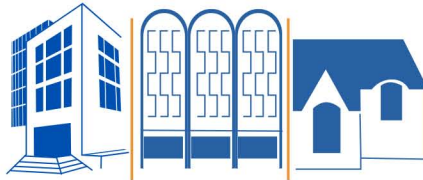
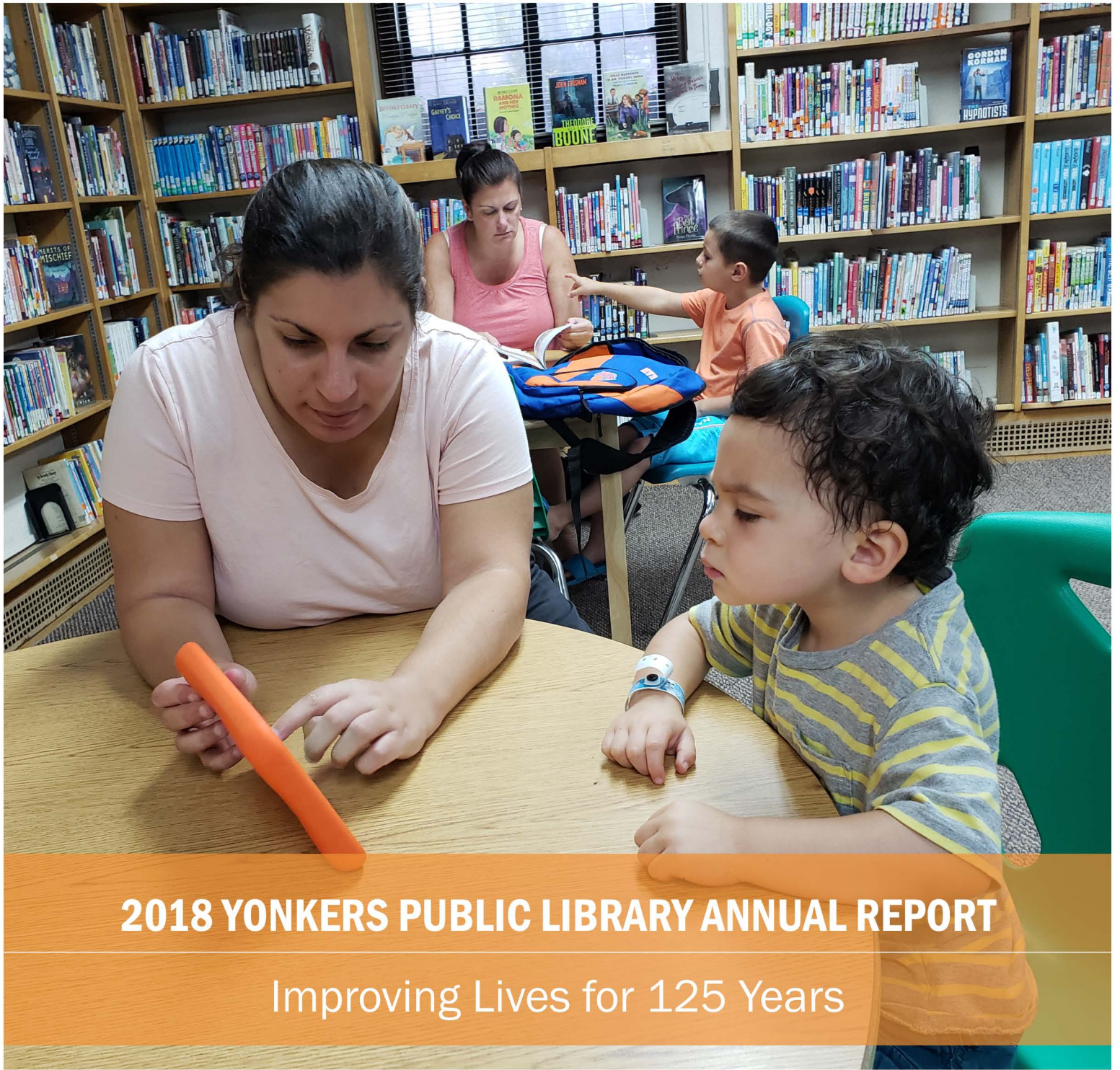


CELEBRATING  
**125 YEARS**  
1893-2018



**YONKERS**  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY



# 2018 YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

Improving Lives for 125 Years





## 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 the history and diverse culture of Yonkers.
- We partner with public and private local organizations to make Yonkers a better place to live, learn, and work.

# A Message from the Library Director

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On behalf of our incredible staff, volunteers, and friends, I am honored to present the 2018 Annual Report of the Yonkers Public Library. As you read this report and see the range of programs and services that we offered last year, take a moment to appreciate the talents and dedication of our librarians, clerks, custodians, and others who serve the public every day and help make YPL a cornerstone of the Yonkers community.

YPL adopted an ambitious and comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan in 2017, and we now find ourselves at the midpoint of this process. I am happy to report that we are ahead of schedule in implementing many of the key goals that we set for ourselves. Some changes (branch renovations, technology classes, added hours of service) are readily apparent, while others (continuous staff training, fundraising efforts) are also underway and just as important in ensuring that Yonkers patrons will be well-served in the coming years.

On a personal and bittersweet note, I end this message by announcing my imminent retirement as library director. It has been a privilege and a joy to lead this wonderful institution, and YPL will always have a special place in my thoughts and in my heart. To all the staffers, trustees, community partners, and elected leaders who have crossed paths with me over the years and shared my vision for library service, thank you!

In 2018 we celebrated the 125th anniversary of the Yonkers Public Library, one of the oldest institutions in our city. Much has changed over the years, from the buildings themselves—think back to the Carnegie Library on Nepperhan Avenue or the recent reimagining of the iconic facade of Grinton I. Will Branch—to the evolution of libraries into the dynamic source of books, resources, services, programs and technology of today.



What has not changed over time is just how vital YPL is to our community! The Board of Trustees is proud of the library's many accomplishments. We strive to evolve with the needs of the community we serve and we hope you enjoy what's to come!

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

# 2018 Year in Review

**796,165**  
print and digital  
check outs

**270,000**  
internet sessions

**92,157**  
wifi users

**86,720**  
library  
cardholders

**364,479**  
questions  
answered by  
library staff

**NEW**  
virtual reality  
space created in  
Tech Central

**826,627**  
Visitors

**7,211**  
adult, teen &  
youth programs

**NEW**  
local history  
incubator &  
digital archives  
launch

**140,928**  
program  
attendees

**554**  
museum pass  
check outs

+17%  
from 2017

+44%  
from 2017

+4%  
from 2017

+5%  
from 2017  
+30%  
from 2017

+54%  
from 2017

# Celebrating

## 125 Years with New Beginnings

### Delivering Impactful Programs

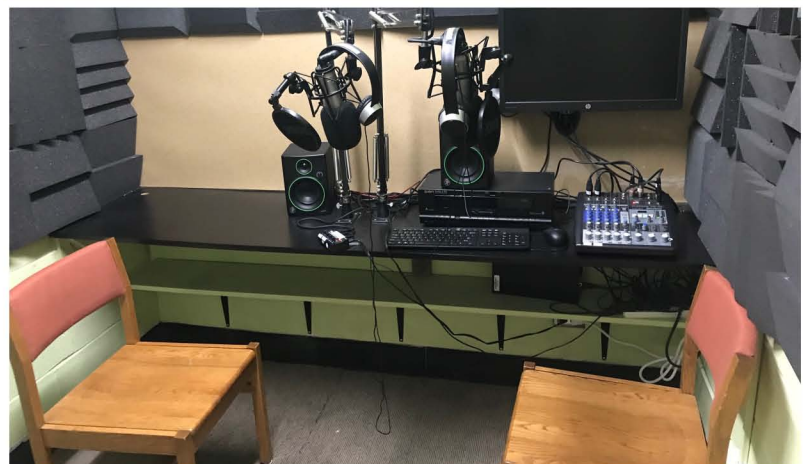
In 2018 we focused on continuing to deliver entertaining, educational and enriching programming, while introducing new and unique initiatives to meet the needs of our diverse community across our three branches. This objective was successfully met with an impressive **30% increase** in programming.

**1000 Books Before Kindergarten's** goal is to establish strong early literacy skills in children 0-5 by encouraging parents and caregivers to read to their little ones. We also teamed with Yonkers Public Schools' Yonkers Basics to provide early development guidelines for parents. Launched in the spring, the program was well received, with **700+ children registered** this year and more than 27,000 books reported read.

**Tech Central** is a hub buzzing with activity, creativity, and the latest trends in technology. In 2018 alone, Tech Central held **704 programs**, with **6,386 visitors**. We continue to be a technology leader in Westchester County, launching a Virtual Reality (VR) Lab this year. The library endeavors to make informational content available in all formats. VR has become a platform not only for games and entertainment, but also for a wide range of educational content.

The **Homework Helper/Teacher in the Library** program saw a welcomed expansion into Crestwood Library for the first time this year. After multiple requests from the community to have this program available system-wide, we are pleased to now offer a qualified tutor at all three branches during the school year. Available for students in grades 1-7.

**The Local History Incubator**, featured in *The Journal News*, launched at Grinton I. Will Branch. The incubator, a studio on the mezzanine, allows the library and patrons to archive both oral and photographic history. Significant collections have been created including the digitization of photographs of the construction of the Grinton I. Will Branch, the Yonkers Police Museum, and numerous photographs and interviews with veterans. Visit the digital archive to enjoy the vast collection: <http://archive.ypl.org/>





*In July, a delegation of Chinese librarians visited the Riverfront Library as part of a nationwide tour. The visitors, and their State Department escort, were impressed with YPL's many programs and services.*

## Engaging in Innovative Partnerships

In early 2018, Montefiore Hudson Valley Collaborative awarded Yonkers Public Library a **\$187,000 grant** to provide onsite case management services to library patrons - the first library outside of NYC to offer this service.

This pioneering program in which a caseworker is onsite during specified hours to provide health and social service referrals, reinforces the critical part the library plays in the community. CLUSTER Community Services, another important Yonkers partner, provided the caseworkers for this program.

There were **336 one-on-one consultations** with library patrons in 2018, creating stronger, healthier communities, one person at a time.

## Transforming Spaces

Through the generous support of the City of Yonkers and numerous grants, we initiated a **\$4.5 million**, multi-year project to renovate the façade of our beloved Will Branch.

We celebrated the completion of the Central Avenue-facing exterior in 2018 with a ribbon-cutting by Mayor Mike Spano and a party hosted by The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library. We had nearly **150 people** in attendance and received coverage from local news outlets like News 12.

Progress continues towards the completion of the entire building facade, along with other exterior improvements.



The Foundation hosted *Celebrate Renewal* at Grinton I. Will Branch, with 150 party goers and fun activities for kids; part of a series of events, to mark the 125th Anniversary of YPL.



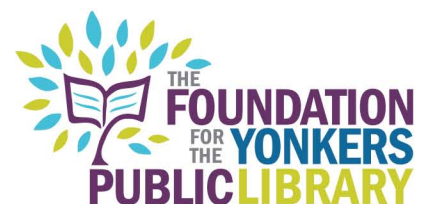


## Enhancing the Library with the Support of The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library

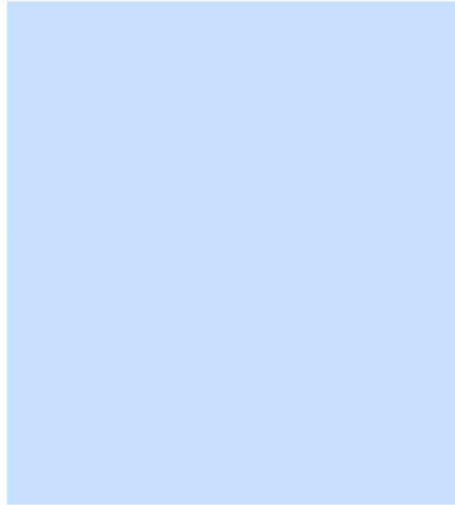
2018 was the first full year of operation of a brand-new organization, The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library, created by board members to support the mission of the YPL. This new organization includes a separate governing board, consisting of engaged and enthusiastic members from throughout Yonkers. In its first year, the Foundation:

- Organized a major advocacy campaign, which resulted in thousands of Yonkers residents writing letters, mailing postcards, and speaking out in support of the YPL budget.
- Celebrated the 125th anniversary of the YPL system, with public festivities at the Grinton I. Will Branch, and a celebration of the beautiful new façade.
- Hosted its first annual Gala, with three brilliant authors, to raise support for the library.

These activities permitted the Foundation, in 2018, to underwrite several key programs at YPL in 2019, including expansion of the NEO teen art program at the Riverfront Library Art Gallery; expansion of the Homework Helper program, offering after-school support to hundreds of students each year; and fully funding the wildly successful 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program at all branches.







# Financials

## Income

City of Yonkers	\$9,377,229
Room Rentals	\$ 9,542
Fines and Fees	\$ 27,457
State Aid	\$ 57,438
Misc. Income	\$ 17,309
<hr/>	
Total	\$9,488,975

## Expenses

Personnel	\$ 7,276,714
Utilities	\$ 276,523
Technology	\$ 497,426
Materials and Supplies	\$ 339,517
Rent	\$ 750,000
Other Expenses	\$ 348,795
<hr/>	
Total	\$9,488,975

## Grant Awards

Division of Library Development Construction Grant	\$ 234,903
Community Development Block Grant	\$ 30,000
Verizon	\$ 10,000
Con Edison	\$ 5,000
Girls Who Code Grant	\$ 600
<hr/>	
Total	\$ 280,503

# Who We Are

## Executive Staff

**Edward Falcone**, Library Director

**Susan Thaler**, Deputy Director

**Vivian Presedo**, Business Manager

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

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

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

## Department Heads

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

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

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

**Ruth Rosner**, Head of Adult Services, Grinton I. Will Library

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

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

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

**Mary DiChiara**, Head of Technical Services

**Russell Martinez**, Supervisor of Custodians

## Board of Trustees

**Anietra Guzmán-Santana**, President

**Nancy Maron**, Vice President

**Stephen Jannetti**, Treasurer

**Josephine Ibarra**

**Joseph Puglia**

**John Saraceno**

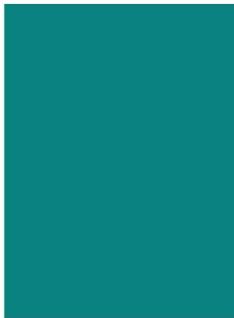
**Derrick Touba**

## 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)



**Riverfront Library**

1 Larkin Center  
Yonkers, NY 10701

**Grinton I. Will Branch**

1500 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, NY 10710

**Crestwood Branch**

16 Thompson Street  
Yonkers, NY 10707