



**Providence
Public
Library**

**2016
Annual
Report**

Becoming the Library We Imagine

How do we become the library we imagine, serving our diverse and evolving communities?

We kept this question at the forefront of our minds as we carried on with PPL's transformation this year...*thinking* and, at times, *rethinking*.

Our *Think Again* strategic plan has continued to be a critical blueprint guiding our efforts to become an inspirational learning place and cultural center for Rhode Island and beyond. At the same time, we turned our attention to our outdated physical space and planning the modernization of our 1950s Empire Street building.

Over this year, we sought answers to key questions: How can we connect, engage, and inspire our community? How can we enhance library experiences – both in person and online – and also achieve greater impact? How can we best facilitate access to our unique resources and services? Finally, how can we better offer a welcoming and energizing learning space for all? As you will see in this report, we continue to make incredible strides toward achieving these goals.

In 2016, we presented our second annual Exhibition & Program Series – *Portals: The History of the Future* – welcoming thousands to time travel with us. We celebrated a number of accomplishments toward achieving greater impact. Notably, we received a three-year Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant of \$529,997 – part of a \$1 million-plus project matched by PPL – to create a high-impact teen workforce development program model to serve 600-plus local teens. We expanded our technology classes and offerings, even launching the first library Rhode Coders Club, and we partnered with the City of Providence to host coding classes, #HackPVD, and the Mayor's monthly Code Nights.


We piloted *Passport to Adventure* and then worked with Providence Schools and other community partners to create the new *Passport to Learning* – distributed to 13,000 school children to promote and enhance summertime learning.

Other successes included launching our new Empire Club, offering provocative conversation with exciting guests on a range of topics; mounting and/or hosting a total of seven exhibitions, including working with key partners like Roger Williams University and others to present corresponding community programs; and continued efforts to expand our digitized collections. Through additional community collaborations and innovative program creation, we saw unprecedented growth in the numbers who utilized our adult services and Learning Lounge. And, we shared our spaces with numerous community organizations for events and programs... even welcoming a taping of PBS's *Genealogy RoadShow*!

As we continue to become the library we imagine, we will stay focused on our mission while building our place into one that will enable pioneering, user-focused and inspiring experiences. Lastly, as further evidence of our transformation, we are thrilled to present our new look in this year's report.



Jack Martin
Executive Director



Robert Taylor
Chair of the Board



Passport to Adventure Becomes Passport to Summer Learning

In the summer of 2015, in line with our broad goals to create initiatives that enhance our users' experiences and achieve greater impact, PPL spearheaded a collaborative venture to develop the Passport to Adventure. While promoting summer reading is a standing priority for the Library, we recognize that when families explore, discover, play and learn together, children build skills that help them to be healthy, happy, and successful in school.

Our goal: create the ultimate summer learning vehicle enabling outreach to children and families during the summer months by providing fun and enriching learning opportunities.

Initial Passport partners included PPL, Providence Community Library, Providence Children's Museum, Partnership for Providence

Parks, Rhode Island Families In Nature, and Roger Williams Park Zoo. Parents were encouraged to pack their Passport and use it to track activities and experiences around Providence and beyond, getting it stamped upon visiting each organization listed.

The Passport to Adventure was such a success that the City of Providence and Providence Public Schools, along with the Providence Children and Youth Cabinet, signed on in 2016 to help us expand the project and ensure citywide distribution to 13,000 school children. In addition to more partner organizations (including Books Are Wings, Farm Fresh Rhode Island, The John Brown House and RISD Museum) offering summer fun, the new Passport to Summer Learning also featured a website, complete with online learning activities, parent resources, and a calendar of events.



“Our community is rich with opportunities for exploration and discovery. We are grateful to our partners who provide these low- or no-cost experiences.”

PPL's Early Childhood Educator Anne Kilkenny on working with colleagues at each of the Passport partner organizations.



PROGRAMS

Partnerships Prove Key in Teen Program Expansion

The Library's focus on creating and offering impactful learning opportunities for area teens continued this year, with community and corporate partnerships proving to be a key to success. From exploring the world of fashion and merchandising to learning self-awareness and communication skills, youth gained valuable experiences in varied multi-session workshops offered through partnerships with RISD Continuing Education and the Nordstrom Providence Visual Arts Team.

A range of series run in conjunction with PPL's annual Exhibition & Program series *Portals: The History of the Future* gave teens hands-on experiences while exploring their interests. Students got to access the Library's non-circulating, historical special collections to inspire their work and have their creations displayed in PPL's Empire Street windows.

The arts — from video game art, to collaborative art exploration and creation, to a writing series — were fertile ground for additional workshops, also offered in collaboration with area artists and groups, including New Urban Arts, School One, Goat Hill Writers, and Rhode Island Computer Museum. In each workshop series, teens worked closely with artist mentors to hone skills and gain in-depth experience.

“The Library was awesome because of the constant interaction with people who we'd otherwise not see.”

A participant in the New Urban Arts Art Inquiry program held at PPL on the summer-long learning opportunity.



New Initiatives Spur Growth in Numbers of Adults Served

PPL's popular adult literacy and workforce training efforts were punctuated this year by several new initiatives. Our Learning Lounge continued to expand its services and usage, adding varied offerings. *Community Connectors*, a collaborative program with House of Hope and Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, was introduced to link patrons to myriad community resources and services, from assistance with a housing application to help finding a doctor. The program was also successfully launched at libraries in East Providence and Pawtucket.

We made notable strides in the area of technology education and training. Even while seeing an increase in the number of and participants in our regular computer classes, we introduced varied new opportunities designed to give adult learners computer skills needed in today's workforce. These included both individualized One-on-One Tech Help appointments as

well as customized workforce technology training courses developed for and provided directly at area businesses, government agencies, schools and other organizations.

In another successful new venture, PPL became an official proctoring site for NorthStar Digital Literacy Assessments. Participants can complete self-guided modules, earning proficiency certificates in up to 10 basic digital literacy standards or areas; each is recognized as a credential for employment by the Rhode Island Department of Education. During this year, PPL administered 345 assessments and 268 certificates were earned.

In perhaps the most well-received new offering, PPL launched a weekly "Rhode Coders Club" – billed as an exploratory adventure to allow adults with no experience to explore the world of computer coding and its possibilities. Immediately, two other public libraries requested help to create their own coding program!

Continued Strides Sharing and Increasing Access to Our Unique Collections

Our history-loving community was not disappointed as we continued our focus on sharing our unique collections and creating a community dialogue through a second annual Exhibition & Program series. By all accounts *Portals: The History of the Future* not only peaked people's curiosity but offered "time travelers" much to consider. While our Portals exhibition highlighted the material trails left by the people of the past as they looked to the future, including imaginative visions of futures that never came to pass, illustrations of fantastical contraptions, reflections on the nature of time, and other artifacts

testifying to a human desire to visit eras besides our own, visitors also were treated to an array of interactive program experiences, from technology to fashion to everything in between. Learners and visionaries of all ages were invited to think ahead and even do their own experimentation.

This large programmatic undertaking was a success due to a multitude of sponsors and partners, including friends at Nordstrom, RISD Continuing Education, Rhode Island Museum of Science & Art, Providence Center for Media Culture, Community MusicWorks, The Met School, Rhode Island Foundation, and others.

We achieved two notable successes this year in ongoing efforts to expand our Special and Rhode Island Collections and enable greater physical

and digital access to them. With the acquisition and processing of the significant James N. Arnold Collection, held at the Knight Memorial Library since 1927, we significantly increased our Rhode Island Collection's genealogical holdings. A portion of this collection will also be added to PPL's growing digital repository – ProvLibDigital. With thousands of images added from our Rhode Island Photograph Collection of people, places and events from the mid-19th through the 20th century, PPL's digital library doubled in size to more than 10,000 historical items, all offered free to the public for download and creative use.



Hitting the Mark as City's Number-one Collaborator

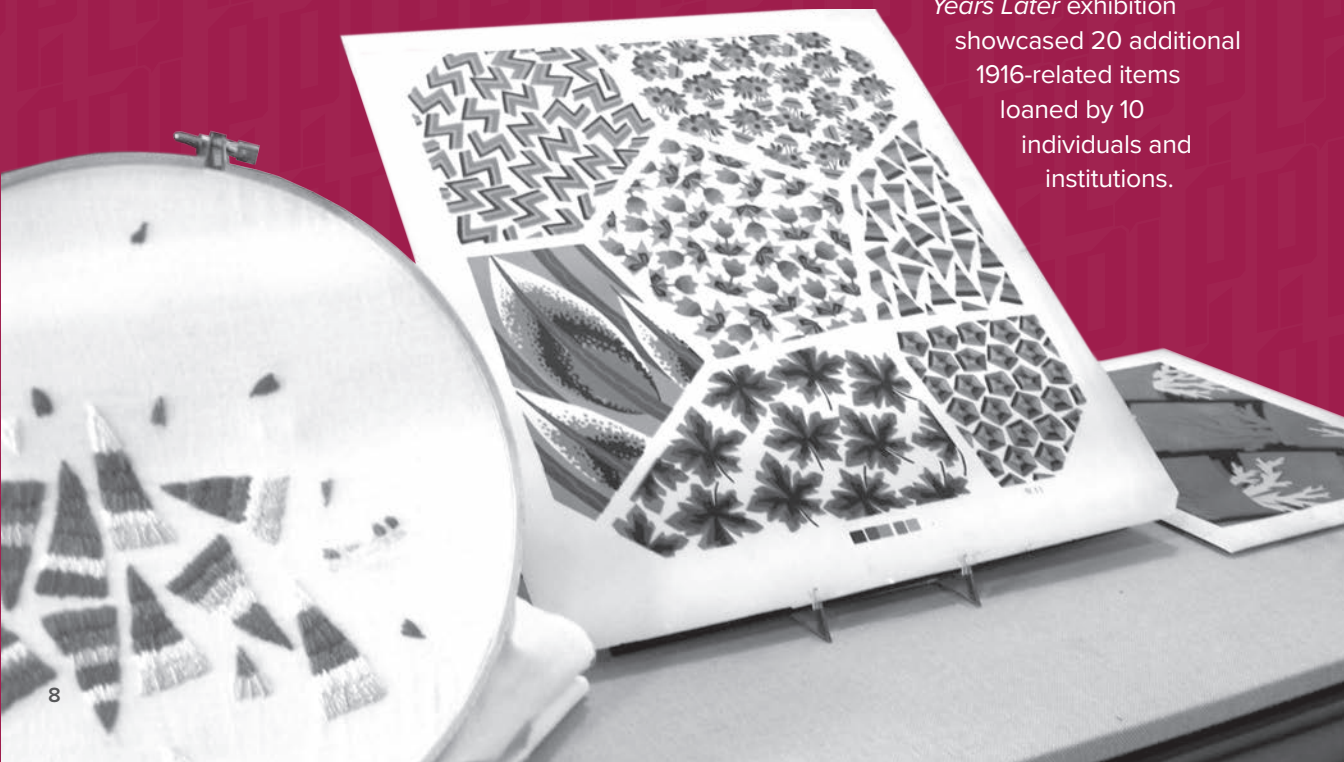
As a center for culture and education, two key objectives are to be the city's number-one collaborator and to build a vibrant network of partners. We certainly can point to achievements this year, particularly in the number of organizations alone – more than 35 – with whom we worked to present a variety of community programs and exhibitions.

In a notable exhibition – *Freedom Journey 1965: Photographs of the Selma to Montgomery March* – PPL partnered with Roger Williams University to host a collection of historic and riveting images by photographer Stephen Somerstein, marking this New York Historical Society exhibition's first stop on a national tour. The exhibition culminated during Black History Month with a panel discussion including the photographer.

In a related exhibit and programs, PPL welcomed *Stages of Freedom: Black Performing Arts in Rhode Island*, which explored the contributions Black artists have made to performing arts in the state, specifically on stage and screen.

We are also focused on sharing our special collections with individuals and groups to support their artistic creation and expression. One such collaboration resulted in *Iterations: From Paris to Providence*, featuring pochoir-printed plates from our extensive art and architecture collection and the works of nine local artists invited to use the plates as creative inspiration for a new piece created just for this exhibit!

Another exhibition we proudly collaborated on and hosted during the actual 100-year anniversary was *Rhode Island Remembers Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising*, which featured PPL's original copy of The Proclamation of The Irish Republic (from our Collection on Irish Culture). The *100 Years Later* exhibition showcased 20 additional 1916-related items loaned by 10 individuals and institutions.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- In collaboration with the Rhode Island Historical Society, PPL once again offered its popular Family History Workshop series “**Diggin’ Your Roots**” – a full year of genealogy learning events designed for both novice and experienced genealogy researchers as they sought to document their family stories.
- PPL proudly hosted **#HackPVD** – Providence’s first official hackathon over three days in April, 2016. Hackers were asked to challenge city processes and propose meaningful solutions to make Providence a better place to Live, Work and Play.
- ➔ PPL welcomed the third annual **Rhode Island Independent Publishing Expo** (RIPEXpo), a weekend-long free festival celebrating self-published comics, books and zines. The only event of its kind in Rhode Island, RIPEXpo celebrates a diverse community of underground and small press artists on both a local and international scale, offering exhibits, artists’ talks and panel discussions.
- ⚡ Coding comes to PPL – The Library became a center for coding in the city this year when <IntraCity> Geeks and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza brought **Computer Science Education Week** and the **Hour of Code** to PPL. Local middle and high school students participated in a series of programs, learning basic HTML, CSS, JavaScript and what goes into creating games like Angry Birds, Snow Queen Elsa and more. Students demonstrated their creations and were awarded prizes based on creativity and best use of coding techniques. In a further ongoing collaboration with <IntraCity>, PPL also became the new site for the **Mayor’s monthly Code Nights**.



- PPL kicked off a new program this year, **The Empire Club**, inviting downtowners and others to plug in for lively, challenging and provocative conversation with a diverse range of guests, including authors, artists and emerging leaders.
 - Perhaps one of PPL's longest-running program collaborations, the twice-annual **Small Business Workshop series** offered free in conjunction with RI SCORE continued to achieve record attendance this year, with 75 prospective entrepreneurs learning from the experts.
- ↓ PPL welcomed **PBS's Genealogy RoadShow** production crew in October for a two-day taping of the nationally-aired show. Providence and the Library were featured prominently in the program, along with several viewers from Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts whose genealogical 'mysteries' were selected for help in solving by the show's genealogists. To mark the airing of the Providence episode, PPL held a Sneak Preview showing in June.
- It wouldn't be August in Providence without varied "Lovecraftian" celebrations, and this year was no different with PPL serving as a site once again for **NecronomiCon** film screenings and performances.
 - Book and writing clubs continued to flourish at PPL. The monthly **History Hijinks Book Club**, with a regular group of eight to 12 members, celebrated its eighth year meeting in our Trustees Room. Meanwhile, the PPL-sponsored **Brown Bag Book Club**, another eight – 10 member group has been meeting monthly at noon since 2013. In addition, PPL has been a regular meeting place for the **HiFi (Historical Fiction) Writers Collaborative**, whose members gather monthly to discuss each other's work. HiFi has also held a number of panel discussions on varied aspects of writing historical fiction at PPL.



ENGAGEMENT

- More than **150,000** visitors walked through our doors this year, many receiving direct expert service from our Children's, Adult, Research and Customer Service staff, the Rhode Island and Special Collections librarians, or to attend classes, workshops, author talks, lectures, performances, and more.
- More than **20,275** adults and children took part in varied learning experiences throughout the year.
- Learners statewide and beyond utilized Library resources and materials more than 1 million times, including **124,084** sessions on provlibdigital.org.
- More than **12,000** people regularly engaged with us through varied social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr and our Special Collections blog and ProvLibDigital site.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- More than **10,000** children attended **376** early childhood programs. Our popular **Cradle to Crayons** programs increased to **145** with a total of **1,947** children and adults attending.

LITERACY EDUCATION

- This year, **410** adult students representing **52** different countries of origin were served. We saw **49%** of our students increase an educational functioning level (2 or more grade levels). Additionally, **40** became U.S. citizens, while **32** obtained jobs and **35** entered training or post-secondary education.

GENERAL EDUCATION

- Our librarians helped **29,093** learners with research questions.
- Visitors came to our website **269,861** times and viewed **567,640** pages.
- We welcomed **1,593** participants in **294** computer training classes.
- Guests used our **46** public computer workstations **40,715** times.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

- Our many volunteers, including our PPL and PPL Foundation trustees, committee members and a diverse group of dedicated individuals, contributed **1,285** hours this year.

Howard Walker Tribute

\$10,000 Challenge Met by Trustees to Honor Long-time Trustee Howard Walker

In the fall of 2015, PPL lost one of its greatest friends and advocates when Howard E. Walker passed away. As the longest serving trustee of the Library – devoting himself to myriad officer and committee roles, including as Board President from 1987 - 1992 – Howard generously and tirelessly worked for more than 40 years for the betterment of the community through the Library. An articulate gentleman of

intellect and integrity, Howard was incredibly special to all his fellow trustees over the years, as well as to the Library staff, setting high expectations and leading by example.

To honor her husband’s legacy, Michelle Walker made a generous \$10,000 gift to PPL. To further honor the spirit of this gift, the Library announced that it would name the Trustee Room for Howard – a fitting tribute recognizing the many hours he spent in this room on PPL’s behalf – and invited all current and past Library trustees to make a gift in Howard’s name to help match Michelle’s gift.

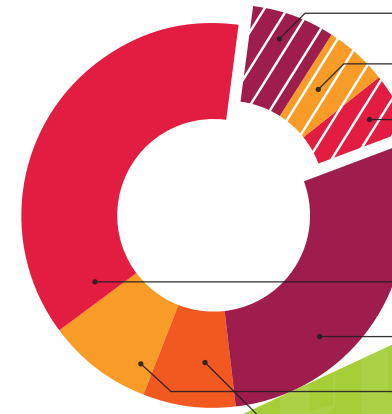
We were thrilled to announce that trustees, past and present, responded generously, more than matching Michelle’s gift!



Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2016 – July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016
Statement of Revenue and Expenses from Operations – *unaudited*

REVENUE – \$5,702,008



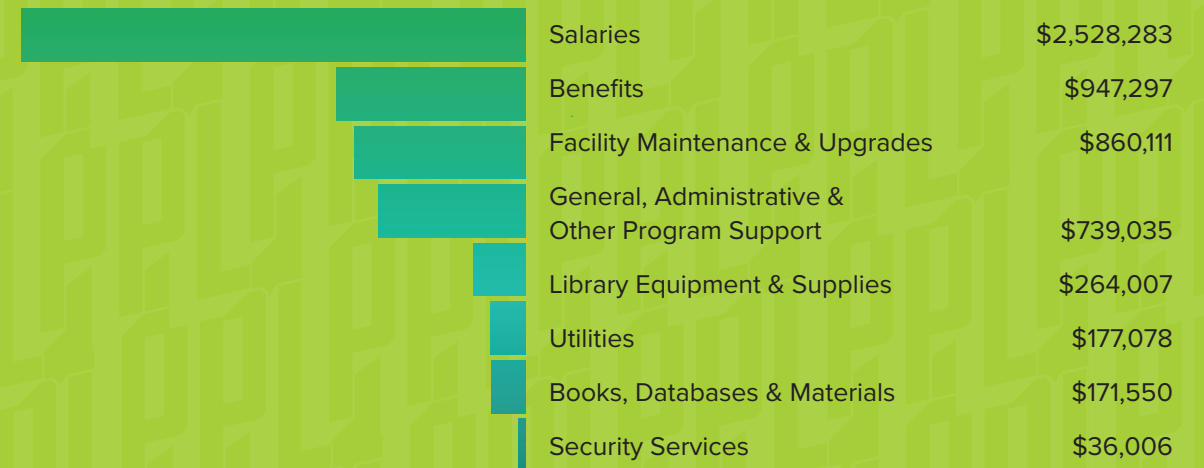
Public Funds

| | |
|--|-----------|
| State of Rhode Island – Grant in Aid | \$404,246 |
| Rhode Island Reference Resource Center | \$302,586 |
| City of Providence – Building Lease | \$279,412 |

Private Funds

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Contribution from Endowment | \$2,125,768 |
| Program Grants & Donations – <i>restricted</i> | \$1,650,025 |
| Donations – <i>unrestricted</i> | \$500,877 |
| Fees, Fines & Other | \$439,094 |

EXPENSES – \$5,723,367 / Surplus (Deficit) – (\$21,359)



Library Revenue Program Grants & Donations (Restricted) includes \$763,878 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2016 plus \$102,674 of pending requests.

Facility Maintenance & Upgrades includes \$704,000 of Roof, Gutter, and Facade repairs that were supported by Grant funding.

The above revenue does not include IMLS Grant of \$529,997 awarded during FY2016. That grant revenue will be realized over the next 3 years.

Library Revenue Program Grants also includes \$51,529 of revenue reserved for FY2017.

Teen Grant

\$529,997 IMLS Grant Allows PPL to Lead in Program Development

“This demonstration project will help establish the important leadership role that public libraries can play in communities to provide teen workforce education and increase employment.”

PPL Board Chair Robert Taylor

In the spring PPL received a three-year IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) National Leadership Grant totaling \$529,997 to create a high impact teen workforce development program model. A matching grant, it represents a \$1.6 million initiative to which PPL is committed to implementing as one of the

Library’s key focus areas in our *Think Again* Strategic Plan. Planning began immediately with teen programs slated to begin in the fall. Over the three years, PPL and its local and national partners will develop, implement, and disseminate a high-impact teen workforce development collective impact project that will serve as a national program model. Locally, the project will support more than 600 underserved teens who will receive free, accessible, high-quality competency-based learning opportunities, leading to digital credentials (acknowledging participant achievement in a topic), academic credit, exposure to the world of work, and entry into education and career pathways.

Savor the Story

PPL Holds First-ever Wine Gala to Rave Reviews

In March, the Library launched **Savor the Story – its first-ever Wine Gala featuring the highly acclaimed wines and captivating history of the Ciacci – Piccolomini D’Aragona estate in Montalcino, Italy.** Attended by more than 150, the event raised \$70,000 to

support the Library’s free learning programs and services for children, teens and adults. Presenting sponsors included Bottles Fine Wine, Indigenous Selections, MS Walker and Bank of America. The event’s hosts included Stephen and Hazel Ashworth, Joseph A. Chazan, M.D. and Victoria Veh, Joe and Laurie DiBattista, Dr. Ed and Diane Iannuccilli, Mr. Barry and Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner, Dr. Charles and Maureen McDonald, Dr. Victor Pricolo and Ms. Heide Abelli, and Jerry and Christine Visconti.



Support

Each year countless volunteers, donors and organizations collaborate with and contribute their invaluable time and talent to the Library and their community. PPL and its Foundation recognize and thank these and

all Fiscal Year 2016 supporters whose contributions ensure that the Library can continue its mission as a vibrant and vital cultural and educational resource that engages learners, inspires thinkers and connects diverse communities. Further, we proudly herald those who donate \$1,000 or more to our Annual Fund as members of our Conservator Society. These generous private donors – individuals and family foundations – have long recognized the community’s need for lifelong learning opportunities and have continually ensured PPL’s ability to achieve its mission.

\$500,000+

Institute of Museum and Library Services

\$100,000+

Anonymous
Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission

\$25,000+

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Granoff*
June Rockwell Levy Foundation*
Rhode Island Foundation*

\$10,000+

Bank of America
Mr. Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.*
Rhode Island Department of Education
United Way of Rhode Island
Mrs. Michelle Walker*

\$5,000+

Amica Insurance*
Dr. Joseph A. Chazan and Ms. Victoria Veh*
Ms. Elizabeth A. Debs*
Dimeo Construction Company*
Kelly Family Foundation
Mrs. W. Sayles Nicholson* †
Parson’s Capital Management, Inc.

The Edward J. and Virginia M. Routhier Foundation*

\$2,500+

Bottles Fine Wine designLAB Architects
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Edwards, Jr.*
The Honorable and Mrs. Robert G. Flanders
Mr. Barry Hittner and Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner*
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Iannuccilli*
Mr. Guy Lombardo
Ten31 Productions, Inc.
U.S. Trust

\$1,000+

Bank Rhode Island
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Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, LLP
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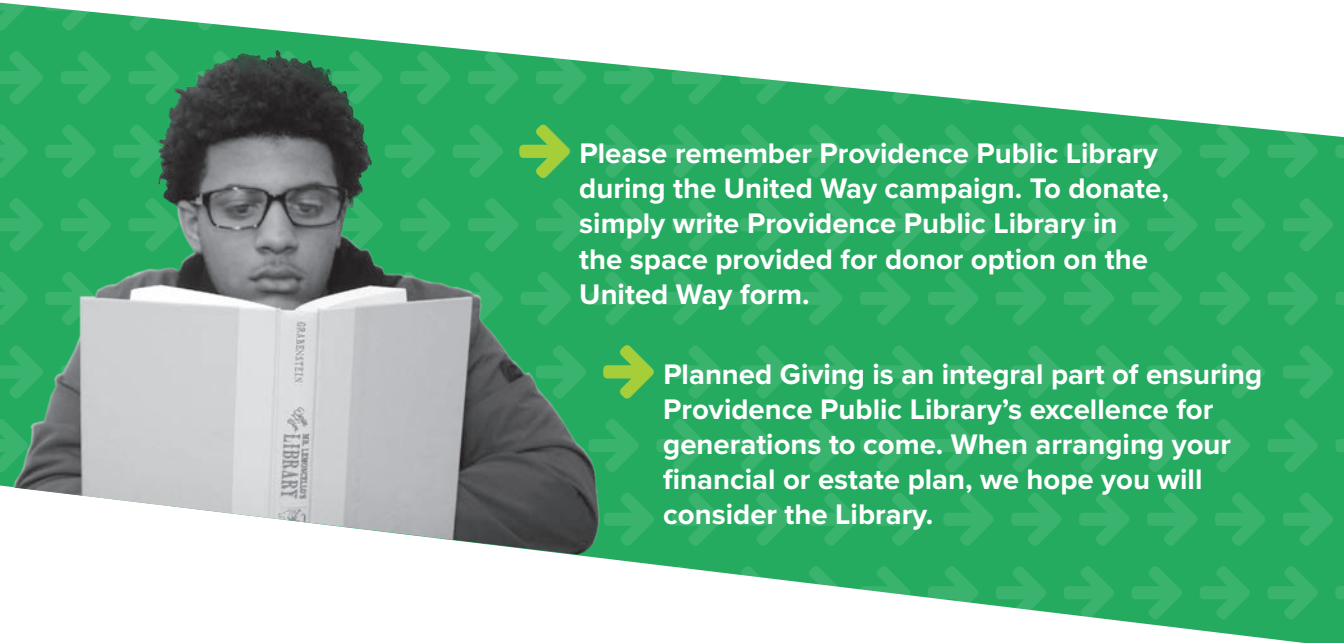
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Ms. Cheryl G. Teverow and Mr. Jim Krupanski*
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Trueb
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Mr. and Mrs. Melvin L. Zurier*

\$500+

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Dr. Victor Pricolo and Ms. Heide Abelli
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Ms. Joan Ress Reeves
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Mr. and Mrs. Vincent E. Russo*
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Service Corps of Retired Executives
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The Murray Family Charitable Foundation
The White Family Foundation
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Mr. Anthony DeFusco and Ms. Dale Venturini
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Visconti
Mr. Andrew Workman



➔ Please remember Providence Public Library during the United Way campaign. To donate, simply write Providence Public Library in the space provided for donor option on the United Way form.

➔ Planned Giving is an integral part of ensuring Providence Public Library's excellence for generations to come. When arranging your financial or estate plan, we hope you will consider the Library.

\$250+

- AAA Northeast*
- Anonymous
- Ms. Tess Aubourg
- Dr. and Mrs. William Braden, III*
- Ms. Kimberly Castiglioni
- Mr. Henry V. Collins, Jr.
- Dr. and Mrs. Leon N. Cooper*
- Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Crivellone
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- Mr. Daniel Varin
- Washington Trust Company
- Mr. J. Scott Wolf and Ms. Joyce P. Krabach*

\$100+

- Abrams Bell Foundation
- Ms. Judith W. Adams
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- Benny's Inc.*
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- Ms. Pauline M. Della Ventura*
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- Dr. Frances L. Burger
- Drs. Richard and Barbara Wong
- Mr. David C. Woolman*
- The Honorable Samuel Zurier*

**Mysterium
Second Annual Event
Sells Out!**

Following on the success of the first-time Mysterium – The Eternal Masquerade, held at PPL on Halloween 2014, the second iteration of this one-of-a-kind arts-inspired performance event held on October 30 actually sold out! An equally captivating and transforming experience was provided by the uniquely talented crew at TEN31 Productions in collaboration with PPL's incomparable banquet partner Russell Morin Fine Catering, the event's lead sponsors. Nearly 350 Eternal Masqueraders took in the intriguing performances and delicious fare, while enjoying parts of the Library they might never see on a normal visit!



\$50+

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Alberg
- Mr. Orlando Almanzar*
- Mrs. Priscilla Ballou
- Mr. Daniel Baudouin
- Ms. Bernice Belt
- Mr. Michael and Dr. Alice Bonitati
- Mr. and Mrs. Derek Bradford*
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Branch
- Ms. Patricia A. Buckley
- Mrs. Lola M. Buonanno
- Ms. Judith A. Byrnes
- Ms. Sandra Campo*
- Mrs. Nila Cedergren
- Mr. Robert D. Chorney
- Ms. Michelle Clayton
- Mrs. Edda Cleri
- Mrs. Jacquelyn B. Cooper
- Drs. James P. Crowley and Carol Crowley
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dacey
- Ms. Anne Deschene
- Mr. Charles Feldman
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard

- Fischer*
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galkin
- Mr. Michael L. Gallogly and Ms. Carol Whitney
- Mrs. Norma Goodman
- Ms. Lynda Gulley
- Dr. Daniel S. Harrop, III
- Mr. and Mrs. Barrett Hazeltine
- Mr. Thomas Heffernan and Ms. Roberta Capuano
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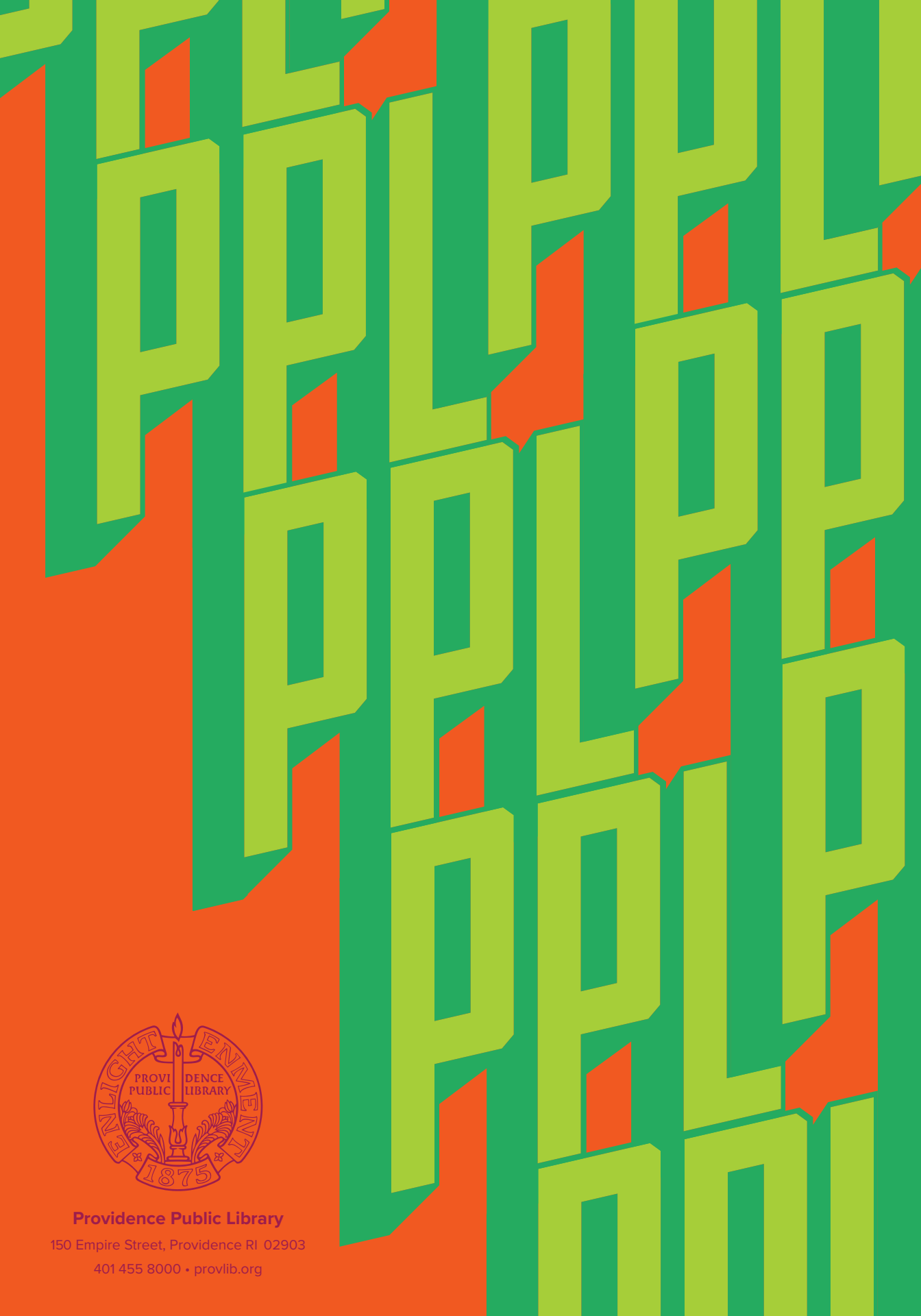
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