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Mission

Providence Public Library inspires lifelong education among all Rhode Islanders, fostering personal fulfillment and enhanced quality of life for an informed, enlightened and engaged citizenry.

Vision

The Library is both a physical and virtual presence and is the premiere free, personal learning institution in Rhode Island. All ages and backgrounds engage in robust and vigorous lifelong learning, which occurs in ways from delightfully serendipitous to intensely purposeful.

The Library is a committed partner with each individual in meeting their intellectual and cultural goals and with the broader community of learners to achieve an informed, enlightened, and engaged citizenry.



Providence Public Library is a non-profit organization established in 1875 to provide free, public library service to the people of Providence and all Rhode Island. The Library depends primarily on generous private support from individuals, corporations and foundations to achieve our mission.

From Our Chair and Director

Sharing our unique resources...

Fostering learning experiences...

When our Renaissance library building opened in 1900, Providence Public Library had already been in operation for 25 years, growing and evolving with its community. Library use had increased continually, forcing it to seek larger quarters. Services had expanded and new ones were developed to meet the community's changing needs. The new building was built for all ages, offering the people of the city and state untold opportunities to pursue and achieve individual goals and dreams. These pursuits continue today.

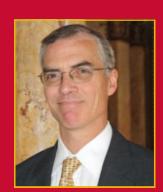
Over this past year, we celebrated the Library's ongoing promise to be a critical destination for learners from all walks of life. With the restoration of our magnificent historic library building and ongoing upgrades throughout our entire library, we have not only reinvested in our distinctive place, but also re-emphasized our commitment to sharing it and all of the Library's unique resources. Moreover, we have received the community's deep appreciation for the library building and

what it represents, as well as the services the Library provides to aspiring learners throughout Providence and all Rhode Island.

The Library continues to be here meeting individuals' learning needs, from the parents, grandparents and families who visit our *Chace Children's Discovery Library* to nurture a love of books and reading in their young children, to the extremely motivated adult learners who find the Library's programs tailored to their education goals. We regularly welcome researchers of all ages, whether they are on a personal information quest or seeking to uncover and re-tell the great stories held within our Rhode Island Collection. We see the Library's work come alive every day for lifelong learners whose exploration of and fascination with their discoveries in our Special Collections, in turn, help us to share the wonders there in new and exciting ways. Their pursuits embody our mission and inspire our greater purpose.

In this report, we celebrate some of our accomplishments during the last year. But, more importantly, we are pleased to share the experiences and achievements of some of the many who we have had the pleasure to meet and with whom we have had the opportunity to work.

Building for the ages...



Robert K. Taylor Chair



Dale Thompson Director

Remembering Time Spent... PPL's Chace Children's Discovery Library



Re-connecting and Sharing...

I brought my son Luke to many story times last summer during our stay in Providence, while my husband was playing baseball for the Pawtucket Red Sox. Luke was around 18 months old and I was pregnant. I have felt compelled to write you on numerous occasions to commend you and the **Chace Children's Discovery Library** for exceptional programs and atmosphere for children.

We've been to many libraries throughout our travels, including in Chicago, Tampa, San Diego and Western New York. In our opinion, the Children's Discovery Library far exceeds the standard we have experienced elsewhere.



We especially appreciated the variety and abundance in scheduling of story times, which we found to be flexible and family-friendly, as well as the fact that they are rather continuous between the 8-week sessions (without long breaks).

And, of course, we found you to be very warm, personable and appropriately engaging with the kids. Also important to us was how understanding, calm and patient you are with toddlers as they are learning the etiquette of group settings. I wanted to share this all with you and touch on the points that make your children's library extraordinary, based on the experience in our vast travels!

Logan Germano

We appreciated the partitioned, warm and welcoming room designated for children. It is inviting and makes for an easeful introduction to the library experience, for an otherwise oblivious toddler. The array of educational and engaging toys offered is unique. Designating time for open play prior to reading is really beneficial to better captivate them for the stories and songs. Also, the short duration of both books and songs (which they identify with) seems remarkably successful.

Dear Ms. Anne,

We cannot adequately express our appreciation for such a wonderful library program AND librarian. You have truly made our experience here special and Crosby has grown and learned so much because of you. You are VERY, VERY special! Thank you for everything – we will miss you tremendously!

Natalie & Crosby





(I-r) PPL NEDP students Delmi Gutierrez and Francisca Polanco Navedo.

Achieving Goals...at the Library

Demonstrating Literacy and Learning

Based at Providence Public Library (PPL), the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI) is a free, nationally recognized program offering English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship preparation, workforce development, and family literacy services at public libraries throughout Rhode Island.

In its continuing efforts to evolve its services and meet our diverse community's literacy and learning needs, RIFLI this year launched the National External Diploma Program (NEDP) at PPL and Pawtucket Public Library. Providing a unique way for adult ESL speakers to earn a high school diploma, the program allows participants to demonstrate their high school level skills by applying their life experiences in real-life situations. Unlike a GED certificate, those completing the NEDP receive an actual high school diploma, which is recognized by employers and accepted by institutions of higher learning.

This year, 11 students – three at PPL – completed RIFLI's first-ever NEDP classes, successfully demonstrating 64 life competencies with 100 percent accuracy. PPL's students have all taken next steps toward their goals. Tina Fang, one of the Library's first Discovery Guides, continues as a volunteer Teacher for RIFLI's Beginner ESL class at Cranston's Auburn Library. Francisca Polanco Navedo was selected as an Americorps member with Ready2Learn Providence and is serving at the Knight Memorial Library in Providence. Delmi Gutierrez is working as a PPL Discovery Guide and is planning to attend the Child Development program at CCRI in January.

Getting a high school diploma in the United States has really improved my English. Now I feel more confident when I help my daughters with their school work or meet with their teachers. Tina Fang

My high school diploma will give me the opportunity to get into college. I want to study early childhood education so I can work with kids in the future. My experience working as a PPL Discovery Guide this year has confirmed my love of working with children.

Delmi Gutierrez

After sacrificing for years to make sure my kids got a good education, I decided it was my turn. Now that I have my High School Diploma, I can move forward with plans to start my own event planning business.

Francisca Polanco Navedo



RIFLI instructor Sheryl Lehane with NEDP student Tina Fang.

Researching and Sharing... PPL's Rhode Island Collection

Revealing a Glimpse of a Community's History

When recent Clark University graduate Carolina Buitrago was hired as an intern by the Olneyville Housing Corporation (OHC) to help produce an historical exhibit to commemorate the Corporation's 25th Anniversary in 2014, she turned to Providence Public Library's Rhode Island Collection in her search for primary sources.



Focused on three main topic areas: Olneyville's industrial heritage, artistic pioneering, and immigrant experiences, the exhibit would ultimately consist of photographs and short clips from recorded interviews of 25 community members of varied backgrounds and ages. It would also feature a brief history of Olneyville, including photos, newspaper clippings, maps and other printed material from the Library's Rhode Island Collection.

"Working on this exhibit was a wonderful learning experience for me. I enjoyed speaking with so many people and getting their unique perspectives living and working in Olneyville – some all their lives – and then researching the printed materials in the Library's collection and being able to relate it all to everything I was hearing about. The visuals all add so much and I believe will give people a true sense of what the community looked like over the decades and how everything has progressed as they listen to peoples' accounts of their lives and experiences."

As yet unnamed, the OHC's exhibit will be displayed in galleries in Olneyville and at a planned gala during 2014.

Digging Into History at PPL...Finding Some Great Stories to Tell

George Pearson is a retired Providence Police detective with a degree in History from Merrimack College and a passion for digging into local storehouses of the past. Over this year, he has been working, along with Providence Police Chief Hugh Clements, retired Captain John Glancy, and Providence City Hall Archivist Paul Campbell, on researching and compiling photographs and information for a local history book on the Providence Police Department. To be published by Arcadia Publishing, it will commemorate of the Department's 150th Anniversary in 2014.



"This project has given me the chance to pursue my love of history in one of my favorite places – the Library," says George, who served as a Providence Police detective from 1987 to 2004. "T've been able to do research and tell some great stories...which is really what history is all about! I've always enjoyed coming here and working with the tremendous resources, as well as the helpful librarians. The Library's Rhode Island Collection with its images and historical materials, the card catalog, and the microfilm of the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, has been an invaluable source of information for us."

Exploring and Building...PPL's Special Collections

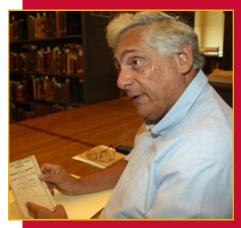
Researching and Re-telling the Whole Story

For retired mathematician Russell DeSimone, of Middletown, coming to the Library is like coming home. He admits being an avid library user and bibliophile, ever since visiting regularly as a boy with his mother.

As a lover of history, Russell has always been drawn to PPL's Special Collections, befriending the librarians as he delved into his own "personal research." Of late, Russell has been focused on two of his favorite topics – Thomas Dorr and the Dorr Rebellion and Rhode Island's political history, in particular its early election system and distinction as the first state to utilize printed election ballots. Working with the Library collections, he has not only been able to further explore these ongoing projects, but also publish his findings for fellow bibliophiles.

Happily for Russell, his recent study of a personal diary from 1841 in the Collections yielded another eye-opening perspective on the Dorr Rebellion and led to his penning of an edition of the department's quarterly *Occasional Nuggets* – "EYEWITNESS TO REBELLION, Excerpts from the Journal of Benjamin C. Townsend," along with a full transcript of the journal to be shared online.

Also, Russell's continuing work on his online database – *A Survey of Rhode Island Election Tickets*, published with co-compiler Dan Schofield in 2007 on URI's Digital Commons, will be updated to include ballots from PPL's collections.



"I've visited libraries throughout this country and Europe, but there is a special place in my heart for this library and its special collections," recalls Russell on a recent trip. "As a kid, I read my way through the shelves, working my way up here."

Building on a Vision...The Whale Guitar



"We see our project as a confluence of old and new, art and technology. We also hope The Whale Guitar will serve to highlight the importance of conservation and preservation in our increasingly disposable society with proceeds from it being played worldwide aiding whale causes." When Providence residents Jen Long and Rachel Rosenkrantz-Riemer, both industrial designers and musicians, met four years ago while on a whale watch, they could hardly imagine the remarkable journey they would embark upon together. Soon after, Jen's fascination with Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* became the inspiration for a unique building project – **The Whale Guitar.**

The incredible joint venture would ultimately involve several other artists, including Warren artist William Schaff, who led Jen and Rachel to Providence Public Library's

Special Collections department to view the scrimshaw and log books within the Nicholson Whaling Collection for help with whale and whaling imagery.

Over this year, they have been busily building their guitar – taking care to utilize cast-off materials – and incorporating elements found throughout their study of whales and their plight, which continues today. As The Whale Guitar comes to life, so too has the artists' vision for its ultimate purpose...as a vehicle for awareness and aid, as well as a representation of their beliefs in conservation and preservation.

Lifelong Learning

More than 150,000 visitors walked through our doors this year, many receiving direct expert service from our Children's, Reference and Circulation staffs, the Rhode Island and Special Collections librarians, or through attendance at programs such as films, author talks, lectures and more.

Nearly 10,000 adults and children attended varied learning programs and activities throughout the year.

Patrons statewide and beyond utilized a total of 347,269 Library resources and materials.

Award-winning composer and musical director Clarice Thompson performed in our Grand Hall during our America's Music concert series



As part of the Library's Irish Culture Proaram Series. we welcomed The Kelly School of Irish Dance.

Reading, Singing, Dancing...programs and events of all kinds took place at the Library this year. In addition to our usual complement of book clubs, writing groups and author visits, lifelong learning programs spanned the spectrum - from music events for all ages, to field trips to nearby museums, to varied film screenings and discussion series.

Our building renovations did not keep our devoted History Hijinks or Brown Bag Book Clubs from meeting regularly throughout the year. Similarly, the HiFi (Historical Fiction) Writing Collaborative continued their meetings, alternating between PPL and the Providence Athenaeum. We even added new business and lifestyle technology program offerings to an expanded schedule of computer classes, and our popular

> Small Business Workshops, presented in conjunction with RI SCORE, were offered in the spring and fall.

We continued long-running relationships with a number of partner organizations to offer ongoing popular learning programs and also worked with some individuals and groups for the first time to bring dynamic new programs and events to the Library.

In a celebration of motherhood, we were happy to host the inaugural Listen To Your Mother: Providence

event on May 4, 2013. Our auditorium was filled with those who

came to be taken on an amazing storytelling journey by a cast of 16 mothers!

In June, we hosted an outstanding evening of poetry: The Loft Anthology: New England Poetry and Art, The Poetry Loft's 2013 reading and awards celebration.



We held a number of collaborative program series, including a Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War, a five-part reading and discussion series developed by the American Library Association and National Endowment for the Humanities with local support by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. We partnered with Cranston and East Providence Public Libraries with more than 100 participating from the three libraries.

We worked with Rhode Island College for a second year to present the Global Lens Film Screening & Discussion series of international feature films selected for their authentic voice, strong cinematics, and unique cultural perspectives.

PPL was one of only 50 sites nationwide to host America's Music, a six-week program series featuring documentary film screenings and scholar-led discussions on 20th century American popular music. The Library also sponsored four free concerts.

We took to the road this year with two separate programs series. During the fall, a field trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston capped off a month of book and author programs focused on the historic art heist, while a spring program series on the China trade included a visit from When America Met China author Eric Jay Dolin, a presentation on Silken Webs by Madelyn Shaw, and a field trip to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass.

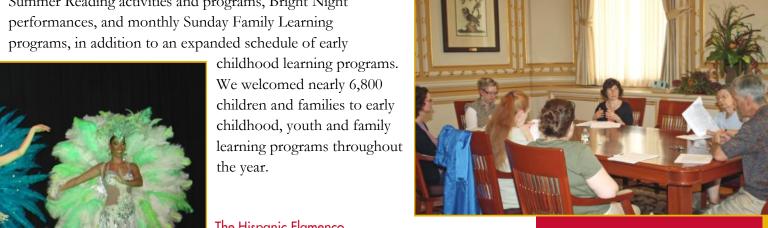
We celebrated Ireland throughout the year with programs highlighting our Potter and Williams Collection on Irish Culture and visits from speakers and performers.

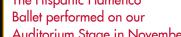
Families were kept busy this year with a full schedule of Summer Reading activities and programs, Bright Night

> The Hispanic Flamenco Ballet performed on our Auditorium Stage in November.

Above: Listen to Your Mother: Providence audience members got a great show. Below: We welcomed the Fulbright Scholars in March for research using our Special Collections. Bottom: The long-running HiFi Writers continued their regular meetings at PPL throughout the year.







Early Childhood Services

A total of 3,048 children attended 362 in-library pre-school programs while Library staff made 294 visits to 1,322 children in agency and home child care.

Our popular Cradle to Crayons programs increased to 161 with a total of 2,459 children and adults attending.

Literacy Services

Of the 191 adults and 25 children served by RIFLI this year, 48 students became citizens, 30 obtained jobs and 29 entered a training or postsecondary program.

Information Services

Our librarians helped **28,610** patrons with reference questions.

Visitors came to our Web site **292,483** times and viewed **639,287** pages.

Our Special Collections blog received 17,063 visits.

We welcomed **409** participants in **63** computer training classes.

Patrons used our **22** public computer workstations **40,277** times.

Volunteer Services

Our many volunteers, including our PPL and PPL Foundation trustees, committee members, and a diverse group of dedicated individuals, contributed 1,795 hours this year.

Fiscal Year 2013

Statement of Revenue & Expenses from Operations July 1, 2012 — June 30, 2013 (unaudited)

REVENUE

Public Funds

State of RI – Grant in Aid	\$ 439,219
City of Providence – Building Lease	250,000

Private Funds

Subtotal Income	\$ 3,968,604
Donations (Unrestricted)	135,973
Fees, Fines & Other	229,935
Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	1,223,907
Contribution from Endowment	1,689,570

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 1,659,774
Benefits	663,674
Books, Databases & Materials	126,297
Library Supplies	70,001
Facility Maintenance	73,056
General & Administrative	418,288
Utilities	149,903
Security Services	1,403
Subtotal Expenses	\$ 3,162,396
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 806,208

Note: Library Revenue Program Grants & Donations (Restricted) includes \$568,970 and Other Revenue includes \$58,652 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2013. \$762,998 of Donations (Restricted) and \$49,158 of Other Revenue supported FY2013 building renovations. Library Revenue Program Grants also includes \$46,500 of revenue reserved for FY2014.



Above: PPL's History Hijinks Book Club met throughout the year. Right: PPL technology trainer Ben Leveillee taught a number of newly Lifestyle Technology classes this year.



Providence Public Library Foundation

Providence Public Library Foundation seeks to ensure continued excellence in library services for the Providence Public Library community by providing private funding to enhance programs and services.

Mission

From Our Chair

This year has been extremely successful and exhilarating for Providence Public Library and the PPL Foundation alike. We are gratified to have had support from all corners of the community during and following the completion of the restorations of the Library's 1900 building.

This support and that which we continue to receive Kathleen C. Hittner, MD during our ongoing \$4 million "Opening Doors" campaign will enable us to strengthen our 138-year-old Library as a significant and enduring personal learning institution for all Rhode Islanders.

With the events of this year, our library has grown as a destination. Through our investment in our historic building and ongoing partnership with Russell Morin Fine Catering, we are witnessing a revitalization of our treasured library. Thousands of guests have made their way to our doors for special events, meetings and other gatherings, many of whom may not ordinarily get to visit and experience what our library has to offer. We have been especially excited to welcome these and all Rhode Islanders, as well as visitors from out of state, and to have had the chance to showcase and share the Library's distinctive features and unique resources in new ways.

We look forward to welcoming newcomers to our library, and even more importantly, to the ongoing pursuit of our critical mission of serving all lifelong learners who make our library a vital destination.

Fiscal Year 2013

PPL Foundation Sources of Philanthropy Revenues July 1, 2012 — June 30, 2013 (unaudited)

Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	\$ 651,457
Annual Appeal & Gala (Unrestricted)	206,398
Endowment Funds & Bequests	300

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED \$ 858,155

NOTE: The Providence Public Library Foundation's endowment contributed \$1,689,570 to Providence Public Library's FY2013 operating budget.



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Celebrating, Honoring and Sharing...

Opening Doors

We thank the following donors to Providence Public Library's ongoing *Opening Doors* Campaign:

Amica Companies Foundation Anonymous Bank Rhode Island Mr. Frederick Buhler and Ms. Dale Thompson Mr. and Mrs. Patrick M. Caine The Champlin Foundations Ms. Elizabeth Debs and Mr. Stephen Turner Ms. Karen DelPonte Mr. and Mrs. Robert DiMuccio Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Edwards, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Evan Granoff Estate of Mr. Frederick R. Griffiths Mr. Barry Hittner and Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner Dr. and Mrs. Edward Iannuccilli Interstate Electrical Services, David C. Isenberg Family Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Milot The Murray Family Charitable Foundation National Grid - Rhode Island Mr. and Mrs. J. Renn Olenn Peregrine Mechanical The Providence Journal Charitable Fund Providence Revolving Fund George M. and Barbara H. Sage Fund, recommended by Ms. Anne F. Sage Mr. and Mrs. James R. Schomer Mrs. Martha P. Sherman

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Opening Doors — Sharing Our Spaces

A Night to Shine

On the very memorable evening of April 12, 2013, we welcomed supporters and friends to *A Night to Shine* – when we formally revealed our beautifully restored Renaissance building. The gala benefited the Library's important educational and cultural role in the Rhode Island community and also provided the perfect opportunity to share our unique and exquisite spaces, mark the beginning of a new chapter in our history, and celebrate the renowned hospitality of our partner Russell Morin Fine Catering. Guests and sponsors helped us raise \$59,000.

Inaugural Enlightenment Awards

During this special occasion, we also honored two exceptional and long-time Library benefactors – Martha P. Sherman and *The Providence Journal* ~ Howard Sutton – with the presentation of our inaugural Enlightenment Award.

The Enlightenment Award is presented to those who have demonstrated their commitment to and passion for the mission of the Providence Public Library, the ideals exemplified by a life of learning, and the value and importance not only of knowledge itself, but of the *sharing* of that knowledge. The award embodies the belief that knowledge must light our way.

We honored Martha P. Sherman, Trustee Emerita, for her unparalleled legacy of library service – a legacy which includes extremely generous personal commitment and financial support. Mrs. Sherman has a long history of working for the betterment of libraries throughout Rhode Island and has shown a deep love and loyalty to Providence Public Library. Since



Inaugural Enlightenment Award recipients Martha Sherman and *The Providence* Journal's Howard Sutton.

1958, she has exhibited an unwavering vision and inspiration, dedicating herself to strengthening the Library's role as an intellectual forum and educational and cultural center in the community.

We recognized and honored *The Providence Journal* and Publisher Howard Sutton for carrying on what has been a tradition of partnership and support dating back to the Library's founding between the Journal and the Library to promote a literate, educated community. It was particularly fitting that we honor *The Providence Journal* and Mr. Sutton upon a commitment to the Library's Opening Doors Capital Campaign which designates our new room showcasing the Library's Rhode Island Collection as the Providence Journal Rhode Island Room.

Annual Fund Donors

500.000+

The Champlin Foundations*

100.000+

Providence Journal Company* Rhode Island Department of Education

50.000+

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SupportEach year countless volunteers, donors and organizations collaborate with and contribute their invaluable time and talent to the Library and their community. The Providence Public Library Foundation and Providence Public Library recognize and thank these and all Fiscal Year 2013 supporters and donors whose contributions ensure that the Library continues in its mission as a vibrant and vital resource providing lifelong learning opportunities to all Rhode Island residents.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Mason, Jr.

2.500 +

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