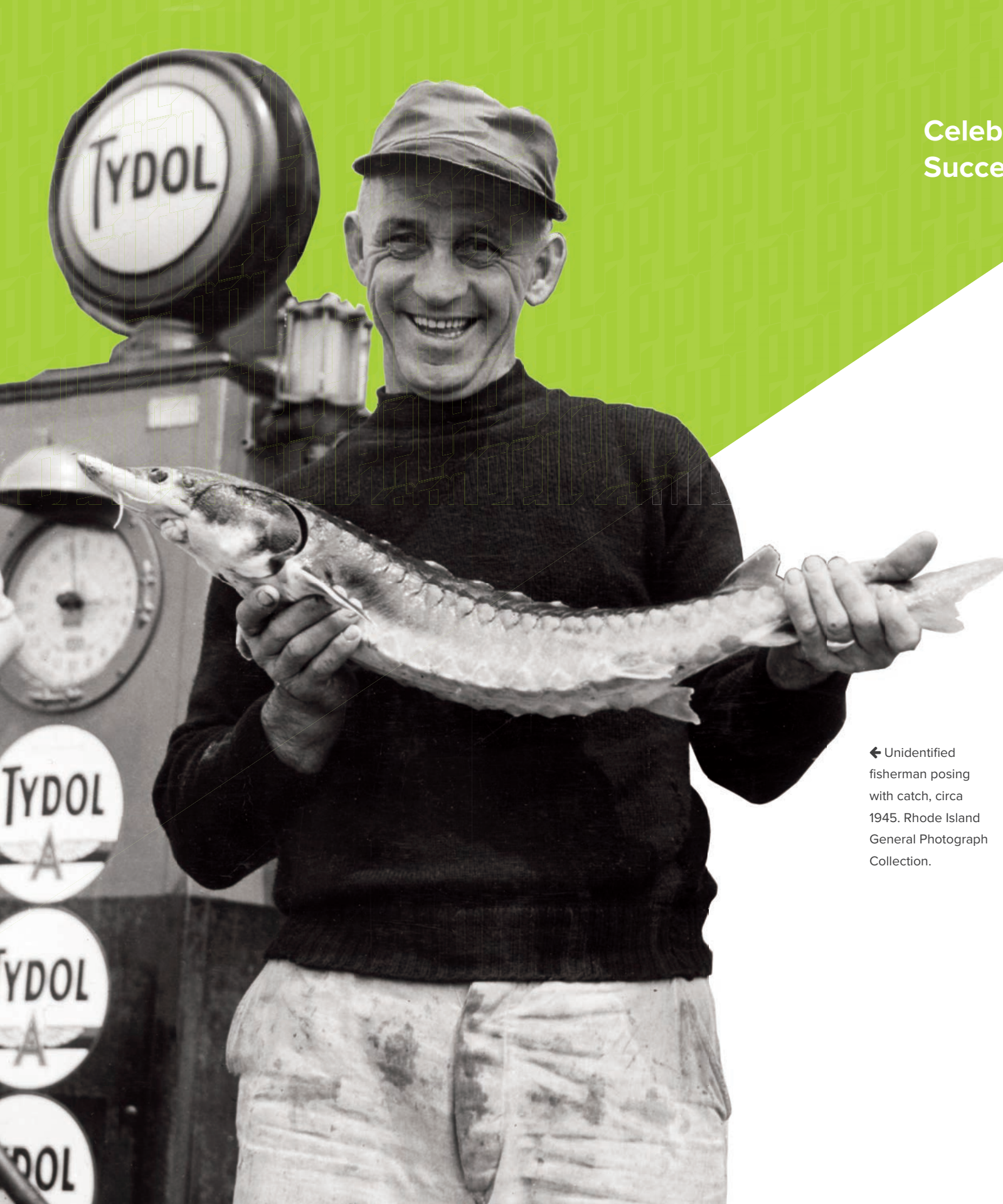




Providence Public Library

2017
Annual
Report



Celebrating Our Successes

When we think about our successes over this year, it's easy to recall many of the strides we've made on our ongoing *Think Again* strategic plan to transform our library.

- We continued to plan for an historic construction project to upgrade and modernize our building.
- We held our third annual Exhibition & Program series – On the Table, and in the process spearheaded A La Rhody – a statewide promotional collaboration conducted through a multi-agency partnership.
- We launched a multitude of new adult technology education programs, including Rhode Coders Clubs, and shared them with libraries around the state, while also achieving program growth and new partnerships through our IMLS grant-funded teen activities.
- We awarded our first high school students credits and digital badges!
- We expanded our already successful citywide partnership, this year distributing the Passport for Summer Learning to 15,000 Providence school children.
- We acquired and processed exciting new collections, including the AS220 archives, and we continued to add to our digital library.

But really, the true proof of our successes lies in the stories of those who come to us to achieve their goals and aspirations, whatever they may be.

Whether for a dad visiting our Children's Library with his preschoolers, or a class of youth gaining valuable workforce readiness skills in a Teen Squad program, we are a place they can make the connections they need. We are here for the university student and casual learner alike, sharing our amazing and inspiring collections. And, we are focused on providing the critical resources and educational opportunities for the many in our community who are seeking to learn and acquire new skills.

When we look at the accomplishments of those we serve, it's clear that we are fully realizing our mission to engage learners, inspire thinkers and connect our diverse communities. Furthermore, we recognize that we aren't doing it alone. We know that we're most successful when we partner to meet these important goals with the many like-minded individuals and groups in the community.

We continually seek to provide innovative and impactful educational opportunities and experiences, but it is the people who come to us who achieve the ultimate success. In this report, we are proud to present and celebrate some of our many success stories.

Thank you for all that you do for PPL!

Jack Martin
Executive Director

Robert K. Taylor
Chair of the Board



← Unidentified fisherman posing with catch, circa 1945. Rhode Island General Photograph Collection.

Dads Connect at PPL's Chace Children's Discovery Library

Ever since opening in 2012, PPL's Chace Children's Discovery Library has served as a one-of-kind early learning place for young children and their parents. Even more than a fun and engaging destination for families living in and around Providence, it serves as a hub of activity and meeting place. New parents and parents new to the area alike have found their way to the Library, many forging lasting friendships while their children play and learn together.

Recently, the Library has witnessed and helped foster the growth of a new group – the Providence City Dad's Group. “Right now, we are a branch of the Boston chapter,” explains organizer Mike Malkoff. He became aware of the national City Dad's Group organization while living in New York and then was involved in the Chicago group. He decided to start one here upon recently moving to Providence with his wife and daughter Eliana.

“As an at-home dad, I was eager for opportunities to connect with other dads in the area.”

— Mike Malkoff

“The Library has been a center point for us and Miss Anne (PPL early childhood educator) has really helped us spread the word. In addition to being a tremendous early learning program, it's a great place for us to meet, network and expand our group,” says Mike.

Fellow group member and at-home dad Mohammad Altaruti echoes Mike's sentiments. “My experience would be completely different if I didn't come here. It is a special place for both my daughter Jumana and me to meet others and build lasting relationships while she is learning.”

Andy Leukhardt, another dad in regular attendance at weekly story times agrees. “There's really no other place quite like PPL's Children's Library. As a dad, I look for inviting places to go with the kids that offer a real sense of community. Miss Anne does a wonderful job of welcoming everyone and we have developed some great friendships here.”



Teens Learn and Earn During Summer at PPL



A new offering in PPL's ongoing IMLS-funded educational programming, PPL's summer learning and earning program prepared area youth for employment, utilizing library resources and working with community partners.

Tapping into federal workforce funding, PPL partnered with the Comprehensive Community Action Program (CCAP) and the Community Action Partnership of Providence (CAPP) to serve as a work placement site for 40 youth between the ages of 14 and 24. PPL expanded its successful Teen Squad: My City, My Place, which was beta tested during the spring, making it a summer work project.

My City, My Place consists of four playlists for learning that integrate history, technology, and career skill development for the hospitality and tourism industry. Through the playlists, youth learned photo/video editing skills, beginner and advanced PowerPoint, how to receive and implement feedback, and presentation skills. Students earn digital badges to show they've completed each playlist and learned the prerequisite workforce preparedness skills.

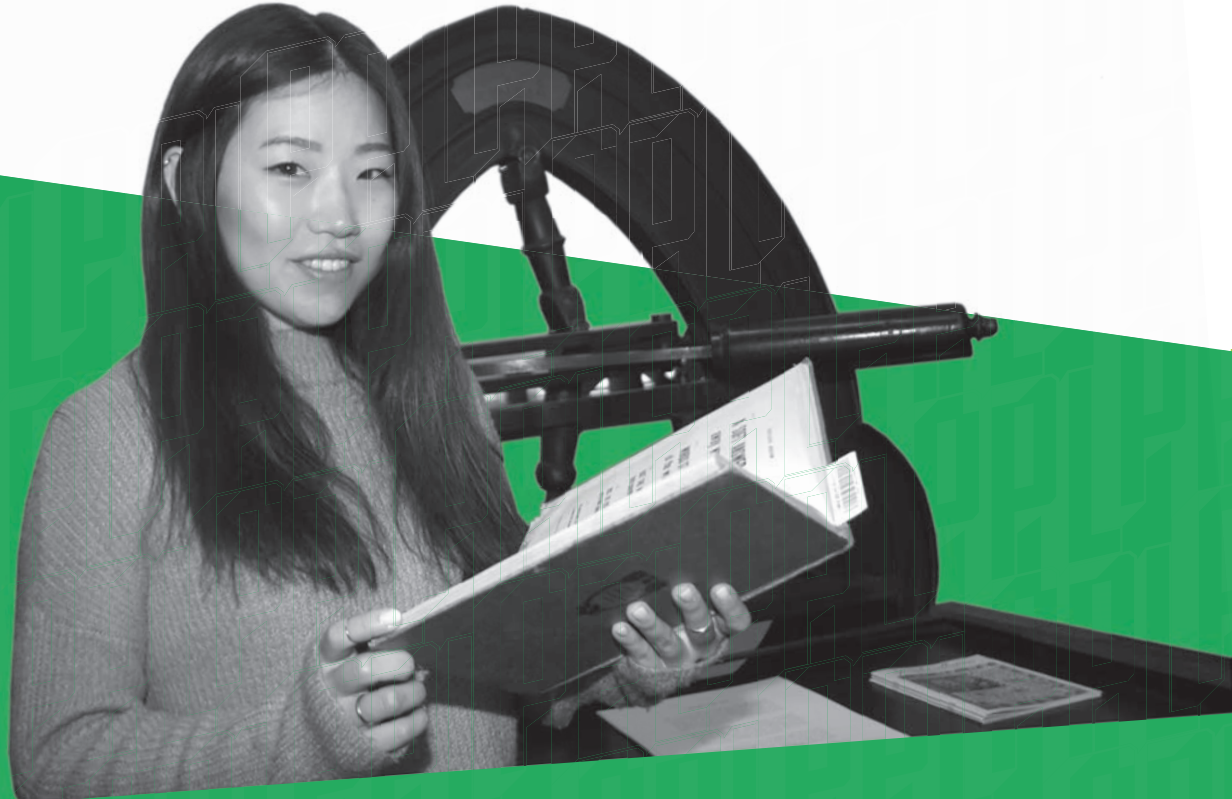
“It's an awesome program that teaches you useful life skills. I liked how we were able to pick a location of our choice to explore and learn.”

— Joyce

Teens also had the opportunity to interact with tourism/hospitality professionals, learn about different career paths and how to be successful within the industry as potential employees.

“I liked learning about public speaking and the proper way to speak to a large audience, because I have trouble speaking out loud...this will help me in the future,” says Jomari.

“I could see myself using what I learned in my life,” echoes Kevin.



Research at the Heart for June Shin

It's no surprise that June Shin, PPL's 2016 Updike Prize for Student Type Design winner,

spends many hours in the Library's Special Collections department. For her, it's equal parts work and pleasure. Her passion is type design.

"I'm fortunate and thrilled to have the Updike Collection so close at hand. It is such a valuable resource."

— June Shin

June was first introduced to the Daniel Berkeley Updike Collection on the History of Print as a Rhode Island School of Design MFA student in professor and designer Cyrus Highsmith's typeface design class. Ever since, she has found a seemingly endless source for conducting

her meticulous research and extremely detailed work, first as a student and now as a professional type designer.

"I came to the Library to do more research to prepare for an independent study and also attended a lecture at PPL by typographer and design historian Paul Shaw. I am very detail oriented...probably to a somewhat obsessive degree," admits June, laughing. "One thing led to another and I decided to enter the Updike Type Contest," she says.

June is currently working with Cyrus Highsmith in the Morisawa Providence Drawing Office, the Japanese company's first United States-based design office established for developing Latin fonts for use in its expanding global market.

"Research will always be integral to my work. Innovation is important, but we need to know and respect the origins of typefaces. Jordan (PPL's Head Curator of Collections) is a huge help to me in finding what I need."

On the Rhode... with Christian Mignacca

When the right opportunity presents itself, you just know it. This is how it was for

Providence resident Christian Mignacca when he saw a Facebook post promoting PPL's Rhode Coders Clubs.

"Coding was always something of interest to me; I just wasn't sure if it would be a fit. Turns out it was. I grew up loving video games, but didn't know if working in the world of computers and coding would mean I'd come to hate what I love doing in my free time," says Christian.

Christian found the path he was destined to travel and hasn't looked back since. "I finally found what my brain was designed to do!"

He credits PPL Rhode Coders creator and instructor Don Gregory for inspiring him to keep striving and getting better. "I wish every teacher was like him...he sucks you in with his passion and interest."

After excelling in and completing the 10-week Rhode Coders "exploratory adventure," Christian successfully enrolled in the flagship class of the highly competitive 13-week General Assembly Web Development Immersive training.* Designed in partnership with TechHire RI, the Rhode

"The PPL Rhode Coders program made it all possible for me."

— Christian Mignacca

Island Department of Labor and Training and other innovative companies in the state, it aims to prepare 25 Rhode Islanders with in-demand tech skills to compete for full-time, well-paying tech jobs upon graduation.

Looking ahead, Christian is confident he will land a great tech job. "I would love to stay in Rhode Island and also to have the chance someday to teach a class like the ones I've been fortunate to take."

* Seven other former PPL Rhode Coders were in the General Assembly program with Christian.





"I knew I would not find a job immediately, but felt I had useful skills I could offer to help others while working to improve my English."

– Carmen Malia

Making Connections and Persistence Lead to Success for Carmen Malia

Since arriving in Rhode Island in late 2016 Carmen Malia, an attorney in her native Spain, has methodically pursued opportunities to improve her English, become connected, and gain experience in order to become employed. She credits her successful journey so far to connections she made after joining a RIFLI intermediate ESL class at Cranston's Auburn Library.

"It all started at the Library," says Carmen. She excitedly relates one of her first critical connections upon meeting Elizabeth Segovis of Rhode Island Legal Services (RILS) when she came one day to speak to the class. "Sometimes, it's just fate," offers Carmen. "Elizabeth and everyone there welcomed me and gave me so much encouragement.

As it turns out, Carmen was not only able to help others by volunteering as a translator at RILS, she also gained useful experience, support, and relationships that have led to job opportunities. She is currently working as a paralegal.

"The process has been very hard, but I'm a strong person," she recalls. "I always try to take what I can learn from everything, no matter how difficult, and don't let setbacks stop me. Being persistent helps a lot. I have a strong conviction that I will be successful. I can imagine it is difficult for many people, but I have learned that everything in life needs a process."

"Through my current experience as a paralegal and doing important translation work, I realize the value of what I have to offer to others, and that I can also help them believe in themselves," she says.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

↓ Coinciding with the state's first Food Plan, PPL's third annual Exhibition & Program series entitled **On the Table** was the most successful yet. While the exhibition examined changes in American foodways and dining culture through the lens of table settings, the four-month program schedule offered a soup-to-nuts menu of free educational opportunities to nourish minds and bodies of participants of all ages. Programs were offered in collaboration with a variety of partners and sponsors.* In an effort to link On the Table to statewide celebrations and events around food and food culture, PPL worked with the Rhode Island Historical Society as well as city, state, and regional tourism agencies to create and promote A La Rhody. The aim of the year-long campaign, featuring a website serving as a clearing house for food-related programs and events happening throughout the state, was to use the universal language of food to educate and encourage dialogue on a diverse array of topics.

- PPL continued its collaboration with Rhode Island Historical Society to offer the popular Family History Workshop series **"Diggin' Your Roots"** – a full year of genealogy learning events designed for both novice and experienced researchers seeking to document their family stories. This year's programs were tied to the year-long celebration of food kicked off by the A La Rhody campaign.
- PPL again offered its popular **Small Business Workshop Series** in the spring and fall in collaboration with RI SCORE. This free, long-running program is continually well-attended by prospective entrepreneurs eager to learn from the experts.
- PPL's growing searchable digital repository **ProvLibDigital** continued to swell with the addition of several thousand images from our Rhode Island Photograph Collection of people, places and events from the mid-19th through 20th century. PPL's digital library now numbers nearly 15,000 historical and significant resources, offered free to the public for download and creative use.



- The Rhode Island Collection at PPL opened the **James N. Arnold Collection** to researchers after a year of processing. The large historic collection constitutes an outstanding and valuable compilation of Rhode Island genealogical material. In addition to some materials made available through ProvLibDigital, a full finding aid and collection inventory is available online.
- PPL held its third annual **Updike Prize for Student Type Design** Ceremony featuring a lecture by Dr. Fiona Ross, a pioneer in the design of non-Latin typefaces. The winner of the 2016 prize, generously sponsored by Paperworks, was June Shin for her type *Ithaka*.
- ↓ PPL's Special Collections added a significant local collection documenting the creative and cultural history of Providence with the acquisition of the organizational **archives of AS220**, a nationally recognized arts organization founded in 1985. AS220 is credited as a national model for urban revitalization and in its advocacy for the role of artists and art practice within community development. The Library subsequently received a \$63,660 National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant to process and preserve the AS220 records.
- PPL's Chace Children's Discovery Library launched **Family Literacy Bags**, a new resource for parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers developed in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Education. The 27 bags are designed to give parents opportunities to play and read with their young children while building skills for success in school and life. They focus on the nine domains of learning outlined in the Rhode Island Early Learning and Development Standards for Family Fun Activities, and each kit includes sets of activity cards in both English and Spanish.



- PPL hosted a new program series called **Lawyers in the Library** in partnership with Roger Williams University School of Law and participation from The Rhode Island Pro Bono Collaborative, Center for Justice, and Rhode Island Legal Services. Through monthly topic-specific presentations, followed by an opportunity to speak with a lawyer, the program's aim was to help people who cannot afford private legal services.
- Starting with an initial donation of seeds from the URI Master Gardener Program, PPL launched a **Seed Library** pilot as part of On the Table programs. The Seed Library offered hundreds of packets of seeds (edible and non-edible) free to patrons on an honor system. Also, a digital kiosk was developed enabling gardeners to explore online resources to enhance their gardening knowledge and experiences.
- ↑ PPL Special Collections published its first comic book – **Lizard Ramone in Hot Pursuit: A Guide to Archives for Artists and Makers** – in collaboration with artist Jeremy Ferris, who created the storyline, illustrations and text. It was distributed locally with a bonus insert illustrated by O. Horvath. The project was undertaken in an effort to meet the needs of creative researchers and make our collections more accessible to artists and other non-traditional researchers.
- PPL continued its successful **Passport to Summer Learning** partnership with the City of Providence, Providence Schools, Providence Community Library, and numerous citywide organizations,* this year redesigning and distributing more than 15,000 Passports directly to students in grades K – 5. In its third year, the collaborative initiative addresses summer learning loss among children with the least access to community assets and educational resources. The

2017 Passport expanded partnerships, and was even distributed to area Charter schools and some preschool children. Promoting an array of engaging, enriching and free activities offered in and around the city, Passports were sent home with students prior to the end of the school year, encouraging children to read daily and spend time with family. This year's project included improved data collection designed to help track the Passport's effectiveness in mitigating summer learning loss.

- During the summer, the Children's Library launched a new **STEAM Lab**, inviting children and teens to explore through projects revolving around science, technology, engineering, art and math.

↓ PPL's popular **Rhode Coders Clubs**, billed as an exploratory adventure to allow adults and teens with no experience to explore the world of computer coding and its possibilities, continued to expand, with the 10-week class series offered in multiple libraries and leading to several participants admitted to the highly competitive and rigorous General Assembly coding boot camp.

- PPL launched a new adult workplace development offering called **Data Navigators**. The 10-week course was an immediate success with adults interested in exploring how to transform data into actionable information.

** For a list of our program partners and sponsors, visit provlb.org.*



ENGAGEMENT

- More than **150,300** visitors walked through our doors this year, many receiving direct expert service from our Children's, Adult, Research and Information Service staff, the Rhode Island and Special Collections librarians, or to attend classes, workshops, author talks, lectures, performances, and more.
- More than **24,590** adults and youth took part in varied learning experiences throughout the year.
- Learners statewide and beyond utilized Library resources and materials more than **1 million** times, including **19,597** visits and **454,938** page views on provlbdigital.org.
- Nearly **15,000** people followed us on varied social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr and our Special Collections blog, with engagement totaling more than **408,600**.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- More than **7,400** children attended **443** early childhood and youth programs. Our popular Cradle to Crayons programs increased to **149** with a total of **2,654** children and adults attending.

LITERACY EDUCATION

- This year, **450** adult students representing **46** different countries of origin were served. We saw **42** percent of our students increase an educational functioning level (2 or more grade levels). Additionally, **32** became U.S. citizens, while **42** obtained jobs and **21** entered training or post-secondary education.

GENERAL EDUCATION

- Our librarians helped **30,783** learners with research questions.
- Visitors came to our website **199,377** times and viewed **420,824** pages.
- We welcomed **2,523** participants in **270** computer learning classes.
- Guests used our **46** public use computers **37,343** times, while teen and adult learners utilized an additional **80** devices in a multitude of technology and workforce development programs.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

- Our many volunteers, including our PPL and PPL Foundation trustees, committee members and a diverse group of dedicated individuals, contributed more than **1,200** hours this year.

2017 Savor the Story Celebrates Wine and Cuisine

In April, we held our second Savor the Story Wine Gala, featuring California's Robert Sinskey Vineyards.

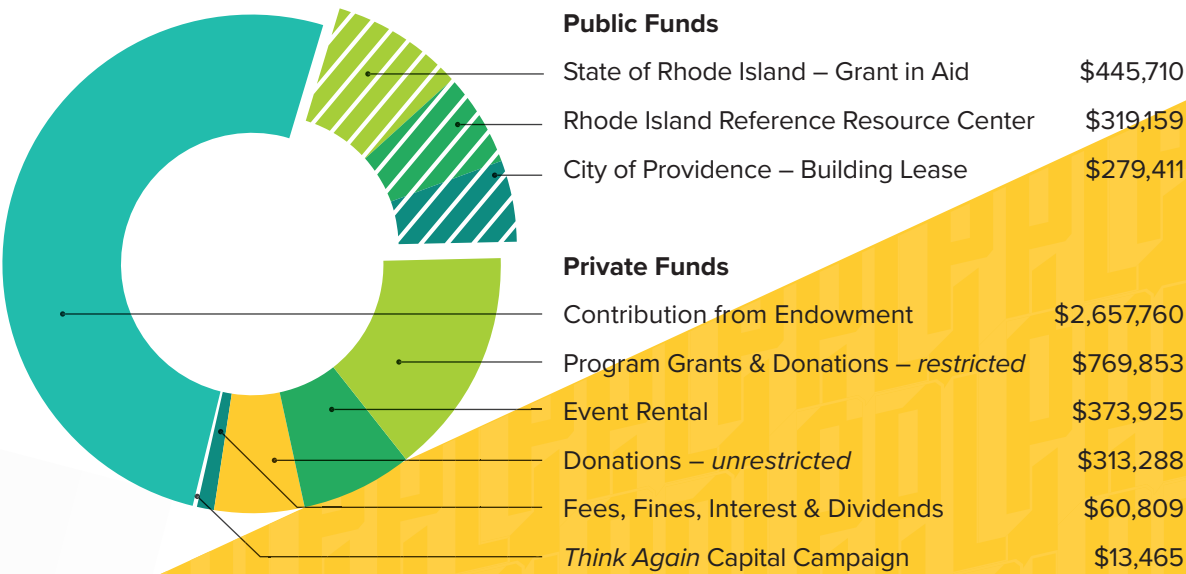
Robert Sinskey and celebrated chef Maria Helm Sinskey presented "From soil to the table: the story of wine and cuisine," to coincide with our On the Table Exhibition & Program Series. The event raised more than \$60,000 to support the Library's free programs and services for children, teens and adults. Presenting sponsors included Bottles Fine Wine, Wine Wizard, Rosalyn Sinclair, Bank of America, U.S.

Trust, Amica Insurance Company, Parson's Capital Management, Inc., Mr. Barry and Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner, Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Faulkner, BankRI, Dimeo Construction, Regency Plaza Apartments, Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, Inc., Mr. Guy Lombardo, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Edwards, Jr., Janet S. Hasson, designLab, Khan, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd., and Washington Trust. The event's hosts were Stephen and Hazel Ashworth, Sean Dagesse, Janet Hasson and Jeff Graybiel, Dr. Victor Pricolo and Ms. Heide Abelli, Rick and Nicole Simone, and Raymond Willis, III and Sally McDonald Willis.

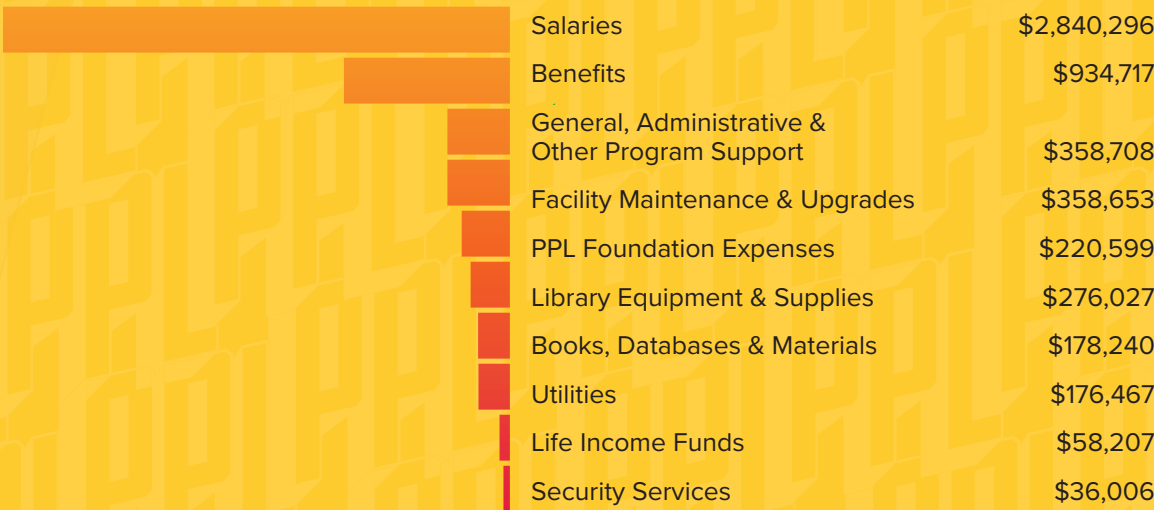
Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2017 – July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
Consolidated report of the PPL and PPL Foundation – *unaudited*

REVENUE – \$5,233,380



EXPENSES – \$5,438,625 / Surplus (Deficit) – (\$205,245)



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 2017 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.

\$150,000+

Institute of Museum and Library Services

\$100,000+

Anonymous

\$25,000+

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Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Granoff*
June Rockwell Levy Foundation
Russell Morin Catering and Events
Joseph and Rosalyn Sinclair Foundation, Inc.*
United Way of Rhode Island

\$10,000+

Mozilla Foundation
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Providence Journal Company
Rhode Island Department of Education
Wells Fargo

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\$2,500+

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U.S. Trust

\$1,000+

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Mr. Michael Walker
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Mr. and Mrs. Melvin L. Zurier*

Lou Costa... My Object Is to Share, Share, Share!

It all started with a desire to preserve the history and story of his beloved Fox Point (on

Providence's East Side) in order to share it with his children and grandchildren. "I realized one day what a great community I grew up in and that I wanted to share this with as many as I could for posterity," recalls Lou Costa.

In 1985, with his life-long friend Johnny Costa, Lou began compiling the Lou Costa Collection on Fox Point – a wide assortment of family photographs, news clippings, community newsletters, church bulletins, and images showing neighborhood buildings – to document decades of history, primarily over the 20th century. "I've attended a lot of funerals over the years," jokes Lou. "That's where you really see all the old photos come out and people reminisce." He currently has well over 40,000 items on Flickr.

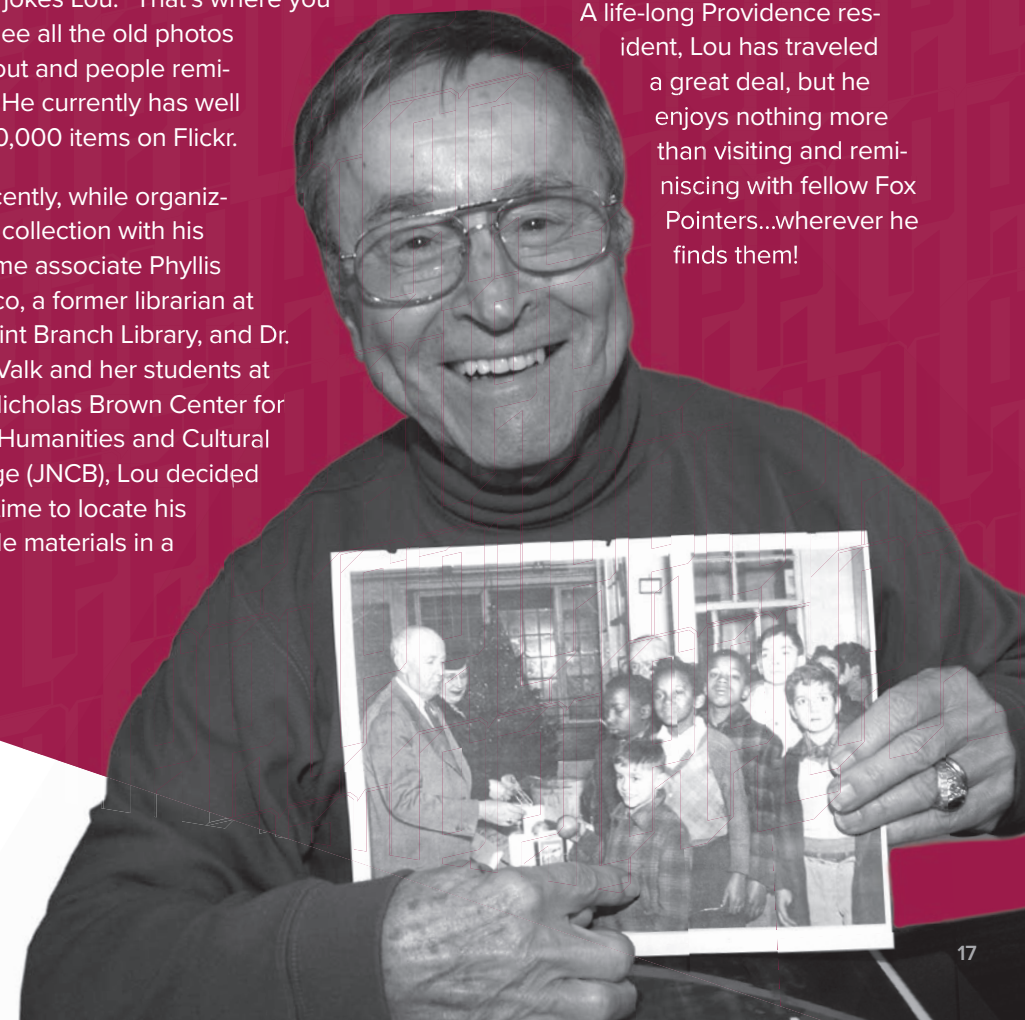
But recently, while organizing his collection with his long-time associate Phyllis Pacheco, a former librarian at Fox Point Branch Library, and Dr. Annie Valk and her students at John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage (JNCB), Lou decided it was time to locate his valuable materials in a

place that would ensure his goal of preserving and making them available free to everyone. After some consideration, Lou turned to PPL and Kate Wells, Curator of Rhode Island Collections.

"What a beautiful, great secret this library is...I was amazed by the Rhode Island Collection and I realized it was the perfect place for my collection," says Lou. "I know and trust it will be shared with people for generations to come."

Lou's collection quickly became integrated into PPL's 2017 Exhibition & Program series exhibit on food culture, a recent "New Acquisitions" exhibit, and is being used by JNBC digital humanities students. "Lou's collection documenting life and times in one of our city's neighborhoods is exactly what we look for to include in the Rhode Island Collection," says Kate.

A life-long Providence resident, Lou has traveled a great deal, but he enjoys nothing more than visiting and reminiscing with fellow Fox Pointers...wherever he finds them!





➔ **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.**

\$500+

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AAA Northeast
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Making Mystery at PPL with TEN31 Productions

“Often folks who attend Mystery – The Eternal Masquerade

describe it as #AdultHalloween or #Howadultsdohalloween,” says Joe Pari, co-founder of TEN31 Productions, the event’s creators and a PPL Trustee. “This is gratifying. It’s remarkable that these hashtags and descriptions have occurred organically. While our focus has always been to create an upscale and intellectual experience for attendees, it also is a time for adults to feel once again that childhood spirit and fun that comes with Halloween.”

Beginning in 2014 in partnership with PPL’s hospitality partner Russell Morin Catering & Events, Mystery has been designed as a signature

event as well as a fundraiser for the Library. It is unique because of its inspiration, which are the materials housed in PPL’s Special Collections. The collections offer an endless supply of literary themes and TEN31 has done an incredible job weaving its magic year after year.

Hundreds of guests have attended Mystery, with the event gaining in popularity each time. “One of our goals was to create a successful marketing event that would serve to foster business to PPL’s event spaces,” says Joe. “I believe that Mystery has helped bring about a broader awareness of the Library as an event venue.”



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PPL engages learners, inspires thinkers and connects diverse communities.

VISION

PPL is a library re-imagined. Our library is a place where tradition and innovation intersect – an open and collaborative center of teaching and learning where people can connect, experience, create and achieve. Approachable and inclusive, PPL is committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of Rhode Islanders and everyone we serve.

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