



Improving Lives, Engaging Community, Leading Change

**YPL ANNUAL REPORT 2017**



# Letter from the Board President & Library Director

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An annual report offers us, the Board and staff of the Yonkers Public Library, the opportunity to highlight our accomplishments, pay homage to our patrons, and reflect on the challenges of the past year. 2017 was a year of progress and transformation marked by innovative programming, dedicated public service, and broad community engagement.

Our mission is ambitious: to change lives every day using the unique tools of the public library. These tools include a highly talented staff, deep resources, in facilities that provide free and open access to a wealth of information and learning opportunities, cultural enrichment, and personal growth.

Guided by a clear vision of community-driven library services, YPL plays an important role in our residents' lives. It is our hope that when you read through the annual report you'll find yourself, family members, friends, and neighbors in all these numbers— perhaps you attended one of our new Tai Chi classes or took your child to a bilingual story time or learned how to create an object using our 3D printer in Tech Central or traced your genealogy to build your family tree. After all, YPL's tagline is “your place, your space” and this annual report represents the library’s story, and you – the community – provide the narrative.

Moving forward, we have exciting plans for 2018, including a year-long celebration of our 125th Anniversary and the launch of our early childhood literacy initiative “1000 Books Before Kindergarten.” The library will continue to transform in a direction dedicated by the needs and desires of the Yonkers community.

On behalf of all of us at the Yonkers Public Library, we thank everyone in the great city of Yonkers for supporting our efforts and enabling us to explore new and innovative ways to serve our patrons. We are looking forward to another year of exceptional service and seeing how you use your space.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anietra'.

**Anietra Guzmán-Santana**  
President, Board of Trustees



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Falcone'.

**Ed Falcone**  
Library Director



## Mission

The Yonkers Public Library changes lives every day. Our expert, trusted staff help all the people of Yonkers find the information they need, the programs they enjoy, and the reading they love.

## Vision

The Yonkers Public Library will be the community's place for discovery, engagement, and personal growth.

## Shared Values

- We educate, entertain, and stimulate learning through an engaging assortment of programs and collections.
- We celebrate and preserve Yonkers' history and diverse culture.
- We partner with public and private local organizations to make Yonkers a better place to live, learn, and work.



## By the Numbers



**896,699**  
Visitors



**88,387**  
Active library card holders



**9,896**  
Hours open to the public



**5,564**  
Adult, teen & youth programs

**683,000**  
print and digital  
items checked out



**270,000**  
Internet Sessions



300 visitors/month  
and is the centerpiece  
of First Thursday  
Gallery Hop

**5,838**  
Youth and Teens  
Attended Summer  
Reading Program



Museum Pass  
program  
launched with  
**360+** passes  
checked out in  
the first eight  
months



Girls Who Code started its  
first club in Tech Central.  
**8** public schools and **7**  
grades are represented



**88,000**  
Wifi Users

### Tech Central



**726**  
programs  
held with  
**6,100**  
individuals  
participating.



Riverfront and  
Willi Library starts  
bilingual  
storytimes



**253,793**  
Reference questions  
answered by YPL librarians

**\$593,361**  
grant funding  
secured

# Engage

## the Entire Yonkers Community

### Something for Everyone

As part of the library's goal to further diversify our offerings to suit growing demand and meet the needs of our community, the library increased library-sponsored programming by 15%. This year the library introduced bilingual story times, baby-signing, Girls Who Code, and college readiness programs, as well as expanded our home-school programming. The library launched exciting and unique new offerings like home brewing workshops for our young professionals, a digital media club for teens, and Zumba for kids. As a result of our efforts, the library saw a 13% increase in program attendance.

2017 marked the launch of the First Thursday Gallery Hop. Riverfront Library Art Gallery Curator Haifa Bint-Kadi, along with YPL Director Ed Falcone, pioneered the concept in partnership with other downtown Yonkers galleries. This event not only features Yonkers' burgeoning art scene and local talent, but also highlights the library's leadership and important role in we play in the

cultural renaissance occurring in our City. On average, 300 people visit Riverfront Library Art Gallery each month, to explore the latest exhibit.

### Closing the Digital Divide

Digital literacy is a priority for us. Not only do we assist our patrons in their personal development in this area, but we have been upgrading equipment and connection speeds at our branches, improving the overall library experience.

Riverfront Library's Tech Central, in its first full year of operation, has begun to bridge the digital divide through its program offerings, state-of-the-art equipment, as well as through its collaboration with the City of Yonkers (CoY) and Board of Education (BoE). We offered 726 programs with over 6,100 participants. Additionally, we trained 270 CoY and BoE staff, exemplifying the library's role as a service provider, not only for the residents of the city of Yonkers, but also its employees.

### Dynamic Collections

The library began what will be an ongoing process of evaluating its circulated and reference materials using CollectionHQ software. We want to ensure that our patrons have access to books, ebooks, and resources that best meet their research, development and growth needs, as well as a healthy selection of popular materials. Downsizing unused items helped to lead the way to the introduction of new and exciting materials to our collection. Museum passes, ukuleles and American Girl dolls are some of what we call our *Library of Things*. These additions have been a huge success, with over 360 museum passes checked out in the program's first 8 months, a consistent waiting list for the ukuleles and our American Girl introduction garnering news coverage by Eyewitness News (WABC), News 12, Journal News and more. With public libraries filling an ever-widening gap in the needs of communities like ours, we are proud to be at the forefront of that evolution. ■





# Increase

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## Accessibility & Visibility

### **Community Partnership**

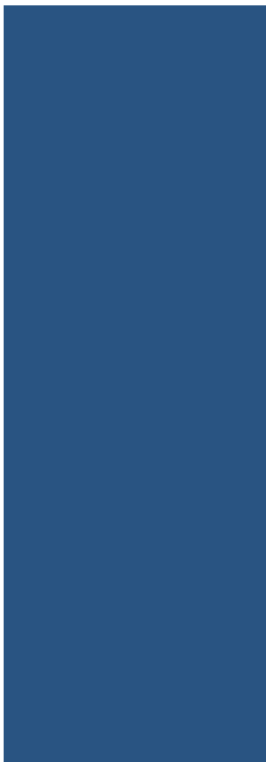
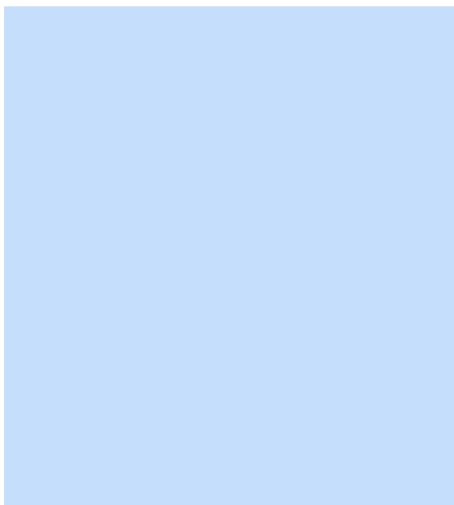
We recognize the importance of being at the table with other key stakeholders, to ensure the best outcomes for our patrons. Teaming with the Board of Education and other local organizations keeps us aware of the latest developments that may impact our community, putting us in a position to better serve our patrons, through collaboration. Our library administrators attend at least 30 meetings a month with organizations that represent every facet of city life, such as My Brother's Keeper, Yonkers On the Move, LYFE Coalition and CLUSTER. Our Library Director and Deputy Director also sit on the boards or councils of groups, such as Yonkers Chamber of Commerce, Yonkers Basics, Community Planning Council of Yonkers, and Literacy Solutions NY, Inc.

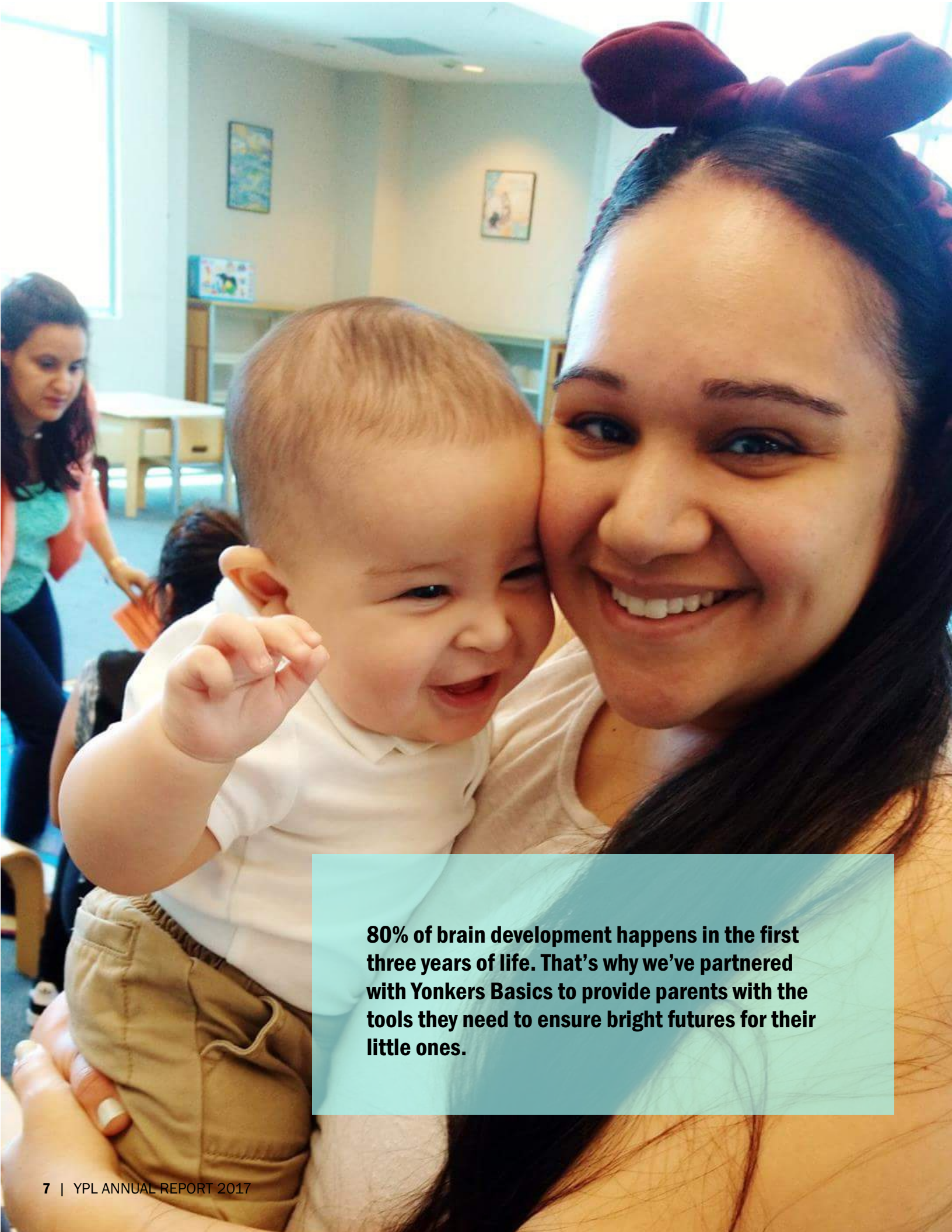
### **Community Outreach**

Following the hire of a full-time marketing and community relations librarian this year, we initiated a communications plan that included weekly e-newsletters, enhanced social media presence and increased engagement with local media. The library has delivered weekly newsletters to over 11,000 opt-in subscribers. We have a combined following of 4,500 across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and have reached 125,000 through our posts. The library now sees regular coverage of library activity and programs in local media, like Journal News, News 12, Fios, the Y-O Newsletter, among others.

### **Increase Accessibility**

The library was on a mission to improve its library card registration process. We simplified the registration form and added an online registration option. In addition, we aggressively pursued new cardholders with registration tables at various events throughout the city, including school registration, Pathways (an adult education program run by the Yonkers Public School District), and other community outreach events. Our campaign has resulted in 10,000 new cardholders in 12 months. ■





**80% of brain development happens in the first three years of life. That's why we've partnered with Yonkers Basics to provide parents with the tools they need to ensure bright futures for their little ones.**

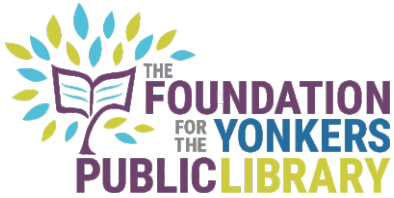


# Build

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## for the Next Generation

### Introducing The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library

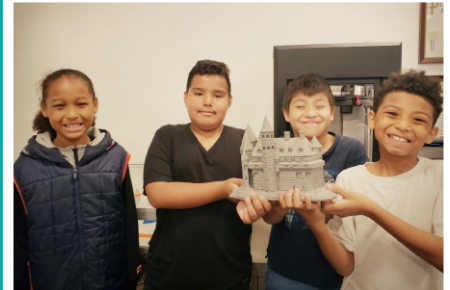


The Yonkers Public Library relies on the financial support it receives from our Mayor and City Council through the City's budget, but the Board of Trustees and Library Director also recognized the importance of seeking private funds to enhance library programming and support capital improvements to our branches. In November, Trustees and our Library Director chartered The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library.

### Capital Improvements

Phase 1 of our Grinton I. Will Branch Library façade renovation kicked off in May. The work has been considerable, with little-to-no direct impact on quality of service to our patrons. The visual change to the building's exterior has been profound. Project completion is expected in first quarter of 2018.

While Phase 1 was the most extensive piece of this façade renovation, there is more work to do! We initiated Phase 2 of this project in December. ■



# Financials

## Income

City of Yonkers	\$9,188,272
Room Rentals	\$ 11,800
Fines and Fees	\$ 65,300
State Aid	\$ 47,560
Misc. Income	\$ 41,050

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Total	\$9,353,982
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## Expenses

Personnel	\$7,000,277
Utilities	\$ 281,531
Technology	\$ 495,132
Materials and Supplies	\$ 331,181
Rent	\$ 750,000
Other Expenses	\$ 495,861

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Total	\$9,353,982
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## Grant Awards

Dormitory Authority of the State of NY Construction Grant	\$250,000
Montefiore Hudson Valley Collaborative Innovation Fund	\$187,347
Division of Library Development Construction Grant	\$153,804
Rotary Club of Yonkers-East Yonkers	\$ 1,430
Ezra Jack Keats Foundation	\$ 500
Girls Who Code Grant	\$ 300

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Total	\$593,361
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# Who We **Are**

## **Executive Staff**

**Edward Falcone**, Library Director

**Susan Thaler**, Deputy Director

**Vivian Presedo**, Business Manager

**Sandy Amoyaw**, Branch Administrator, Riverfront Library

**Zahra Baird**, Branch Manager, Crestwood Library

**Christian Zabriskie**, Branch Administrator, Grinton I. Will Library

## **Department Heads**

**Aurora Cruz**, Head of Reference and Adult Services, Riverfront Library

**Mary DiChiara**, Head of Technical Services

**Carlos Figueroa**, IT Manager/Network Administrator

**Suzanne Johnson**, Circulation Manager, Grinton I. Will Library

**Russell Martinez**, Supervisor of Custodians

**Diane McCrink**, Head of Children's Department, Grinton I. Will Library

**Ruth Rosner**, Head of Reference, Grinton I. Will Library

**Tara Somersall**, Head of Children's Department, Riverfront Library

**Norma Talton**, Circulation Manager, Riverfront Library

## **Board of Trustees**

**Anietra Guzmán-Santana**, President

**Nancy Maron**, Vice President

**Stephen Jannetti**, Treasurer

**Jim Buckley**

**Hon. Hal B. Greenwald**

**Joseph Puglia**

**Derrick Toub**

## **Special Thanks to:**

**The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library** | 914.246.8149 | [info@foundationforypl.org](mailto:info@foundationforypl.org)

**Friends of the Yonkers Public Library** | [friendsofypl@aol.com](mailto:friendsofypl@aol.com)

**Friends of Crestwood Library** | [friendsofcrestwoodlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcrestwoodlibrary@gmail.com)



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**Riverfront Library**

1 Larkin Center  
Yonkers, NY 10701

**Grinton I. Will Library**

1500 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10710

**Crestwood Branch**

16 Thompson Street  
Yonkers, NY 10707