



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Library Building  
April 15, 2024, 5:00 PM  
Agenda**

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Corcoran
- II. ACTION ITEMS**
1. Minutes of prior Meeting Corcoran page 3
  2. Claims Uttaro page 5
  3. Use of Monroe County Library System Fund Balance Uttaro page 7
- III. REPORT/DISCUSSION ITEMS**
1. Liaison to Rochester Public Library Board Stockman
  2. Liaison to Rochester Regional Library Council Knapp
  3. Friends and Foundation of the RPL Borgus
  
  4. Staff Reports
    - a. Director's Report Uttaro page 7
    - b. MCLS Services Smathers page 8
    - c. Central Library Services Clasper page 15
- IV. OTHER BUSINESS**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:  
Monday, May 20, 5:00 p.m.  
Rundel Memorial Library Building**





**Meeting of the MCLS Board of Trustees  
Board Room, Rundel Memorial Building  
March 18, 2024  
Minutes**

- Trustees Present:** Gary Brandt, Christopher Corcoran, Emily Hessney Lynch, Amy Moffitt, Marjorie Shelly, Mack Smith, Jr., Suzanne Stockman (quorum present)
- Trustees Excused:** Peter Knapp
- Trustees Unexcused:** Kimberly Brown, Erick Stephens
- Staff and Guests:** County Executive Office Liaison, BJ Scanlon; FFRPL Executive Director, Donna Borgus; staff members, Emily Clasper, Katy Hasselwander, Debi Mansour, Jennifer Smathers, Patty Uttaro

**Call to Order**

Mr. Corcoran called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., welcomed trustees, staff, and guests, and confirmed a quorum was present.

**Public Comments**

There were no members of the public wanting to address the board.

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the February 28, 2024, meeting were APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

Rev. Smith Jr. joined the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

**Claims**

Ms. Hasselwander reviewed the financial claims with the trustees and offered to answer questions. Ms. Stockman MADE A MOTION to approve the financial claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Rochester Public Library (RPL) Liaison**

Ms. Stockman reminded everyone that no update was needed since both boards attended the joint meeting in February.

**Rochester Regional Library Council (RRLC) Liaison**

Mr. Corcoran reported that Dr. Knapp advised there were no updates from RRLC.

**Friends and Foundation of RPL (FFRPL)**

Ms. Borgus drew everyone's attention to the written report and offered to answer questions. She highlighted that the Valentine's Day tribute to Evelyn Bailey for the Shoulders to Stand On Endowed Fund will run through the end of March with a \$10,000 matching challenge.

She reported that the invitation to submit for a grant from the Harold Hacker Grant for the Advancement of Libraries will go out on April 1 with a deadline of May 1.

In response to a question, Ms. Borgus explained the amount distributed from the Tummonds Fund is based on a percentage of the fund balance on December 31 each year.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Uttaro offered to answer questions about the written report. She thanked Ms. Borgus and FFRPL for providing supplemental financial support to the five libraries participating in the Author Series this year. The series is primarily funded by Senator Brouk.

The Finger Lakes Emerging Leaders Course is coming to an end and Ms. Uttaro invited everyone to attend the final two meetings where the students will be presenting their capstone projects. Most of the presentations will be on April 18 at the RRLC building. RRLC has also agreed to publish the students' reports on their website.

Next, she discussed the increasing number of patron incidents occurring at Central. She shared steps that she and senior managers are taking to ensure the safety and security of staff and patrons.

In response to a question about why this is happening, Ms. Uttaro acknowledged general societal unrest, the additional incidents that always come as spring weather arrives, and the reduction in teen mentoring that came when Derrick Coley retired last year. Mr. Coley's replacement is based at the Sully Branch and is not able to get out to all the Teen Centers as often as Mr. Coley could.

### **MCLS Office**

Ms. Smathers offered to answer questions about the written report. Rev. Smith Jr. asked for a synopsis of all Black History Month programming throughout the system. Ms. Uttaro and Ms. Clasper offered several examples of programs at Central and in the Branches. Rev. Smith Jr. encouraged the libraries to flood black churches with information about Black History Month programming beginning in December of the year prior.

Mr. Brandt asked about a trustee training scheduled for the next day at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Uttaro clarified that the MCLS Office does not schedule the Trustee Handbook Book Club training sessions. Ms. Smathers offered to double-check for Mr. Brandt.

### **Central Library**

Ms. Clasper offered to answer questions about the written report. She explained that a great deal of her time recently has been spent on making sure staff feel heard and supported and that security measures are reviewed and revised as needed.

In response to a question, Ms. Clasper explained that the city does offer an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and staff are reminded of it regularly.

### **Other Business**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

*Patricia Uttaro, Secretary*







TO: MCLS Board of Trustees  
FROM: Patricia Uttaro, Director  
DATE: April 15, 2024  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report–April 2024

## ***Action Items***

### Use of Monroe County Library System Fund Balance (Uttaro)

The Central Library began offering MiFi devices for loan in 2018 as an effort to bridge the digital divide. Beginning in 2021, MCLS participated in the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), an expansion of the federal e-rate program, that provided for 100% of the cost of MiFi subscriptions. This funding ended in June 2023. During that period, 300 MiFi devices were available county-wide through the Central Library for three-week loan periods to Library patrons using our holds process. Last June, the Rochester City Council provided funding to the Rochester Public Library to continue MiFi service at Central through June 30, 2024. Without a continuation of funding after the date, Central will be forced to greatly reduce the number of MiFi devices available for loan. The current fund balance for the MCLS is approximately \$1,525,900. We are requesting authorization to appropriate \$140,000 from the fund balance to support 300 MiFi devices for a period of one year, through June 30, 2025. This requires County Legislature approval to amend the 2024 operating budget to increase contract services by \$140,000.

Board Action Requested: Approve utilization of \$140,000 from the MCLS fund balance to provide MiFi loan service continuation and amend the 2024 operating budget for said funds.

## ***Report & Discussion Items***

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

#### Recommended Reading & Viewing

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

#### Numbers to Know

- The Central Library/RPL email newsletter is sent to over 9000 subscribers. The average open rate over the previous 12 months is 49%. This is considered a very good open rate for an email newsletter.
- The MCLS Shipping Department reports a 1.5% increase in the number of holds totes processed last month. This number of totes translates to 44,982 holds filled!

#### Women Empowering Women Conference

For the third year, the MCLS Director hosted 10 women from the system at the annual Rochester Chamber Women's Council conference. Staff from Henrietta, Gates, Mendon, Fairport, Penfield, and RPL attended this full-day event along with more than 600 other women from the region. This is always an inspiring conference and a source for connecting to libraries. This year, a connection was made between a local writer who wants to teach teens and the Fairport staff, who are interested in knowing more about her plans.

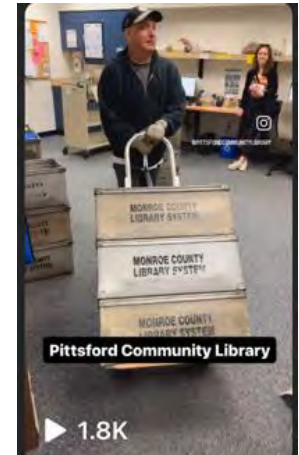
## MCLS Member Libraries

Jennifer Smathers reporting

### Member Library Collaboration

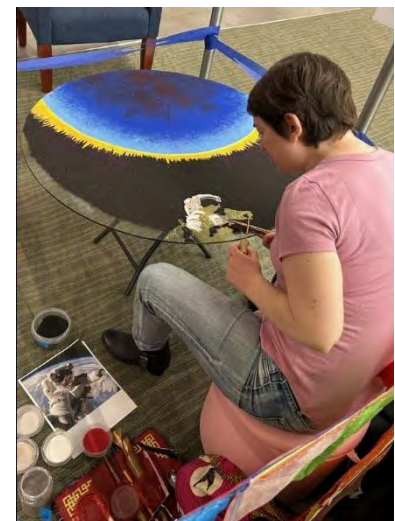
A behind-the-scenes video was created as a collaboration with Central Library, Pittsford Community Library, and Henrietta Public Library to shed light on what happens with Library materials when a hold is placed.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/7702407289792175> Patrons left enthusiastic comments. One example: "Such a great video explaining this amazing service that the MCLS provides! And so many great people work at HPL and PCL."



### Brighton Memorial Library

- The Color Brighton Green program offered information about the services offered by the Southeast Area Coalition (SEAC) Tool Shed, the Repair Cafe at the South Wedge Mission, and Sew Green. Patrons were encouraged to bring small items in need of repair, with one commenting, "The Repair Café is a great resource!"
- It took 3 days for performance artist Katie Jo Suddaby to create a space-themed sand mandala that will be on display until eclipsed by the big day in April.



### Chili Public Library

The annual Egg Hunt hopped back to the library. Children could stop in to try to find all the hidden paper eggs! Prizes were handed out by the librarians.

### East Rochester Public Library

Proudly announces that the library had a small part in bringing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to 100 children in East Rochester. It even made the local news: <https://www.rochesterfirst.com/east-rochester/dolly-partons-imagination-library-comes-to-east-rochester/>

### Fairport Public Library

We love our patrons. Fairport babies were Born to Read. The Olean Public Library stopped by Facebook to speculate that this one was looking for Narnia.

### Gates Public Library

To celebrate World Down Syndrome Day library staff participated in the 2024 Rock Your Socks campaign by wearing mismatched or fun and wild socks. The socks represent the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.



### Greece Public Library

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at the production of our newest Book Break podcast. Librarians Claire and Kirstra discussed some of their latest reads. Go to <https://greeceplpodcasts.podbean.com/> for all of our Book Breaks. One listener said, "Great show. This was my first week of book chat and found out about some real interesting reads. Will definitely be returning."





### Hamlin Public Library

At Hamlin, our patrons have lots of book club options! Cookbook Club is delicious. Silent Book Club is cozy and quiet. We'd tell you more about our Adult Book Club but what happens in that book club stays in that book club. We do hear a lot of laughing coming from them.

### Henrietta Public Library

This book went on quite a vacation-- to sunny Gainesville, FL, and back to snowy Henrietta, NY! Thank you to our friends at the [Alachua County Library District](#) County Library District for sending our beloved Elephant & Piggie book back to its home at the Henrietta Public Library. (P.S. We also LOVED the adorable drawing you included with the book!)

A patron summed up all the good feelings by commenting, *"This is so adorable and also amazing how the entire library system in US is connected and care for each other."*



### Irondequoit Public Library

Mr. Matt and Miss Amy were at [The Golisano Foundation's](#) Festival of Inclusion. They had a wonderful time connecting with community members and sharing information about IPL's accessibility initiatives! If you missed the event, check out the accessibility page: [irondequoitlibrary.org/accessibility](http://irondequoitlibrary.org/accessibility).



### Mendon Public Library

- Kids, teens, and adults were invited to a story-filled presentation that shared the beliefs, traditions, and protocols of several Native American tribes related to the sun and eclipse events. "Raven Steals the Sun: Native American Eclipse Stories" was sponsored by the Friends of the Mendon Public Library.
- Earlier in the month, Getting to Know our Neighbors Story Time: Stories, Crafts & Traditions of our Muslim Neighbors was brought to the library, in part, by the Mighty Muslim Mountains Youth Program, a Rochester-based youth program that promotes healthy environments for healthy character development of youth.

Newman Riga Library

Our latest community puzzle was completed and another one is ready to be worked on.

Ogden Farmers' Library

The community has kicked off the library's food drive in a big way. The wishlist had to be updated, it now includes baked beans, pasta sauce, canned pasta, and jelly.

Parma Public Library

People of all ages, from kids with chalk to adults with paint, had a really fun time with space crafts. The library is all geared up for the big day with all the crafty eclipse bookmarks that were made.



Penfield Public Library

The newly renovated children's entrance is a bright and welcoming space designed to spark a love of reading in our youngest patrons. We are especially grateful to the Holleys for their gift in memory of their son, Elliott Charles Holley. Elliott may not have had the chance to visit our library himself, but his memory will live on through the countless children who will enjoy this space for years to come. Thank you, Holley family, for your thoughtful donation!

Pittsford Community Library

- The following Facebook post was made to accompany the collaborative behind-the-scenes video Hold me now ... Interested in borrowing a book or another item that's at a different MCLS library than the one where you live? Place a hold on it! The MCLS processes around 1,551 holds per day (along with discharged items returning to their home libraries), collecting items along three different routes (ten stops in the city of Rochester, eight along the east side from Henrietta to Webster, and another 12 on the west side of the county). That's a lot of books. Here are some more stats for you:
  - 510,445 holds were filled on materials in 2023!
  - Total circulation for 2023 was 4,285,716!

Thanks to every one of our library workers for ensuring such incredible access to information!

We also shared a video about our Pickleball set that can be checked out!

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1190999575219607>

Rush Public Library

The library remained open in March as recovery from the sprinkler malfunction continued. The supportive comments and offers of help from our fellow MCLS member libraries and the community have been a boost to our morale. Due to a lack of storage space, no book or materials donations may be accepted at this time. Our

programs continue, at various locations, including the town board meeting room, the William Udicious Pavilion, and the Henrietta Public Library.

Scottsville Free Library

Participants in our March eclipse arts and crafts made sun catchers and mini solar systems. Which fits right in with our Total Eclipse of the Art poetry and lyric program.

Seymour Library

FACT: Dragons (and our Junior Chefs) LOVE tacos! Thanks to all who attended our taco party! We talked about basic food safety, discussed differences in personal preference, learned the parts of a recipe, and gobbled up some delicious potato tacos!

Webster Public Library

Students in grades 9-12 from all over the area were invited to pick out FREE prom outfits and accessories! No registration was required.



## **MCLS Office Updates**

### **Jennifer Smathers reporting**

Early March saw Jennifer Smathers and Emily Clasper collaborating on answering the Monroe County Digital Equity & Inclusion Funding Opportunities Expression of Interest (EOI) Solicitation Convener and Community Based Organization Application Forms. If funded it would facilitate additional Digital Navigator services with Literacy Rochester, Digital Equity Booths, and MiFi units.

March activities for eclipse preparation took a sharp turn at the end of the month as many member libraries, including RPL, decided to close for the day. With safety concerns utmost in everyone's mind, plans were adjusted to redeploy eclipse resources where they could be of the most use to the public. City R-Centers and Party In the Dark at Parcel 5 planners all benefitted from pre-planning that happened at Central Library.

On March 16 Alicia Gunther and Amanda Vargas-Dixon hosted an MCLS table at the Rochester Celtic Family Fair during the St. Patrick's Day Parade promoting library services. During the event, Gunther did a story time with 30 participants in between two featured shows.

Gunther and Vargas-Dixon finished uploading all remaining "In this moment - Chapbooks" to Overdrive. The collection includes 20 e-books and 1 audiobook provided by Visual Studies Workshop Press. The MCLS Office will continue to add to this digital collection as electronic files are made available.

Vargas-Dixon developed a recommended reading list correlating with Geva Theatre's performance of "Sanctuary City."

### Interlibrary Loan

Lending: Requests Received- 571; Requests Filled- 198

Borrowing: Requests Received- 60; Requests Filled- 57

### OverDrive

- Total Checkouts- 96,157
- Lucky Day Checkouts- 781
- Simultaneous Use Checkouts- 11,520
- SORA Checkouts- 866
- Great Courses- 154

Social Media



**Library Automation Services, Brenda LaCrosse reporting**

**Outreach Department, Maren Kyle reporting**

This month, librarian Ron Freitag visited a patron who had recently suffered a stroke. They shared with Freitag all they've been going through and appreciated how Freitag took the time to listen. Their stroke had affected their memory and because of that, the patron was ok with simply receiving old titles that they had previously told us they enjoyed. After returning from the visit, Freitag reviewed the patron's profile and marked those titles that the patron enjoyed the first time around to bring back to them next time.

In-Home Library Service

Outreach staff selected and distributed library materials to 20 in-home patrons:

- 17 patrons received a home delivery of library materials (269 items total)
- 3 patrons received a cartridge loaded with digital audiobooks from the NYS Talking Book and Braille library by mail (49 titles total)
- 1 reference packet mailed to in-home patrons.

Library Stations/Micro Collection Lending Service

- 11 library stations served.
- 733 items distributed.
- Special requests were filled for 8 sites.

### Corrections and Reentry Support

- Outreach staff fulfilled 4 requests for physical “Making Moves” reentry resource packets.
- The “Making Moves” webpage received 86 total pageviews.

### Other Outreach

- Presentation: Maren Kyle spoke to the current cohort of Pathstone’s Employment Focused Services Program about essential library services, with an emphasis on library collections and services that are of value to individuals who are job hunting. The program serves individuals 18+ on probation and who are court-referred. All participants are unemployed. Kyle speaks with a new cohort each month and keeps Pathstone’s Water Street office space supplied with library events calendars and brochures.
- Short Story Discussion Program: Outreach librarians resumed monthly visits to Lifespan senior day programs where we listen to a short story read by Levar Burton and then discuss it.
  - Lily Café: *Spam* by Savannah Burney, 5 participants
  - Wolk Café: canceled this month due to the boil-water order in the city
- Book Club Support: Provided copies of book club titles in multiple formats to support book club programming at senior living facilities:
  - Valley Manor: *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham, 15 copies
  - Ashley Woods: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion, 10 copies

### ***Children’s Center, Tonia Burton reporting***

#### Programs

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



### Community Outreach/Meetings/Training

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

### Anecdotes/Other

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

## **Central Library Updates**

### **Emily Clasper reporting**

- On March 14, the Central Library staff enjoyed an “Eclipse Party” where they shared some treats, listened to Eclipse-themed music, engaged in Eclipse-related Trivia, and learned more about the plans for celebrating the big event at the Central Library. While RPL was closed on that day, there were many activities planned leading up to and following that day, and staff needed to learn more about the other festivities happening in the region.
- Ana Suro, Emily Clasper, and Frank Russo met with a representative from the Brave company to get more information about their [Overdose Detection Sensors](#). These devices can be installed in public restrooms, and are configured to alert staff via text message when there is no movement in an occupied restroom or stall, or when the



restroom has been occupied for an extended period. Upon exploring this option, it was decided that RPL would test one installation of this system in the All-Gender restroom in the Technology Center of the Central Library. Wiring for the system has been run, and the sensors are scheduled for installation in late April. The current plan is to test the system for a few months, documenting alarms and gathering feedback from both library staff and patrons. Once enough data has been gathered, we will consider seeking funds to expand the program to other restrooms at Central, or to other RPL branches.

- Clasper has continued to serve on the City Opioid Team, sharing information with other City departments about the impact of opioid use on our community. This has resulted in some valuable conversations about the ways departments can work together to mitigate the impacts on City employees and residents. Following Clasper's most recent meeting, she and Suro met with City Crisis Intervention Services to begin discussing establishing a more regular partnership.
- Clasper met with BJ Scanlon from the County Executive's Office and Denise Read from the Monroe County Department of Human Services to discuss the potential of locating DHS services in the library as part of their services integration efforts. There was overall agreement that this partnership has a lot of potential benefits for everyone, and the group is moving forward to determine the necessary steps to create a regular DHS presence in the Central Library.

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

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



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

#### **Outreach/Meetings/Training**

- Jennifer Byrnes was interviewed by City Newspaper about BIC's cannabis programs and services in their April issue.



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

- Lily Anthony and Melissa Cobo had a table at the SBDC Funding for Small Businesses to let people know about the business services the library provides.
- Byrnes presented virtually at the Small Business Development Center's FastTrack program.
- Byrnes was a coach for a pitch competition team from Alfred University.



Consulting

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

Database Usage Statistics

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

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

Statistics

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

Anecdotes

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

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

### Programs

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

### Outreach/Meetings/Training

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

### Special Collections

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

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

Archive of Black History & Culture

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

Digital Projects

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

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

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

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

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

#### Social Media

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

#### Interns/Volunteers

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

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

#### Reference

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

#### Programs

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

#### RMC Circulation

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

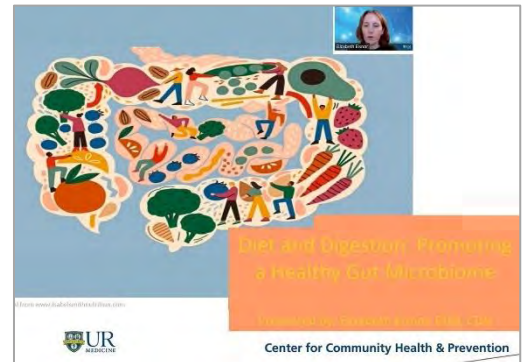
#### Anecdotes:

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

## Science and History, Gabe Pellegrino reporting

### Programs

- NASA and the Weather, presented by NASA Ambassador Jim Porter- Jim returned to Central Library and did a presentation about the importance of weather prediction. Jim's programs continue to be popular, and attendees were engaged throughout his presentation. Lots of questions were asked after Jim's presentation. There were 26 people in attendance. People in the audience are excited to hear that Jim will come back to do a few more presentations about finding water on planets (Waterworlds) and a presentation about aliens. This series of NASA programs is in preparation for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse that will occur on Monday, April 8, 2024.
- Learn to Code – Formerly called Girls Who Code, Faezeh Jahanshiri now holds these programs for all teens and adults. They continue every Wednesday afternoon as joint programs between Science and Teen Central and continue to be popular. These programs are still connected to the Girls Who Code general website, which encourages women to pursue engineering careers.
- Got Health? Online video series, presented by and in partnership with the Center for Community Health and Prevention at the University of Rochester Medical Center, presented its February program: Diet and Digestion: Promoting a Healthy Gut Biome. Presenter, Elizabeth Eisnor, RDN, CDN. The Central Library promotes the program through its Facebook page, by creating an event for each month's presentation, and sharing the video once it has aired live.



### Outreach/Meetings/Training

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

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

#### Anecdotes

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



#### **Technology Center, Jay Osborne Reporting**

#### Anecdotes

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

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

#### Programs

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

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

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



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







MCLS Circulation

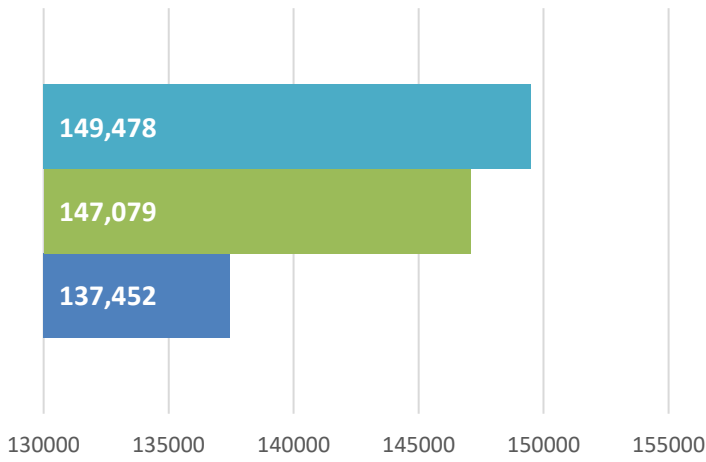
Town Libraries				
	Mar 2024	Mar 2023	+/-	%
Brighton	45,130	44,085	1,045	2.4%
Seymour	11,145	11,301	(156)	-1.4%
Chili	17,633	18,247	(614)	-3.4%
East Rochester	3,150	3,409	(259)	-7.6%
Fairport	48,964	53,297	(4,333)	-8.1%
Gates	17,677	19,481	(1,804)	-9.3%
Greece	39,545	45,347	(5,802)	-12.8%
Hamlin	3,901	4,155	(254)	-6.1%
Henrietta	35,812	37,310	(1,498)	-4.0%
Irondequoit	33,875	35,134	(1,259)	-3.6%
Mendon	7,662	7,984	(322)	-4.0%
Newman Riga	1,830	1,987	(157)	-7.9%
Ogden	10,739	10,705	34	0.3%
Parma	6,904	6,877	27	0.4%
Penfield	35,474	36,274	(800)	-2.2%
Pittsford	43,711	43,624	87	0.2%
Rush	2,084	2,552	(468)	-18.3%
Mumford	468	385	83	21.6%
Scottsville	2,358	2,352	6	0.3%
Webster	35,352	35,638	(286)	-0.8%
<i>Towns Subtotal</i>	<i>403,414</i>	<i>420,144</i>	<i>(16,730)</i>	<i>-4.0%</i>
<i>RPL Subtotal</i>	<i>68,576</i>	<i>70,868</i>	<i>(2,292)</i>	<i>-3.2%</i>
<b>MCLS Total</b>	<b>471,990</b>	<b>491,012</b>	<b>-19,022</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>



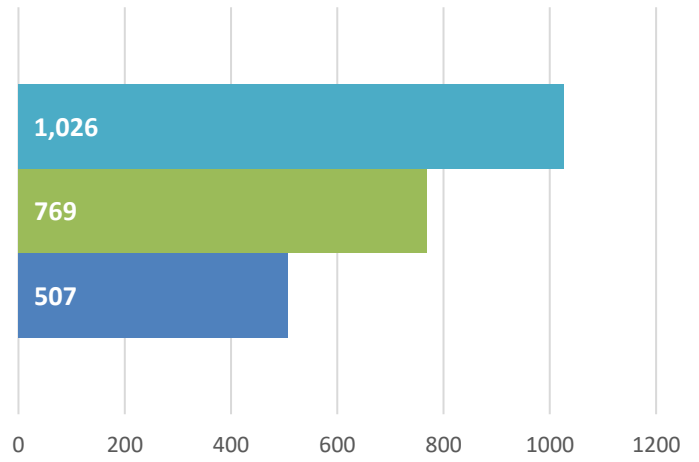
RPL Central Statistics YTD  
Jan--Mar



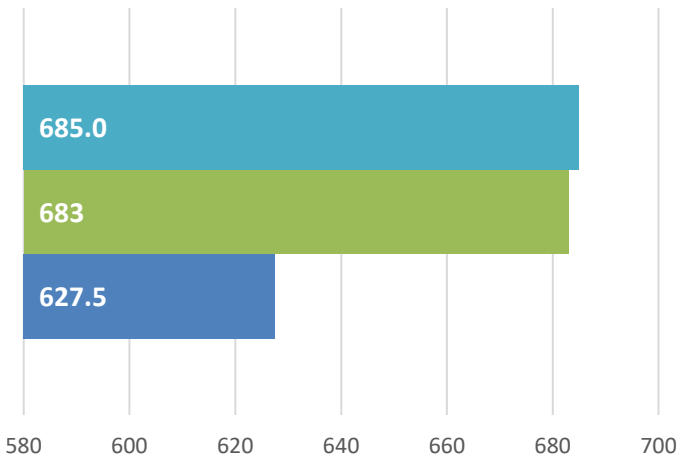
### CIRCULATION



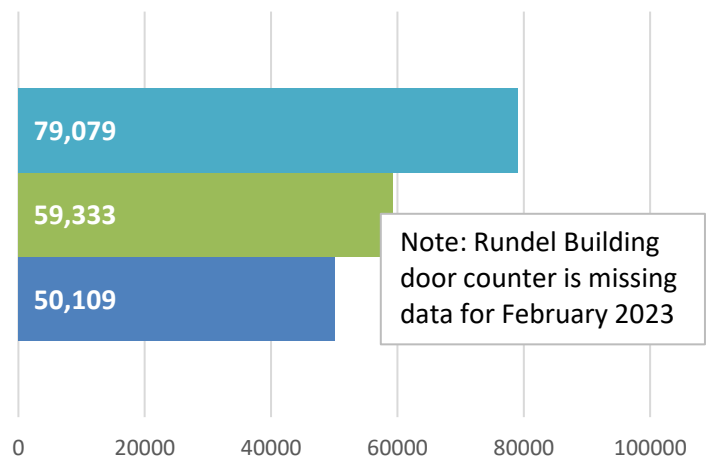
### LIBRARY CARDS



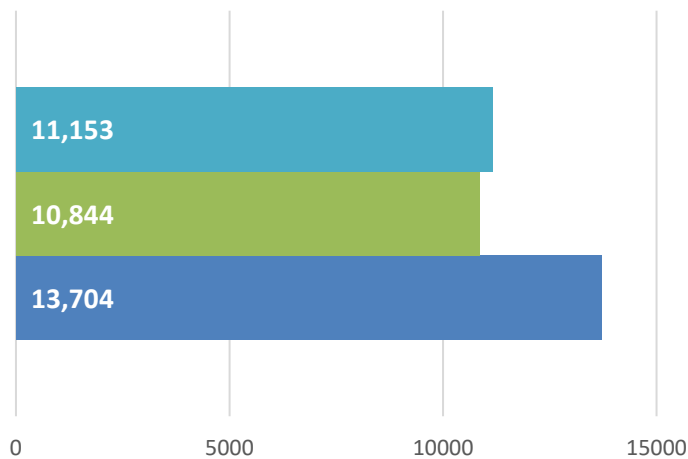
### SERVICE HOURS



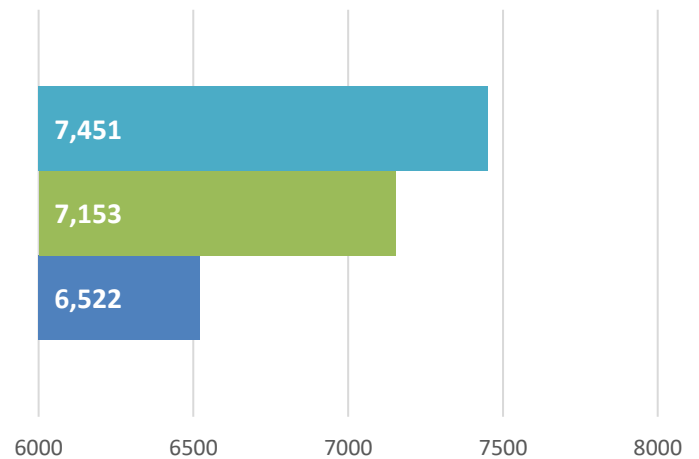
### VISITS



### REFERENCE QUESTIONS



### NON-REFERENCE

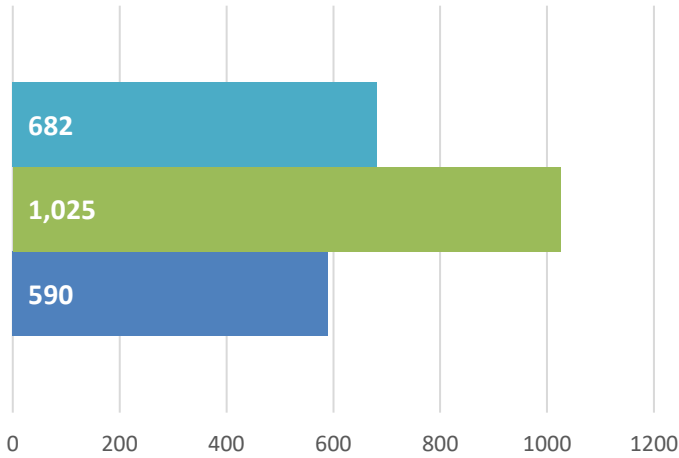


# RPL Central Statistics YTD

Jan--Mar



## NOTARY



### 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.

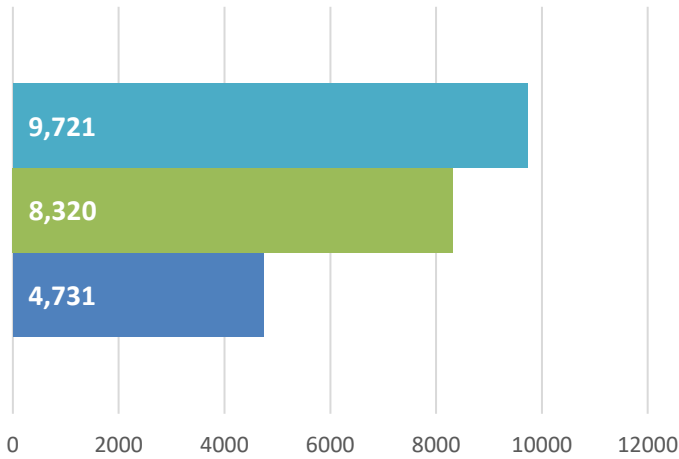
**Computer Hours:** Hours patrons used the public PCs.

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

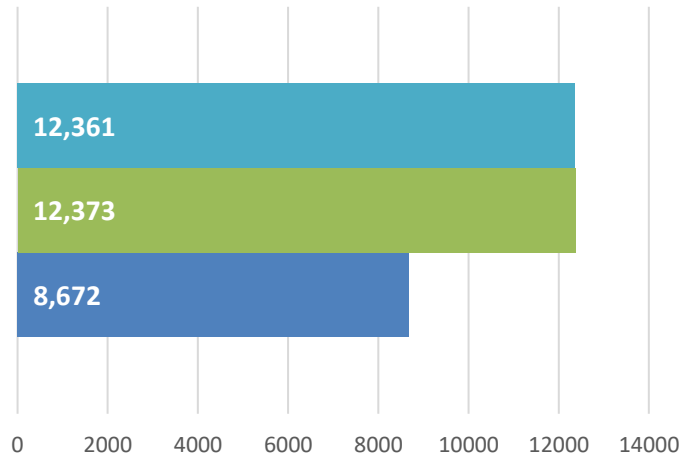
**Group Programs:** In-person and online programs. Excludes one-on-one programs and take-n-make.

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

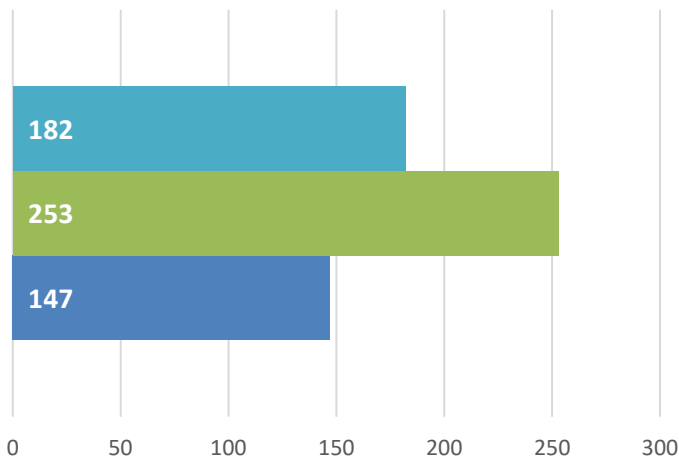
## COMPUTER HOURS



## WIFI USES



## GROUP PROGRAMS



## PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

