

PPL

Conservator Society

NOVEMBER 2024

Thank YOU!

It’s hard to believe the holidays are upon us! As we enter the season of giving and reflect on another incredible year at PPL, we are grateful for the opportunity to share some of these highlights with you -- from the impacts our programs and services have made, to profiles of some of our amazing staff and PPL Alum, to the wealth of enriching programs to come over the next two months. We are also eagerly looking ahead to 2025 and PPL’s 150th Anniversary. Stay tuned for more exciting updates, and *thank you* for your support, which truly makes everything we do possible!

YES! On 5

This November, Rhode Islanders will be tasked with voting on various ballot questions, in addition to electing officials. We’re asking you to consider voting **yes on Question 5!** If passed, the state will be authorized to issue \$10 million in bonds to support the Cultural Arts and Economy Grant Program administered by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. While PPL is not one of the organizations named on the bond measure, there is always the possibility of applying for grants with this new injection of funding, but *more importantly - we rise with the tide. It is critical that we continue to uplift and support our fellow non-profit arts and cultural organizations.*

For more information on Question 5 visit <https://www.yeson5-ri.com/>.

PVDYM Teen Intern Showcase

At the end of the summer, all our PVDYM Teen Interns produced a showcase highlighting the work they did throughout the semester, including some of the work they called “Passion Projects.” These projects combined various skills and machines they worked with for the program with their personal interests in a myriad of topics. See more of the showcase, at <https://show.pics.io/teen-workshop-showcase>.



Above: Miniature skate park by Bryan O. and recycled coastal capsule collection by Alivia D.

In the Stacks

UPCOMING EVENTS

An Evening of Percussion with Peter Ferry

Wednesday, November 6 | 5:30 — 7:00 pm
Donald J. Farish Auditorium

PPL is pleased to present a performance by American percussionist Peter Ferry, acclaimed for his virtuosic expressivity and dedication to creating arresting musical experiences for audiences around the world. His contagious passion for percussion and true commitment to sharing artistic excellence have earned him praise as “the ingenious percussionist Peter Ferry” (*Chicago Sun-Times*).

FREE parking is available **for the first 35 cars** to arrive at the LAZ lot, located at 197 Fountain Street. Reach out to Annie for any questions.

Register by visiting prov.pub/Ferry

Pied Type Panel

Tuesday, November 12 | 5:30 — 7 pm
Joan T. Boghossian Gallery, 3rd Floor

We invite you to a panel discussion with printmakers Lois Harada, Andre Lee Bassuet, Jacques Bidon, and Dan Wood, to hear about their practice and journey in print. Moderated by Jordan Goffin, Director of Special Collections, each printer will share why the letterpress medium is important to their work.

Please register at <https://provlib.libcal.com/event/13255467>.

Hiding in Plain Sight: Uncovering the 1877 Black Gospel Window of Warren, RI

Wednesday, November 13 | 5:00 — 6:30 pm
Donald J. Farish Auditorium, 3rd Floor

The earliest known representation of Christ and Gospel women as people of color in American public space was uncovered in Warren, RI in 2022. Adding complexity are the two white women the window commemorates, sisters who married into the North’s largest slave-trading fortune, the DeWolf family of Bristol. Historian Catherine Zipf, PhD, and the window’s finder, architect and educator Hadley Arnold, will share the window’s discovery, hidden history, and future.

Please register at <https://bit.ly/blackgospelwindow>

Skinfolk: Author Talk with Matthew Guterl

Thursday, December 5 | 5:30 — 7 pm
Rhode Island Reading Room, 1st Floor

Please join us for a Conservator Society author talk with author of *Skinfolk: A Memoir*, Matthew Guterl. In conversation with fellow Brown U. Professor and PPL Conservator, Kevin Quashie, this talk will explore themes of kinship and belonging in a mixed-race household, and the insistence of meaning held in the color of your skin.

Please RSVP to Annie at afoley@provlib.org by November 26

KOREAN HANGUL WORKSHOP + ACTIVITIES

Saturday, December 14 | 10 am — 12 pm
Seminar Room, 3rd Floor

Hangul is one of the youngest writing systems and translates to “Korean letters,” where 한 (han) means “Korean” and 글 (geul) means “letter.”

It was created in the 15th century by King Sejong to increase literacy among the people, with the shape of the letters mimicking the shape of the tongue as you mouth the words. Celebrate the beauty of Korean typography with Legos, games, and activities! This workshop is for ages 8 and above. No experience is needed. Andre Lee Bassuet is a Rhode Island artist, designer, and educator. As a bicultural Korean American, she seeks her roots by exploring work on the body, nature, and memory.

Please register at <https://provlib.libcal.com/event/13267003>

PROGRAMS & EXHIBITIONS



Wheel of Fortune: Artwork by Eli Kaufman

Regular PPL hours
Throughout Library

A site-specific art installation by Eli Kauffman, the exhibition will be on view in the Ground Floor Lobby and the Updike Room, 3rd floor, during regular library hours.

Colorful, life-sized paintings explore the breadth and intensity of young adulthood, through self-betterment and collective perseverance. Kauffman makes paintings specific to the scenery and artifacts in their community, revisiting moments that feel profound in daily life. The work is like a soap opera; it is all about slowing fast moments down so that we can sit in them.

Pied Type: Letterpress Printing in Providence, 1762-Today

Regular PPL hours
Joan T. Boghossian Gallery, Floor Three

Guest Curated by Lois Harada, this exhibition highlights the robust history of commercial printing in Rhode Island. In a printshop, pied type refers to jumbled or unsorted letters — usually created by accidentally dropping or spilling metal type. *Pied Type* reveals the various roles of craftspeople in the letterpress printing process and delve into the techniques and equipment still used by contemporary printers in Providence today.

Pied Type features materials from PPL’s Updike Collection, Tomaquag Museum, Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, and Rhode Island Historical Society, as well as works from AS220, DWRI Letterpress, and artist Jacques Bidon.

September Statistics!

Our Information Services team is always hard at work, with September being no exception. We thought you might find some of these stats interesting!

- * 319 NEW patrons got library cards
- * 50 notary requests were fulfilled
- * 6,130 people came in through the main entrance
- * 1,037 *additional people* came in through CHOP!
- * 959 DVDs were borrowed
- * 224 CDs got signed out
- * 47 Periodicals were pulled for patrons
- * 88 pieces of sheet music are currently on loan
- * Our busiest day was Wednesday!

In total, our IS team checked out *more than 9,000 items* last month.

Thank you to our Info Services team for keeping the day-to-day ops flowing!

Staff Profile

Carolina Montoya

Hello! My name is Carolina Montoya. I am a Social Sciences student with experience as a Partner Teacher. I feel very fortunate to have gotten this job, as I have always been closely connected to PPL, earning some of my certifications like GED, NorthStar, and Digital Navigator here. I am very grateful to Library teachers who have been both mentors and great motivators for my continuing to grow academically and professionally. I am very committed to applying all my skills in this new role as Administrative Assistant for the Professional Learning Pathway of Adult Educators in Rhode Island. Serving the community in the adult education field is something I genuinely enjoy, and being able to continue as part of PPL fills me with pride as I embody the Library’s positive impact on the community. Growing professionally alongside the Library is a great privilege; I am determined to make the most of this opportunity.



Staff Shout-out

Anna Cousins

Congratulations to PPL’s Anna Cousins for being selected as this year’s RI Teachers of English Language Learners Adult Education Practitioner Award in recognition of her work with beginner level ESL students, particularly with Haitian newcomers. This award highlights the extraordinary contributions made by local educators, and we are so proud to work with Anna!

PPL Alum Spotlight

Vivian Liu

My name is Vivian Liu and I am originally from China. I had the opportunity get into PPL’s Excel Intermediate Class, where I had a wonderful learning experience. I want to express my gratitude for the educational experience provided by PPL. The programs and resources available have transformed the lives of many individuals. I am deeply appreciative of the Library’s dedication to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and empowering environment for all.



The computer skills class I am involved with is more than just an educational course; it is a platform that empowers and equips individuals like me to navigate and succeed in a digital world. For many new immigrants, this class addresses the dual challenge of learning and using tools in English while adapting confidently to a new cultural context. PPL provides a supportive, inclusive environment where I can learn without shame, ask questions freely, and gain independence.

It is my privilege to work with some of the most dedicated and inspiring faculty members: Siyamala, Sen, and Betty. Sen’s personalized attention, Siyamala’s customer obsession, and Betty’s unwavering kindness create a nurturing environment that helps me feel valued and respected. Their exceptional patience, professionalism, and passion for serving the community are unparalleled. They are not just teachers but role models who embody the core values of PPL: Engage, Learn, and Thrive.

I am profoundly grateful for the chance to be part of such a transformative educational initiative. The computer skills class has been a catalyst for my personal and professional growth, building my confidence and driving me to improve. I can't thank my teachers and PPL enough for giving me an unforgettable experience.