



2021 Annual Report





A Message from the Library Board President

The Yonkers Public Library has for many years been part of the bedrock of the City of Yonkers: a strong, reliable, dependable place for those who seek information, entertainment, or knowledge of any kind. But 2021 saw the YPL take on an even more profound role as a key partner to the city.

In addition to providing access to information and materials and enriching programming that we all love, the YPL and its talented staff worked tirelessly to also offer the people of Yonkers things we don't always associate with libraries: a place to vote, a place to get vaccinated against a deadly disease; a place to apply for relief support when natural disasters strike. Libraries, with their focus on providing trusted information to improve lives, can do all of these things.

Whether you want to learn to paint, read a book, or get other critical information you need, we look forward to seeing you at the library!

Nancy Maron

President, Board of Trustees
Yonkers Public Library

A Message from the Library Director

On behalf of the staff I am pleased to submit the 2021 Annual Report for Yonkers Public Library (YPL). 2021 was a year that was still very much defined by the COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering political, social and economic disruption. It was a difficult and sometimes chaotic year, but ultimately a very rewarding one for the reasons that this report will describe.

A personal and professional highlight for me: In 2021, YPL was fortunate to have a former employee, Shauna Porteus, rejoin it as its new Deputy Director following a leadership role at San Jose Public Library. Shauna has been a great addition to this library, and has helped introduce and accelerate much of the change that will be discussed throughout the report.

I look forward to continued collaboration with her and the fantastic YPL team in 2022 and beyond as we continue to improve and innovate together

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Montero
Library Director



A Steady Presence as COVID Raged

Entering the second year of the pandemic, with the promise of vaccines on the horizon but with cases surging, the Yonkers Public Library remained open and delivering service. While most of our in-person services were severely limited, our devoted staff helped to assist patrons - including vulnerable seniors and those with preexisting conditions - secure appointments for vaccinations at the Westchester County Center and the Yonkers Armory. When it was safe to offer in-person services, YPL partnered with Westchester County and New York State to offer vaccination clinics at the Riverfront Library and Will Library, where hundreds of shots were administered in a safe, trusted and familiar space. Although the year ended with a wave of Omicron variant cases, YPL was able to remain open with minimal impacts to public service hours.



A Strengthened Library Budget

As midyear approached, YPL was pleased to receive a significant increase to its operating and capital budgets, a reflection of the great work YPL performed and the confidence placed in it by the City of Yonkers. This budget enabled the creation of two new full-time positions: a teen librarian and a curator for the Riverfront Art Gallery. It also included increases to the materials budget, which enabled a refresh and diversification of summer reading books and other well-used collections. On the capital side, the budget included additional funding for refurbishing the Will Library elevator, improvements to Crestwood Library, and replacing outdated technology and furniture across the YPL campus.



New Staff! New Services! New Programs!

With restored funding, YPL quickly began hiring for several positions that were left vacant during the early pandemic. The library was fortunate in attracting a diverse and dynamic class of new librarians and clerks to its roster. YPL was able to offer more in-person programs and services, while continuing to provide virtual programs to those that found them safer or more convenient. The library also successfully applied for a number of grants and funding opportunities from ArtsWestchester, Con Edison and the Westchester County Board of Legislators. The 2021 year in programming culminated with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and Metropolitan Library Council (METRO) awarding YPL and the Hudson River Museum an American Rescue Plan grant for over \$90,000 to provide cultural events to the Yonkers community and to support the partnership between the two institutions.



A Focus on Facilities

The COVID-19 pandemic forced libraries to re-examine their facilities and how to keep them clean, safe, and operable. Increased capital funding enabled YPL to transform many of its interior spaces. In 2021 we renovated the Will Library's Flynn Room, replaced aging DVD shelving, and upgraded the tables and chairs in the Riverfront meeting rooms. Outdoor spaces were transformed, too: with help from Westchester County and Groundwork, a patch of poison ivy and invasive weeds was transformed into a pollinator garden at Will. 2021 also marked the start of big things to come: KG&D Architects helped us develop a Five Year Plan to upgrade the interior spaces at the Will Library, the foundation of what will be a full renovation of the landmark Yonkers building.

Library Service in the era of Extreme Weather

On September 1st, Hurricane Ida rained down over nine inches of water onto Yonkers and the region. Thousands of homes in Yonkers were flooded. All three YPL locations were impacted, but the Crestwood Library suffered the most damage when its lower, children's level was flooded. The Crestwood staff had to revert to curbside service while the library conducted remediation work and replaced the lower level's flooring, furniture, and much of the downstairs collection. Meanwhile, the Will Library became a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center so that local residents could be easily connected with government services. Over 880 residents were assisted with FEMA claims in the month following Hurricane Ida, and Will Library was shown to be a unique site for community resilience following a natural disaster. These experiences helped shape the library's facilities and service plans going forward as extreme weather becomes more common and disruptive.





2021 Total Items Circulated **519,891**
 physical items 412,134
 electronic 103,078

Library Visits **242,591**

Customer Questions **100,938**

Computer Use **21,132**

Total Programs **2,872**
 virtual 1,571
 in-person 878
 non-library 423

Total Program Attendance **64,961**
 virtual 31,814
 in-person 18,531
 non-library 14,616

FINANCIALS

INCOME

City of Yonkers \$9,921,181
 Room Rentals \$850
 Fines and Fees \$1,092
 State Aid \$66,056
Total \$9,989,179

EXPENSES

Personnel \$7,779,209
 Utilities \$119,331
 Technology \$556,038
 Rent \$750,000
 Other expenses \$784,601
Total \$9,989,179

GRANTS/GIFTS AWARDED

METRO Museum and Library Grant Program: \$89,300
 Community Development Block Grant (Community Room A+B upgrade): \$35,000
 Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library Annual Appeal donation: \$20,000
 Westchester County Board of Legislators: Gardening Project: \$18,000
 Westchester County Board of Legislators: Technology Classes: \$9,000
 Westchester County Board of Legislators: Health Programming: \$7,400
 Con Edison Artist-in-Residence Grant: \$5,000
 ArtsWestchester - Yonkers Arts Initiative 2021-2022; \$5,000
 ArtsWestchester - Arts Alive: Recovery NY Regrant: \$2,000
 NY Presbyterian Hospital: \$2,500

Total: \$193,200

Who We Are

Executive Staff

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

Board of Trustees

Nancy Maron, President
Josephine Ilarraza, Vice President
Patricia Duggan
Stephan Giuffrida
Stephen Jannetti
Joseph Puglia
Michael Sabatino

Department Heads

Mary Robison, Head of Adult Services, Riverfront Library
Tara Somersall, Head of Children's Department, Riverfront Library
Melinda Lance, Circulation Manager, Riverfront Library
Ruth Rosner, Head of Adult Services, Will Library
Diane McCrink, Head of Children's Department, Riverfront Library
Suzanne Johnson, Circulation Manager, Riverfront Library
Carlos Figueroa, IT Manager/Network Administrator
Mary DiChiara, Head of Technical Services
Russell Martinez, Supervisor of Custodians

Special Thanks To...

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

