

Board of Trustees Meeting Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building September 18, 2023, 5:00 PM Agenda

| ı. | PU | BLIC COMMENTS | Corcoran | | | | |
|------|--------------|---|----------|---------|--|--|--|
| II. | ACTION ITEMS | | | | | | |
| | 1. | Minutes of Prior Meeting | Corcoran | page 3 | | | |
| | 2. | Claims | Jackson | page 7 | | | |
| | 3. | Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) | | | | | |
| | | 2025-2030 Request | Harrison | page 9 | | | |
| III. | REI | PORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS | | | | | |
| | 1. | Liaison to Rochester Public Library Board | Stephens | | | | |
| | 2. | Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council | Knapp | | | | |
| | 3. | Staff Reports | | | | | |
| | | a. Director's Report | Uttaro | page 10 | | | |
| | | b. MCLS Services | Smathers | page 12 | | | |
| | | c. Central Library Services | Clasper | page 21 | | | |

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting:
October 16, 2023, 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building



Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees Gates Public Library, Room 904 August 21, 2023 Minutes

Trustees Present: Gary Brandt, Kimberly Brown, Christopher Corcoran, Emily Hessney Lynch, Peter Knapp,

Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly, Mack Smith, Erick Stephens (quorum present)

Trustees Excused: Suzanne Stockman

Trustees Unexcused: None

Staff and Guests: County Office Liaison, BJ Scanlon; County Law Liaison, Don Crumb; staff members,

Emily Clasper, Brie Harrison, Shareka Jackson, Debi Mansour, Gabe Pellegrino,

Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

Call to Order

Mr. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to address the board.

MCLS Review

Mr. Corcoran acknowledged Ms. Stockman for her service as president and her years of service to libraries. He then asked Ms. Uttaro to provide an overview of the system and its services and responsibilities.

Ms. Uttaro reminded trustees that the responsibilities of the MCLS are laid out in the Document of Understanding that is approved by the Board every few years. The most recent was approved on November 15, 2021, for the period January 1, 2022—December 31, 2024.

Mr. Brandt joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Ms. Uttaro handed out Appendix A, "Monroe County Library System Structure and Governance" from the most recent Document of Understanding.

Ms. Hessney Lynch joined the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Ms. Uttaro reviewed the chart that showed a list of MCLS Board responsibilities.

Mr. Stephens joined the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Ms. Harrison explained the Monroe County CIP process in response to a request from Mr. Brandt.

New Associate Director

Ms. Uttaro introduced Emily Clasper as the new Associate Director of the Central Library.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June 26, 2023, meeting was approved with a minor correction to the meeting location.

Claims

Ms. Jackson reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Mr. Brandt asked about the VIP passes. Ms. Smathers stated they are very popular and are a high-circulation item. The claims were approved as presented without objection.

Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison

Ms. Uttaro shared that Derrick Coley retired very quietly. Ms. Lewis will be meeting with the Safe To Be Smart staff and Youth Services Librarians to review the program and determine its next chapter.

She also reported that the RPL Board approved a contract with a consultant to evaluate the County Historian services and the potential of blending that with the City of Rochester Historian services. He expects to have a final report for the RPL Board by the end of September.

The Central Library capital improvement budget was approved, annual operating agreements were approved, and a new social media policy for RPL was approved.

Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison

Dr. Knapp reported that the RRLC Board does not meet over the summer. The organization is currently working on an annual audit and a variety of grants.

Ms. Uttaro asked if the RRLC Board has discussed the ending of the New York State funding of the Novel databases. He responded that they have not yet. Ms. Uttaro went on the explain these databases have been funded by the NYS Library for decades but will be cut from the budget and the subscriptions end in June of 2024. MCLS Directors Council and the BOCES librarians are looking into ways to address the need for these databases that get significant usage from students and schools.

Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library

Mr. Corcoran asked if there were any questions about the written report from Ms. Borgus. Ms. Uttaro reminded everyone of the multi-board event in September and asked everyone to please RSVP if they haven't already.

Science, History & Social Sciences Division Report

Mr. Pellegrino introduced himself as the Science, History & Social Sciences Division supervisor. He provided an overview of the division and its current projects, publications, and programming.

Director's Report

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She reported that Advocacy Day for 2024 will be Wednesday, February 7.

Last week, the final author visit from the Spring Author Series was held at the Penfield Library. Marie Benedict had been rescheduled from May. She added that local legislators are planning to fund another Author Series in 2024.

MCLS Office

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. In response to a question, she confirmed that the Family Search digitizing team who had been working in Local History are volunteers and not paid staff. They had to leave their assignment in Rochester due to a family emergency. New volunteers have not been

assigned. Ms. Hessney Lynch shared an anecdote about a program at the Penfield Library inspiring a young boy to take up gymnastics.

Central Library

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. She shared that Tonia Burton has set up a small free library at the Holiday Inn where recently relocated refugees are being housed. Storytimes and other programming and resources are being offered to the refugees.

Gates Public Library Director

Ms. Uttaro introduced Jennifer Erler-Perry, Director of the Gates Public Library. Ms. Erler-Perry thanked the Board for coming to her library and gave a brief overview of their facilities and services. She also offered to provide a tour of the library after the meeting.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. without objection.

Patricia Uttaro, Secretary

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Patricia Uttaro, Director Monroe County Library System

115 South Avenue | Rochester, NY | 14604-1896 585.428.8045 | Patricia.Uttaro@libraryweb.org

TO: MCLS Board of Trustees FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director DATE: September 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Monthly Report–September 2023

Action Items

Monroe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2025-2030 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—including Uninterrupted Power Supply System and 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. We have maintained an annual cash capital allocation of \$155,000 for the past several cycles; this year we are requesting an increase to annual support of \$190,000 for expanded storage and software solutions for archival discovery tools.

The MCLS is an active participant in New York Heritage and recently became a member of the Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative (EmpireADC), a statewide searching tool for finding aids (repository of collection descriptions, but not the actual items). We are expanding our use of ArchiveSpace (an open-source archive management and discovery tool) and will be implementing a Public User Interface in 2024. The additional and separate storage requirements as well as production servers will provide online access for researchers to thousands of Central Library historic documents of the Local History Division, which will include future digitized collections of the Monroe County Historian's Office.

The increase in archival maintenance and discovery costs would result in a total six-year cost of \$1,140,000 and will be requested as part of the upcoming County CIP process.

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 2028, moving out one year due to the delays in receipt of current fleet replacements (two deployed in late 2023, one in 2024). The next cyclical allocation will occur in 2032.

The total CIP request for 2025-2030 will be \$1,420,000.

<u>Board Action Requested</u>: Approval of the 2025-2030 County CIP Request.

Report & Discussion Items

MCLS Director Patricia Uttaro reporting

Recommended Reading

- "Kudos to the Galway School Board" https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/editorial-kudos-galway-school-board-18336116.php?IPID=Times-Union-opinion-centerpiece
- Attorney General James and NYSED Commissioner Rosa Issue Guidance to Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in New York Public Schools - https://www.nysed.gov/news/2023/attorney-general-james-and-nysed-commissioner-rosa-issue-guidance-promote-diversity-equity
- "I Made the Most Banned Book in America" by Maia Kobabe https://thenib.com/i-made-the-most-banned-book-in-america/

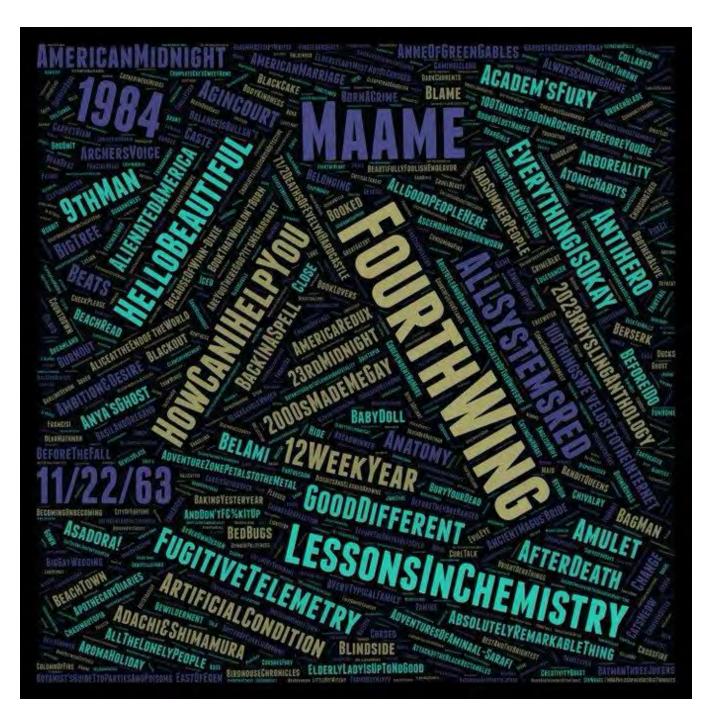
Upcoming Events

- Various Dates: Erie Canal Discussion Series https://libraryweb.org/news/erie-canal-discussion-series-at-mcls-member-libraries/
- September 25: Grand Opening of the Rochester Public Library Lincoln Branch & Toy Library, 11:00 am at 851 Joseph Avenue
- October 18: Art of the Book reception, Hacker Hall at Central, 5:00 pm
- October 19: Literacy Rochester Brain Games, Hyatt Regency, 5:00 pm MCLS will defend its title! Any trustee interested in participating on the team or attending, please see me.
- November 1-4: Annual New York Library Association conference, Saratoga Springs. See
 https://www.nyla.org/4DCGI/cms/review.html?Action=CMS_Document&DocID=281&MenuKey=conf_info
 for more information.

<u>MCLS Staff Summer Reading Program</u> – At the end of June, we launched the first-in-memory MCLS staff summer reading program. Staff from all over the system submitted the books they read via a simple form; at the end of each week, a random name picker was used to draw names for weekly prizes and book giveaways. Participation was robust:

- 1133 total titles submitted
- 931 unique titles submitted
- 156 staff members participated
- 99% of the MCLS libraries participated

This is an example of the work of the MCLS One-System Team, which attempts to provide activities for all MCLS staff to enjoy building familiarity and camaraderie among staff and libraries. Later this fall, we'll offer posters of a word cloud of all the titles submitted:



<u>Geva Collaboration</u> – I recently met with Geva Engagement Director Rachel Deguzman to discuss how MCLS— and the Central Library in particular—can collaborate on public programs related to the Geva productions. Last year, I and some MCLS librarians provided curated reading lists associated with the theme or topic of each production. We will repeat that again this season, with Claire Talbot from the Greece Library providing the first list for the Geva production of *Frida...* A *Self-Portrait* in October. Additionally, we are looking at coordinating a community book discussion of *The Color Purple* next spring ahead of the final production of the season. RPL is exploring the possibility of using the author series funds from Senator Brouk to bring Alice Walker to town prior

to the Geva production. Geva returned to the VIP Pass program this season, so we are happy with the progress of this collaboration.

MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

Brighton Memorial Library

By the end of August, the sunflower outside the Circulation desk window was 9 feet tall. That is not the only impressive number that grew this year. Over 1,100 people participated in the summer reading/learning program.

Chili Public Library

Following Tie-dye Day, a patron commented, "So much fun! Everyone was so kind and helpful. Thank you to everyone who put this together. We have the best library!" Another patron was impressed with our posted video of flowers from the library's native plant garden: https://fb.watch/mX6HCiI5oS/



ERPL's Mickey Cherry Book Nook will be undergoing renovations over

the coming months. Therefore, the Book Nook will be closed from August 22nd through December 31st. Book donations will not be accepted during this period. However, books and other materials will still be available for sale on the Friends shelf by the circulation desk in the library.



Many people enjoyed the spectacular finale of the 2023 Gazebo Concert Series. The evening featured a special performance by the talented Fairport Fire Department Band that showcased the incredible talent within our community. Thank you to everyone who came to Kennelley Park to enjoy these summer concerts.





Gates Public Library

Library staff participated in City Hall Selfie Day. You can see from our smiles that we are proud to work for the Town of Gates and serve our community!



Greece Public Library

The Glimpses of Greece photography contest winners have been announced! This year 58 entries were submitted. Our judges, photographers Jerome Davis, Jim Montanus, and Scott Hooker chose the winners. Greece Town Supervisor Bill Reilich selected the "Supervisor's Pick," and an online poll on our website determined the "People's Choice" award. Over 500 people voted on the People's Choice category. See a list of the winners and link to all the photo submissions here: https://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/what-s-new/library-news/233-glimpses-of-greece-2023

Hamlin Public Library

Our summer reading programs would not be possible without the support of our community partners who donate their time, and talents, and make monetary/gift donations for prizes. A full list of volunteers and community partners was posted to Facebook.

Henrietta Public Library



TR visited the three locations of the new VIP passes we have to offer, the Finger Lakes Boating Museum, Herschelle Carousel Factory Museum, and Seward House Museum.



Irondequoit Public Library

Thank you to Sam Hunt for sharing your knowledge and passion of Crunchy Sam's Critters with us. Critters included an Arizona blonde tarantula, ball python, black widow spider, Madagascar hissing cockroach, axolotl, crested gecko, scorpion, OH MY! We chose "bones" or "no bones" and had so much fun learning all about them!

Mendon Public Library

Our patrons made some new records during Summer Reading! Thanks to all our patrons for participating. We hope to see them all back for next summer (but also before that, of course!)



Newman Riga Library

Thanks to the generous donation by the Churchville Lions Club, we are pleased to offer V.I.P. passes at our library! The Very Important Places (V.I.P.) pass provides a substantial discount to enjoy the best of Rochester and Monroe County's arts and cultural treasures. Bring the V.I.P. pass to the venue and enjoy discounted admissions or ticket purchases.

- Rochester Museum and Science Center
- Susan B. Anthony Museum & House
- Corning Museum of Glass
- Genesee Country Village and Museum
- George Eastman House

Ogden Farmers' Library

While the rain poured outside, we celebrated National Beach Day in comfort inside during our Mamma Mia Movie Night!

Parma Public Library

Despite the raging waters from the overnight rainfall, we had a successful creek and trail clean up behind Quest School. Thank you so much to Assemblyman Josh Jensen, our Library Board members Doreen & Betsy, and Town Board member Linda Judd, Friend of the Library Kathy, and



community members for joining us on this community outreach adventure. It was great to enjoy the outdoors.

Penfield Public Library

The library keeps a decent assortment of current magazines on display by the fireplace for in-library reading right by our Quiet Space, but we also have loads of magazine back-issues in blue bins against the wall that you can check out for three weeks. A Not-So-Secret Tip: lift up the bottom of the newspaper shelf to find more back issues there. The magazines and newspapers can be tricky to spot in the library, so do not hesitate to ask a staff member to show you the way!

Pittsford Community Library

Richard B. Colón and Quajay Donnell, curators of the Behind the Glass Gallery in The Mercantile-on-Main and hosts of the Behind the Glass podcast, visited PCL recently to discuss the art and photography space. Celebrated street photographers themselves, Richard and Quajay chat with Robyn and Jim about their hopes for the gallery, what guests will find there, and—of course—books that inspire. You can listen to this episode and all our past episodes at the following link or on your favorite podcast app: https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/pittsfordlibrary



Rush Public Library

The Rush library closed early on Friday, August 11th to join in the Rush Fireman's Parade.



Scottsville Free Library

Tote bag and book sales went on the road to support the libraries during the Scottsville Summerfest.



Seymour Library

Some silly stuffies had a sleepover at the library. They answered phones, got themselves locked in the display case, took over the printer, put on a puppet show, broke out the games, spilled the Legos, and even convinced Miss Lauren to give them a late night storytime. Thank you to all who lent us their stuffed friends for the night.

Webster Public Library

In honor of National Book Lovers Day August 9, library staff put away our smartphones, pulled out a good book and simply read. (Listening to an audiobook counted too.) The previous day, rain meant the Chalk and Bubble program had to be rescheduled. August 22nd was a great weather day for our patrons, who created chalk masterpieces together and had some amazing bubble fun in our library alleyway.



MCLS Office Updates Jennifer Smathers reporting

Jennifer Smathers concentrated work on a marketing plan for September using ALA's campaign "Libraries are Elemental" for National Library Card Sign-up Month as a template. Building off work done by the RPL Marketing Team for a television commercial, Smathers prepared a customized Press Release and submitted it to the Monroe County Communications team. They were tapped to assist with finalizing the Spanish-language version of the press release.

A coordinated communications plan that included when to release social media postings was created with Alicia Gunther. Gunther brought to fruition the MCLS table of Libraries are Elemental that is featured as part of the plan for September. Mimicking the periodic table of elements, each MCLS library location is listed with something unique to pique the interest of potential library patrons.

Public Service Announcements (PSA) were also investigated as a potential for future marketing. Smathers verified that 90.5FM WBER, a listener-supported alternative radio station run by BOCES, will run PSAs (Public Service Announcements) from MCLS. They asked that it be a spot that could run beyond September.

Alicia Gunther and Cynthia Dana represented the library for Play Day on the Riverway, hosted by Downtown Definitely on Saturday, August 5. During the event, patrons could attend activities in the Rundel Library (Harold Hacker Hall only) including a puppet show, face painting, and playing with STEAM kits from the library. Around the library on the terraces, there was a story walk, sidewalk chalk, music, and a scavenger hunt. Patrons were able to interact with the Lollypop Farm and Barbie exhibits, sign up for library cards, and interact with staff and other programming. ~750 attended this event.

Alicia Gunther attended Digipalooza in Cleveland, Ohio, hosted by OverDrive. During the conference, Gunther presented how the system has been using the OverDrive Diversity audit in collection analysis. Gunther also attended various sessions on digital collections and changes coming to OverDrive.

Throughout the month of August Gunther coordinated with County Legislators and City Council members to take their photos for new READ posters that will be on display at Central Library for Library Card Sign Up month. Gunther also worked on various social media campaigns for Library Card Sign-up month.

Social Media

| August 2023 | RPL Twitter | MCLS Twitter | Facebook | Facebook Groups | Instagram | YouTube |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| Profile/ Page Visits | N/A | N/A | 1.026 | - | 80 | - |
| New Followers/ Page Likes | 7 | 8 | 26 | 59 | 26 | 7 |
| Engagements | 61 | 31 | 745 | 94 | 73 | 49 |
| Check-In/ Mentions | N/A | N/A | - | - | 2 | - |
| Post Reach | 8,565 | 892 | 10,112 | - | 2,473 | 23,953 |
| Video/Story Views | - | - | 396 | - | 798 | 1,601 |

Constant Contact Newsletter

Central/RPL Newsletter (1 Sent)

- Subscribers who opened newsletter 4,933
- Click through 127

OverDrive

- Total Checkouts- 88,733
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 736
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 9,242
- SORA Checkouts- 287
- Great Courses- 183

Interlibrary Loan

Lending: Requests Received - 588 Requests Filled - 193 Borrowing: Requests Received - 41 Requests Filled - 38

Shipping & Delivery

The department processed 844 Hold totes and hauled 6745 total totes in August.

This is a 15% increase in overall tote volume and a 1.0% decrease in Hold volume compared to the amount processed in July of 2023.

Outreach Department, Amy Discenza reporting

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 25 in-home patrons and made two technology support visits to NYS Talking Book & Braille Library patrons requiring training and/or assistance troubleshooting equipment. Two new patrons began in-home services: one in Rochester, the other in Irondequoit. In-Home Materials Distribution:

- Home Deliveries: 20 patrons received a home delivery of physical library materials and/or Braille and Audio Reading Downloads (BARD)
- Braille and Audio Reading Downloads by Mail: 5 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (each cartridge included 15-25 titles selected and downloaded by Outreach staff)

Outreach staff mailed out three reference packets to in-home patrons.

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

Staff selected, charged, and packed materials for 13 library stations—fulfilling special requests for seven sites. There were no missed deliveries this month (Cycle Two).

Community-Based Reentry Support

Wes Becker hosted a workshop on reducing barriers from a criminal record, with an emphasis on record sealing: the last in a four-part information series for people impacted by the criminal legal system. Service professionals from Legal Assistance of Western NY and Center for Community Alternatives presented information to justice-involved attendees about their legal rights regarding record sealing. Attendees were engaged with general and specific questions regarding record sealing, employment discrimination, Rap sheets, Certificates of Rehabilitation, and more.

Presentations

- Discenza was one of the featured guests this month for OACES's (Office of Adult Career and Education Services) Speaker Series, a weekly program in which representatives from local community organizations share their services with OACES students -- many of whom are either newly arrived refugees enrolled in their English as a New Language program or students from Rochester studying to obtain their GED. Discenza touted the benefits of having a library card; discussed the many resources, collections, and events available in libraries across the county; and gave a shout-out to our growing list of fine-free libraries.
- LeVar Burton Reads Short Story Discussions: Maren Kyle facilitated a short story discussion at Lifespan's Lily Café: a community gathering space that provides daily programming as well as breakfast and lunch for people ages 60+ at the Maplewood YMCA. This month's story was *The Great Wide World Over There* by Ray Bradbury.
- Discenza facilitated a short story discussion at Lifespan's Wolk Café: a community gathering space that
 provides daily programming as well as breakfast and lunch for people ages 60+ in downtown Rochester. This
 month's story was The Lady of the Yellow-Painted Library by Tobi Ogundiran.
- Salute to Seniors: It was a gray, drizzly day, but that did not stop hundreds of Monroe County seniors from
 enjoying the 18th Annual Salute to Seniors event at Ontario Beach Park. Salute to Seniors featured a live
 band, free carousel rides, stilt walkers, lunch, and a lot of swag from local agencies and organizations serving
 older adults. The Outreach Department distributed over 200 large print books and audiobooks on CD to
 eager recipients, information about library services for older adults and MCLS resources such as eBooks, VIP,
 and Empire Passes, and more. Many attendees remembered Outreach staff from years past, letting us know

that they make our table their very first stop. According to the Monroe County Office of the Aging, over 900 people registered for this event.





Central Library Updates

Emily Clasper reporting

Read posters featuring local legislators, officials, and other public figures have been installed in the windows
of the Bausch and Lomb building. Several passersby have since been seen stopping to look closely at what
book each person in the posters is reading. One person commented to Emily Clasper, "I love these! So
colorful!"



Arts/Literature, Robert Scheffel reporting

Programs

- Story Weavers Drama Workshop met Monday nights in July in Kusler-Cox auditorium and will continue
 through August. Led by theater instructor Lucia Radetzki, the workshop covers the basic techniques of acting
 and production. The group plans on performing original material at the end of August. The workshop
 received positive feedback, and the instructor will be holding additional workshops in the future.
- Melissa Manczuk of the Arts and Literature Division returned to Lifespan at the Wolk Café to resume her very popular craft classes there. The group of talented crafters created tissue paper peonies. The participants were very enthusiastic about making the flowers and delighted by the range of color choices available. Many were surprised by how easy the flowers were to make, one lady mentioned that she was not crafty at all, but that she could certainly do this and would love to come to more classes. We chatted about the different kinds of crafts we love doing and what kinds of crafts they would like to see in the future.
- Arts Division had Nigel Maister present a program titled 'Joy of Snaps', a reflective, informative look at the history, meaning, and materiality of snapshots. Maister spoke about how in our current times, in a world of social media, endless photographs never get printed. In this world of immaterial photographs, the snapshot occupies a space in our lives to reflect, to see a life lived, and to embrace a universal moment of the human experience. Maister ended his program by talking about what collectors look for in images, how to find them, and how to sell images that no longer need to be held onto. Maister answered questions about his experiences with being a collector, his personal relationship with photography, and how this subject can be of interest to everyone. This program gave a larger contextual understanding to anyone who seeks to look deeper into their collection. Everyone has a snapshot in their life.

Anecdotes

The staff is excited that Nanci Nugent is scheduled to return in September, following her recovery from an injury.

Business Insight Center (BIC), Jennifer Byrnes, reporting

Programs

BIC co-sponsored the Science of Cannabis Symposium. This event aligned with the RPL strategic priority of Education and Engagement.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Jennifer Byrnes presented cannabis initiatives at the Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO) conference in Buffalo.
- The BIC team met with a cohort of businesses in the Food Future program. Based in New York City, Food
 Future is a scale-up accelerator for small, yet established companies that provide unique products and
 solutions across our food system. Their focus areas include consumer products, local food, plant-based food,
 sustainable seafood, ag tech, food tech, and food waste. The program director is based in Rochester, NY,
 and previously worked at NextCorps.
- Melissa Cobo attended the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship's ROC the Pitch competition.
- All BIC staff participated in training for Mintel, a new consumer behavior/preferences database.
- Melissa Cobo attended the US Patent and Trademark Organization's First Time Filer Program.

Anecdotes

At the PULISO conference, Nick Buron, Chief Librarian and Senior Vice President of the Queens Public Library, commended Patty Uttaro for supporting BICs cannabis initiatives. Mr. Buron later reached out to Emily Clasper to compliment Ms. Byrnes on her presentation and her depth of knowledge on the topic.

Consulting

Hours of in-depth market research: 41

• The Carlson Center for Intellectual Property assisted:

In person: 6Email: 18Mail: 0Phone: 2Zoom: 13D Printer: 0

Webpage views: 83

Requests Outside Greater Rochester Area: 11

Database Usage Statistics (July)

Frost & Sullivan: Downloads: 11 Value: \$38,500
 IBISWorld: Page views: 148 Value: \$60,730
 InnovationQ: Logins: 23 Searches: 232

o Mintel: 6 sessionso PitchBook: Logins: 34

Statista: Searches: 7,146 Downloads: 2,316

Children's Center, Tonia Burton reporting

Programming

- Miranda Hazen continued the Make it Together series with Marble Runs and finished it with visiting artist Stick Trick Domino Dude! Michael Fantauzzo is a domino and chain reaction artist who brought thousands of dominos and taught the families many tips and tricks for making their own domino chain reactions.
- An educator from the George Eastman Museum led children in a wool painting workshop. They were captivated by stop-motion animations made by Andrea Love out of felted wool. Then, they made their own creations out of colorful wool.



 Tonia Burton and Miranda Hazen hosted families for the Work Exploration program at Innovation Field. Families and children learned about the different types of jobs needed to run a baseball stadium. Red Wings administrators gave families free bags and tickets for refreshments to enjoy while they attended the game.

Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Burton, Katie Powell, and Margarita Chaves attended the Fidelis Backpack Program at the Strong Museum of Play this month. Families could choose from a variety of books to take to their home libraries. Families also received information on future programming at Central.
- Burton and Chaves supported the asylum seekers who had
 recently arrived in Rochester. They brought various items such as
 art supplies, games, and whiteboards to the Holiday Inn
 Downtown to create a child-centered space for the children. They
 also decorated the room with the alphabet and numbers in
 Spanish and created a small library for families to share. Burton is
 working with staff to establish regular bi-lingual programming for
 families.





Anecdotes/Other

 Friendship Children's Center and Generations Child Care visited the library several times this summer with transportation support from a Konar Grant to the FFRPL. The visits were arranged on days we had visiting artist programs, and the groups stayed afterward to enjoy the Children's Center and Secret Room.





• The Children's Center has been making use of a new outreach item from the MCLS Office games collection. Families have been very creative and having a great time building with the giant magna-tile-like pieces.

Raising a Reader

Chaves spent the month of August reviewing grant applications and preparing bags for the upcoming school year. Chaves and Burton have been in contact with staff from our sites to plan for staff training on RAR. They also been working on ideas for RAR outreach activities for our families.

Circulation/Information, Chad Cunningham reporting

Statistics

- Curbside Pickup Appointments-4
- New Borrowers-221
- RRLC Access Cards Issued-14
- Notarial Acts-269

Anecdotes/Other

- Chad Cunningham received an e-mail from an individual in Cape Town, South Africa. The person had purchased a book online and when he received it, he noticed that the book was a library book. He was worried that the book had been stolen. He was willing to send the book back. He contacted us because the book was from the Monroe County library system. After another e-mail exchange, Cunningham determined that the item was not from our MCLS but one of the other Monroe County library systems in the United States. Cunningham searched the catalogs of the other systems and determined that the item was not part of any of their collections and let the purchaser know he could enjoy the book in good conscience.
- A patron came up to Jim Montione at the Information Desk and asked if he could stand there for a while. He
 told Montione that he was having a panic attack because there were so many people in the building.
 Montione talked the patron through the situation- he told the patron to breathe slowly and that he would

- stay with him. The patron had left his bag in the Media Center. When he was feeling better, Montione walked him over to the Media Center to retrieve the bag. The patron thanked Montione and left.
- A patron called the library with an issue: she needed help setting up a Libby account for her 92-year-old father. Callise Wiley took the call and worked with the patron to set up the account. There were issues with the account e-mail which Wiley was able to resolve. Now the father can read and listen to his heart's content.

Local History & Genealogy, Christine L. Ridarsky reporting

In August, the records of the Monroe County Historian's Office were relocated from St. John Fisher University to the second floor of the Rundel building. The records must be processed before they are available for use. The library will hold the unprocessed records and Local History & Genealogy staff will continue to provide reference service for the Monroe County Historian's Office until consultant Gerry Smith's recommendation for managing this office is submitted and a decision is made concerning the best path forward for handling historical services for the County/City/Library. The division fielded six reference inquiries for the Monroe County Historian's Office in August.

Programs

• Dan Cody hosted a walking tour on the theme "Beyond Flour and Flowers: Industry in Rochester." This was the fourth of five monthly tours the division scheduled for this summer. The tour series is proving very popular, and the division has scheduled additional tours for the fall in response to patron demand.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

- Ridarsky and Michelle Finn met with representatives from the Rochester Genealogical Society (RGS) to
 discuss how the library and RGS can rekindle their longstanding partnership, which has flagged since the
 COVID-19 pandemic. RGS member John Caufield expressed an interest in facilitating a new monthly
 genealogy group gathering, which will be hosted in the Local History & Genealogy Division every third
 Saturday starting in October.
- Finn met with two teachers from the Rochester City School District who want to pursue funding to digitize the district's entire yearbook collection. This project is a perfect complement to the FamilySearch digitization project underway at the library, and the conversation focused on how these projects might mutually benefit one another while avoiding duplication of effort.
- Ridarsky met with two professors from St. John Fisher University (Mark Rice and Christopher Badurek) at the
 City's Records Center to begin planning for a Spring 2024 course on urban renewal that they will be
 teaching. The Office of the City Historian is a partner in the course development project, which was funded
 by a grant funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The course will result in a map of urban
 renewal sites in the Baden-Ormond neighborhood.
- Finn facilitated a meeting between staff at the Rochester Museum & Science Center and library patron Karen Dinkle Bunton, whose collection of family artifacts was featured in the Everyday People exhibition that the Local History & Genealogy Division mounted in 2019. The collection has been temporarily stored at the library since coming here for the exhibition, and Finn has been assisting Bunton in finding an appropriate repository to permanently house it. (Due to the nature of the items in the collection—three-dimensional artifacts and material culture—it does not fit within the library's collection scope.) Museum staff reviewed the collection and have agreed to take it in. Finn will work with Bunton and the museum staff to ensure a smooth transfer of the collection to the museum this fall.

- Ridarsky and Emily Morry met with RIT history professors Tamar Carroll and Rebecca Edwards to discuss the
 forthcoming Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 issues of the Rochester History journal and to plan for the upcoming
 meeting of the journal's Editorial Board in September.
- Finn represented the library at a planning meeting for the City of Rochester's ROC the Riverway weekend, an annual city-wide celebration that takes place the first weekend of October. The Local History & Genealogy Division will offer a walking tour of the historic High Falls district in support of this year's event.
- Finn met with St. John Fisher University professor Oliver Griffin to discuss how the library can support a course on German immigration that he is creating with funds from a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.
- Mario Castillo attended the online seminar "Embodying DEI and Cultural Humility in Workplace Wellness" by Twanna Hodge, sponsored by the Central New York Library Resources Council.

Archive of Black History & Culture

- The Archive of Black History & Culture's Community Advisory Board met once in August. The board is developing a collection scope that will be used to determine what items are collected and accessioned into the archive. Board members are also working on developing a strategic plan that will guide decision-making for several years to come.
- In addition to these assignments, Community Advisory Board members discussed the Urban League's upcoming Interrupt Racism Summit, at which project manager Antoine McDonald, Board Chair Xavier Holiday, Board Vice-Chair Shanterra Mitchum, Lavelle Lewis, and Jean Pryor will present (virtually). Their session will introduce the Archive of Black History & Culture with a focus on dismantling racism within historical records as well as a focus on empowering attendees to act once they leave the presentation.
- McDonald also met this month with Project Consultant Mekko Mongeon to review and discuss the survey report she is writing.

Digital Projects

- Contractor Lisa Buda continued creating item-level metadata for the digital surrogates of the library's
 postcard collection. As previously discussed, grant funding under a Rochester Regional Library Council
 Collections and Access grant is allowing Buda to undertake this critical work. Fess will be working with Buda
 on this project potentially for the rest of the calendar year (the grant requires completion of the work by
 December 31, 2023). Buda reached the halfway point in this project at the end of August.
- The division continues to contribute digitized content to a handful of online platforms, increasing
 discoverability and access to these materials. There were 1,494 page views of content available through the
 library's Rochester Voices site (http://www.rochestervoices.org/) in August. Unfortunately, the August
 statistics for New York Heritage and New York State Historic Newspapers were not available at the time of
 this report.

Special Collections

Brandon Fess accessioned two new collections in August. One was a donation of mixed local history material from the St. John Fisher University library; the other was the Calendar and Carrier Greeting Collection, for which Fess also created a finding aid. The latter is an artificial collection that has long been maintained by Local History & Genealogy Division staff but has never been properly accessioned or described.

Social Media

There were two new posts to the Local History ROCs! blog in August: "Troubled Bridge Over Water: The History of the Stutson Street Bridge" by Dan Cody, and "Bad Medicine, pt. 2: The Rise and Fall of H.H. Warner and the

Warner Safe Cure" by Emily Morry. The new posts received 271 views. In addition, readers from 31 countries revisited 183 previously published posts for a total of 2,345 views in August. All blog posts can be read online at www.rochistory.wordpress.com.

Interns/Volunteers

The division's work was supported by two volunteers in August for a total contribution of 16.5 hours. Karen Sue Brown continued sorting and filing the backlog of newspaper clippings; she contributed 10.5 hours. Linda Lopata contributed 6 hours entering collection information into ArchivesSpace to create finding aids for collections in the Office of the City Historian.

Anecdotes/Other

Michelle Finn assisted News10NBC Chief Investigative Reporter Berkeley Brean in researching a story about how Rochester-area newspapers covered Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech in August 1963. Brean filmed himself and Finn using the division's microfilm readers to look up articles; the footage supplemented the story on the evening news. The story can be viewed at https://www.whec.com/top-news/how-rochester-media-covered-the-march-on-washington/.

Upcoming Events/Programs

- Wednesday, September 20, 5-7 p.m., walking tour, "Washington Square Neighborhood," with Emily Morry.
 Visit https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/10704465 to register.
- Wednesdays, September 13 & 27, October 11 & 25, November 8, 6-7:30 pm, "Rights and Recognition: The
 Haudenosaunee in the New Nation," a reading & discussion series centered around Michael Oberg's book
 Peacemakers: The Iroquois, the United States, and the Treaty of Canandaigua, 1794, facilitated by Mario
 Castillo. Visit https://calendar.libraryweb.org/calendar/Central/Peacemakers for more information.
- Saturday, October 7, 1-2 p.m., "Historic High Falls Walking Tour" with Dan Cody, in conjunction with the City
 of Rochester's ROC the Riverway weekend. Visit https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/11253504 to
 register.
- Saturday, October 21, 10:30 am-12:00 pm, "Family Finders Genealogy Club," facilitated by John D. Caufield, Rochester Genealogical Society. A new monthly genealogy group that will meet in person in the Local History & Genealogy Division every third Saturday beginning in October.

Reynolds Media Center, Joseph Born reporting

Reference

RMC handled 832 reference questions and 245 non-reference transactions for a total of 1077.

Programs

- Summer Concerts:
 - o "Ad-Hoc" chamber music with a twist.
 - "String Theory" Traditional Modern Americana
 - o "Eric Heveron-Smith" Multi-Generational / Multi-instrumentalist
 - "Fatima" Songwriter/Live Looping Artist
- The See It First film was Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret.
- RMC performed 20 A/V setups for programs in the Central Library

Displays/Exhibits

RMC posted 2 stories to Facebook, prepared 1 new brochure, and created 3 displays in the RMC division showcasing materials from the collection.

Hoopla

Circulation

- Audiobooks 1117
- Binge Pass 23
- Comics 163
- eBooks 410
- Movies/TV 289
- Music 84
- Total Circulation 2146

Users

- New users 63
- Patrons using all 7 borrows 104 (18%)
- Total users 596

Cost

- Total \$4,782.89
- Per item \$2.23

Anecdotes

• The Reynolds Media Center continues to have many patrons report that they would not have internet access if it were not for the loan of the Mi-Fi units.

Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

Programs

• Fruit & Vegetable Program Introduction: This Zoom Program was presented by Iluminada Vilca, SNAP-Ed Bilingual Nutrition Educator from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County. Iluminada offered tips for healthy eating and ways to incorporate fruits and vegetables for everyday meals and was an introduction to a 6-part healthy eating series that Iluminada will offer. Iluminada provided instructions during this session for enrolling in the upcoming series. Eighteen people registered for this program and 13 people attended. All participants were engaged throughout the program and several questions were asked.

Outreach/Meetings/Training

LROC (Library Resource Outreach Center) visitors were at about 70 for August, an especially high number
despite some cancellations. The Division continues to see private appointments taken at the library on nonLROC days from Person-Centered Housing Options. This indicates the need is higher than what can be
provided during the regular LROC schedule. The health insurance navigator from Legal Assistance of
Western New York (LawNY) was also here for her monthly visit.

Pellegrino attended the August meeting of the Community Cancer Action Council, which also breaks up into subgroups regarding community-driven cancer research: video production and youth education. The Council is part of the library's partnership with Wilmot Cancer Center. As the video production is complete, Pellegrino has moved on to join the youth education area. This month a group of about 25 high school students from the Rochester City School District met at the Danforth Community Center. Pellegrino attended this meeting to support fellow CCAC members. A group representing the CCAC Youth Pipeline presented a discussion to encourage the students to consider medical research as a career path. The

students were told of opportunities to shadow current URMC researchers. After graduation, many research assistant positions, including full-time positions, will be available. This presents an excellent opportunity for students in underserved areas to find worthwhile work and a career path in the medical field.



Grants

Lily Anthony assisted patrons with grants in subjects such as food pantries, and health and wellness.

Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting

Computer use has risen significantly relative to July 2023, there was a 10% increase in the daily total hours of computer use in the Technology Center. Viewing the data with a longer lens, one can see the year-to-year daily hours of computer use have risen 15% when comparing August 2022 to August 2023.

Programs

- The partnerships with Digital Literacy and Rochester Works continue to be very popular. Digital Literacy has several volunteers based in the Technology Center, each with different strengths. Our patrons naturally gravitate to one or another that fits their needs. This diverse array of skill sets is a huge bonus for our patrons and the rest of the Tech Center team. Leroy Banks of Rochester Works is very happy to have a weekly opportunity to connect with our library's users. The natural fit between his organization's services and the patron population is almost ideal.
- Pedro Nunez is happy to return the Tabletop Role Playing Group to its usual time and place as the library returns Saturday to the weekly schedule. He has been able to keep the attendance up, despite the library's change to the summer schedule. He has included more technologies to enhance the events and to make the sessions easier to run and more enjoyable for everyone.

Anecdotes

The Technology Center serves all kinds of people with all kinds of projects. Some patrons require very little staff time to reach their goals. Others may need more help. Some patrons' needs are met in a matter of minutes, some in hours, and some take literally years to reach their goals. This month marks the final step in a 5-year process for one of our patrons. Let's call him Mark. It started years ago with a dream to have a career in nursing. With no background in science or math, Mark was totally unprepared to reach his goal, and he knew it. What he

also knew was where to go to get help. He found that help in the Tech Center's former iteration, the Information Desk. Staff helped set up appointments with tutors in basic math and chemistry. Mark worked very hard to gain the skills and credits he needed to meet the prerequisites for the nursing program he wanted to get into. Once he got into the program, he needed more help formatting papers and uploading assignments. Finally, this summer, after literal years of hard work, Mark was at the library when he opened the email that officially notified him that he had passed all his tests, and his nursing degree was complete. Staff congratulated him on seeing this long project to completion. Mark got pretty choked up and thanked the Tech Center team for helping him get through the program. But Mark hasn't just been working on his professional degree. In the past 5 years, he has worked various jobs to put himself through school. He has bought a commercial property in the city where he has started a successful barbershop. Is Mark exceptional? Yes, he is. Is his success the product of his enormous focus and willpower? Also, yes. But at the same time, his story is emblematic of the kind of support this team can provide to any of the patrons who walk in our door.

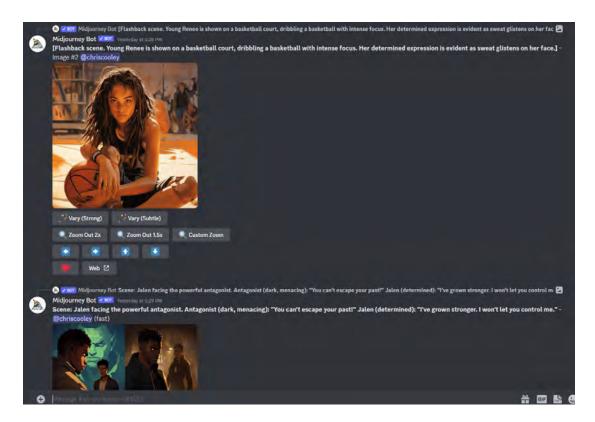
Teen Central, Shetora Banks reporting

Programs

- August was our Second Annual Esports
 Month. There were multiple tournaments
 with prizes from community sponsors
 including DiPisa Subs, The Fried Fish
 Shack, 585 Fighterz, and Cuts and More
 Barbershop. Participants had a blast and
 competed hard for gift cards. Year two of
 the Central Library Liberators launches in
 September.
- Climate Robot Rangers: Teen Central/RPL, RMSC, and UR College of Education offered climate data literacy classes in August. We held the last class at the RMSC where we engaged 31 youth in two
 - settings, and groups of multi-age family visitors. Youth codesigners who had been attending the climate classes at the library twice a week, helped us present climate data content and assisted with materials-based exhibit tables at the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) demonstration programs with younger youth.
- This month the media lab hosted an artificial intelligence comic book creation lab. After filling out a questionnaire, participants got their story created by Artificial Intelligence and then utilized another AI to create their comic book pictures. This program was also presented at the RCSD Maker Fair where the RCSD staff were very excited to explore this concept.







Outreach/Meetings/Training

Fae Jahanshiri received an invitation for collaboration from Kate Wagner, a fourth-year PhD researcher in Astrophysical Sciences and Technology at RIT. Jahanshiri is excited to co-teach a series of workshops offered by RIT and engage Girls Who Code students to promote an interest in physics, astronomy, and learning to code. The goal is to provide insights into various subareas of astrophysics research and offer participants a glimpse into what it is like to work in the field.

<u>Anecdotes</u>

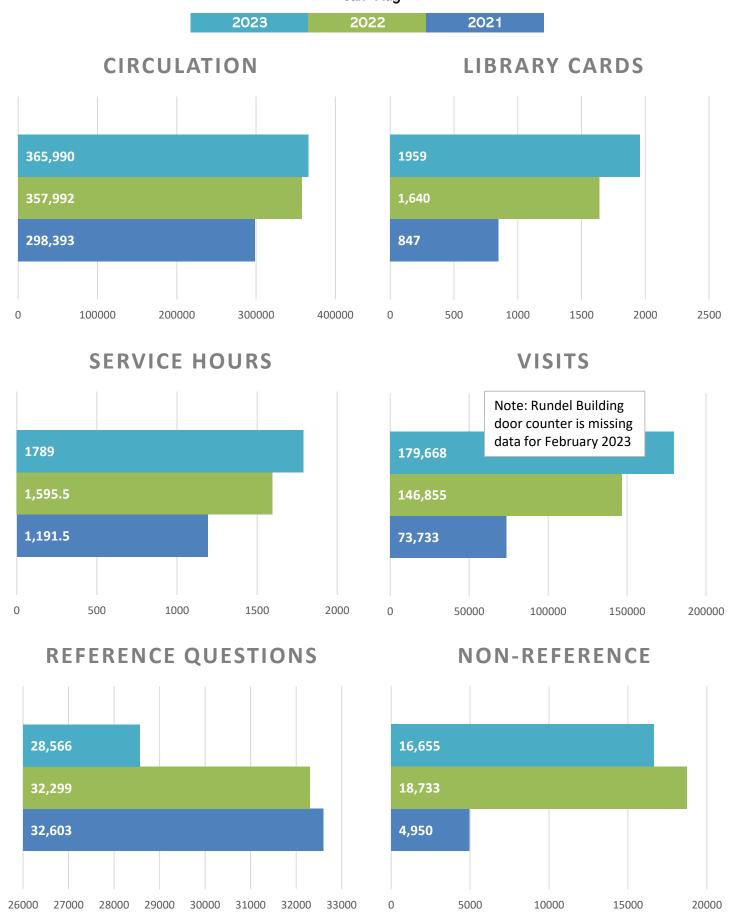
- A teen came to the teen center with a paycheck from his first summer job. He wanted to know how to cash it and possibly open a bank account. John Hylton walked with the teen to Citizens Bank, and he learned the process of how to cash the check. The teller also gave him a pamphlet with instructions on how to open an account for a minor.
- Student feedback from the Climate Robot Rangers "Youth loved this class. She's asked her teachers if we can do the pop-up exhibit at her school this Fall. She impressed her relatives when she explained lichens and tree ecology to them when we were visiting family! She is so interested in the subject!" -Student's Parent



MCLS Circulation Statistics

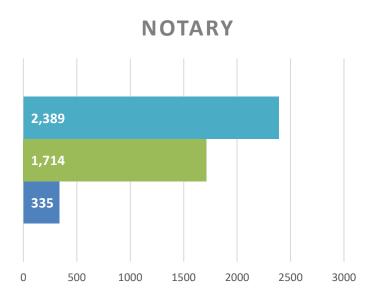
| Town Libraries | | | | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|-------|-------|--|
| | Jun 2023 | Jun 2022 | +/- | % | |
| Brighton | 43,674 | 41,165 | 2,509 | 6.1% | |
| Seymour | 11,367 | 11,677 | (310) | -2.7% | |
| Chili | 17,733 | 16,329 | 1,404 | 8.6% | |
| East Rochester | 3,604 | 3,206 | 398 | 12.4% | |
| Fairport | 51,914 | 50,009 | 1,905 | 3.8% | |
| Gates | 18,002 | 18,687 | (685) | -3.7% | |
| Greece | 44,299 | 40,883 | 3,416 | 8.4% | |
| Hamlin | 4,161 | 4,089 | 72 | 1.8% | |
| Henrietta | 35,733 | 36,220 | (487) | -1.3% | |
| Irondequoit | 35,624 | 34,835 | 789 | 2.3% | |
| Mendon | 7,875 | 8,151 | (276) | -3.4% | |
| Newman Riga | 2,034 | 1,858 | 176 | 9.5% | |
| Ogden | 11,410 | 9,323 | 2,087 | 22.4% | |
| Parma | 7,037 | 6,652 | 385 | 5.8% | |
| Penfield | 36,661 | 34,905 | 1,756 | 5.0% | |
| Pittsford | 45,155 | 42,604 | 2,551 | 6.0% | |
| Rush | 2,615 | 2,531 | 84 | 3.3% | |
| Mumford | 559 | 312 | 247 | 79.2% | |
| Scottsville | 2,341 | 2,148 | 193 | 9.0% | |
| Webster | 36,183 | 36,266 | (83) | -0.2% | |
| Town Total | 417,981 | 401,850 | 16131 | 4.0% | |
| RPL Total | 61,060 | 63,318 | -2258 | -3.6% | |
| MCLS Total | 479,041 | 465,168 | 13873 | 3.0% | |

RPL Central Statistics YTD Jan--Aug



RPL Central Statistics YTD Jan--Aug

2022 2021 2020



DEFINITIONS

Circulation: Includes the circulation of all library materials both over the desk and virtual/e-content.

Library Cards: New patron registrations. Excludes renewals. **Service Hours**: Hours the library is open to the public.

Visits: Door count of persons entering the library.

Reference Questions: Questions requiring staff to recommend,

interpret, evaluate, instruct, etc.

Non-reference: Directional questions. E.g., What are the hours?

Where is___?

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

Computer Hours: Hours patrons used the public PCs.

WiFi Uses: Number of log-ins to the public WiFi.

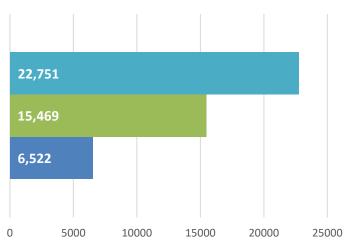
Group Programs: In-person and online programs. Excludes one-

on-one programs and take-n-make.

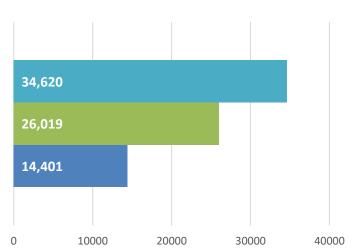
Program Attendance: Attendance at Group Programs. Excludes

staff and presenters.





WIFI USES



GROUP PROGRAMS



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

