

LIBRARY Connections



2016 Wit, Wisdom & Wine pictures on page 4

Library Expansion Continues to be a Top Priority

By Audrey Betcher, Library Director

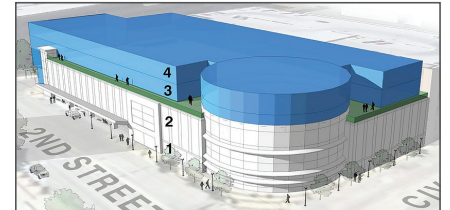
The last several months have been busy at Rochester Public Library as we move forward with plans to expand.

In November, community members re-joined library staff to reexamine the RPL Strategic Plan, originally written in 2012. This guiding document led to a number of changes at the library, with a greater focus on growing literacy and engaging the community. It also guided our emphasis on adding two more floors. At the November 2015 strategic planning meeting, community members reaffirmed the direction the Library is headed.

As 2016 continues, our focus will remain on expanding. The library building was undersized when built back in 1995, with a last-minute funding cutback. Meanwhile, the Library's growth in program attendance is well over 1000% over the last twenty years, with much of that growth happening after the Strategic Plan rewrite in 2012.

The Library is a vibrant, busy place. An expanded building would provide a dedicated floor for children and teens, flexible space

to accommodate a wide array of program opportunities and space to meet the needs of all of our users.

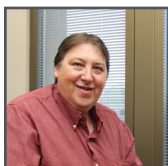


Without an expansion, the Library's ability to meet community needs is stifled. The current space for innovation and learning is inadequate compared to other similar-sized libraries; program staff continuously compete for space, often preventing certain programs and events from happening here, and the current building will not meet the demands of a growing Rochester.

In the coming months, the Library's Foundation will present findings from a feasibility study. While I constantly hear from community members "We love the Library," this study will show us how much financial support we have from the community. When combined with city, county, and other funding sources, we expect to move forward with Rochester Public Library's expansion project later this year. Together we can connect, innovate, learn, and imagine in 2016.



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connect • innovate • learn • imagine

TOGETHER

THE NEED

You asked, we listened.

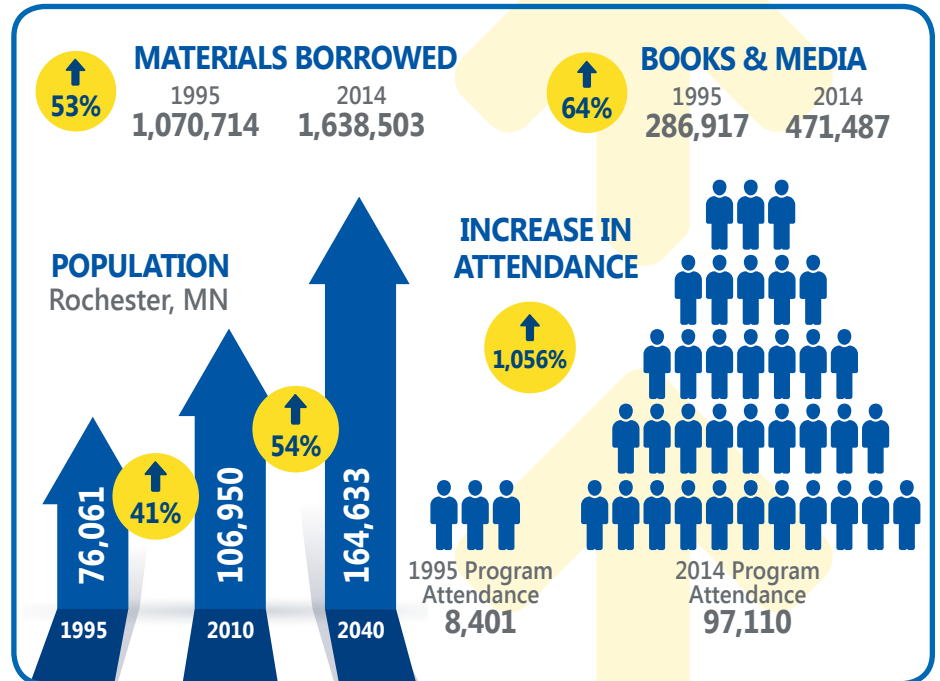
Rochester Public Library (RPL) has a 150-year history of responding to the changing needs of our community. In response to community input gathered in 2012, the Library increased and enhanced services and programs, resulting in a dramatic increase in program attendance.

Old issue, new problem.

In 1995, due to a reduction in construction funding, the Library's square footage was reduced by 29%. After twenty years, the building is woefully short of space, leaving RPL unprepared to serve the projected population increase of more than 50% over the next 30 years.

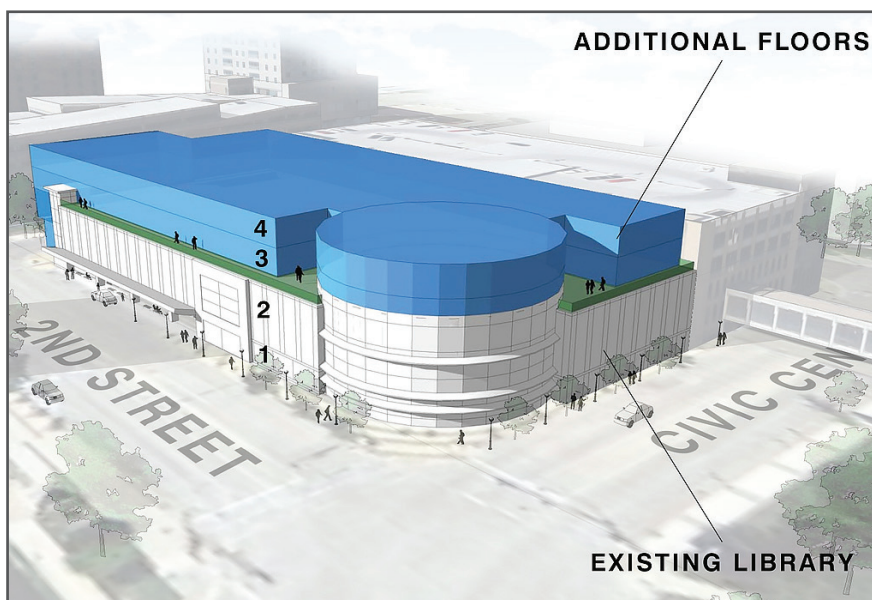
The 21st Century Library for a vibrant city.

The role of a community library continues to evolve. Without enough square footage, programs compete for space on a weekly basis, preventing the Library from meeting public demand.



THE SOLUTION

After a full examination of other options, Library officials determined the most cost-effective solution is a \$55 million renovation and expansion of the current building. RPL is exploring funding options through City of Rochester, Olmsted County, Destination Medical Center (DMC), and philanthropic gifts from foundations, corporations, and individuals.



THE FUTURE

- Provide a Youth Floor for children and teens.
- Utilize flexible and balanced (quiet/loud) space for programming, collaboration, and engagement.
- Connect varied generations, ability levels, and cultures in new ways.
- Strengthen the community with information and technology.
- Spark imagination and innovation through new opportunities.

Friends of the Rochester Public Library



ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Teens Make Memories and Create Amazement

By Heather Acerro

Teens are full of ideas, energy and enthusiasm and Rochester Public Library has the privilege of hosting two groups of creative teens who plan amazing events. Last summer, RPL's Q Club planned a hugely successful Pride Prom for LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/ Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/ Ally) teens which took place in RPL's auditorium after hours on Saturday, July 18. Over 40 teens attended to socialize, dress up and take pictures in a photo booth, snack, chat with community organizations such as Olmsted County Victim Services, LINK, and Planned Parenthood, and dance the night away. Seeing photos from the event doesn't tell the whole story though, the success of Pride Prom started months before with intensive brainstorming, planning, decoration building, and marketing the program to teens in the community.

Another dedicated group, RPL's Teen Library Council (TLC), was responsible for the successful and popular Harry Potter Book Night programs both this year and last year. The Teen Library Council expressed interest in creating a service project to give back to RPL and the community. For this project they settled on creating a Harry Potter party for children and teens. As lovers of the Harry Potter books and movies, it was easy for the teens to come up with several creative ideas for activities including: Quidditch and wizard chess practice sessions, creating magical creatures and personalizing wands, pinning cat brooches on Dolores Umbridge, and hunting throughout the library for Luna Lovegood's lost things. Over 300 kids and teens (many in costume) showed up to celebrate Harry Potter Book Night and they all had a wonderful time.



Youth Services staff is thankful for the leadership, creativity and dedication of both the Teen Library Council and Q Club teens. Teen librarian Sarah Joynt says, "Without the energy and dedication the teens bring to the planning process, these programs would not have seen such great success." RPL looks forward to another year of working with teens to create awesome experiences for all.



'Libraries Have it All:' Introducing Patron Paul Schmidt

By Brian Lind

When you arrive at the second floor of the Library, it is not an unusual sight to see Paul Schmidt sitting at his favorite catalog computer looking for movies, books and music.

"When I was younger, I always thought libraries were a boring place to go, but now I don't. If you don't learn something in school, you can learn it in the Library," says Paul.

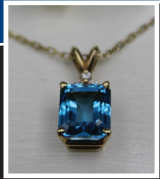
When Paul first moved to Rochester in 1985, his friend Hector brought him to the Rochester Public Library to show him several books about Jimi Hendrix. Paul checked out a stack of them and learned a lot more about his favorite musician

including how Hendrix got to England. Paul remembers taking the Hendrix books to Kutzky Park and reading them while grilling food outdoors with a George Foreman grill.

A music lover like Paul also appreciates the CD music collection at the Library.

"It's like going to Apache Mall with all its stores – you can pick from different music stores in the library for country, opera, jazz, rock and more to choose from. Some of them I've never heard of – I'll write them down and look them up on Amazon.com."

("Libraries Have it All" continued on page 7)



15 Years of Wit, Wisdom & Wine

What started as a Library event fifteen years ago continues to be the premiere fundraiser for the Rochester Public Library Foundation.

This annual event brings together the highest-quality wit and wisdom, mixed with delicious wine and hors d'oeuvres. The backdrop for this occasion is one of Rochester's beloved gems: the Library.

The 2016 "Wit, Wisdom and Wine" event brought in over \$30,000 to support the Library's mission. Foundation Board President, Chris Wendland, says the event highlights the support Rochester has for an expanded library. "The support of both new and repeat attendees, donors, volunteers and speakers clearly indicates how much the community values Rochester Public Library and believes in its mission. The Library needs a much larger space to meet increasing demand for the library's services and programs, and hopefully that will be our focus at next year's 'Wit, Wisdom and Wine.'"



Congratulations
Rochester Public Library Foundation
on this special recognition!





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Paulette & Mike Zenner
Yang Zhang
Nadine Zwetter

Upcoming Book Sales for 2016

WinterFest Book Sale

February 11-14

Rochesterfest Book Sale

June 20-23

Autumn Book Sale

October 6-9

Gift-Quality Books and Bake Sale

December 2-3



In 2015, the Friends of the Library accepted 4,542 donated books and passed them onto the library to add to the collection. This donation amounts to \$104,082 in books for 2015.

Thank you, Friends!

Friends' Bookstore Hours:

Monday 10AM-7PM

Tuesday 10AM-4PM

Wednesday 10AM-7PM

Thursday 10AM-7PM

Friday 10AM-4PM

Saturday (school year) 10AM-4PM

Saturday (summer*) 10AM-1PM

Sunday (school year) 1:30-4:30PM

Sunday (summer*) closed

*Summer hours are from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

News From the Bookstore

The Friends' Bookstore volunteers always get a little more excited in February. After all, February is I LOVE TO READ month, Black History month, Valentine's Day, and the Chinese New Year. And we love to celebrate!

Once again this year, we are offering "Blind Date with a Book." We cover books in brown paper with twine and give a few clues as to what the book is about. You can't judge a book by its cover!

The Chinese New Year is celebrated with books and games and good-luck red envelopes to share with our customers.

We have lots of coffee table size books in our inventory, so we plan to have a "I LOVE BIG BOOKS" sale right outside the back door of our Bookstore.

Our regular "2nd Saturday Sale" will be children's books. This will include some Action 100/IRLA books that the



Rochester Public Schools use in their reading program.

The Bookstore is operated by the Friends' of the Rochester Public Library as a non-profit organization with all proceeds going to the Rochester Public Library. In 2015, the Bookstore earned \$58,000 to support the mission of the library. All of our books are donated and we are staffed by volunteers. Please consider becoming a Friends' member and volunteering for the bookstore.

Pat Stephenson
Bookstore Co-Manager

Letter from the Presidents of the Friends

As we stand on the threshold of a brand new year, we want to wish all our Friends a very Happy 2016. May all your hopes and dreams come true this year

Our last book sale was in December. We had gift quality books and baked goods for sale and had a good turnout. 2015 was a great year for the Friends' four book sales with a total of \$20,600. We wish to thank everyone who helped make the book sales a huge success.

The Friends' membership contributions for the year were amazing. We had 259 donations, eight less than last year, but the dollars were higher (\$14,404). We had 208 renewals and 51 new members. The book sale preview night has been successful in getting new members. The

bookstore is also asking customers if they would like to be a member and has had positive results.

The Friends are looking forward to 2016 and being an advocate for the Rochester Public Library and its future.

We would like to say thank you to all the Friends and volunteers. We can't do it without you.

*Phyllis Hambright and
Lathika S. Nair*
Friends of the Rochester Public Library
Presidents

Celebrating a Season of Success

By Beth Butterfield and Heather Acerro

Innovation resulted in success for Rochester Public Library (RPL) and its partners during the last quarter of 2015. In November, RPL's BookBike won the Local Government Innovation Award from The Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. During its first summer, the BookBike visited 113 locations and reached over 5,500 visitors in central neighborhoods. As an overall City category winner, RPL received a \$5,000 grant from the Bush Foundation. These funds will be used to enhance the BookBike with a new programming trailer focused on educational, interactive outreach activities for youth.

Library Director Audrey Betcher received the Maude Finch Award given by the United Way of Olmsted County Women's Leadership Council. The award is given to women who are "outstanding examples of living united to advance the common good in our community...." The United Way also awarded RPL, in partnership with The Reading Center and Boys & Girls Club of Rochester, a \$15,600 grant for Rochester Reading Champions with an opportunity to renew for a second year. Rochester Reading Champions provides

specialized training for volunteers committed to providing twice-a-week free tutoring sessions to underserved, struggling readers in our community. In the first 18 months of Rochester Reading Champions, tutors gave 878 free and individualized lessons with a monetary value of \$43,900 and donated 3,948 hours valued at \$91,074. Students who have participated in 80-100 lessons moved up two to four grades in reading and two to three grades in spelling.

The Otto Bremer Trust awarded Rochester Reading Champions a \$44,291 grant to support the volunteer network and program infrastructure. Our partnership builds capacity for specialized tutoring services through engagement, education, and retention of talented volunteers.

In November, Rochester Reading Champions received a \$6,000 grant from the Scottish Rite Children's Language Foundation, which leveraged another \$6,000 donation from Rochester's Sam's Club, Walmart North, and Walmart South. These grants and support will allow Rochester Reading Champions to grow and serve more at-risk youth who struggle to read.



RPL's success is due to the support of community partners, dedicated staff, and the enthusiasm of our customers. We look forward to the next season of fun, collaboration, and hard work.

("Libraries Have it All" continued from page 3)

Paul also appreciates the print resources at the Library, including county plat books. "Plat books are beautiful because if you're out in the country tracking gophers, they provide addresses and phone numbers [for land owners]."

As times and technology change, so has Paul's use of the library. He has been taking computer classes to learn more about the online world. So far, he has learned how to use email, post photos to Flickr, search with Google and use Facebook.

He enjoys practicing his new skills on the Library's internet computers - especially because these computers have

"disease checkers [anti-virus software]" to keep him safe.

When asked about the Library, Paul says that the staff is "underrated."

"[Librarians] Brian, Susan and Jake are very well schooled in the computer, because they know it very, very well."

Paul looks forward to buying a computer himself someday.

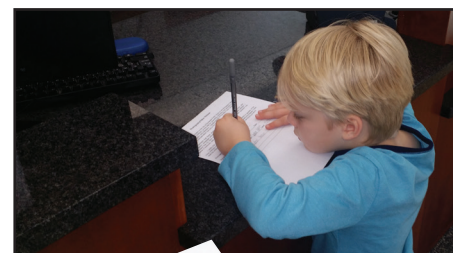
"The more I learn at the Library, the simpler it will be when I get my computer. The Library is there to help you through everything. It is filled with love, honesty and knowledge."

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The Backstory: First Library Cards

When 5-year-old Hayden Huxol saw his friend, Sasha, had her own library card, he knew he needed one, too! Mom Jessica says, "We just love the library!"



What We're Reading

Looking for a great read? Try one of our staff picks!

Adult non-fiction, suggested by Lynn Pentek

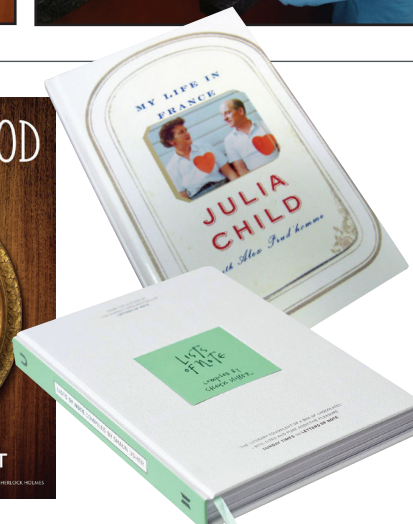
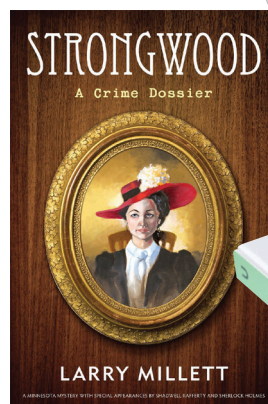
Lists of Note: An Eclectic Collection Deserving of a Wider Audience compiled by Shaun Usher

It has lists from various people through history. This book makes a reader think about what a day in the life of someone else may have included. It provides insight into a different side of some famous folks. Interesting and fun, this book is easy to pick up and put down. Some of it is in the original handwriting of the famous person who penned it so you actually see their scribbled notes.

Adult non-fiction, suggested by Greg Suave

My Life In France by Julia Child, with Alex Prud'homme

The story of Julia Child's love affair with France, French food and her husband, Paul. Julia's funny, exuberant personality shines through in this delightful memoir of her discovery of French cuisine and late blooming renown as author and television personality. An evocative portrayal of a curious, fun loving, liberal American couple discovering the culture of postwar Europe, the book was a wonderful insight into Julia's bubbly, though occasionally prickly, personality.



Adult Fiction, suggested by Kimberly Edson

Strongwood: A Crime Dossier by Larry Millett

This 2014 Minnesota Book Award nominee brings historic Minneapolis to life with this suspenseful tale of love, money, betrayal and death. Michael Masterson's love for Addie Strongwood results in his being shot dead. The case against Addie is reconstructed through trail testimony, newspapers stories and her defense attorney's colorful journal. This tale offers a glimpse into the sharply divided world of the rich and poor in Minneapolis at the dawn of the twentieth century.

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