hoover's Company Directory and reported that access to this product saved her business \$10K.
- Byrnes received this e-mail comment from a client, "This is exactly what we needed and I appreciate you producing this for us. I am thrilled that we have this resource in Rochester and that you didn't mind rushing this out today."

***Children's Center, Tonia Burton Reporting***

**Programs**

- August was a busy month for the Children's Center and even though summer reading finished in the early part of the month group visits did not stop. It was great to have unplanned group visits once again to remind us that we should not over plan so we can offer unplanned group visits quality programs during their visits.
- Kindercamp- This Transition to Kindergarten event was held in collaboration with New York State Council on Children and Families Transition Coordinator, the Rochester City School District, WXXI, Monroe BOCES 1 Early Childhood FACE Center Mid-West Head Start, Quality Stars, and Rochester Child First Network. This was supported through a grant from the New York State Council on Children and Families, and The Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library.

Camps were held at Central, Maplewood, and Wheatley at different times and days to offer families a variety of opportunities to attend. Each camp was designed to help children get comfortable with a typical day of school. There were centers for Morning Meeting, walking in a straight line, writing their name, carrying a lunch tray, Music Class, and Art Class where each camper made their Class of 2035 t-shirt. Everyone left with a brand-new backpack, homework folder, composition notebook, pencils, erasers, markers, ABC flashcards, pencil case, and books about school. Everything was developed from focus groups held with current kindergarten teachers and parents who had a child in kindergarten during the 2021-2022 school year. Rochester City School District also gave out bags



stuffed with early childhood items such as puzzles, music scarves, clipboards, books, construction paper, and watercolor paint.

- Maker Friday activities included Soap Making by microwaving Ivory soap into soap clouds and coloring and molding new hand soaps with sea creature cookie cutters, Coffee Filter Fish and sea creature color diffusing paper with washable markers and water, and Spin Art with our box fan spin art machine.

#### Outreach and Training

- Burton visited Friendship Children's Center to share early literacy techniques with staff and gave examples of how to infuse early literacy information into storytimes. She also shared several new books that highlight the beautiful selection of diverse books available at our libraries. After her presentation, the staff was broken up into groups to practice the strategies discussed.
- Burton also did a full day of training for ABC Head Start staff. The first part of the day was Supercharged Storytime training, and the second half was on Raising a Reader program management. While similar to Friendship training, Supercharged Storytime had extra time to explore books and brainstorm ideas for future parent engagement events.

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

##### Statistics

Curbside Pickup Appointments -11

New Borrowers -211

RRLC Access Cards Issued -2

Notarial Acts - 168

##### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

Chad Cunningham represented the Rochester Public Library at Compeer's Roc the Block Summer Send-off event. Cunningham issued library cards, handed out information about the library's programs and services, and gave away rubber duckies. Attendees were excited to learn about renewing items the same day they check them out, the library's digital offerings, and the VIP Pass program. Everyone loved the cool rubber duckies.

##### Anecdotes/Other

- Lisa Rogers assisted a family new to the area at the Circulation Desk. They were extremely impressed with the library- especially our framed print collection- and they told Rogers that the library is a hidden gem.
- In a similar vein, a patron came into the library and told staff that his boss (who is also a good friend) didn't have a library card. He told his boss that he wasn't going to talk to him until the boss came in to get a library card. The boss came in to get a library card. Our newest patron was impressed with all that the library has to offer. He did, however, wonder why it took his friend so long to tell him about the library.
- When talking to people who do not work in libraries, staff often try to convey that libraries are more than just warehouses for books. Libraries are truly open to anyone who walks in the door. This leads to libraries developing their own community and culture. Patrons experiencing homelessness - whether living in shelters or completely unhoused- come to the library and are a vibrant part of our community. One of our patrons was displaced when House of Mercy closed recently. Staff attempted to help her in any way they could - whether that was renewing items she didn't have access to due to the closure or encouraging her to use library services and 211 to find a new place to stay. She did find a place to stay, which was a relief to the staff. Sometimes the most valuable service the library offers is a safe place to spend a day while you figure out your next steps.

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

The library began recruiting members of the community advisory board that will set the mission, vision, and strategic plan for the new archive on Black Culture and History. A grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation (via FFRPL) provides an annual stipend of \$1,200 each for 10 board members; 29 applications had already been received as of the end of the month. Selection will be made by a committee comprised of library staff and representatives from our partner organizations. We hope to hold the first meeting of the advisory board in October.

The Local History & Genealogy Division continues to see a high demand for Life Records, Newspaper Index orders, and Rochester Images orders since removing the barrier of fees for these services in July. This has resulted in a need to reprioritize staff assignments to ensure that orders are fulfilled on time.

<b>Orders Fulfilled:</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	<b>August 2022</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Life Records	7	58	714%
Newspaper Index	3	21	600%
Rochester Images	2	63	3,050%

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Dan Cody led a walking tour of the Downtown Heritage Trail for the City of Rochester’s “Flower City Feeling Good” summer series.
- Cody presented a talk on “Unique Women of Rochester” for an audience of older adults participating in the day program at LifeSpan.
- Michelle Finn gave an impromptu presentation on Frederick Douglass and the Douglass Family for a group of young people visiting Teen Central from Agape Haven of Abundance, Inc.
- Ridarsky participated in a teacher training workshop in her role as regional coordinator for the Consider the Source NY Finger Lakes Diversity and Collaborative Knowledge Project. Following the meeting, Ridarsky met with Jason Schwingle, president of the Washington Square Community Association, and Marjorie Searle, a representative of the Rochester Olmsted Parks Alliance, to discuss interpretive signage for the park, including a historical marker highlighting a speech Austin Steward gave on July 5, 1827, to mark the abolition of slavery in New York.
- Brandon Fess attended the Cultural Heritage Imaging, Preservation and Research (CHIPR) open house at the Rochester Institute of Technology. CHIPR represents a coming-together of the various projects underway at RIT in which advanced imaging technology is being used to better understand, interpret, and preserve cultural sites and materials. These included the multispectral imaging work which the library assisted with last summer, along with other advanced imaging projects for color-accurate imaging, paramagnetic resonance imaging, and the ongoing work in sustainable preservation carried out by the Image Permanence Institute. Another presentation discussed preserving aural heritage – the sound characteristics of a given acoustic environment. This event both contextualized Fess’ previous experience with multispectral imaging and was an opportunity for free professional development hours.

Special Collections

- Fess accessioned four new collections in August. Of these, the most significant is the Dan McBride Collection on the Rochester Fire Department (a research collection assembled by the well-known local author in authoring his book *In The Finest Tradition*) and the James DeVinney/Corn Hill Historian Papers (papers of and collected by James DeVinney during his time as Corn Hill historian).

### Digital Projects

#### *Rochester Voices*

Jordyn Bagley (Nazareth College) completed her summer internship during which time she prepared 11 recorded oral history interviews for publication in the Latino Oral Histories collection on Rochester Voices: <http://www.rochestervoices.org/collections/latino-oral-histories/>. Finn will review and publish this content on the site in September.

### Social Media

Two new posts to the blog *Local History ROCs!* received 63 views in August: “The Red Flag of Socialism: The Labor Lyceum Building” by Christopher Brennan and “In Search of Lost Suds: Rum Running in Rochester, Part 1” by Emily Morry. In addition to these posts, readers from 24 countries revisited 162 previously published posts for a total of 1,913 views. All posts can be read online at [www.rochistory.wordpress.com](http://www.rochistory.wordpress.com).

### Interns/Volunteers

The division’s work was supported by four volunteers and one intern in August for a total contribution of 57.75 hours. Linda Lopata contributed 5.5 hours rehousing and cataloging items in a collection of pinback buttons in the Office of the City Historian. Meghan Dale contributed 15.25 hours completing a finding aid for the Canfield Post Card Collection, finalizing the arrangement and description of materials in the James DeVinney Papers, and beginning a finding aid for the DeVinney collection. Stephanie Ball contributed 3.5 hours arranging an assortment of unsorted archival material. Kaye Knoll provided 3 hours of entering slides from the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club into ArchivesSpace.

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

#### Programs

Our very own Diane Premo was part of The Rochester Mandolin Orchestra that played at Central.

#### Statistics

In August, RMC rented 20 pieces of equipment and 279 Mi-Fi units in addition to the regular collection, for a total of 4,944 items.

#### Database Use

##### Hoopla

##### Circulation

- Audiobooks –995
- Binge Pass – 15
- Comics –138
- eBooks –333
- Movies/TV –303
- Music –74
- Total Circulation –1858

##### Users

- New users – 38
- Patrons using all 7 borrows – 83 (18%)



- Total users – 480

### ***Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting***

#### Programs

- Assassinating Hitler, hosted by Monroe Community College history professor Mark Sample, was an in-person program presented in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. The evening program, full of interesting content, brought in large attendance.
- Growing Root Vegetables in the Home Garden Zoom program was presented by Jarmila Haseler, Agricultural & Food System Director, and co-hosted by Gwen Bell, Agriculture Program Educator, and Alexandra Miller, Nutritionist from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. Renee Kendrot planned and publicized this program using online community calendars including City Newspaper, WXXI, Beyond the Nest, and the library's social media platforms. There were a lot of positive comments in the Zoom Chat for this program session.

#### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Gabe Pellegrino attended the video workgroup meeting of the Community-Driven Cancer Research team, part of the CCAC (Cancer Community Action Council) partnership, which discussed the importance of marketing to the Black/Latinx community in Rochester. Advice on encouraging participation was imparted by Paula Cupertino, Associate Director of Community Outreach, Engagement, and Disparities from the University of Rochester Wilmot Cancer Institute.
- LROC visitors were down to about 25 this month. Part of the drop was due to services not being offered on Wednesdays starting this month. PCHO (Person Centered Housing Options) was unable to provide services at the library on two Tuesdays, because of the House of Mercy assault and staff training. Help was provided for those who had been moved to temporary quarters at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park at Manhattan Square. LawNY sees 3-5 people each week and was unable to be with us for one week.

#### Anecdotes/Other

The Mitchell1 ProDemand automobile repair database has seen exceptional use this month.

### ***Technology Center, Jay Osborne reporting***

#### Programs

- Pedro Nunez has used the Technology Center's Tabletop RPG Gaming program to introduce many people to this gaming environment. New to RPG players found a socially interesting alternative to the isolating experience of first-person shooter games. Experienced players learned about the new online environments that contrast with the older pencil and paper player and campaign creation. Would-be storytellers found a new outlet for their creativity. There is a strong appetite for this kind of programming and the opportunity to participate in an open and inclusive community is appealing.
- With the return of Saturday hours, we anticipate that the time slots for the Technology Center's scheduled in-person weekly Tech Talk and Device Advice sessions will see increased attendance. Collaborations with Digital Literacy Volunteers and Rochester Works should deepen the classes and training opportunities available through the Technology Center.

**Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting**

Programs

- AIMM (Adolescents Inspiring Through Multimedia) – The AIMM and EPIC (Equipping, Performing, and Inspiring in the Community) summer programs finished all their digital media work and presentations this month. Check out the [behind-the-scenes website](#) and [ABC Full Presentation.mp4](#).
- E-Sports – The Central Library E-Sports team will start in September. As a warm-up, there were several tournaments in August. Di Pisa's Subs sponsored a Fortnite tournament and Lory from Cuts and More Barbershop sponsored an Apex Legends tournament.
- CLAMOR, the group running Frontier's Building Gigabit America Tour, has reached out to get t-shirt sizes for the e-Sports team and equipment requests. They hope to deliver in the next two or three weeks.



- Music Studio – Destined 4 Greatness, the music-based violence prevention program, ran their program in the lab throughout August. They also participated in the first studio certification class of the year. Two youths were certified to use the equipment in the lab.
- Summer Reading, Explore the Possibilities: We had an awesome level of participation in this program. A few teens have turned in their reading logs and received their free book prizes.
- Learn to Make Your Own Website with WordPress: We had a satisfactory level of participation and interest in this class. A few participants found it particularly useful and started building their websites on WordPress.
- Visit From AGAPE group: We had a visit from a local youth group who were highly interested in Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X. They enjoyed touring the Teen Center and ImagineYou Lab, learning about opportunities to compete and create. Michelle Finn, from Local History, was able to join us and share some cool visuals and facts about Harriet, Malcolm, and his family. The youth then put their knowledge to the test in a scavenger hunt.
- Digital Art – Some young artists utilized our drawing tablet this month. Check out their drawings:



Anecdotes/Other

Jeff Bostic has also been named a NASEF (North America Scholastic Esports Federation) Scholastic Fellow for the 2022-2023 school year. The NASEF Scholastic Fellow Program provides a professional learning community, mentorship, tools, resources, and instructional coaching for educators interested in connecting e-sports and learning in and out of schools and in community-based organizations across the globe.