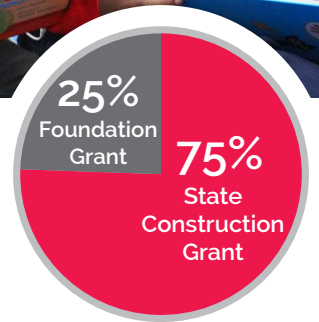


Foundation Grants Fund a Fun and Fulfilling Year

The newly installed cabinets behind the children's desk of the Library are already filling up with books, games, construction paper, tiny pompoms, glue, and stickers. Bobby Simic, the head of children's services for New Rochelle Public Library, is delighted! "Now we can keep everything we need in one place, organized and secure."



Over the last five years, the Main Library has been renovated from the bottom up, using New York State (NYS) construction grants with matching funds from the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation. This past year, the Main Library received a grant of \$229,625 for the final phase of the Library's **Third Floor Renovation**. The Foundation's match for this grant, \$57,424, was made possible by generous support from the Foundation's corporate sponsors, individual donors, and proceeds from our fundraising events.

The third floor now offers modern, flexible workspaces that meet the needs of entrepreneurs, students, and remote workers with laptop bars, two large conference rooms, as well as three private workspaces for study, job interviews or video conferencing. The renovations also brought **technology upgrades** to the third-floor information services desk, 10 new computer workstations in the Bliss Music Center, and upgrades to the second-floor Teen Room, which include noise insulation and additional Maker Space gear: 3D pens, a Cricut machine for cutting elaborate shapes in craft materials, and Twitch streaming equipment.

In addition to important Library renovations, your generous donations make it possible for NRPL Foundation to continue to fund programs like the popular Museum Pass Program, allowing families free access to many local and New York City museums. These grants help keep our Library up-to-date and responsive to the changing needs of the community. This year, the NRPL Foundation also provided funding for wonderful events such as the Family Fair, the "New to New Rochelle" Welcome Event for new residents and "Game On!," a rollicking fun evening of sports and games for adults and children.

The Museum Pass Program

The Foundation continues to provide funding for the tremendously popular **Museum Pass Program** providing patrons with free or discounted admission to the area's most popular and expensive museums. Library patrons can now borrow passes for entry to 25 area museums, including MOMA, the New York Hall of Science, and the American Museum of Natural History. This year, NRPL passes enabled more than 12,000 museum visits!



Children at the Family Fair



Teen Room during the Family Fair

Family Fair

On Oct 2, 2022, hundreds of superheroes of all ages gathered at the Library's **Family Fair** for a fun-filled afternoon sponsored by the NRPL Foundation. This free event with the theme "Recharge Your Superpowers at the Library" included a magic show, a special visit by Spider-Man, a teen video game tournament, carnival games, an obstacle course and manga art and balloon sculptures. Library Director Tom Geoffino said the event was "designed to bring New Rochelle residents from all parts of the city into the Library for an afternoon of fun and also highlight the breadth and depth of Library resources available to the community."



Message from Our President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Over the almost nine years that I have served as President of the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, I have had a front-row seat in seeing the many ways our Library serves our community. It is because of you, our donors and supporters, that the Foundation has been able to assist the Library in staying up-to-date and vibrant, through the matches that we provide to meet New York State requirements for grants for capital improvements, and by providing additional funding for technology and software updates and other requests by the Library.

The Library is traditionally, and continues to be, a place for study, research, and for discovering books for the joy of reading, but today that role has been greatly expanded. Mornings can find Moms, Dads and caregivers participating with their toddlers in story time; there are school visits by elementary school teachers and students; tutoring in the afternoon; games, book discussions, hangouts in the teen room; yoga in the community room; sewing classes; art workshops; computer classes; film series in the theater; book clubs; art exhibits; and a Business Center that helps those seeking to change employment or write a better resumé. Residents can also be found doing research and working in the new private study rooms.

When we take a moment and consider all that our Library offers, in a safe and friendly environment, we can all be proud knowing that our Library is on the front lines in addressing the epidemic of loneliness that exists in this country, as detailed in the recent Advisory issued by the U.S. Surgeon General. As a matter of fact, the Surgeon General includes libraries as part of the strategy for addressing the need for greater social connection in the country.

There is always more that can be done, but thanks to you and your support, our Library is a valuable and much-appreciated resource for so many in our community. We can all be proud of that!

With best wishes for the New Year,



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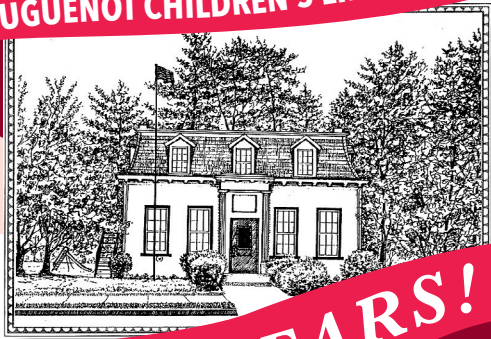
New to New Rochelle, A Welcome Event for New Residents

On January 25, 2023, new residents of New Rochelle were invited to mingle, win prizes and take after-hours tours of the Library while learning more about their new hometown and ways to get involved. The event was co-sponsored by the NRPL Foundation, the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence, the New Rochelle Public Library, and the New Rochelle Downtown BID with support from RXR, Lori Morrow Homes and Monroe College. The first 30 guests received "swag bags" from New Rochelle's Department of Development. Barbara Davis fielded questions in an "Ask the City Historian" booth. A NOMA Social mixologist created a signature cocktail for the evening.

Game On! Fundraiser

On March 11, 2023, the NRPL Foundation raised \$75,000 with an after-hours game night for grownups. For the "Game On" fundraiser, the Foundation turned the Library into a giant mini-golf course – with help from a professional mini-golf company – and created spaces for a variety of games, from a Mahjong "parlor" to a ping pong area with nooks set aside for "lightning" Scrabble and Wordle. Guests also enjoyed music (including karaoke), nibbles, and a whiskey tasting on Friday night. On Saturday, children and families were invited to try their hand at the mini-golf course free of charge: More than 500 people turned out over the course of a rainy afternoon. "Game On really put the "fun" in our annual fundraiser," says NRPLF President Chris Selin. "It gave our guests a chance to hang out and enjoy some friendly competition while getting a look at what we've accomplished inside the library."

CELEBRATING HUGUENOT CHILDREN'S LIBRARY'S



25 YEARS!



New Rochelle Public Library Foundation and New Rochelle Public Library celebrated the Huguenot Children's Library's 25 wonderful years in operation with a birthday bash on May 20, 2023, that drew more than 300 families. The free day of fun included music, crafts, balloon art, visits from Peppa Pig and Marshall of Paw Patrol, with cake and goody bags for all.

Many things have changed at the little library over the years, but the HCL remains a happy, beloved place for families and children to gather. Every year, families look forward to Summer Fun on the Patio, sponsored by the NRPL Foundation. This year, over 3,400 visitors participated in its 12 free, weekly programs that delighted and educated with LEGOs, crafts, puppets, theater, sign language, and yoga. The popular Art Club is taught by members of the New Rochelle High School Art Honor Society (some of whom participated in this class years ago.) Children sang, danced, and played cooperative games in programs such as *Move & Groove with Joy*, *Wiggle and Giggle with Dawny Dew*, and *Rock Your World Kids with Armelle*.

A grant of \$48,760, funded equally through the NRPL Foundation and New York State grants, enabled HCL to continue its Summer Fun programs and complete significant building improvements this year. The basement received a new floor, additional storage, and new kitchen countertops, sink and faucets. Storage was also enhanced on the first and second floors. Important façade and foundation repairs were made outside, including patio upgrades. The HCL is looking better than ever and continues to improve with age! Happy birthday, HCL!

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Thursday, May 9, 2024

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Celebrate and Support the Library

Join us at Greentree Country Club for cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a silent auction that will raise vital funding and augment the New Rochelle Public Library's ability to serve our diverse community. The Guardian Award Honorees are three champions in the fight against book banning: **Nancy Paulsen**, president and publisher of Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin Inc.; **Jacqueline Woodson**, author of children's and young adult books; and **Emma Straub**, author and owner of Books Are Magic bookstore in Brooklyn.

Other honorees include **Donna and Bob Young** of the Young Companies and JRY Foundation, NRPLF President **Chris Selin**, and NRPL Director **Tom Geoffino**. Tony Aiello of CBS News-12 will serve as the evening's emcee. Tickets are \$185 per person. Journal ads and sponsorships are available.

Your support is essential to our success!