

Angela Zimmermann, Executive Director Report

May 2021

Reopening RPL

The library building has physically been open for almost one-month now and overall, it's been going very well. We've not ever come near exceeding the capacity limitations set, and find ourselves putting more effort into advertising and marketing that we are open. It's steadily picking up though. As of Monday, May 10th, I've allowed browsing on the bookmobile to resume, one party at a time, and I've also altered the 'children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult' down to the age of 16. I also lifted study room usage time from 45 minutes to 2 hours. Staff has also requested that I ease restrictions in certain areas such as time limitation within the building, allowing some more furniture to be put out, and consideration to continue to lower the minimum age for minors to be in the building without an adult. I haven't yet acted on the latter suggestions but will discuss with the Leadership Team over the coming week, and most likely make the recommended changes.

We've also started to explore, as you may have noticed, with outdoor programming whether that be through food trucks, storytimes, or movies. We also plan to hold quite a few summer programs outdoors, as well as safely spaced-out indoors, and to also continue offering hybrid programs (in-person and virtual).

2nd Floor Renovation

There have been several meetings with the architects since the last Board meeting. I'm including subsequent to the staff reports, the scheme we're working towards for the 2nd floor. We've also received costs but I'm asking for the Building & Grounds committee to convene prior to the June meeting rather than bringing the costs before the Board this meeting because I'm certain there would be a gazillion questions...quite a few things have to be flushed out yet. The architects would then be invited to be present the actual design scheme at the June meeting. I just want the Board to be aware that these discussions are moving along, and quite quickly.

American Rescue Act Plans – ARPA Federal Infrastructure Funding

As mentioned the past couple of months, libraries throughout the nation are eligible for billions of dollars in recovery funding as part of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act. As part of ARPA, the library community in Wisconsin will be eligible for \$3.27 million, administered through the state's Department of Public Instruction. Meetings, both through the Resource Library Directors and through the City Library Collective of which RPL belongs to, are still taking place around this funding. I will continue to monitor the news on how the federal funds will be spent and how DPI plans to allocate the money - more information should be coming out the week of May 17th.

Website Redevelopment / Community Engagement Platform

Since the last Board meeting, we've received the logo branding guidelines, had professional photos completed of both the interior and exterior of the building, and will be receiving a few wireframes/mock-ups of the new homepage within the coming week. We also expect to have the complete branding guidelines (fonts, font sizes, colors, etc.) by May 18th and those will then go to SirsiDynix for our Community Engagement Platform (for the creation of our events calendar) and we are hopeful for a launch date of July 1st for the new website.

2nd Bookmobile/Techmobile

Staff involved with this project spent a good portion of the day on Friday, May 7th at LDV discussing the design of our 2nd bookmobile and ensuring all of our requirements will be met. The next step is for LDV to send over the final document of all the additions and deletions from the original quote, and then the project moves on to the 'As Sold' specification and sent over for the production approval. We plan to apply for a grant through the Community Ties Giving Program through the Union Pacific Foundation (qualifying cities are any cities through which The Union Pacific Railroad passes). Grants are between \$2500 and 25,000, with the average grant less than \$10,000, but we'll be applying for equipment for the book/techmobile as it fits in perfectly with the priorities of the grant program.

Interns

The question was asked at the last Board meeting as to if we will be having interns join the RPL team for the summer and potentially going forward. Since the last Board meeting, partnerships with the following organizations have been established:

- Southeastern Wisconsin Workforce Development Board servicing Kenosha, Racine, and Walworth County and manages the WIOA program (Workplace Innovation and Opportunity Act): One intern to potentially join us through this program.
- Uplift 900 through Racine County and contact with Melvin Hargrove: Two interns to potentially join us through this program.
- RAMAC and The Academies to hopefully employ two interns as Innovators in Residence and working with the Tech Team to assist in areas of technology, coding, STEAM initiatives, etc.
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: Masters of Library and Information Science intern

Personnel

I reported that we'd be hiring two new pages, Azaan McCray and Vivian Espadas have joined the RPL family.

My next meeting with the Finance & Personnel Committee, we'll be discussing my thoughts for the rework of the organizational chart, updating certain job descriptions, and focusing on the Team Member Responsibility Map, as indicated in our current strategic plan and as approved as one of my goals for the year.

Meetings/Presentations

I continue to make many, many connections with various organizations, and over the past month just a few to mention were: Preservation Racine, Professional Women's Network of Racine, the Urban League of Racine and Kenosha, Real Racine, RUSD Office of Family &

Community Engagement, Racine Art Museum, Heritage Museum, etc. I've also become a member of the Downtown Main Street Committee and the Racine Rotary Club. I presented at the Nonprofit Executive Director's Roundtable (hosted through RAMAC), and will be the guest speaker at the Business Matters Chat on Wednesday, May 19th to talk about the future and the vision of the library and current projects underway at RPL. I'm also a member of the Opening our Hearts and Minds to End Racism through the Dominican Center for Justice Resources and the library will be spearheading the Racine Reads project which was started with the previous RPL Director. The book is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. This project is going to turn out to be a bit larger than originally planned and will very much turn into a Community Reads initiative with a hybrid of in-person and virtual programs, book discussions, and potentially an author (virtual) visit.

Darcy Mohr, Head of Adult and Youth Services Report

Programming

The Library presented 33 programs in April, which had a total participation of 838 people. While most of our programs are still virtual, the outdoor movies are becoming more popular as the weather gets nicer. We will be adding outdoor storytimes in May.

April 2021 Programming			
Program	# of Programs	Participants	Format
1st Chapter Friday	5	43	YouTube
Craft for Children (Instructions)	1	26	YouTube
Craft for Children	1	22	Take and Make
Craft for Teens	1	4	Zoom
El Dia de los Niños	1	18	YouTube
Book Club	2	15	Zoom
Adult Informational	2	28	YouTube
Adult Informational	3	12	Zoom
Genealogy Club	2	31	YouTube
Genealogy Club	1	14	Zoom

Storytime	8	82	YouTube
Storytime	4	503	Facebook
Outdoor Movie	2	40	In Person
Totals	33	838	

Patron Services

On April 19, the Library welcomed patrons back into the building for the first time since March 14, 2020. During the first two weeks the Library was open, staff in the Adult and Youth Services Departments assisted 810 people in person. During the month of April, staff answered 1,309 calls and 55 chats. A total of 3,327 questions were answered across all methods of communication.

Patrons were thrilled to be able to utilize library services in person again. The staff had many positive interactions with people who were truly grateful for being able to be in the building.

Total # of phone calls	1309
Avg. # of calls per day	50.3
Avg. # of calls per hour	6.3
Total talk time	4,897 minutes
Avg. call length	3 min. 44 sec.
Total chats	55
Total chat messages	433
Avg. # of messages per chat	7.87
Total phone and chat questions	2517
In-person reference questions	810
Total # of reference questions answered	3327
Computer usage (April 1-17))	91
Computer usage (April 19-30)	153

Total computer usage	244
Black and white prints	2,910
Color prints	214
Scans	413

Library Collections

The Library of Things Collection was renamed Beyond Books Collection. A new display was created to highlight these items.

Staff activities

10 Adult and Youth Services staff members participated in a combined total of 57 hours of continuing education in April. Darcy and Jessie attended the Aging Well Conference, which was presented by Parkside’s Professional and Continuing Education Office. The two keynote speakers were renowned Doctors of Geriatric Medicine. They provided some fascinating information around ageism and age segregation.

The Tech Team created Overdrive training for the staff.

Staying connected with the community

The Marketing Team created a welcome back video that was posted on social media.

The Library and the Bookmobile were present at the Downtown Racine Corporation Candy Hop on April 24th for the entire event.

<i>Nick Demske, Community Resources Librarian Report</i>

Resilient Communities Grant Update

Our last event in the “Resilient Communities; Libraries Respond to Climate Change” series took place on Thursday April 29th at 6pm virtually. It mirrored the event we had in March which was an input session for Black community members to give input on an “Equitable Climate Action Plan” which the City of Racine is in the process of drafting, via members of the Mayor’s office. The event was hosted again by Cara Pratt, the City’s Sustainability Coordinator, and Lizeth Brito, who translated and made sure the event was bilingual. The Library was joined by the City of Racine, Voces de la Frontera and Miss Latina Racine as co-sponsors.

This event brought 23 Latinx leaders, mostly under 40, to participate and contribute to this process which--similarly to the event we held for Black community members--is the largest gathering of Latinx people in Racine to discuss environmental issues that I am aware of. The significance of this should really not be underestimated. Three Latinx elected leaders were present, including the only Latinx County Supervisor (Sup. Fabi Maldonado) and the only latinx

School Board Representative (Dulce Cervantes Contreras), as well as Alder Edwin Santiago. Many present expressed a real passion around environmental issues and a desire to have more opportunities to engage locally on related issues. The hope is that this is just the first event of many that will work to effectively desegregate and effectively integrate the local environmental activism ecosystem, and I hope the library plays an active role in promoting the next steps in that process.

Bob Margis, Head of Circulation Services

Bookmobile

The new summer Bookmobile schedule is scheduled, with a new stop added: Ascension Little Saints Daycare. The Bookmobile had a total of 2,647 circs in April.

Circulation

RPL circulated 23,220 items from Main Library in April. Total for the month, inclusive of the Bookmobile, was 25, 867. March 2021 circulation was 27,405. Approximately 10,821 holds were placed and filled. 5,322 items loaned to other libraries. 503 new library cards issued.

Technical Services

Ordering and processing

In April TSD staff placed orders for 1157 items and received 945 previously ordered items. A total of 1287 items were added to the catalog.

With our materials vendor Brodart we expanded our FASTips account to include preselected orders for juvenile Spanish material and created a TIPS selection list for juvenile nonfiction books.

Current Project Updates

- Adult nonfiction call number updating is continuing. Sections remaining includes 300s, 400, 500s and 600s. We continue to find a large number of items that require mending.
- Juvenile spine labels are currently being updated in the Holiday and Wordless sections.
- In coordination with the selector for Juvenile nonfiction TSD is working on a weeding project.
- We have begun updating bibliographic records for our Learning Aids collection to increase the searchability of the collection in the catalog.

SHARE Cataloging Committee meeting held on April 12th

One item was on the agenda. This concerned the use of the LOC approved subject heading "Illegal aliens". It was agreed that as a consortium a local subject heading will be added of "Noncitizens" when there is a LOC subject heading that matches "Illegal aliens".