



Yonkers
Public Library

2022 Annual Report



A Message from the Library Board President

In 2022, the Yonkers Public Library continued to deliver outstanding services to the over 200,000 people of the City of Yonkers, our neighbors throughout Westchester. And well beyond! As YPL services continue to expand, our reach - even to people who cannot visit us in person - does, too, through virtual programming and online offerings.

In these times of change, knowing that there is a reliable, well-supported institution in our community, whose mission is to help enrich people's lives, is extremely important.

Presented to you is this snapshot of 2022, offering a glimpse of the many ways in which YPL continues to provide that bedrock for the people of Yonkers.



Nancy Maron
President, Board of Trustees
Yonkers Public Library
September, 2023

A Message from the Library Director

On behalf of the staff I am pleased to submit the 2022 Annual Report for Yonkers Public Library (YPL). In many ways, 2022 was a return to (relative) normalcy in library service. Mask mandates were removed, hours of operation and visits reverting back to pre-pandemic levels, programming mostly transitioned from virtual back to in-person affairs. However, library staff retained many of the lessons learned during the pandemic - creative problem solving, an emphasis on equity and social justice, and a rediscovery of how vital our library buildings are as places of social interaction and infrastructure.

2022 was another year of steady, iterative innovation at YPL. I'm pleased to report on some of its highlights.

Respectfully submitted,



Jesse Montero
Library Director
September, 2023



A New Normal

In 2022, library operations settled into a new normal after two years dominated by COVID-19-related disruptions. January 2022 was marked by a new wave in Omicron-variant COVID-19 cases that temporarily forced YPL to temporarily revert to hybrid service and shortened hours. Within weeks, though, YPL removed its indoor mask requirements for staff and public. In May, library hours of operations rose back to 62 hours per week at Will and Riverfront libraries. Throughout the year, library programs recalibrated from being mostly virtual to mostly in-person. And visits, circulation, and program attendance steadily increased with these changes. In May, YPL held its first in-person gala since 2019, and the popular Summer Reading Buddies returned to Riverfront Library.

Of course, COVID did not go away in 2022. Safety protocols were a crucial part of library operations, and YPL continued to host flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics throughout the year. Still, even as YPL retained many of the efficiencies and innovations that were developed during the COVID-19 pandemic, it began to feel like a familiar library again.

Renovations and Repairs

As library buildings returned to full-time use, YPL was reminded of the challenging state of its facilities. In September 2021, Crestwood Library had to limit in-branch service due to flooding from Hurricane Ida that was exacerbated by its aging roof, gutters, and drainage systems. Thankfully, capital funding became available in 2022 that allowed YPL to begin long overdue repairs to the building. An even greater disruption came in 2022, when the Will Library (which turned 60 in 2022) chiller failed shortly after Memorial Day. Although the library was able to secure a temporary rental chiller by July, it was a painful reminder of the aging and failing infrastructure in that building. Almost immediately, YPL submitted an application for State Library Construction Aid and received a recommendation for an award that would help fund part of the replacement. It remains a top priority for the library to overhaul the building's HVAC systems.

That being said, the facilities outlook was not all negative. Thanks to the City of Yonkers' increased capital investment in library technology, furniture and equipment and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, YPL was able to spruce up many of its internal spaces. These included a refurbishment of YPL's largest meeting space, the Community Room at Riverfront Library, which was paid for with CDBG funds. City funding enabled furniture upgrades and beautification projects in Will Library's Conference Room, Computer Lab, and Board Room. Crestwood Library's grounds were similarly improved with the purchase of new outdoor furniture, which helped to facilitate expanded programs and services.

Pursuing Grants to Expand Programming

As in-library services resumed, YPL began a more concerted campaign around seeking grants and other opportunities that would allow it to fund more library events and programs. In late 2021, YPL was excited to receive a \$89,300 Museum and Library Grant from METRO, the regional library council for New York City and Westchester County. The grant subsidized hundreds of educational and cultural programs aimed at children and families throughout 2022. YPL also received increased funding from Westchester County Board of Legislators to support health, fitness and wellness programs; gardening and sustainability workshops (including the creation of accessible, raised bed container gardens at Will Library); and computer classes, including six weeks of “STEM Camp” workshops throughout the summer at Riverfront and Will Library. YPL also received arts programming grants from ArtsWestchester and Con Edison. YPL’s entrepreneurial approach to grantseeking resulted in more and better public programs, even as its operational budget for events remained flat.

Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library (FYPL) also provided critical support for programs such as 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (which was rebranded and relaunched in 2022 after a hiatus during the Pandemic) and expanded our popular Homework Help programs. FYPL funding also enabled YPL to join the Library Speakers Consortium, which allows YPL to host virtual author talks from bestselling and critically-acclaimed authors on a customized, YPL-branded interface. 2022 authors included Hernan Diaz, Simon Winchester and Liz Moore.



	2021	2022
Total Items Circulated	519,891	588,579
physical items	412,134	470,004
electronic	103,078	112,555
Library Visits	242,591	413,565
Customer Questions	100,938	114,832
Computer Use	21,132	43,375

	2021	2022
Total Programs	2,872	5,306
virtual	1,571	1,119
in-person	878	2,457
non-library	423	1,730
Total Program Attendance	64,961	112,597
virtual	31,814	23,938
in-person	18,531	41,205
non-library	14,616	47,454

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,
restwood 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 | friendsofyp@aol.com
Friends of the Crestwood Library | friendsofcrestwoodlibrary@gmail.com