

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



Yonkers
Public Library

MESSAGE FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY | 2024

2024 marked the second year of YPL's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan - Inspiring Staff, Inspiring Spaces, Inspiring Yonkers - and the first year when many of its objectives started to come to fruition.

YPL started to get more awards and recognition for its dynamic staff and innovative services. It also started attracting new and more funding through grants to help launch new or expanded services.

Several IT and facilities projects were started or completed- helping our spaces to become more accessible, attractive, efficient and resilient.

We're pleased to share some of these highlights, and confident that they've created momentum that will help us achieve even more of our Strategic Plan's goals in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,



Jesse Montero
Library Director
Yonkers Public Library



THE RISING PROFILE OF YPL AND ITS STAFF

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2024 was the year the library community started to take note of YPL and its incredible staff. The library garnered more awards and special recognitions than it had in any other year in recent memory.

- **Z. Baird (Crestwood Library Branch Administrator)** received the Westchester Library Association’s Bonnie Katz Award, which applauded her for being “patron-oriented,” “hardworking, compassionate, and giving,” and “always go[ing] above and beyond the call of duty.”
 - **Sandy Amoyaw (Riverfront Library Branch Administrator)** was honored at the Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library’s (FYPL) Gala and recognized for his leadership and dedication to community outreach.
 - **Tara Somersall (Will Library Branch Administrator)** was named one of Library Journal’s 2024 Movers & Shakers - an award bestowed to only 50 library professionals nationwide every year, and the first time an active YPL employee had received such an honor. The award recognized her leadership in early childhood education and development.
 - YPL’s aforementioned strategic plan received an **American Library Association’s (ALA) national PR xChange Award**- a recognition of excellence in library marketing and public relations, and an indicator of YPL’s improved design, branding and communications.
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INCREASED GRANT FUNDING



YPL's improved stature from awards and other honors only helped its ability to seek and receive grants and gifts from new funders, or grow the awards from established ones in 2024.

- In a sign of its focus on professionalizing its local history and archival services, YPL received its first digitization grant from METRO (to scan and digitize the Yonkers Home News) and a first-ever archival assessment grant from Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY).
 - In its second year as a grantee, YPL received \$40,000 from New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) - an increase from the \$25,000 it received in 2023.
 - Funding from Con Edison grew once again from \$10,000 to \$25,000 as the grant program grew to fund YPL's Seed Library, sustainability-focused STEM programs and camps, and landscape improvement projects with Groundwork Hudson Valley's Green Team at the Will Library.
 - Westchester Board of Legislators awarded YPL its largest contract ever (\$35,000) for community programs.
 - The Castle Family gifted the Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library (FYPL) \$25,000: the largest private donation in library memory.
 - YPL received its first ever United Way grant— a \$7,500 Strength of a Woman grant for job training.
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NEW PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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YPL also introduced, relaunched, or improved several new services in 2024, burnishing the library's reputation as a leader in innovative programming. Below is just a small selection of notable services and events started or offered in 2024:

- In September, YPL partnered with St. John's Riverside Hospital for the Born to Read program- an initiative that supplies all newborns delivered in the maternity ward with a "care package" including a library card, a board book, and a YPL-branded bib.
 - Partnering with Yonkers Arts, YPL hosted YC3 (Yonkers Comics and Cosplay Convention) at Riverfront Library- an event that drew over 4,000 visits.
 - YPL's expanded its partnership with Feeding Westchester from distributing "Child Nutrition Bags" to operating a full-fledged food pantry out of the Riverfront Library Children's Floor- giving patrons access to a greater variety of food options.
 - After a yearslong hiatus during the COVID-19 Pandemic, YPL relaunched AARP tax assistance, and made the service more efficient by offering online appointments for the first time.
 - The Riverfront Art Gallery partnered with the arts-in-prison nonprofit Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) to exhibit one of the first ever exhibitions of current and formerly incarcerated artists at a public library.
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FACILITIES & IT IMPROVEMENTS

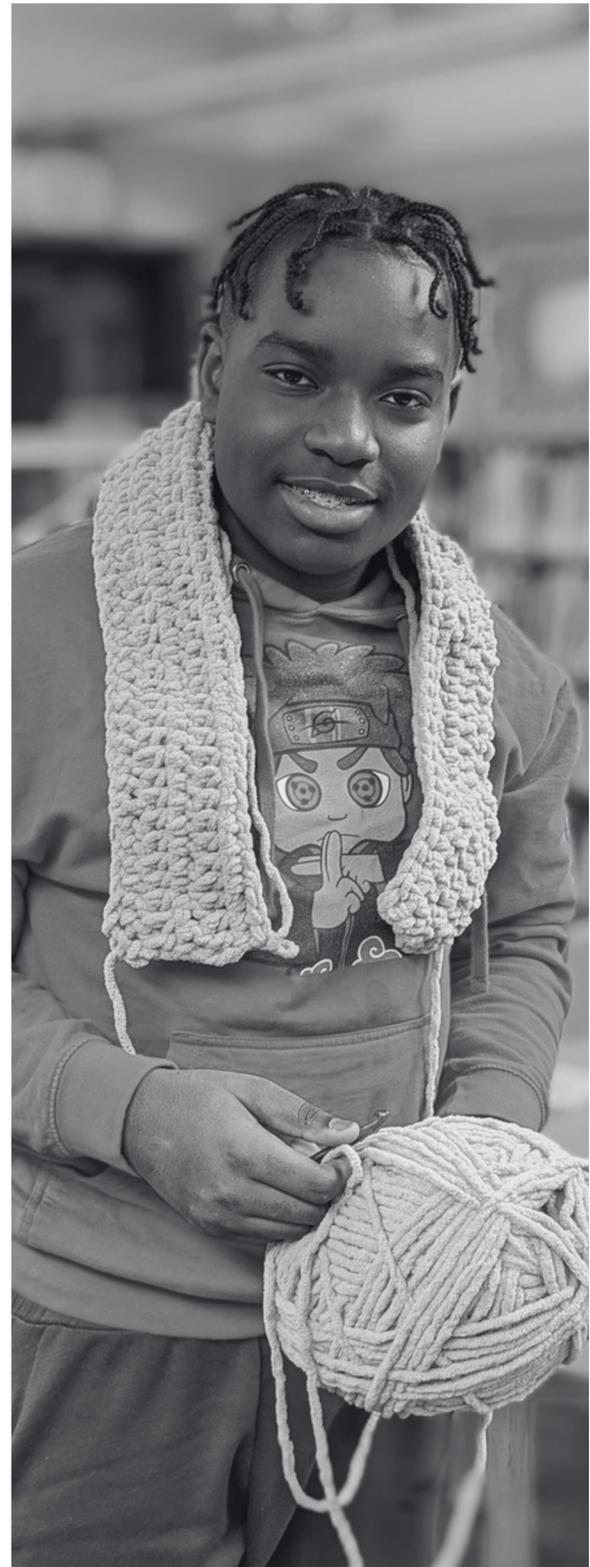


YPL also made progress in its goal of renovating, repairing and updating its spaces and IT services, including:

- Securing a \$215,000 New York State Aid for Library Construction grant for Crestwood Library that will allow YPL to replace the nearly 100 year old building's windows, repair its chimney and trim, and spruce up its interior.
 - The Will Library's elevator was renovated for the first time since the building opened in 1962.
 - Several Will Library staff offices were spruced up to make for more comfortable and efficient backend operations.
 - Placemaking beautification projects included a mural in the Will Library teen space from local illustrator Erwin Ong and a mosaic depicting a Lenape creation myth ("The Legend of the Four Crows") on the first floor of Riverfront Library.
 - The IT Department implemented E-Rate-subsidized Cat-6 Data Cable Upgrades, ensuring a more reliable broadband infrastructure at all three libraries.
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BY THE NUMBERS

	2024	2023
CIRCULATION		
Physical Items	505,625	489,763
Digital Resources	183,500	142,105
	704,834	637,346
LIBRARY VISITS	694,053	499,384
CUSTOMER QUESTIONS	156,307	155,844
COMPUTER USE	53,882	45,994
PROGRAMS DELIVERED		
In-person	4,056	3,457
Virtual	881	1,196
Community	2,066	1,725
	7,003	6,378
PROGRAMS ATTENDANCE		
In-person	93,952	70,044
Virtual	19,491	23,869
Community*		
	113,443	93,913



*Attendance isn't captured for non-library programs

FINANCIALS

INCOME

City of Yonkers	11,360,840
Room Rentals	5,010
Fines & Fees	2,217
State Aid	66,110
Total	11,434,177

EXPENSES

Personnel	7,620,500
Utilities	190,687
Technology	580,650
Rent	750,000
Other expenses	2,292,340
Total	11,434,117

GRANTS/GIFTS AWARDED

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DHPSNY Assessment grant for local history, archives assessment*	Consulting Services
METRO Digitization Grant*	\$ 4,135
United Way Strength of a Woman Grant* (\$)	\$ 7,500
New York Presbyterian community partner award	\$ 5,000
ConEd Sustainability Grant (\$)	\$ 25,000
New York State Council of the Arts (\$)	\$ 40,000
New York State Construction Aid for Libraries (Crestwood)	\$215,000
Castle Family gift to Foundation for YPL to be used at Will Library	\$ 25,000
Westchester Board of Legislators Funding	\$ 35,000
Community Development Block Grant	\$ 30,000

* = First time grant

\$ = Largest grant from funder yet

WHO WE ARE

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY | 2024



EXECUTIVE STAFF

Jesse Montero, Library Director
Shauna Porteus, Deputy Library Director
Vivian Presedo, Business Manager
Sandy Amoyaw, Branch Administrator,
Riverfront Library
Tara Somersall, Branch Administrator, Will
Library
Z Baird, Branch Administrator, Crestwood
Library

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Maron, President
Joseph Puglia, Vice President
Stephen Jannetti, Treasurer
Michael Sabatino
Patricia Phelan
John Daily Jr.
Ofunne Edoziem

Special Thanks

The Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library | info@foundationforypl.org
Friends of the Yonkers Public Library | friendsofypl@aol.com
Friends of the Crestwood Library | friendsofcrestwoodlibrary@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mary DiChiara, Head of Technical Services
James Hackett, Senior Special Projects Coordinator
Carlos Figueroa, IT Manager/Network Administrator
Russell Martinez, Supervisor of Custodians
Patricia Ricardo, Marketing Manager

RIVERFRONT LIBRARY

Oz Coto-Chang, Head of Children's
Melinda Lance, Circulation Manager
Mary Robison, Head of Adult Services

WILL LIBRARY

Suzanne Johnson, Circulation Manager
Ruth Rosner, Head of Adult Services
Aili Whelan, Head of Children's