



Yonkers
Public Library

2023 Annual Report



A Message from the Library Board President

If the health of an institution can be measured by the dedication and engagement of its staff, then the Yonkers Public Library is in great shape indeed. In 2023, the YPL board released its Strategic Plan for 2023-27, a plan developed and shaped by the hard work, creative thinking and collaboration of board, administration, and staff. The vision it outlines is ambitious, wide-ranging, inclusive, and joyful. This year's Annual Report shares highlights from work already underway to turn that vision into reality for the people of the great city of Yonkers.



Nancy Maron
President, Board of Trustees
Yonkers Public Library
September, 2024

A Message from the Library Director

In Spring 2023, during National Library Week, YPL launched a dynamic new logo that represented a change in the library's look, feel and purpose. The logo presented a crisp and clean look for the library with its geometric, minimalist design and blue-green palette recalling the mid-Century design and colors of the Will Library and its iconic sunshades. The shape, which consists of three solid polygons meeting together, takes the letter "Y" (as in "Yonkers") and modifies it to suggest motion. Many have commented on its resemblance to an origami bird in upward flight, which also suggests the transformative nature of the page. We felt the logo suggested many things about the evolving YPL brand - being solid but never static, slightly unexpected, always adapting and moving forward.

This report will explore some of the ways the library delivered on this rebranding, through technology innovation, improved spaces, new partnerships, and enhanced services.

Respectfully submitted,



Jesse Montero
Library Director
September, 2024



A New Strategic Plan: "Inspiring Staff, Inspiring Spaces, Inspiring Yonkers"

YPL released its strategic plan for 2023–2027 entitled "Inspiring Staff, Inspiring Spaces, Inspiring Yonkers." In it, YPL articulated a roadmap for improving library services and their impact on the Yonkers community through four distinct objectives: "Everybody Belongs Here," "Deliver an Exceptional Library Experience," "We're Your Partner for Life (YPL)," and "Inspiring Staff, Inspiring Spaces, Inspiring Yonkers." As of this writing, YPL has already achieved some of the objectives set forth in the plan, including some of the successes listed below.

A New and Improved YPL.org

If there was ever any doubt about the need for libraries to deliver services virtually or digitally, the COVID-19 Pandemic decisively answered the question. Having a reliable, attractive, searchable and mobile friendly website is essential for making library services and resources accessible and appealing. In Spring 2023, YPL launched the new YPL.org. Powered by Library Market, an award-winning library website developer, the new YPL.org offers many improved functions, including the ability to book study rooms using a library card, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, a more logical reorganization of YPL services and resources, and an improved event calendar.

New and Improved Spaces

Thanks to capital funding for library technology, furniture, and materials, YPL was able to continue its improvements of library spaces. Among them:

- A new and improved teen room at Riverfront Library featuring modular furniture, lounge seating, more electrical outlets for connectivity, and a mural from noted London-based street artist Dean "Zeus" Colman.
- A reorganization of the Will Library reading room, which consolidated and standardized tables and seating in long rows with improved access to electrical outlets. Through this project, 6 additional tables, 40 additional chairs, 56 electrical outlets and 16 USB ports were added to the room, facilitating increased capacity and usage for students, freelancers and telecommuters.
- The Cove: a reinvention of a playspace in the Riverfront Children's Room featuring Montessori-style teaching and play equipment, a dedicated infant space, reading nooks, and comfortable seating for parents and caregivers.
- The Sensory Room: a first-of-its-kind space in Yonkers and a first-of-its-kind library space in New York State, the Sensory Room is designed for people with sensory processing disorders like Autism. It features light filters, bubble tubes, and manipulatives. It has already been used by families, social workers, special education teachers, and daycare facilities.

Increased Grant Funding

YPL made efforts to diversify its funding from a variety of state, county and private sources:

- In August, YPL was informed that it had received a \$587,000 New York State Library Construction Award to partially fund replacement of the Will Library chiller. The award was the largest single year state grant in YPL's history, and it was the sixth largest library construction award offered statewide this year
- For the first time ever, YPL received a \$25,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support its arts and cultural programming at Riverfront Art Gallery and across the library systems.
- Con Edison doubled its previous giving to \$10,000 in support of YPL's popular Seed Library service and sustainability programs.
- YPL continued to receive funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, ArtsWestchester, and Westchester County Board of Legislators.

YPL Earns State and National Recognition

In 2023 YPL received recognition for several achievements:

- In November, at the New York Library Association Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs, YPL was named the 2023 recipient of the New York State Library's Joseph F. Shubert Award for Library Excellence for the Summer Reading Buddies program hosted in partnership with Family Services Society of Yonkers (FSSY). It was the first time YPL had received such an honor.
- YPL Board President Nancy Maron received the Velma K. Moore Award from the Library Trustees Association Section (LTAS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA) for her years of service to YPL at the same conference.
- In December, YPL was given the City of Yonkers' Youth Bureau Community Partner Award in recognition of its programs and services for children and teens.
- In March, YPL was honored by Westchester County Department of Health's Special Recognition Award for their role in hosting vaccine clinics and raising vaccine awareness in the community.



	2022	2023
Total Items Circulated	588,579	633,881
physical items	470,004	489,763
electronic	112,555	138,640
Library Visits	413,565	499,384
Customer Questions	129,122	155,844
Computer Use	43,375	45,994

	2022	2023
Total Programs	5,306	6,378
virtual	1,119	1,196
in-person	2,457	3,457
non-library	1,730	1,725

Total Program Attendance	112,597	
virtual	23,938	23,869
in-person	41,205	70,044
non-library	47,454	

**Revised upward from initial 2022 estimate (114,832)*

FINANCIALS

Income

City of Yonkers	\$10,832,870
Room Rentals	\$5,416
Fines and Fees	\$1,326
State Aid	\$62,811
Total	\$10,902,423

EXPENSES

Personnel	\$7,750,223
Utilities	\$169,500
Technology	\$620,500
Rent	\$750,000
Other expenses	\$1,612,200
Total	10,902,423

GRANTS/GIFTS AWARDED

Community Development Block Grant (Wayfinding)	\$30,000
Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library Annual Appeal donation:	\$25,000
Westchester County Board of Legislators: Wellness	\$18,625
Westchester County Board of Legislators: Technology Classes	\$10,000
Con Edison	\$10,000
Westchester Arts Council	\$2,500
ArtsWestchester - Arts Alive:	\$2,000
NY Presbyterian Hospital	\$3,000
Total:	\$ 88,125





Who We Are

Executive Staff

Jesse Montero, Library Director

Shauna Porteus, Deputy Library Director

Vivian Presedo, Business Manager

Sandy Amoyaw, Branch Administrator,
Riverfront Library

Tara Somersall, Branch Administrator, Will Library

Z Baird, Branch, Manager, Crestwood Library

Board of Trustees

Nancy Maron, President

Joseph Puglia, Vice President

Stephen Jannetti, Treasurer

Michael Sabatino

Patricia Phelan

John Daily Jr.

Ofunne Edoziem

Department Heads

Mary Robison, Head of Adult Services, Riverfront Library

Tara Somersall, Head of Children's Department, Riverfront Library (January-September 2023)

Oz Coto-Chang, Interim Head of Children's Department, Riverfront Library
(September-December 2023)

Melinda Lance, Circulation Manager, Riverfront Library

Ruth Rosner, Head of Adult Services, Will Library

Aili Whelan, Head of Children's Department, Will Library

Suzanne Johnson, Circulation Manager, Will Library

Carlos Figueroa, IT Manager/Network Administrator

Mary DiChiara, Head of Technical Services

Russell Martinez, Supervisor of Custodians

Angel Castro, Marketing Manager

Special Thanks To...

The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library | info@foundationforypl.org

Friends of the Yonkers Public Library | friendsofyppl@aol.com

Friends of the Crestwood Library | friendsofcrestwoodlibrary@gmail.com