New Rochelle Public Library Foundation

A Stronger Library, Together

2025–2026 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT













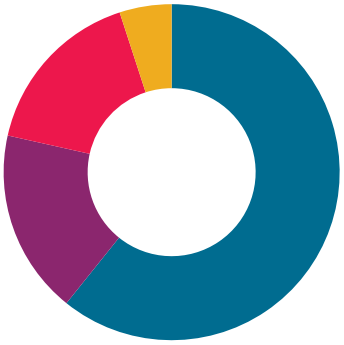
2025–26 IMPACT INFORMATION

This Year's Support to the Library Totaling $239,600

(Year ending June 30, 2026*)

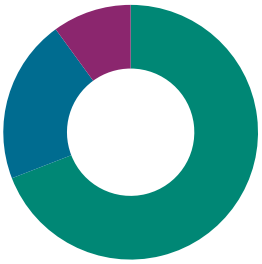
Community Investments

Children's Garden	$88,000
Cappelli Music Studios	$57,600
NYS Construction Grant Matches (Main Library and HCL)	$40,000
Huguenot Children's Library Performers, Supplies, and Furniture	$30,000
Museum Passes	$12,000
Wi-Fi Hotspots	$12,000
Total	$239,600



By Funding Area

- 61% Special Initiatives ($145,600)
- 18% Building Improvements ($42,500)
- 16% Community Programming ($39,500)
- 5% Technology ($12,000)



By Location

- 69% Main Library ($165,600)
- 21% Huguenot Children's Library ($50,000)
- 10% Library-wide: museum passes and hotspots ($24,000)

Our Board

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Eugenia Schatoff

FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nina Robertson

Your Support at Work

The Foundation and the Library worked side by side this year to create welcoming spaces, creative learning, and cultural access across New Rochelle.

$239,600
GRANTED TO THE LIBRARY IN 2025–26

1029
FREE MUSEUM VISITS, JULY 2025–APRIL 2026

6,400+
CHILDREN AND CAREGIVERS SERVED AT HUGUENOT CHILDREN'S LIBRARY SINCE SUMMER 2025

$4M+
RAISED FOR THE LIBRARY SINCE 1993

A Year of Impact. A New Chapter Ahead.

This past year, your generosity became $239,600 in grants to the New Rochelle Public Library. Each grant answered a need the Library brought to us.

Families gathered for storytimes and summer programs at the Main Library and Huguenot Children's Library. Young learners got new technology in the Children's Room, and residents benefited from more than a thousand free museum visits. Children explored a new outdoor Children's Garden, and a leadership gift from the Kylie and Louis R. Cappelli Foundation launched the campaign for the Cappelli Music Studios.

This year also brought something new. In May, New Rochelle voters approved a $55 million bond to renovate the Main Library, a major public investment in our city's future and a milestone worth celebrating.

THE BOND BUILDS THE FOUNDATION. PHILANTHROPY HELPS BRING THE VISION TO LIFE.

The bond will renew the building and its infrastructure. But an exceptional Library is defined by what happens inside: the storytime that sparks a lifelong reader, the teen who finds a creative outlet, the family visiting a museum for the first time. That is where the Foundation, and you, come in. Our mission hasn't changed. Our opportunity has grown.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to Leslie Demus and Chris Selin, who retired from the Foundation Board after many years of dedicated leadership and service. Their contributions have helped shape and strengthen the Foundation and its work on behalf of our Library.



As the Library enters this new chapter, we will keep working hand in hand with Library Director Eugenia Schatoff and the Library Board of Trustees to build a first-in-class Library for New Rochelle. Thank you for being part of it.

With gratitude,

Stephanie L. Tomei
Roderic Rolett
Board Co-Presidents

NRPLFoundation.org
facebook.com/nrplfoundation

Your Support Across the Library

Public funding keeps our Library running. The Foundation helps it lead: bridging the technology gap, sparking innovation, and creating the experiences that turn a good library into a great one.

Foundation grants fund technology, spaces, and experiences at both the Main Library and Huguenot Children's Library.

Here is what they made possible this year.







Children and Families

Early learning starts at the Library. This year, Foundation grants helped make the Main Library's Children's Room and Huguenot Children's Library places where young children read, explore, and learn alongside their caregivers.

- **At Huguenot Children's Library,** the Foundation funds all children's programming, serving more than 6,400 children and caregivers since summer 2025 with storytimes, Summer Fun on the Patio, animal visits from the Stamford Museum & Nature Center, and more.
- **In the Main Library's Children's Room,** new tables and chairs created a flexible, welcoming Program Room that now supports programming across the Library. New book bins and an upgraded play area help families find books and learn through play, and Read-Along and seasonal titles are seeing strong growth in checkouts.
- **At both locations,** professional performers such as Budding Buddhas yoga and Singin' with Sean bring music, movement, and storytelling to young children.

STEM, Technology, and Digital Access

Not every New Rochelle family has a computer or reliable internet at home. Foundation grants help close that gap and give kids, teens and adults hands-on ways to learn.

- **Learning computers in English and Spanish.** New AWE Learning stations, among the most-used tools in the Children's Room, especially when school is out.
- **Hands-on STEM.** Materials for LEGO Engineers, StoryArt, and Science Club, led by New Rochelle High School honor students.
- **A stronger Digital Media Lab.** Upgrades expanded teen programs in robotics, 3D printing, and mindfulness.
- **Internet to take home.** Wi-Fi hotspots that students, job seekers, families, and seniors borrow for three weeks at a time.

Culture Within Reach

The Library's Museum Pass Program is entirely funded by the Foundation, with thanks to you, our donors. The Museum Pass Program gives New Rochelle residents free access to 20 museums and cultural destinations that might otherwise be out of reach. From July 2025 through April 2026, residents made **1,029 free visits.** Favorites included the Westchester Children's Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Intrepid Sea & Air Museum.

Investing in the Library's Future

Great programs need buildings that work. Foundation matching funds unlocked New York State construction grants that upgraded the Main Library's cooling system. At Huguenot Children's Library, Foundation-funded planning laid the groundwork for a full restoration of the historic roof, now backed by more than $300,000 in state aid. And this fall, the Library debuts a colorful new logo and website, funded by the Foundation to better connect our community with the breadth of resources and services the library offers.

A Garden for Gathering and Discovery

The Main Library now has an outdoor classroom. Federal funding the Foundation and Library secured with the City of New Rochelle built the Children's Garden, and all summer, children's librarians welcomed young visitors outside for crafts, gardening, story hours, and music.



Thanks to our generous donors, the Foundation awarded the Library an $88,000 grant this June to further enhance the garden. Planting is underway this fall, and the finished space will include an outdoor stage for storytimes and performances, musical play pieces, raised garden beds, and new tables, chairs, and benches.

A GIFT TO MAKE THE GARDEN BLOOM. Help bring the Children's Garden fully to life with playful furnishings, learning tools, and creative features. **Give at NRPLFoundation.org.**



Introducing the Cappelli Music Studios

Musicians of all ages will soon have something hard to find in New Rochelle: free, soundproof space to practice music. This year the Foundation launched a campaign to build the Cappelli Music Studios at the Bliss Music Center, with instrument-equipped rooms for practice, lessons, and recording.

"Every child deserves the opportunity to explore their creativity, discover their voice, and build confidence through the arts." — Louis R. Cappelli

We are grateful to the Kylie and Louis R. Cappelli Foundation for the leadership gift that launched this ongoing campaign and allowed us to award a $57,600 grant for the purchase of the first studio, which we expect to install early 2027.

HELP MAKE THE MUSIC STUDIOS A REALITY. The first studio is underway. Help complete the Cappelli Music Studios and expand access to free music practice space in New Rochelle. Underwrite a studio, sponsor an instrument set, or give any amount. Gifts of $1,000 or more will be recognized on a donor plaque. **Give at NRPLFoundation.org.**

Cocktails & Conversation: Our Premier Program

Our signature author series brought book lovers together for two memorable evenings this year, each moderated by historian, author, and NRPL Foundation Board Member Amy Bass, Ph.D.



January 2026 | Cleyvis Natera at Alvin & Friends. Guests escaped winter with the acclaimed author of *The Grand Paloma Resort and Neruda on the Park*, a New York Times Editor's Choice, for a lively conversation on literary suspense, class, and Caribbean dreams.





May 2026 | Sabrina Rudin at The Dining Lab, Monroe University. The Spring Café founder shared her cookbook, *Healthy with a Side of Happy*, while Monroe University's culinary students prepared and served delicious dishes from its pages. The students did a fabulous job, and the evening was a major hit!

Stay tuned for this season's Cocktails & Conversation at **NRPLFoundation.org**.

Thank you to our partners Monroe University, Alvin & Friends, and J. Anderson's Books.

One Library Plaza
New Rochelle, NY 10801

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SAVE THE DATE

GUARDIAN GALA

Tuesday, May 4, 2027

An evening of libations & provisions, music, and an auction, honoring champions of free and open access to information, and celebrating our beloved Library. Details to come at NRPLFoundation.org.

Our Library. Our Future. Our Ongoing Commitment.

Your generosity makes more possible at the New Rochelle Public Library- from innovative programs and creative spaces to experiences that enrich our entire community.

Together, we can do even more.

Make your gift today.

Give online at
NRPLFoundation.org
or scan the QR code.

Other Ways to Give

- Mail a check payable to NRPL Foundation
  1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801
- Support the Foundation through stock gifts, donor-advised funds, or IRA distributions.
- Include the Library in your estate plans.

The NRPL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity, Federal Tax ID #13-3712927.



"If we want a first-in-class Library, we can't do it without the Foundation."

— Eugenia Schatoff, Library Director