Reflecting on 2021, we realize the pandemic has taught us so much . . . about ourselves, our resilience, the enduring role of libraries, as well as PPL’s impact on people’s lives.

Coming off the high of our historic building transformation, we – as everyone has – faced unprecedented challenges. We put our plan for reopening and expansion on hold and quickly developed and launched alternative methods for delivering our programs and services to people who seemingly needed us more than ever.

As the pandemic continued, we came to understand our new reality . . . that the new ways of doing things were here to stay and there was now a heightened need to be even more present, if only virtually! With separation and uncertainty the norm, many turned to us for stability, a way to stay connected, and not only to provide a path forward for achieving personal goals and aspirations, but also a sustaining sense of hope and excitement about the future.

Having completed our own physical transformation, we were well-positioned to answer the call and we are so proud of the way everyone at PPL responded! We found once again, as is often the case during times of great disruption, that the need to change how we do things provides the best opportunity to innovate and grow.

We will remember 2021 as a year when we were challenged to push ourselves – even when we thought we could be pushed no further – and as both a time of transition and pursuit of new ways to do what we do and a time of great hope for all those who we were able to connect with and be there for, providing just what was needed.

As always, we thank all of our dedicated supporters . . . so many who enable PPL not only to respond to the needs of all those we serve, but also continue to learn, grow, innovate, and co-create with our community to take everything we do to the next level.

Jack Martin, PPL Executive Director
Robert W. Edwards, Jr., Chair FY 2021

The complete 2021 Annual Report can be viewed online at: prov.pub/annualreport2021
For the best viewing experience, please open on a desktop browser.
Rewilding: Alive in the Churn

A collaborative project between PVD Young Makers and PPL, Rewilding: Alive in the Churn transformed the Library’s Joan T. Boghossian Exhibition Gallery into an interactive biome for artists and experimenters, creating a physical and virtual space that was at once iterative, collaborative, and ever-changing. Over the course of two months, participants were invited to join nice local artists to explore, experience, and experiment with ways of being in a world that is in flux. Rewilding: Alive in the Churn rejected the violence inherent in the ideal of the “clean slate,” which asserts that in order to create, we must first erase everything that has come before. Artists and members of the public working and reworking the space, by the hour and by the day, created a layered history that built upon itself continuously.
PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Robert W. Edwards, Jr., Chair
Joseph A. Chazan, MD
Andrew L. Cortes
Sean C. Dagesse
Elizabeth A. Debs
Lisa DeCubellis
Frank Eyetsemitan
Maia Farish
Maria J.R. Goncalves
Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner
Billy Kepner
Julius Kolawole
Guy Lombardo *
Sally P. McDonald Willis
Katherine A. Messier
Jane O’Farrell
Meghan Rego
Brent Runyon
Micah E. Salkind
Christopher Stevens
Sally Strachan
Robert K. Taylor
Juan Wilson, Jr.

TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Robert* and Pamela Faulkner
Dr. Charles J. McDonald*
Mary B. Olenn
Joel N. Stark

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Robert W. Edwards, Jr, Chair
Maria J.R. Goncalves
Guy Lombardo*
Micah E. Salkind
Christopher Stevens

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

H. Jack Martin

* Deceased