

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MONTHLY MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
MAY 15, 2025

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron John Daily Jr. Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Ofunne Edoziem
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	NONE
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider

The Board Meeting began at 7:04 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of April 17, 2025.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero discussed the annual Foundation for Yonkers Public Library (FYPL) gala, Stepping Stones to Literacy, held on April 24. The event was a major success, breaking previous fundraising records and bringing together a wide array of community leaders and sponsors. Among those honored was Eugene Howell, a reference librarian with nearly five decades of service, and Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY). The event raised significant funds to support initiatives such as summer reading programs, sensory room enhancements, and early literacy resources. Corporate sponsors included New York-Presbyterian Hospital, St. John's Riverside Hospital, and the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce of Yonkers.

Director Montero discussed the ribbon-cutting ceremony held to celebrate the new furniture and beautification of the Central Park Avenue entrance of the Will Library. The new space, now called "Lucia's Lounge," was created in memory of Lucia Trovato, a beloved former part-time clerk and City Hall staffer. Funds were raised by FYPL in response to the family's generous request for donations to be made to the library in lieu of flowers. The area, previously just a transitional space, is now a comfortable and dignified waiting area for patrons using public transportation. Mayor Mike Spano, City Council members, and state representatives attended the dedication.

Director Montero reported that library administration appeared before the Yonkers City Council on May 8 to advocate for the Mayor's FY2026 executive budget proposal. The budget includes \$3.6 million and \$1 million in capital investments for much needed improvements at Will Library and Crestwood Library respectively. Director Montero reported positive responses from City Council members and believed this endorsement is particularly notable in a year of expected fiscal constraint. Director Montero added that once the budget is authorized YPL will be able to seek state aid for library construction to supplement the funding.

Director Montero reported the relaunch of its Artist-in-Residence program with the support of \$10,500 in funding from ArtsWestchester. The selected artist, Ridikkuluz, is an emerging artist whose work has been featured in The New York Times and international exhibitions. During the residency, the artist will host public workshops and open studio sessions at the Riverfront Library. A culminating exhibition is planned for November and will include works by Ridikkuluz and other artists from the Arab diaspora.

Deputy Director Porteus announced that YPL won the American Library Association's (ALA) PR Xchange Award, the second consecutive year YPL has received this prestigious award. The award specifically recognized the Foundation Annual Appeal. Deputy Director Porteus thanked Patricia Ricardo for her key role in designing and launching the appeal; Ms. Ricardo will accept the award at the upcoming ALA annual conference in Philadelphia.

Trustees responded enthusiastically to the Artist-in-Residence program. President Maron expressed support for continuing and expanding the program; Director Montero acknowledged that while the program is grant-funded, YPL has had success receiving funding from ArtsWestchester and hoped to continue the program if possible as well. Vice President Daily discussed the impact and visibility that such programs could bring to the library.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

NONE

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Edoziem and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointment:

Orosz, Nora-Grayce; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$20.00/hr, eff. 4/21/2025

Jones, Maya; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 5/3/2025

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Mejia, Litzy; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 4/3/2025

Sibaweihi, Hafsat; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 4/3/2025

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Policy** - Trustees Sabatino (chair), Jannetti, Edoziem.

Director Montero reported to the committee that YPL is in the process of drafting a workplace violence prevention policy in compliance with state law. He hoped to have it prepared for approval at the next meeting.

**Buildings and Grounds** - Vice President Daily (chair), Trustees Sabatino, Puglia.

Vice President Daily inquired about the status of the chiller replacement project at Will. Director Montero reported that a small complication was experienced with the discovery of an unforeseen drain, which required the City Engineering department to approve a change order. The committee and director also discussed the pending capital budget proposal and the approval process.

**Outreach** - Trustees Edoziem (chair), Jannetti.

Trustee Edoziem reported that the committee is exploring a revival of the bookmobile service and has consulted Mr. Howell, who has worked with several bookmobiles in his long tenure with YPL. Trustee Edoziem hoped to have an update in June.

**Fundraising & Development** - Vice President Daily (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron shared a heartfelt letter from Mr. Howell thanking the Board and Foundation for their support of the library and the honor he received at the gala; the Board thanked him for his kind words. President Maron went on to report that the gala had record attendance and, while contributions were still being tallied, she expected a record amount of fundraising as well. She thanked the library for their partnership with the Foundation.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #875.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Meeting – May 15, 2025

The Board reviewed the annual report in their packets. On motion of Trustee Jannetti seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the New York State Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Monday, June 16, 2025 at 7:00pm at Riverfront Library

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 7:44 pm.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary