



Connecting, Collaborating, Creating...

The faces of our Library

2014

Annual Report

Providence Public Library
Providence Public Library Foundation

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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.

ON THE COVER: Jazz vocalist Michelle Cruz singing and playing The Whale Guitar (see story, page 7) at the closing event for the exhibit.

From Our Chair and Director

Connecting with our community...

Engaging through collaborative initiatives...

Libraries are places where constant change and adaptation are the norm. Throughout our history, Providence Public Library has continually evolved -- responding to our community's needs with critical services, innovative programs, and dynamic learning opportunities. This tradition is as strong as ever.

We're thrilled to report a growing and evolving engagement with our community of learners during this year. In addition to ongoing successes in our established early childhood and adult learning programs, we can point to a number of exciting new collaborations with artists, historians and fellow community organizations. Through these connections, we've had the pleasure of working with many talented people who came to our library in pursuit of their interests. Through their inspired efforts, we were able to remix and share the wonders of our special collections with an ever expanding audience. We've also rekindled and developed new partnerships with Rhode Island arts, cultural and educational organizations which are leading to increasingly diverse opportunities for Rhode Islanders to more fully experience and benefit from our library and its unique resources.

With the Library's 140th year on the horizon and a goal of continued revitalization, we diligently worked to create a "next generation" plan for becoming the best, most vibrant public library we can be, whether people visit us physically or connect with us digitally.

With this new strategic plan, we have sought to *Think Again...* to create a blueprint for true transformation. Our plan addresses how we will carry out our mission as a premiere free, personal learning place for all Rhode Islanders, but more critically, outlines where *we want to be* over the next decade. As we sought to redesign, we looked inward at our strengths; and, we also looked and reached out to individuals and groups in our community...and our community has responded.

Over the coming year and those to follow, we look forward to building upon some of our early accomplishments in the areas we have identified and working to fully achieve our vision. We will continue to cultivate partnerships and engage with our fellow service providers in the city and state on innovative joint initiatives. Most of all, we will receive ongoing inspiration from our diverse users as we seek to become that place where anyone can come to *experience, create and accomplish*.

Transforming for the future...



Robert K. Taylor
Chair



Jack Martin
Director

Shepherding Young Readers...

Children's Discovery Library

The story starts here...

Since its inception, the mission of PPL's Chace Children's Discovery Library and its staff has been straightforward and focused...

- Offer a captivating and enriching environment, providing a joyful learning experience for young children, their families/caregivers
- Promote a love of reading in young children
- Foster an understanding of the importance of pre-reading literacy activities among parents and family-based caregivers
- Provide professional support for early childhood educators

Since its opening day, this is what our Children's Library continues to do, one young learner at a time, parent by parent and teacher by teacher, meeting and shepherding hundreds of new young readers every year!

Meet Greyson Martinez...age 2

Greyson Martinez was two years old when he got his first official library card. He was just 18 months when he and his mom Gloria Molero began coming regularly to the Library's *Cradle to Crayon* program. Greyson developed such a love of reading — taking new books home every visit — learning his ABCs and various songs sung in the program, that Gloria decided he should have his very own library card. The Library agreed and he became one of our youngest cardholders, just like that. Welcome to a life of reading and learning, Greyson!

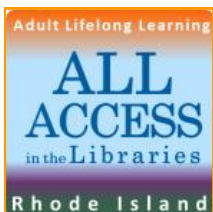
Evolving, Expanding...to Meet Needs



With Providence's, as well as all of Rhode Island's, continually expanding immigrant population, there is an ever-increasing need for adult literacy and learning services. Celebrating its 15th year of operation this year, the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (www.RIFLI.org), based at Providence Public Library (PPL), has consistently achieved national recognition as a free program offering English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship preparation, workforce development, digital literacy and adult literacy services at public libraries throughout Rhode Island. A hallmark of RIFLI is its ability to adapt and evolve, developing new programs to meet the needs of the community.

This year RIFLI and PPL, in partnership with Cranston Public Library and other statewide organizations, received a two-year \$498,172 Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) National Leadership Grant.

The IMLS-funded Adult Lifelong Learning Access (www.ALLAccess.org) program will demonstrate the potential for integrating library, digital literacy, technology access, adult education, and workforce services through the library, particularly for underserved populations. Ongoing analysis, communication, and evaluation are key elements of the program, so ALLAccess will track education and workforce outcomes for over 1,000 patrons who participate. Success rates and cost per outcome will be analyzed in the context of the statewide adult education and workforce system.



Top: PPL was a host site this year for a Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony coinciding with our nation's birthday. *Above:* RIFLI instructor Larry Britt assists Zoya Petrenko and Natallia Sabalevskaia in PPL's new Learning Lounge, our fastest growing site for varied teacher-assisted and technology use activities for adult learners.

ALLAccess in the Library has four key objectives:

- Overcome barriers to access in education and workforce services for all adults
- Develop, expand and improve statewide resources for adult online learning and workforce development
- Establish effective models to deliver and support education and workforce services for adults in the libraries
- Build a data-driven case for libraries' role in providing adult education and workforce services

Achieving these objectives will position libraries as community anchors for accessible adult education and workforce services. The project aims to deliver replicable and fundable models for delivering access, education, and workforce services to the adult populations most in need.

Cultivating Future Historians...

What parents told us...

Providence Public Library... a job well done — opening a new avenue of interactive learning! My son enjoyed collecting useful information and sharing it with the public and other future researchers. Amazing!

Inez Vazquez, mom of Neftali Morales

I was thrilled with this opportunity for Maeve. She was exposed to technology that we could not provide for her. Also, the freedom to choose her subject and set her own schedule gave her a sense of independence, more like a college experience than high school. It was also nice that this project took her outside and into the community...

She commented throughout that she was thrilled with the encouragement and support from the staff. Thank you all!

Liz McGrath, mom of Maeve

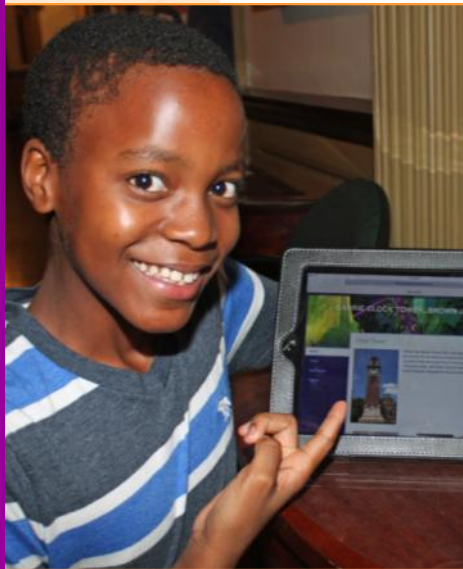
The Teen Tech Squad was a great program! My kids were really excited as they documented, captured images, took video and learned valuable information about Providence. It also has struck an interest in them to continue to do more research on other areas in Rhode Island. Thank you all!

Jessica Ortiz, mom of Manny and Keila

PPL kicked off its “Teen Tech Squad” pilot project in the Library’s newly created Tech Garage. The project was made possible in part by a Library of Rhode Island grant from the R.I. Office of Library and Information Services using funds from the Institute of Museum Services. Nine teenagers from across Providence participated in a nine-week long summer program to build websites documenting the history and current use of locations across Providence. Their chosen topics included the Castle Theatre, Federal Hill, the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood, the North Burial Ground, Water Place Park, the Carrie Tower at Brown University and St. Pius V Parish & School.

Teens were trained in digital photography, videography, and audio recording — all leading to the conceptualization and creation of their neighborhood profile as an open-source digital exhibition.

The teens worked with local history organizations to learn how to interpret site history, use primary sources as historical evidence and to think critically about how to present history. Using iPads, each student documented their neighborhood via video, audio, and photography during independent field research. To showcase their work and highlight their locations, the students then edited that documentation to create photograph collections, short documentary films and designed web pages.



The Library partnered with Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence Preservation Society, and Brown University Center for Public Humanities to help guide and mentor the teens in the proper techniques and methods of documenting a historical record. The digital neighborhood profiles may be viewed at: tech.pplspc.org.



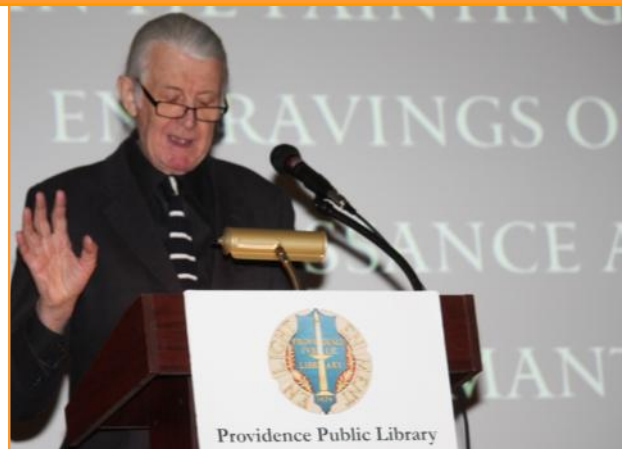
Participants in the program included Alyjah Benton, Joey and Mandy Gawron, Manny and Keila Ortiz, Maeve McGrath (right), Neftali Morales, Shania Munnerlyn and Francois Nduwumwami (above).

Connecting and Sharing...

...our special collections through exhibits, programs and collaborative projects

Bodoni Celebrated and Exhibited

We celebrated the 200th anniversary of the death of Giambattista Bodoni – one of history’s most important typographers and printers – with an exhibit and lecture by world-renowned type designer Matthew Carter (*pictured right*) in February. Nearly 300 people attended the event, which also served to launch the Library’s *Updike Prize for Student Type Design*, a competition to reward student type designers who use the wealth of historical typographic materials in the PPL Updike Collection on the History of Printing.



Whale Guitar Debut

With its Moby Dick theme and mission to increase awareness of the plight of whales, The Whale Guitar project was right up our alley. Having worked with designers Jen Long and Rachel Rosenkrantz-Reimer (*pictured right*) for more than a year as they and friends used the PPL’s Nicholson Whaling Collection for inspiration to create their one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted electric guitar, we were thrilled to finally host The Whale Guitar Exhibit as well as an opening reception in April and closing performance in June featuring the guitar, the artists/musicians, and their cast of supporters. Both events were unique gatherings thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Block Island Idyll

From May through July, we hosted a collaborative exhibit entitled Block Island Idyll: *Memories of Manisses*, which featured materials and artifacts from our Rhode Island Collection and the Block Island Historical Society Museum showcasing daily life and industry on Block Island in the past 150 years. In addition to a related author program, a group of enthusiastic day-trippers enjoyed an “idyllic” visit to Block Island and its historical museum.

Providence Police 150th Anniversary

After months working with the authors of an updated history of the Providence Police Department, to coincide with the department’s 150th Anniversary celebration from August through October, we were pleased to participate in programs and a collaborative exhibit entitled *Protecting Providence: 3 Centuries of Policing in Rhode Island’s Capital*. While the Providence City Archives showcased policing from the colonial period through 1900, PPL’s portion of the exhibit covered the turn of the 20th century to the present day.



Family History Workshop Series

Throughout the year, the Library’s Rhode Island Collection librarian Kate Wells offered a five-session Family History Workshop series designed to be cumulative in knowledge, each workshop building upon the last to provide attendees with a basic understanding of how to research their own genealogy and document family stories. The workshops were very well attended and resulted in the initiation of a new group – *The Story Seekers*, volunteer oral historians for the PPL Rhode Island Collection.

Learning through Experience...at the Library

Lifelong Learning

More than **150,600** 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.

More than **12,600** adults and children attended varied learning programs and activities throughout the year.

Patrons statewide and beyond utilized a total of **345,257** Library resources and materials.



Our Fall Special Collections Open House attracted history buffs and the curious alike...

This year held many "firsts" as well as a wide variety of programming for all ages, including a rotating schedule of exhibitions and complementary programs featuring the Library's vast and unique materials.

We also continued a number of long-standing partnerships and popular programs. In addition to our History Hijinks and Brown Bag book clubs, and the HiFi (Historical Fiction) Writing Collaborative, we welcomed 15 visiting authors throughout the year. As a special celebration, we hosted a community conversation on the 50th anniversary of Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* to reflect upon the groundbreaking work.

During the summer, we began our twice-monthly guided historical/architectural building tours, welcoming hundreds of people excited to visit and learn about our library, our exquisite building, and a bit about our unique collections.

In the fall we held a Collection Open House, inviting Rhode Island librarians and historians for a first-hand look at special collections so that they can help us spread the word about them.

Over the winter, we launched a new collaborative program with Trinity Rep called TRPPL Play, where high school students worked with Trinity professionals to adapt the *Kids's Reading Across Rhode Island* selection into a play and then perform it, first in our auditorium, and then at libraries statewide.

For *Downton Abbey* and fashion lovers, we offered a special program marking the show's season four finale. We were nearly overwhelmed by the number of fans — dressed in era attire — who came out for our *Downton Abbey Fashion Primer & Tea* featuring a presentation by cultural historian Madelyn Shaw and tea in our Grand Hall!



Some of the more than 300 visitors for our new guided historical/architectural building tours this year.



Our popular lifestyle technology and personal computer classes were well attended, as were our continuing Small Business Workshops, presented in conjunction with RI SCORE, in the spring and fall.

Oure Pleasure Singers brought a festive sound to the Grand Hall in December with both traditional and sacred seasonal music. In March, we celebrated Ireland in story and song with Mary King, Phil Edmonds and Kevin Fallon, as well as a demonstration of traditional Irish step dancing by the Kelly School of Irish Dance, completing the St. Patrick's Day festivities.

In addition to continued participation in Rhode Island International Film Festival presentations, the Library sponsored regular and varied film showings and series. We were proud to host a film premiere *Ocean Frontiers II: A New England Story for Sustaining the Sea*, highlighting Rhode Island's critical plan for replenishing and restoring our ocean resources. In May, the new documentary *The Great Confusion: The 1913 Armory Show* by Michael Maglaras and Terri Templeton's 217 Films was screened by an appreciative audience. Through a continuing partnership with Rhode Island College, the Global Lens series of select international films were screened during the fall and added to our collection.

Working with Providence composer/arranger Dave Lussier as moderator, the Library presented Hail! Hail! Rock 'n Roll, a seven-session documentary film series focused on the development of American Rock and Roll from the 1950s through the late 1970s.

We hosted the ALA traveling exhibit "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," as well as an opening address by Lincoln scholar retired Chief Justice Frank Williams, multiple author presentations, a film series, an exhibit from our own Civil War collection, and even a field trip to the Governor Henry Lippitt House, built during the Civil War.

An another new event, PPL sponsored and hosted the first-ever RIPEXpo (Rhode Island Independent Publishing Expo), a weekend-long free festival celebrating self-published comics, books and zines, that attracted hundreds of artists and fans.

In addition, the Library was pleased to partner with the Rhode Island Historical Society in a celebration of Providence-born H.P. Lovecraft's birthday, hosting a Lovecraft Read-a-thon. The event featured readings of some of Lovecraft's best-loved stories, as well as musical performances by local musicians. Leading up to the event, PPL also ran a mini-Lovecraft film festival.



Above: Kelly School dancers rehearsed in our tiled balcony... perfect for tapping!

Below: Among visitors to the Lincoln exhibit were students from area schools.



Above: RIPEXpo exhibitors were kept busy showing their wares to hundreds of attendees. **Left:** H.P. Lovecraft readers included Starry Wisdom.



Fiscal Year 2014

Statement of Revenue & Expenses from Operations July 1, 2013 — June 30, 2014 (unaudited)

REVENUE

Public Funds

State of RI – Grant in Aid	\$ 394,786
City of Providence – Building Lease	279,412

Private Funds

Contribution from Endowment	2,000,815
Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	1,425,975
Fees, Fines & Other	389,130
Donations (Unrestricted)	130,557
Subtotal Income	\$ 4,620,675

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 1,816,866
Benefits	759,506
Books, Databases & Materials	173,247
Library Equipment & Supplies	114,629
Facility Maintenance & Upgrades	336,740
General, Administrative & Other Program Support	572,441
Utilities	177,058
Security Services	6,201
Subtotal Expenses	\$ 3,956,688
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 663,987

Note: Library Revenue Program Grants & Donations (Restricted) includes \$100,775 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2014. \$410,270 of Donations (Restricted) supported building renovations that were started in FY2013. Library Revenue Program Grants also includes \$268,470 of revenue reserved for FY2015.

Early Childhood Services

A total of **1,617** children attended **163** in-library pre-school programs while Library staff made **297** visits to **1,618** children in agency and home child care.

Our popular *Cradle to Crayons* programs increased to **174** with a total of **2,909** children and adults attending.

Literacy Services

RIFLI served **246** adults this year, representing **46** different countries. **28** students became citizens, **17** obtained jobs and **11** entered a training or postsecondary program.

Information Services

Our librarians helped **29,781** patrons with reference questions.

Visitors came to our Web site **283,187** times and viewed **654,183** pages.

Our Special Collections blog received **9,684** visits.

We welcomed **1,033** participants in **145** computer training classes.

Patrons used our **42** public computer workstations **40,543** times.

Volunteer Services

Our many volunteers, including our PPL and PPL Foundation trustees, committee members, and a diverse group of dedicated individuals, contributed **4,479** hours this year.



PPL's popular Family Learning Sundays met throughout the year, giving children and families a multitude of opportunities to learn together. Here Christopher Johnson shares his knowledge about storytelling and writing.

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

Following the exciting new path we started down last year, with the restoration and reopening of our 1900 building to overwhelmingly positive reviews by all who have visited for special events and programs alike, Providence Public Library and the PPL Foundation have continued to work together closely this year to pursue further opportunities for transformation and growth.



Kathleen C. Hittner, MD

Our attentions turned to the Library’s goal of developing an equally bold revitalization plan for its programs and services...one that would fully meet the evolving needs of our expanding downtown community, as well as the aspirations of lifelong learners statewide and beyond who turn to PPL. Not only have we discussed ongoing changes to the Library’s physical space, but also new and innovative ways to engage with others as we strive to deliver our services over the coming years.

The PPL Foundation has been active making important connections within our community of supporters, spearheading collaborative efforts with individuals and organizations who share our cultural, education and learning mission, and committing the necessary investment to ensure the Library’s future success.

As we work over the coming months to implement our newly adopted plan, we will continue our outreach to old friends and new alike, inspired by our enduring mission and energized by the tremendous and diverse activity that transpires at our library, day after day, all year long.

Fiscal Year 2014

PPL Foundation Sources of Philanthropy Revenues July 1, 2013 — June 30, 2014 (unaudited)

Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	\$ 1,328,010
Annual Appeal & Gala (Unrestricted)	215,870
Endowment Funds & Bequests	295
TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED	\$ 1,544,175

NOTE: The Providence Public Library Foundation’s endowment contributed \$2,000,815 to Providence Public Library’s FY2014 operating budget.

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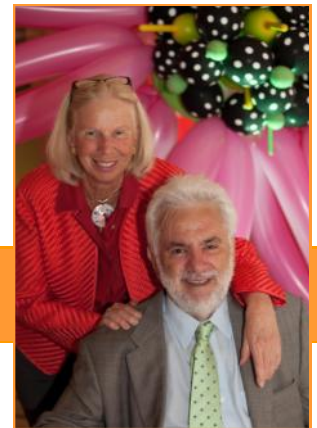


A Truly Transformative Experience...

The Library was transformed into a virtual *Wonderland* on April 11, 2014, as we welcomed supporters and friends for our annual Gala. More than 250 guests entered the rabbit hole and enjoyed delectable “EAT MEs” and “DRINK MEs” all night while taking part in a fanciful recreation of one of the most enduring literary classics —

Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* — with help from the creative and talented performers at Chifferobe Events.

Co-sponsored by Russell Morin Fine Catering, the event raised \$45,000 in support of the Library’s free educational and cultural programs and services in the community.



Above: Gala Queen of Hearts sponsor Rosalyn Sinclair with the Wonderland King and Queen of Hearts, Zeffro Gianetti and “Miss Wensday.” **Center:** (l-r) Brent Runyon, Event Chair Dr. Kathleen Hitner, Mary Olenn, James Murdock, Renn Olenn, PPL Executive Director Jack Martin. **Right:** Carla and Russell Ricci.

PPL Featured in *Art in Libraries* Segment of ArtRI Series

Providence Public Library, along with The Providence Athenaeum, was featured in *Art in Libraries*, one segment of the newest four-part ArtRI series titled *In Plain Sight: Art in Unexpected Places*. The series explored publicly accessible Providence sites known for something other than their art, but that also offer noteworthy examples of artistic expression.

Noted in the program, Providence Public Library opened its extraordinary building, itself a work of art now on the National Register of Historic Places, in 1900. Viewers were given a virtual tour of striking architectural features of the building en route to a showcase of remarkable collections of ship models, ancient tablets, illustrated manuscripts, original WWII posters and more.



Support

Each 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 2014 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.

Annual Fund Donors

250,000+

The Champlin Foundations*

100,000+

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75,000+

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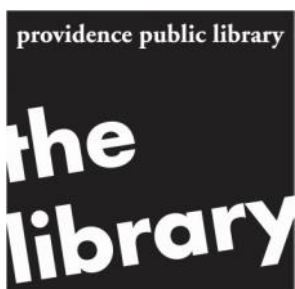
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