

2022 Annual Report



A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

What a year FY22 was for PPL! July 2021 marked the official reopening of the entire Library, and throughout the year, we experienced exponential growth and finally began to realize the level of activity and services we imagined when we planned and undertook our great library transformation in 2018. In fact, in many ways, the reality exceeded our expectations, with no slowdown in sight! In this report you will see remarkable usage and delivery statistics, as well as illustrative stories of the positive impact the Library makes every day in people's lives.

In addition, we achieved considerable progress on a number of key goals and objectives outlined in our current strategic plan, which is guiding us through 2025.

A primary goal in our plan is to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion in all that we do. PPL derives its strength from the diversity of our community.

We have a history of serving all who come through our doors, recognizing and celebrating everyone's uniqueness, as well as how our differences make our community vibrant.

As our society faces increasingly widening inequities and seemingly deepening divisions, we recognize the Library's crucial unifying role. But we also acknowledge the work to be done within our own four walls. Accordingly, throughout this year, the organization as a whole undertook an extensive journey of self-examination and reaffirmed our commitment to becoming an anti-racist organization. This work entailed an immersive process, facilitated by The Justice Collective, and involved staff, board, and community stakeholders. The result has been the creation of a detailed DEI roadmap which PPL has now begun to formally implement.

Over the course of FY22, we continued to adapt, innovate, and diversify, both deepening our existing community partnerships as well as creating new ones. We worked diligently to enhance and develop exciting opportunities to co-create with our community,

providing educational programs and experiences designed to expand our reach and ensure that all Rhode Islanders – especially those most excluded from opportunity – were able to access our services and to thrive.

We could not have achieved this level of success without all of you – our extremely dedicated and generous supporters. The outcomes in this report are a testament to you and your belief in your public library and the immeasurable impact it makes! Thank you.

Jack Martin, *PPL Executive Director*
Elizabeth Debs, *Chair*

*The complete 2022 Annual Report can be viewed online at:
prov.pub/annualreport2022*

For the best viewing experience, please open on a desktop browser.

“I had been drawn to teaching and I yearned to make a difference in others’ lives as well. That’s why, when I applied to the Bonner Community Program at Brown, my first choice was Providence Public Library. I was especially drawn to the Library’s Citizenship program and, as a future physician, I knew I had to teach my patients and find new methods to learn and teach. Therefore, I was lucky enough to get matched with PPL and meet Chris, who was the best mentor, friend, and boss. I learned an incredible amount about teaching, but also about people, their lives, and dreams that went well beyond the bubble that was Brown University.

– Melanie Anaya



A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH

Financial Report

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Fiscal Year 2022 – July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
Consolidated report of the PPL and PPL Foundation

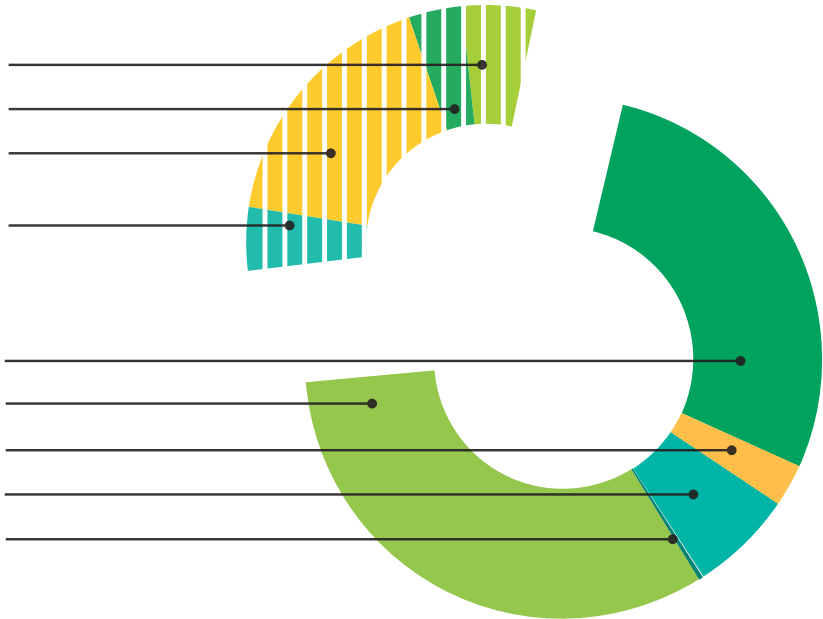
REVENUE – \$8,820,948

Public Funds

State of Rhode Island – Grant in Aid	\$449,253
Rhode Island SRRC	\$316,059
State of Rhode Island Grants/Contracts and Federal Funds	\$1,519,083
City of Providence Building Lease and City Grants	\$379,872

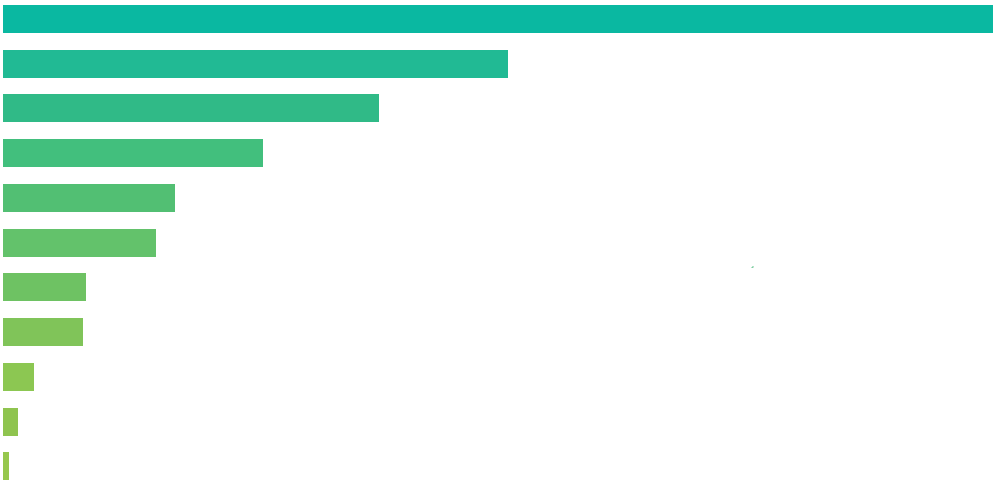
Private Funds

Contribution from Endowment	\$2,477,040
Program Grants & Donations – <i>restricted</i>	\$2,852,314
Event Rental	\$239,094
Donations – <i>unrestricted</i>	\$573,835
Fees, Fines, Interest & Dividends	\$14,397



EXPENSES – \$8,145,479 / Surplus (Deficit) – \$405,469

Salaries	\$3,256,519
Debt Service	\$1,543,108
General, Administrative & Other Program Support	\$1,152,158
Benefits	\$796,232
Facility Maintenance and Upgrades	\$532,386
Books, Databases and Materials	\$471,665
Utilities	\$254,961
PPL Foundation Expense	\$247,520
Library Equipment and Support	\$100,413
Life Income Funds	\$48,578
Security Services	\$11,939



Identities Program Series and Tomboy Exhibition

April - June 2022

Who we are is always changing.

Through seasons of introspection and upheaval, the identities we take on, become, are given, and encounter intersect to define and redefine us. Our Identities series of programs offered new ways of exploring who we want to be and who we are, while the corresponding Tomboy exhibition interrogated the history of cultural expectations and gender norms for girls and women, especially in the interplay between lifestyle, aesthetic, play and self-identity.

Appearing first in the 1590s, the term “tomboy” was defined as a “wild, romping girl, who acts like a spirited boy;” or “strumpet, bold, and immodest woman.” The Tomboy exhibition specifically looked at historical shifts in definitions of femininity and gender to understand how tomboys have challenged cultural norms to have a dynamic influence on fashion, literature, sports and popular culture.

Among other questions, visitors were encouraged to ask themselves about the relevance of the tomboy today, how have various societies and cultures defined femininity and if the term “tomboy” holds meaning currently? As society has developed a more nuanced understanding of femininity, is it a term that holds continued relevance?

TOMBOY



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2022 At-a-Glance

107 youth were engaged in year-round Library Teen Squads, while the new Teen Loft welcomed nearly 2,000 drop-in visitors, including 30 school visits.

PPL's Adult Education Chromebook distribution team delivered and set up **1,200** devices for participants in Rhode Island adult education programs.

330 adult learners from **43** countries took part in ESOL, Citizenship, GED, and Transition-to-College classes.

353 individuals registered for virtual or in-person digital literacy and computer classes, with 69% achieving measurable skills gain.

569 individuals in a total of **1,085** one-on-one sessions received virtual and in-person Digital Navigation and Career Services services.

11,857 books and kits were distributed to **4,230** participants through the Passport to Summer Learning initiative's library and community partners.

Another **25,000** pages of Rhode Island newspapers became publicly available through the Chronicling America national archive website as part of PPL's participation in the Library of Congress' National Digital Newspaper Program.

We served **225,935** patrons with in-person services and programming in tandem with ongoing virtual options, takeaway materials, and loanable technology offerings.

AskRI.org collections and databases were accessed almost **5 million** times.

Space Transformation Station at PPL

"Space Transformation Station Library Situation," a satellite studio of the BIG NAZO LAB officially "activated" in PPL's Workshop from March through May.

Visitors could choose to watch the socially-distanced robot fabrication and interactive alien performance activity through the windows or come inside and participate.

In 2018, support from the Carter Fellowship for Entrepreneurial Innovation helped create the "Space Transformation Station" (STStation), a satellite studio of the BIG NAZO LAB. Initially, it was based in the Intermodal Transportation Center in Providence's Kennedy Plaza. When public gathering was restricted due to the pandemic, the STStation's "Yuranian Alien" performers kept busy partnering with a number of community organizations to support the installation of public art, the gleaning of vegetables, and the promotion of safe mask use. They advocated for voters' rights awareness, and for transit, housing, and civil rights initiatives. And they did it by creating spectacular, as well as subtle, live "happenings" powered by local artist-collaborators and members of the general public.

The STStation "SHELF-BOT" Fabrication initiative in 2020 resulted in the creation of people-powered robots who appeared in PPL's Virtual Grand Opening, becoming friends with the Library's automatic book drop on Empire Street!



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