



Planning, Designing, Transforming...

Embracing the Present...Engaging for Our Future

2015

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: The redesigned Teen Room features a vibrant, cylindrical room divider that allows light to pass through from the window side of the room.

From Our Chair and Director

Embracing our present...Engaging and transforming for the future...

2015 has been a pivotal year. Not only are we celebrating 140 years of amazing library service, we're also undertaking the exhilarating work of designing the future of the Providence Public Library.

In taking the critical first steps to implement our new *Think Again* strategic plan, we realize that we are not the only ones who are excited. More people every day are engaging with us – visiting our gorgeous library, working with our awesome staff and top-notch collections, and attending fantastic programs and public and private events in our beautiful spaces. We continue to strive to share our spaces with folks from all walks, whether for traditional library services or something new.

In our library, even day-to-day happenings can be transformative. Some days we witness a child saying his first words or getting her first library card during a trip to our *Chace Children's Discovery Library*. Many other activities that take place within our walls are equally inspiring: from adults gaining fundamental literacy skills or achieving digital certifications which set them on the path to employment, to artists of all kinds exploring our special collections and creating their own unique, new works.

This year we welcomed and partnered with several individuals, groups and organizations to create new ways for Rhode Islanders to experience the Library. We kicked off a brand new annual exhibition and program series – titled *Don't Stop the Music* – and worked with many talented artists, musicians and other experts to offer new programs and learning opportunities connected to Rhode Island's rich music history. Partnerships with the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame and Rhode Island Historical Society helped us build a new level of cool, connected exhibitions at the Library.

We hosted the first-ever *Mysterium – The Eternal Masquerade*, a one-of-a-kind arts inspired Halloween event that featured the amazing artistry of creator Ten31 Productions combined with our Library's wonders and spaces in a unique, new way. In another venture we joined forces with other local libraries to launch a city-wide public interactive art experience: *Unicorns In Residence: Providence*. We hosted a herd of stampeding, sparkly pink unicorns, welcomed throngs of curious visitors, and shared treasures from our collections with Brown University for their *Unicorn Exposed* exhibit at the John Hay Library.

Whether using our spaces for our own exhibitions or collaborating with others to offer special programs and events, we focused – and will continue to focus – on transforming our building into the library of the future. In line with our strategic plan, we took steps to engage our community in the process. Among our proud achievements, we are pleased to showcase in this report one example of a design collaboration with teens in DownCity Design's Summer Design Camp who helped us envision and redesign our current Teen Room.

And, we look forward to further transformation in the months to come!



Robert K. Taylor
Chair



Jack Martin
Director

Designing through Collaboration...

Youth in DownCity Design's Summer Design Camp Help Re-imagine and Build Library's Teen Space

Teen Space Key Redesign Features

- Separation of space
- Privacy
- Comfortable seating
- Welcoming
- Gaming area
- Chalkboard wall
- Display areas
- Creative/Artistic elements

As outlined in the Library's *Think Again* strategic plan, PPL is focused on better engaging and serving the city's teens, becoming a learning hub for the thousands of high school students in the near vicinity of the Library.

In the heart of downtown Providence, with nearby access to arts, educational and cultural partners, PPL is centrally located, accessible, safe and comfortable — an ideal “third” space between school and home for teens. With a new teen educator/librarian on board, the Library's immediate challenge was to create a space that would be more inviting, exciting and engaging than our existing room devoted to both young children and teens.

Working with DownCity Design, we proposed a teen Summer Design Camp project to get help with an initial space redesign from the very group we sought to attract. An ideal, sustainable design project would be a movable or “pop-up” space that could eventually be housed in our ultimately renovated Teen Library.



With help from their DownCity camp leaders, student designers set to work imagining, proposing and then actually building! The teens' work was fully installed by summer's end.

Summer camp teen designers first presented their concept to the PPL team and later unveiled their finished installation to the Library, family and members of the community.



Leading the Way in Innovative Adult Education...



...and putting adults on the path to success — two success stories

Originally from Laos, **Latdavanh Vongvilay** started with RIFLI as a beginning ESL student nearly a decade ago. While taking classes, she advanced in her job at a local restaurant from “bus girl” to table server to eventually earning her bartender’s license. She also improved her English enough to pass the Citizenship interview in 2009 and is now a proud American Citizen and Rhode Island resident.



Described by her teachers as a “self-starter,” Latdavanh accomplished many digital literacy achievements, including being the first RIFLI student to earn Northstar certification, assisting in a Computer class as a Digital Literacy Corps member, and adapting a class lesson on MS Excel to create a liquor inventory – which she used at her restaurant. During another class, she served as a translator (*in above photo*) to help a student whose identity had been stolen. Her assistance led to the student recovering her money!

Delmi Gutierrez came to Providence from Guatemala in 1995 as a sixth-grade student. Learning English for the first time, she eventually left school before completing high school. Her interest in learning never wavered, though. She enrolled in the National External Diploma Program through RIFLI and earned her high school diploma. Two years ago, she began working as a Discovery Guide in PPL’s *Chace Children’s Discovery Library* and continues to work in the Children’s Library helping families acclimate to the Library and its resources.

In 2014, Delmi was hired by RIFLI as a Children’s Teacher at the Auburn Library in Cranston to teach the children of the students in enrolled in the twice-weekly ESL and Citizenship classes there. Many of the children are new arrivals to the United States, so she works with them on their English and literacy skills and also helps them with homework. Last year she earned a teacher’s assistant certificate

from the Community College of Rhode Island, and recently started taking RIFLI Citizenship classes at Cranston’s Hall Library. Delmi “loves working with children,” and one day plans to serve them either as an educator or a nurse.



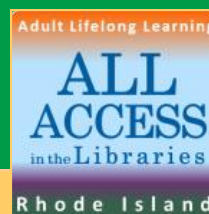
Delmi with Marissa & Cody Post at PPL.

Sharing the Model

Innovation, outreach and collaboration always have been hallmarks of the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (www.RIFLI.org) and now the IMLS-funded Adult Lifelong Learning Access (www.allaccessri.org) program, both based at Providence Public Library (PPL), and this past year has yielded further examples of successful leadership work in adult education and workforce development in the Rhode Island library community.

Over this year, the Learning Lounge model first introduced at PPL has been formerly adopted at both Cranston Public Library and Pawtucket Public Library. The Learning Lounge is an inviting, casual space for technology-enabled adult learning. Adults come to discover and use digital resources for learning and career needs, improve their digital skills, learn with and from their peers, and for guidance and support from experienced teachers and librarians.

In one year, ALL Access in the Libraries has impacted the education and workforce development of 412 Rhode Island adults.



Building Our Digital Library

PPL launched its new Digital Library, available at ProvLibDigital.org. Initially featuring nine collections and nearly 5,000 items from the Library's Special Collections and Rhode Island Collection, ProvLibDigital.org became Rhode Island's latest growing searchable digital repository offering the public free access to thousands of historical and significant resources for download and creative use.



ProvLibDigital

The Library has been making an increasing number of its collections digitally accessible over recent years. Now, with the launch of ProvLibDigital.org, we are moving ahead on a key strategic goal to enhance our Digital Library — with a primary focus of creating access to our unique special collections, as well as content generated by PPL through innovative programming and special research fellowships. These resources will become an integral part of our users' library experience.

PPL has world-class collections that the public might not expect to find at a public library and our goal is to make them freely accessible, offering hi-res, downloadable images for general public use.

Collections represented in ProLibDigital launch

Laurence E. Tilley Photograph Collection

John B. Archer Collection

John Hutchins Cady Research Scrapbooks

Glass Negative Collection

Rhode Island Photograph Collection

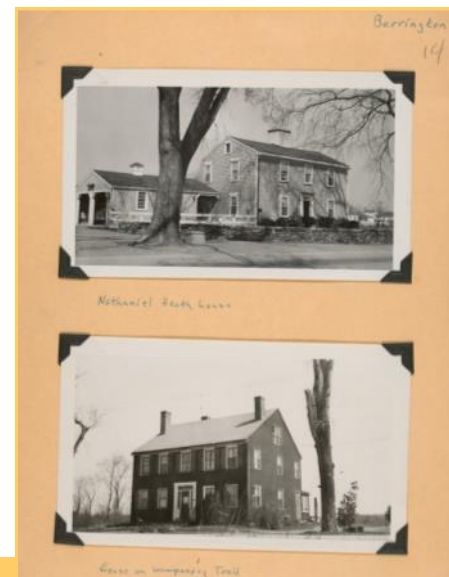
Dorothy Bell Collection of Valentines

Rhode Island Stereocard Collection

William Arnold Autograph Collection

Rhode Island Postcard Collection

From historic and architectural structures and events to images of interest to local genealogists, PPL's Rhode Island Photograph Collection is a resource getting more use than ever. **Above:** Ida Lewis, Tom, Rudolph and two unidentified women. **Lower left:** Flashlight of Municipal Concert, Roger Williams Park, Providence, R.I., circa 1910. **Far right:** Images of two houses, Nathaniel Heath House and a house on Wampanoag Trail, from the John Hutchins Cady Research Scrapbooks, a collection consisting of 11 scrapbooks of photographs, postcards, clippings and photostats of buildings of architectural interest in Rhode Island.



Sharing and Showcasing...

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

First Updike Prize Awarded

We held our second annual typography event in February featuring a lecture by Tobias Frere-Jones, one of the world's most respected type designers. We were equally excited to announce the winner of our first-ever *Updike Prize for Student Type Design* Sandra Carrera, who took first place for her typeface *Picara*. Other finalists for the 2015 award included Prin Limphongpand, *Rizvele* (Runner-Up), Chae Hun Kim, *Hoodoo*, and Yeon Hak Ryoo, *Tranche*. The *Updike Prize for Student Type Design*, generously sponsored by Paperworks, was created to inspire student type design through the use of historical typographic materials in the PPL Updike Collection on the History of Printing. During the event, attendees toured "Inhabited Alphabets," an exhibition highlighting typographic oddities from the Updike Collection as well as our other collections, including children's books, Civil War items and more.



SALTWATERCOLORS...showcasing artwork in our collection

In a true example of inspiring community art, we presented SALTWATERCOLORS — works of art from PPL's Nicholson Whaling Collection. The exhibition showcased art created by whalers, in most cases onboard American whaling vessels that, with the growth of the whaling trade were forced to undertake longer voyages to more distant regions, many lasting multiple years. These extended trips offered opportunities for many whalers to fill their time at sea with artistic pursuits.



Memories from a Forgotten Neighborhood

We were excited to host *Come Sit a Spell: Memories from a Forgotten Neighborhood* — an immersive art and oral history installation by The Center for Public Humanities at Brown University and Urban Pond Procession during the fall. Visitors to the exhibition are invited to come sit a spell in the immersive art installation and delve into the history of the former West Elmwood neighborhood through an oral history soundscape of West Elmwoodians sharing their memories.

Unicorns in Residence: Providence

As a partner in *Unicorns in Residence: Providence*, a citywide interactive art experience that kicked off in March at PPL, we welcomed 15 life-size sparkly, pink unicorns comprising The Unicorn Stampede. The project was a collaboration seeded in Providence's public parks by the Partnership for Providence Parks and made possible by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Project partners also included Brown University Libraries, the Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism, Providence Athnaeum, Providence Children's Museum, Providence Community Libraries, Providence Public Library, and Rhode Island School of Design Library and RISD Museum.



Joint Family History Workshop Series "Diggin' Your Roots" Offered

Building on the success of the previous year, the Library partnered with the Rhode Island Historical Society to offer a full year of genealogy learning events. This year's Family History Workshop series was titled *Diggin' Your*

Roots and Rhode Island Collection librarian Kate Wells provided a variety of sessions designed for both novice and experienced genealogy researchers at all levels as they sought to document their family stories.

Educational Experiences...at the Library

Engagement

More than **152,000** visitors walked through our doors this year, many receiving direct expert service from our Children's, Adult, Research and Customer Service staffs, the Rhode Island and Special Collections librarians, or to attend classes, workshops, author talks, lectures, musical performances, and more.

More than **27,850** adults and children took part in varied learning experiences throughout the year.

Learners statewide and beyond utilized a total of **886,992** Library resources and materials.

More than **8,000** people regularly engaged with us through varied social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr and our popular Special Collections blog, which alone generated **5,513** visits.

The second RIPEXpo again attracted hundreds of artists and fans.



Partnering to bring educational and experiential exhibitions, programs and events was a top priority this year! We were proud to work with many individuals and organizations to present a brand new annual exhibition and program series – this year titled **Don't Stop the Music** – and to continue many of our established collaborations to offer a wide range of learning opportunities for all ages at the Library.

Our popular technology and personal computer classes, as well as our twice-a-year Small Business Workshops, in conjunction with RI SCORE, were all well attended. In addition to welcoming 10 visiting authors, we continued several long-standing programs and partnerships around the book and writing. These included hosting our History Hijinks and Brown Bag book clubs, along with the HiFi (Historical Fiction) Writing Collaborative's regular meetings. We were pleased to partner with HiFi to present their program *Crossing Paths: Novel Writing and Historical Research* in the fall.

Throughout the year, we continued our partnership with Rhode Island International Film Festival, sponsoring varied film screenings, in addition to working with a number of others to offer special film programs. We were proud to collaborate with Brown University on a Black History Month film and discussion series and also with the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Rhode Island to host a screening and discussion of the award-winning *Fruitvale Station*. Additional film series included *From Fangs to Bangs and Beyond: The Evolution of the Vampire in Film*, with moderator Dave Lussier, and *Girls with Guns: Five movies about revenge, retribution, and justice in the modern world*, with Professor Matt Gutekl of Brown University.



In November, we celebrated Mark Twain with a reading of *The Bohemians* by Ben Tarnoff, a screening of *Mark Twain* directed by Ken Burns, and a field trip to the Mark Twain House and Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

In December, we welcomed three popular groups back with their special seasonal programs: Living Literature created a heartwarming readers' theater presentation from John Irving's novel, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, while The Very Merry Dickens Carolers and Oure Pleasure Singers helped get us into the holiday spirit. Finally, we welcomed costumed fans of *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* for a special family-friendly Galaxy Blood Drive in support of the Rhode Island Blood Center.

In February, we hosted a Downton Abbey Fashion Primer & Tea II for another group of Downton Abbey and fashion lovers who joined us (dressed in era attire) for a presentation by cultural historian Madelyn Shaw and tea in our Grand Hall!

In March, PPL sponsored and hosted the second RIPEXpo (Rhode Island Independent Publishing Expo), a weekend-long free festival celebrating self-published comics, books and zines.

DON'T STOP THE MUSIC!



A celebration of the history
of music in Rhode Island
at Providence Public Library

APRIL - JUNE 2015

Below: The American Band kicked off our first-ever *Bands on the Block* outdoor concert performing a selection of favorites on the Library's Washington Street terrace. **Center:** Popular local band Roz Raskin & The Rice Cakes closed out our performance series on our Auditorium stage.

Don't Stop the Music was the title of our first-ever exhibition and program series. Over the course of three months, we welcomed more than 3,500 people to *From Pop to Punk: Highlights of 20th Century Music in Providence* – our exhibition featuring PPL's Rhode Island Collection along with an incredible wealth of loaned items from various organizations and personal collections – as well as 38 educational experiences, from lectures, classes and workshops for all ages to live music performances ranging from jazz, to rock, opera to alternative. In addition, we created a digital interactive music timeline utilizing the Library's database of Rhode Island music events and performers to showcase major musical moments in the Ocean State's history. All remains accessible at: prov.pub/rimusic.



Don't Stop the Music was made possible with sponsorship from Rosalyn Sinclair, as well as participation and support of many program partners, including The American Band, What Cheer? Brigade, What Cheer? Records + Vintage, Opera Providence and the Providence Gay Men's Chorus. Our exhibition celebrating the musical legacy of 20th Century popular music in Providence included photographs, scrapbooks, concert programs and posters, stage costumes, instruments, albums and more, and was possible through the generosity of loans from the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame, Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence Federation of Musicians, Armageddon Shop, Dirt Palace and the personal collections of Brian Simmons, Sylvia Ann Soares and Tom Zannini & Erica Saladino.

Far left: What Cheer? Brigade was a crowd pleaser inviting folks to take part during the *Bands on the Block* outdoor concert. **Left:** Members of Opera Providence gave a rousing performance of musical excerpts from Providence composer John B. Archer's operetta *The Romany Maid*, last performed more than 100 years earlier.



Fiscal Year 2015

Statement of Revenue & Expenses from Operations July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015 (unaudited)

REVENUE

Public Funds

State of RI – Grant in Aid	\$ 380,168
State of RI – Reference Resource Center	331,396
City of Providence – Building Lease	279,412

Private Funds

Contribution from Endowment	2,116,669
Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	1,253,820
Fees, Fines & Other	302,536
Donations (Unrestricted)	132,771
Subtotal Income	\$ 4,796,772

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 2,141,970
Benefits	782,748
Books, Databases & Materials	209,220
Library Equipment & Supplies	177,568
Facility Maintenance & Upgrades	100,652
General, Administrative & Other Program Support	654,795
Utilities	163,119
Security Services	22,254
Subtotal Expenses	\$ 4,252,326
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 544,446

Note: Library Revenue Program Grants & Donations (Restricted) includes \$78,729 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2015. \$43,000 of Donations (Restricted) supported building renovations that were started in FY2013. Library Revenue Program Grants also includes \$539,229 of revenue reserved for FY2016.

Early Childhood Education

A total of **8,340** children attended **531** in-library pre-school programs while Library staff made **45** visits to **1,210** children in agency and home child care.

Our popular *Cradle to Crayons* programs increased to **142** with a total of **2,024** children and adults attending.

Literacy Education

This year **379** adults attended classes, a 62% increase over last year. **35** students became U.S. citizens, while **42** obtained jobs and **26** entered a training/postsecondary program. **313** adults visited our Learning Lounge.

General Education

Our librarians helped **28,750** learners with research questions.

Visitors came to our Web site **279,836** times and viewed **636,916** pages.

We welcomed **1,165** participants in **191** computer training classes.

Guests used our **46** public computer workstations **33,488** times.

Volunteer Services

Our many volunteers, including our PPL and PPL Foundation trustees, committee members, and a diverse group of dedicated individuals, contributed **2,015** hours this year.



Above: PPL's popular guided architectural tours of our historic library attracted visitors from near and far. Here a group listens to docent Joan Glazer (center) and Program Manager Louise Moulton (left).

Below: PPL's Auditorium stage has become a popular center for many groups and gatherings. Here members of Year Up perform in their annual Talent Show.



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

Not many organizations get to celebrate decades of extraordinary community service as we did this past year. However, even while we paused to look back over the last 140 years, both the Library and PPL Foundation remained diligently focused on bringing our newly outlined vision for the future to fruition!

I am pleased to report that we are on track with our ambitious, 10-year transformation plan and the PPL Foundation remains committed to ensuring the funding to achieve our important milestones. Exhilarated by the community's continued excitement and increased engagement in all of our undertakings, we took a number of steps this year to support the necessary components of our strategic plan. Notably, we authorized funding for staffing to achieve our goals in key program areas.

These include technology, infrastructure and digitization; enhanced stewardship of and engagement with our unique and special collections; and a new focus on teen education to serve our thousands of area high school students. In another critical step, we also reestablished a formal development department with the hiring of dedicated staff, including a Development Director and Grant Writer.

Finally, the Foundation turned its attention to supporting the Library's physical transformation plan. In the months ahead, we will continue our efforts to ensure the community's support of our exciting building plan so that we may maximize the use of our library spaces and become the vital center for education we envision.



Kathleen C. Hittner, MD

Fiscal Year 2015

PPL Foundation Sources of Philanthropy Revenues July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015 (unaudited)

Program Grants & Donations (Restricted)	\$ 1,167,833
Annual Appeal & Gala (Unrestricted)	184,973
Endowment Funds & Bequests	2,400
TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED	\$ 1,355,206

NOTE: The Providence Public Library Foundation's endowment contributed \$2,116,669 to Providence Public Library's FY2015 operating budget.

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A Mythical, Musical Escapade...

The Library held its annual gala (XANADU) on April 10, 2015. Presenting sponsor was Rosalyn Sinclair. Event chairs Mr. Barry & Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner (along with PPL's resident muse Terpsichore – Greek goddess of dance and choral song) welcomed guests for this mythical, musical escapade. The event formally kicked off **Don't Stop the Music**, the Library's three-month celebration of Rhode Island music history. Attendees witnessed Terpsichore come to life through the incredible performance magic of TEN31 Productions.

Co-sponsored by Russell Morin Fine Catering, the event raised more than \$55,000 in support of the Library's new youth program initiatives and projects to provide Providence's young adults with the ultimate Downcity learning place.



Above: (l-r) Ray Willis and Sally McDonald and Jillian and TJ Jagling with Terpsichore. **Center:** (l-r) PPL Executive Director Jack Martin, Martin Trueb, PJ White, Zelia Trueb and David White. **Right:** Terpsichore awakens her sister muses.



MYSTERIUM THE ETERNAL MASQUERADE

With the introduction of this new, one-of-a-kind arts-inspired performance event on October 31, 2014, Halloween

Right: (l-r) PPL Trustees Shaun Buckler and Rob Taylor, Catherine Taylor and Linda Buckler. **Below:** Guests couldn't resist posing with the gargoyle greeters. **Lower right:** Many masqueraders danced the night away.

has become a uniquely transforming experience at the Library! Through a partnership between Russell Morin Fine Catering and TEN31 Productions, hundreds of Eternal Masqueraders witnessed captivating performances, enjoyed signature food and drink and also got to take part in an intriguing adventure that enabled us to share



our special wonders and parts of the Library never before seen by the public as they worked to unravel the evening's mystery!



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 2015 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.

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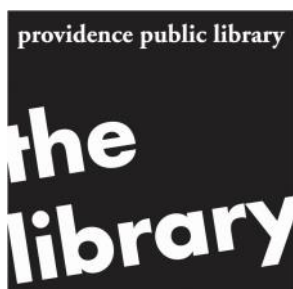
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