

Foundation Builder

Rochester Public Library Foundation, 101 2nd St SE, Rochester, MN 55904 • www.rochesterpubliclibraryfoundation.org

A Friendly Partnership

"Sometimes, children who struggle with dyslexia or ADD have friend issues. But you don't have to be the most popular kid in school to feel accepted and belong. As I tell my own children, you only need one good friend. If you have more, that's great. But as long as you have one friend who "gets you," and you enjoy each other's company, you have something very valuable. Friendships provide you with more energy to face the world.

The same is true for organizations. Organizations can do more when they have partners in the community. Community partners "get" each other's missions, even when they have different missions. They are open to collaborating on programs and projects because there is mutual respect, trust and value.

The Reading Center has experienced such a friendly partnership with

the Rochester Public Library. After the Library completed its Strategic Planning Process in 2012, it was charged with becoming active in promoting literacy in the community. As Audrey Betcher, Director of the Rochester Public Library says in their plan, "no one organization can solve this problem

[of community illiteracy] alone."

Key Library staff reached out to community partners to explore solutions, which led them to the Reading Center. We are very appreciative of Audrey and the Library staff, as they

have charged ahead with energy and vision to make the resulting program, Rochester Reading Champions, come to life. They gathered partners in the community who serve at-risk and underserved children and adults; they researched, explored, and found funding sources – all while keeping the collaborative partners (The Reading

"The Reading Center has experienced such a friendly partnership with the Rochester Public Library."



Center, Rochester Boys and Girls Club, Olmsted Co. Adult Detention Center, and others) talking, planning, and working together to overcome the inevitable obstacles.

The community has a great, creative resource in the Rochester Public Library."



Cindy Russell
Executive Director
of The Reading Center

Dear Foundation Board members and everyone who makes visiting the Rochester Public Library a really nice treasure to visit,
A GIANT THANK YOU!!!

I had loads of fun on Wednesday, July 2nd at the "Book Box Making" class. I have enclosed a little cash to help add more learning experiences in the future. RPL is a little like an in-the-city folk school!
Thank you for your generous giving of time, energy, and good spirits to making our Rochester area community proud!

Sincerely, *Julie Murray*

Letter from the Executive Director

Libraries Change Lives every day in so many ways; from finding a great book that stirs your soul to researching the internet to find your next Pinterest inspiration. Here at the Rochester Public Library, you can find the free resources to help you navigate your life. Wellness classes, author readings, Toddler Time, computer and E-Book Classes, Homework Help; it's all here for free, at the Library.

As Executive Director of the Rochester Public Library Foundation, I am honored to be able to help spread the good works of the library while ensuring financial support for

the future. The Foundation was started in 1996 to support the ongoing mission of the Library. As the non-profit arm of the Rochester Public Library, we allow for tax deductible contributions to the library while building an endowment for the future.

Whether your love of books or your need for a space to gather brings you to the Library, we hope you find what you are looking for here. Babies to teens to seniors all will find a welcoming space where they can get the knowledge they need to improve their lives. Your donations help ensure that

knowledge and learning are free to all, now and into the future. To see your dollars at work, stop by the library or visit online at www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org
See you at the Library!



Vicki Allen

Executive Director
Rochester Public Library
Foundation

Wit, Wisdom & Wine 2015



The 15th annual Wit, Wisdom & Wine fundraising event, sponsored by the Rochester Public Library Foundation, is a fun-filled evening coming up on January 17. There are delicious hors d'oeuvres to be eaten, delightful speakers to be enjoyed and dreamy gifts to be auctioned. Each guest attends two classes of their choice while enjoying wine and food, and mingling about the Library space. Silent Auction, Bookmark Gift Tree and Jewelry Raffle all add to this unique event.

Early Bird Registration: \$75 | After Jan. 1: \$85

For more information and registration, please visit <http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/supporting/foundation/WitWine.html> or contact the Foundation Office at 507-328-2387

2015 Jewelry Raffle Items



Tickets to this event would make the perfect holiday or birthday gift for that special family member who is hard to buy for!

Help us Save Printing and Postage costs

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Hope & Inspiration

A few weeks ago I attended an event where the Rochester Public Library provided an informational display. When I saw the RPL staff I rushed over and started to gush about what I thought of our library, the work they do and the impact it has had on my life and the lives of others. They asked if I would consider sharing some of those thoughts with you.

Sometimes I wonder if anything is easier to take for granted than a well-run public library. It's remarkably easy to walk in and out of the building with an armful of treats for mind, body and soul without giving much thought to what's really going on there. Over the years I've made a transition from occasional visitor to one of the bigger fans of the Rochester Public Library. I now visit the library at least once each week and have become a vocal proponent and supporter of RPL.

My transition to proponent came about as I realized how my life was being shaped, enhanced and yes, changed, by my weekly visits. Even during some very difficult times in my life the library remained a foundational constant. In fact, during the most difficult times it was all the more important for me to get to the library. It has become one of my main sources of hope and inspiration.

As I've shared my passion with family and friends I've observed the same outcomes of positivity and hope

in the lives of these new library goers. Amazing stuff really, watching the positive impact the library was having on loved ones lives after they simply applied for a membership card. The changes didn't happen overnight nor did they happen in dramatic fashion but happen they did!



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I've often thought there are very few places where donating money can have such widespread and profound impact for good as donating to the library. The list is very short of organizations that reach across so many boundaries with the grace that the library does.

Not only do I plan to continue using and supporting our first-rate public library but I will also continue to tell others about the hope and possibilities to be found within those walls. It's actually pretty easy to start a conversation when they see me with an armful of CDs, DVDs and books once each week.

Jay is currently using library media resources to listen to the music recommended in the book, 1000 Recordings To Hear Before You Die. He plans to complete the list within three years.



The infographic on the following page is a way to show the importance of the library today and going into the future. Feel free to tear it out and hand it out to people who may not receive this newsletter. We have tried to show things that happen at the library and focus on the benefits to the downtown, visitors, and community at large.

The library board, staff, and City Council President believe that the library is a major part of the downtown infrastructure. We believe it is integral for the library to remain as part of the downtown whether it is in its current location or other downtown site.



Rochester Public Library: the HEART of Downtown

IN 2013



Over 1.7 million items borrowed and enjoyed.



Over 32,000 people attended library programs & events.



43,510 children & their grown-ups played, learned and explored.

#1

The Library ranks number one in MN in amount of reference questions answered.

#2

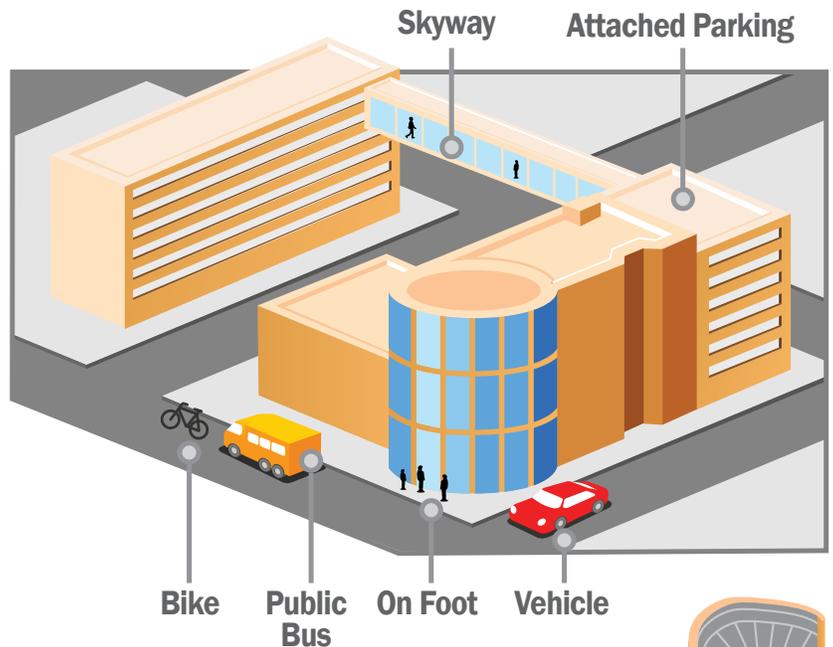
The Rochester Public Library is the 2nd busiest library in MN based on circulation.

#3

The Library ranks third in reasons for visiting downtown Rochester.

“ The Rochester Public Library is a major building infrastructure facility in downtown serving hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors annually. It is a key destination in the downtown where a true cross-section of the community comes together to learn and engage ”

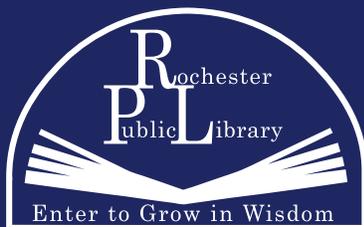
Randy Staver,
Rochester City Council President



In 2013, 512,000 visitors, walked through the doors of Rochester Public Library. That is enough to fill Target Field in Minneapolis, MN over 13 times!



With over a half of a million visitors, the Rochester Public Library contributes to a thriving downtown.





Destination Medical Center & Your Library

The Rochester Public Library is a major building infrastructure facility in the downtown serving hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors annually. It is a key destination in the downtown where a true cross-section of the community comes together to learn and engage. The preliminary plans show potential changes in the area of the Library or a potential relocation. As an important asset for the community and a major attraction that brings users and visitors to the downtown, the improvement of the Library is an important project to consider.

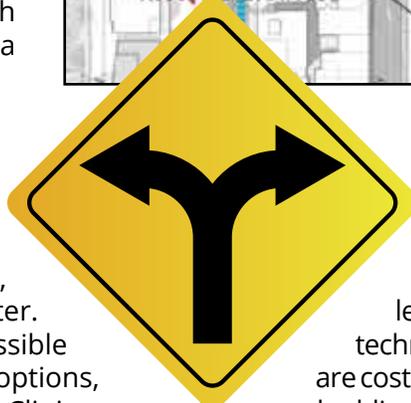
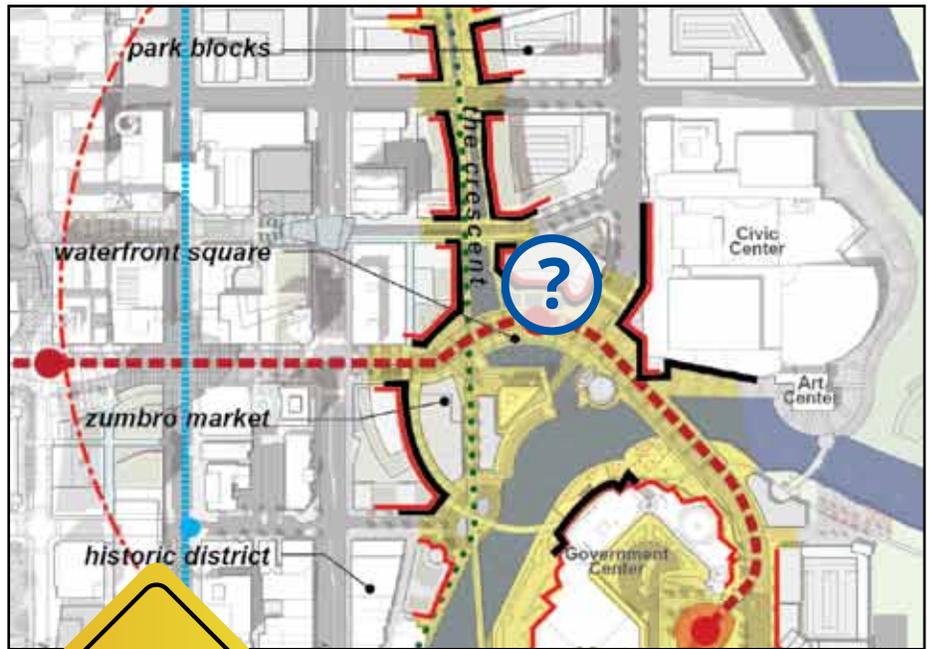
Randy Staver

Rochester City Council President

Destination Medical Center: Where is Your Library?

If you have seen the graphics in the newspapers recently, or looked at the slides at the past DMC public forums you may be asking yourself; "Where is the Library?" as we have become a new curve in 2nd Street.

We are at a fork in the road. One fork leads to staying where we are and the need to expand without a funding source available. The other fork leads to a new, built-from-the-ground-up building with an unknown location and without a funding source.



Library Expansion

If we stay where we are, we keep our spectacular location near the river, parks, the government center, the art center, and the civic theater. At this location, we're easily accessible through a variety of transportation options, including walking distance to Mayo Clinic.

However, if we stay at the current location, we have maxed out our space to use for collections, classes, programs, and events for our growing community. It is becoming harder and more expensive to add the requested and needed technology to our aging building. We have expansion plans ready, but no funding source available. The sales tax option is gone for the next 20-30 years and Rochester has never bonded for a library building.

New Library

In a new library, we could design larger space for collections, classes, events, and for our diverse community to gather and learn. The library could better handle existing technology and prepare for future needs. There are cost savings in new construction versus remodeling and adding floors, plus we could stay in operation at the current location during construction. Depending on the DMC plans, there is more potential for funding options.

There are unknowns if the library were to relocate and construct a new building. Location is the most pressing question with the source of funding right behind. We do know that any location would need to continue providing the same level of accessibility by bike, car, bus, walking, and any future public transportation options. And it must be in the heart of downtown. Our location downtown helps the library provide services efficiently and effectively while contributing to the vibrancy of the downtown.

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Rochester Public Library Foundation is celebrating Give to the Max Day on November 13!

What if you could help our Library receive \$1,000 just by giving \$10? On November 13, 2014, you'll have that chance. Join us for Give to the Max Day on November 13, and you could help us receive a \$1,000 Golden Ticket. Just make an online donation on GiveMN.org, and your donation will be entered into an hourly drawing for a \$1,000 GiveMN Golden Ticket – which could go to Rochester Public Library Foundation! That adds up to 24 opportunities for you to help us receive an extra \$1,000! <https://givemn.org/organization/Rochester-Public-Library-Foundation>

Help us increase our odds and make the most of your gift by making a donation on November 13 on GiveMN.org. Search for **Rochester Public Library Foundation**, then make your donation! Or for more convenience, give anytime between November 1-13. Together, we hope to raise more than \$10,000 on Give to the Max Day, and you can help us reach our goal!



For the Young at Heart

Come Meet Max the Rabbit on November 13 at the Library and enjoy a story about Max and Ruby

**Meet Max the Rabbit at 10:30 & 11AM in the Youth Services Division

**Special Max & Ruby Storytime at 1:30PM in the Library Auditorium

**Special Giveaways all day long!

