

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MONTHLY MEETING  
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY  
NOVEMBER 20, 2025

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron John Daily Jr. Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Phelan
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Jay Chawla
GUESTS:	Keisha Manning, Mary Robison

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of October 16, 2025.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero began the report by introducing Keisha Manning, who was hired as a Librarian I in the Riverfront Reference Department on November 5. Director Montero highlighted Ms. Manning's educational background as a graduate of the Palmer School of Library and Information Science and her professional experience at Columbia University, HBO, and Spotify. He noted that her interest in workforce development aligns well with the library's strategic direction and growing emphasis on employment-related services. Ms. Manning briefly addressed the Board, expressing enthusiasm for returning to community-focused work after several years in corporate environments.

Director Montero reported on staff participation at the New York Library Association Annual Conference (NYLA), held November 5–8 in Saratoga Springs. YPL had a record number of staff attend and present, reflecting the library's growing leadership role statewide. Presentations covered a wide range of topics, including school-library partnerships, exhibiting art in library spaces, sustainable programming, sensory spaces, veterans history digitization, and STREAM-based storytimes. Director Montero stated that this variety of presentations demonstrated YPL's innovation and increasing recognition within the profession.

Director Montero announced that YPL was awarded a \$25,650 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the City of Yonkers to support upgrades to the second floor of Riverfront, where most social services at Riverfront are delivered. Funds will be used to purchase new furniture, equipment, and technology for areas such as the Children's Department, Sensory Room, Community Room, The Cove, the Feeding Westchester food pantry and Literacy Solutions. Director Montero noted that much of the existing furniture dates back to the building's opening in 2002 and the upgrades will enhance the patron experience and service delivery.

Director Montero updated the Board on the chiller project at Will Library. The building was closed from November 3 through November 5 to allow for a planned electrical shutdown and replacement of its electrical switchgear to better support the new chiller and HVAC system. The work passed inspection and the building reopened on November 6 with minimal disruption. With the completion of this work and the earlier installation of a new chiller, the library's \$2 million capital project at Will Library is now substantially complete. Director Montero thanked staff for their patience throughout the multi-year process and noted that the improvements will provide reliable climate control for decades to come.

Assistant Director Porteus concluded the report by introducing YPL Beyond the Books, the library's first podcast initiative. The podcast highlights individuals living and working in Yonkers who have a connection to the library and is planned as a four-episode annual series. The project originated through a Sarah Lawrence intern and is supported by a staff team with backgrounds in journalism and oral history. The first episode, featuring children's musician Zev Haber, launched in mid-September and is available on Spotify, Apple Music, and the library's website. Initial response has been positive, and work is underway on the next episode, anticipated for release in January.

President Maron commended staff on the depth and quality of YPL's NYLA conference participation, noting the significance of having multiple staff present on a wide range of topics. She praised the professional growth demonstrated by staff and thanked library leadership for fostering an environment that encourages innovation and statewide engagement.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

NONE

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointments:

Dominguez, Mia; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 10/25/2025  
Manning, Keisha; Permanent Librarian I, \$69,993/yr, eff. 11/5/2025  
Polanco, Emmanuel; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 11/8/2025  
Tureski, Diane; Permanent Librarian I (P/T), \$21.00/hr, eff. 11/17/2025

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance, Budget and Planning** - Treasurer Puglia (chair), Trustee Jannetti

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

Director Montero and Assistant Director Porteus suggested that the collection policy be reviewed following the implementation of new practices. Assistant Director Porteus expects to make a presentation in the coming months.

**Employee Relations** - Vice President Daily (chair), Trustee Sabatino

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

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

Trustee Jannetti discussed progress the Outreach Committee has made in recent months. He and Trustee Edoziem reached out to several community organizations and connected with Kelly Chiarella at the Office for the Aging. They discussed ideas such as a pop-up library card sign-up event at one of the senior community centers and arranging for transportation from the center to the library for programs. Trustee Jannetti also reported that he had reached out to Andrus but there is nothing to report yet. The Board and management discussed different senior programming ideas; Trustee Jannetti promised to stay in touch with Ms. Chiarella and report more progress as it is made.

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

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Library Foundation launched its Annual Appeal this week. The campaign includes a targeted print mailing for long-standing donors who prefer traditional giving, as well as an expanded mailing to new Yonkers residents using an existing library database. In addition, in-building signage, email outreach, and social media promotion are underway, all centered on the theme “Yonkers Public Library is YPL: Your Partner for Life,” which reflects the library’s strategic plan and its role in supporting residents at all stages of life. President Maron encouraged trustees to share the campaign widely to help raise awareness of the Foundation’s role in supporting the library and expressed optimism for a successful appeal.

Trustee Daily arrived at 7:26 pm

## **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Phelan reported on the WLS Board meeting she attended earlier in the week, noting that budget concerns were discussed. She relayed that WLS leadership anticipates FY26 to remain manageable but expects tighter conditions in FY27 as county funding pressures continue. Director Montero added that WLS has already experienced a county-level funding cut, which will result in the phasing out of the Kanopy streaming service by July, though Yonkers usage of Kanopy has historically been low. He noted that other digital services that are heavily used by Yonkers patrons, such as Hoopla, will continue but may be reduced. Trustee Phelan emphasized WLS's request that library trustees actively contact state legislators to advocate for continued library funding.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedules #881.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Montero reported that the City of Yonkers recently issued revised budget instructions requiring all departments, including the library, to implement an 8% reduction to the FY26 operating budget in non-salary, non-collection lines, totaling approximately \$243,000. He emphasized that salaries, full-time staffing, and part-time hours are not affected at this time, though the cuts will require reductions in materials, equipment, contractual services, and some public-facing programming. Over the next two weeks, administration will work with department heads to identify reductions that minimize disruption, acknowledging that fewer programs will likely be offered despite continued support from grant funding. Director Montero also advised the Board that preliminary guidance from the City for FY27 calls for a 5% budget reduction across all lines, including staffing-related expenses, though he does not expect there to be full-time employee layoffs at this time. He stressed that these instructions apply citywide and are public, and reaffirmed the library's commitment to managing the reductions responsibly while maintaining service to the community.

Director Montero reported that the Memorandum of Agreement with SEIU Local 704B he expected to present to the Board for their approval was not yet finalized. He expects to have it for the next meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:42 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular employee. The Board exited the session at 8:10 pm.

Vice President Daily reported that he had reviewed all of the management reports Director Montero made to the Board since the YPL's current strategic plan went into place in 2023

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and believes YPL has met more than half of its goals, and those that have not yet been made are in progress. The Board was interested in this progress and agreed to discuss it in more detail at a future meeting.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 7:00pm at Crestwood Library

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:13 pm.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary