

DIRECTOR'S REPORT JUNE 2023

Personnel

PT Library Display Designer Alexis Ramos de Moore has resigned, effective 7/21/23.

Library Page (P.T.)

Laurie Edwards	Start Date: 6/12/23
Anna Hickey	Start Date: 6/7/23
Lily McArdle	Start Date: 6/7/23

Librarian I (P.T.)

Katie Bertussi	Start Date 6/20/23
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Buildings and Grounds

Our two immediate next steps are to (1) finalize our next phase contract with Lothrop, and (2) to hire a Construction Management firm.

The contract for Lothrop is attached.

For (2), the next step in order to hire a Construction Manager (CM) is to put out an RFP soliciting proposals for one. The RFP is attached.

Draft timeline is as follows:

6/26- Board Meeting- Board votes on CM RFP. Approves legal contract with Lothrop

6/27-7/27- Submission of CM RFPs

Week of 8/1- Committee reviews proposals, evaluates to make recommendations to the entire board.

Week of 8/7 or 8/19- Special board meeting to approve CM hire

There are a number of other RFP's we will have to put out this summer/fall (all listed under "soft costs" to further design development).

These include: Energy modeling, Commissioning, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan design, Hazardous Materials testing/abatement document preparation, Property Metes-and-Bounds, Topographic Survey. Geo-tech Investigation

The total for all of the soft costs above is estimated to be \$244,497.

Donations

Mary Flanagan donated a lovely wooden doll cradle for the toddler play area.

In honor of patron Lenore Loeb's 90th birthday, her family asked that donations be made to the Friends of the Library. We have crafted several options for the monetary gifts (depending on how much is raised), including some furniture options, as well as supporting us starting the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program here at our library. The program, which is intended to encourage literacy among young children, was introduced by the 1000 Books Foundation and has been demonstrably successful in promoting educational and occupational success. At sign up each child gets an information sheet outlining the program, and a first 100 book log is given. Every time someone reads a book to the child, they mark off a book read. Even if the same book is read over and over, a book is marked off each time that it is read. There is no need to record titles/authors. The child's family returns to the library after each 100 books are read. Each log will have a color assigned to it and 100 books of that color to be marked off.

When completing a log the child will receive a reward. At completion of 1,000 books, each child will receive a certificate of completion that is presented at a Pearl River Public Library board of trustees meeting.

The family of former library patron and longtime library lover Sandy Colodner has donated a low vision desktop magnifier to replace our old and out of date model.

Circulation

The Circulation Department continues with the ongoing project of tagging and inventorying our entire collection. This is a vast and necessary undertaking as we prepare to move into a smaller portion of the building. Clerk Eileen Francis has been working on our displays and linking the large shipment of juvenile items materials that came in for summer reading. The Library of Things has been tagged and moved (twice) to a new location. It is now right outside of the Learning Lab.

Adult Services



PRL's First Adult Dungeons and Dragons club met on May 11!

Diana Wendell, Head of Adult Services organized PRL's First Adult Dungeons and Dragons club based on a suggestion from a patron. Dungeon Master, Izaak Gonzales and his helper is Nick DeFelice – both pages at the Library. It is also a great experience for

two new college graduates to experience helping to plan and run a program. The group will meet monthly. This is part of our plan to offer more programming for younger adults. Diana Wendell and Adriane Fabio started planning for the Adult Summer Reading Program. Will be similar to last year's but with a website displaying books that our patrons read throughout the summer. It will be displayed on an Ipad on a stand next to the Reference Desk.

The patron-participation Stick Together was completed and posted on Facebook. It is now displayed on the Adult Ref desk to jazz it up a bit.

Part time Librarian, Ginny Halprin resigned and we are happy to report that part-time Library Assistant, Cathy Cawley, is taking over coordinating the MahJong and Canasta weekly programs. She also led a very successful field trip to Cropsie Farm.

Statistical Summary

Databases (comparison is to May 2022)

- Hoopla
 - eAudiobook usage up 43%
- Kanopy
 - Number of visits up 76%
 - Number of videos played up 12%
- OverDrive
 - Usage up 30%
 - Adult usage up 27%
 - YA usage up 30%

Library

- Notary Services were up 41%
- Total circulation was down by 2%
 - Adult circulation was about the same
 - YA Fiction up 22%
 - ILL
 - Loans up 11%

Youth Services

This month has been busy with staff putting the final touches on the summer reading program. At the last Lego Challenge, for the spring, a child and his grandmother presented Librarian Kristen McIvor with a box of cookies to thank her for the wonderful program. Kiera McDermott, a patron and art student at SUNY Purchase, has been working to decorate the library's front window and children's room. In addition, she will be helping to plan our community mural project. Librarians John A, John B, and Head of Youth Services Amy Chesman connected with approximately 580 students during the PRMS lunch periods to discuss children's and teens SRP, as well as the offerings at the Learning Lab. We attended the PR school district's Kindergarten Orientation. We were able to connect with over 140 parents, as well as principals, the superintendent, and FA social worker. We visited St. Margaret's, Franklin Ave, Lincoln Ave, and Evans Park Elementary schools, where we promoted the SRP and LL to a total of 933 students. During our school visits, Librarian Katie Bertussi was an advocate for the innovative programming that happens in the learning lab. She showed her strong connection to the school community. This makes her a valuable asset for future outreach efforts. In addition, Library Clerk Nicole did an outstanding job representing the library at the kindergarten orientation. She was friendly, informative, and able to communicate in Spanish to parents with limited English language skills. With the popularity of our Toddler Play Space, we have purchased several games and puzzles for older children to enjoy during their visits to the children's room.

Learning Lab



John's group, the Hey Hoe Woods Trio played a Cafe Concert of Baroque music for an enthusiastic live crowd, as well as a good turn out on FB Live - 173 views.

Our 6-session info series Especially for Seniors was a big hit. Seniors gave us lots of positive feedback about our ongoing info sessions, which had strong in-person and online attendance. Our All About Google program introduced patrons to our scanner.

Adults and seniors learned how to make the most of their Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs and how our scanner quickly and easily connects to their accounts. The program also generated 30 Tech Help sessions in anticipation of the classes, as well as more after the sessions ended.



Learning Lab Staff member Alicia Vonderhorst helped turn seniors around on the bond. Alicia is well loved by senior patrons of PRPL for her friendliness, patience and wide range of tech skills. Her twice-monthly outreach visits to the Temple Beth Am Senior Group (100+ members) had a clear impact on the outcome of the bond vote. Alicia has been at the mic at each outreach session, promoting our programs and services and, as a result, the Senior Club President, spoke to the group at length about the importance of the library bond and the important role PRPL plays in the lives of Pearl River seniors. I really believe Alicia had an enormous impact with

this patron group and their support of the library!

Patron Feedback

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 5:05 PM
To: Eugenia Schatoff - PRL <eschatoff@rcls.org>
Subject: Appreciation and praise! 😊

I went to Jim Cassetta's coffee talk this morning, as I have often attended quite a great deal since the pandemic. I'm out of work and wish I wasn't. I'm bored.

This morning I heard there was going to be a change, that the coffee meetings were going to be every other week instead of every week. Somebody had the idea that we should all contact you and tell you how much we love the meetings and how much we still want them to be every week...well, sure I enjoyed the meetings every week, but I'm not gonna quite contact you here that way. I think it's a better idea to just let you know how much I appreciate that the library does it at all. I have nothing but praise and admiration for Jim Cassetta, and his exceptional abilities to moderate, include and reach out to the community. He absolutely makes us all look forward to meeting again. Of course these klatches have become an important social outlet for some of us, why just today I was able to aid two of the women in the group (all three of us live doors away from each other, but would otherwise never be in contact if it weren't for the coffee talk)-getting both of them help for the same household pest issues we all happened to be having - I had a guy coming today and the other ladies came over and had the opportunity to meet and observe and most likely engage needed service. I was happy to help them and help refer to this excellent service man. But I digress..

We're told that going forward the meetings are to be reduced to every other week. Alas. If it's true that the reason why is so that more capital funds can be directed towards the library renovation initiative, then, I, for one, am definitely willing to suck it up and take and greatly appreciate what is still offered if it means getting to enjoy a nice snazzy upgraded library down the road! Do what you Gotta do and get it done! And thank you so much for letting us have the meetings when we can have them.

Keep up the great work and wonderful ideas !

thank you and with kindest regards, Heather Yorks

Incident Reports

5/18/23, 9 AM- Staff member had an accident in the staff kitchen. Ambulance was not called/required.

5/22/23, 11:30 AM- Patron harassed staff at the Circulation Desk. Supervisors intervened.

5/22/23, 12 PM - Patron abused staff at Circulation Desk. Supervisors intervened.

6/4/23, 3 PM- Patron vocally and vociferously complained about Pride displays in the library.

6/5/23, 12 PM- Electric sparks came out of the public men's restroom hand dryer. The room was evacuated and electricians were called. The unit was disconnected.

6/15/23, 4 PM- Patrons complained about teen girls sitting on back porch smoking marijuana. Patron approached teens and they left, they did not return.

6/15/23, 5 PM- Staff found books about Hitler on display in the Teen Area Pride display.

6/20/23, 3 PM- Patron complaint regarding books in Children's Room.