



Friends & Foundation *of the* Rochester Public Library

ffrpl.org

Board overview

FFRPL provides essential **funding** and **programming** for the Rochester Public Library, and serves as its **dedicated 501(c)(3) charity**.

FFRPL is the primary way to support the Library, through monetary donations (including grants and estate gifts), donations of books, and volunteer service.



Jon Spurr Photography



History

In 2013 the Friends of the Rochester Public Library (est. 1953) and the Rundel Library Foundation, Inc. (est. 1989) merged into FFRPL, legally connecting the organization's fundraising and programming.

Our [programming](#) brings patrons to the Library year-round; connects them with Library resources (in person and through online engagement) and supports donor development.

We provide [funding](#) to support special projects and major exhibits; help to create specialized spaces, and enable the Library to purchase materials & equipment not covered by municipal budgets.

Fundraising and Financials

FFRPL generates revenue from fundraising, planned gifts (bequests, retirement plans and life insurance), investment gains from our \$25.2 million endowment, retail sales and event income.

Since FY2018-19 FFRPL has given \$3.8 million to the Library.

[View our most recent annual report.](#)

Please contact Donna Borgus to discuss **planned giving**: 585-428-8321, donna.borgus@libraryweb.org.

Cumulatively, in **FY2022-23, FFRPL granted \$921,511 to the Monroe County Library System** (including the Rochester Public Library's Central Library downtown and 10 urban branches); **OWWL Library System** (serving Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties) and **Nioga Library System** (serving Niagara, Orleans and Genesee counties).

That includes specific materials support to 63 eligible libraries within those systems, through restricted funds.

FFRPL also occasionally serves as a **Fiscal Agent** for select area non-profits (that partner with the Library) and for Library initiatives (as we did for the Rochester Regional Library Council's 2023 Action and Innovation Grant, that was awarded to MCLS for the **Finger Lakes Emerging Library Leaders Course**). In that capacity, FFRPL provides helpful accounting and operational support to the Library and community.

We sell used books, DVDs, CDs, greeting cards, and magazines in [our store](#) in Central Library, and we have **on-site book sales** throughout the year.

We have 7,500 quality used books listed online with [AbeBooks.com](#), [Alibris](#), and [Biblio.com](#).



Programs

FFRPL presents **Legacy Programs**: the Fall/Spring [Books Sandwiched In](#) book review Series, Winter [Tuesday Topics](#) series, and the [Sokol High School Literary Awards](#).

In recent years, FFRPL has served as the Library's Venue Manager for the **Rochester Fringe Festival**, and presented our signature **River to Roof Tours** and **Spooky Stories in the Stacks**. We helped fund the **MCLS Spring Author Series (2023)** and [RPL's Online Author Talks](#).

Community Partnerships

Since 2014, FFRPL has partnered with the non-profit literary center Writers & Books to bring ['Rochester Reads'](#) authors to Central Library.

Since 2018, FFRPL has sponsored the [Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues](#) (presented by Central Library, in partnership with area LGBTQ+ individuals, allies, and organizations).

FFRPL has also been a long-time Fiscal Sponsor for the [Greater Rochester Teen Read](#), [Rochester Children's Book Festival](#), and RCBF's free [Festival-To-Go](#) program for K-6 students at select Rochester City Schools.



Jason Mott, 'Rochester Reads' 2022

Exhibits

FFRPL supports Central Library's historical exhibits and related programming, such as: **Lollypop Farm** (2023); **Punjab** (2021-2022); **Thrift Style** (2021); the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's **Deadly Medicine** (2020); **Stonewall: 50 Years Out** (2019); **Crafting Democracy** (2019); **Because of Women Like Her ... Winning the Vote in NYS** (2017); **Al-Mutanabbi Street** (2014); and **Pride & Passion: the African American Baseball Experience** (2013).

FFRPL is also the **Founding Sponsor** of Central's annual juried show, [Art of the Book & Paper](#).



Rundel Terrace Revitalization Project

Specialized spaces

FFRPL was responsible for a **\$1.4M share** of the Library's **From Collections to Community Capital Campaign (FC2C)** which ran 2014-2018. FC2C funds were used to update and consolidate the **Reynolds Media Center**; renovate the **Arts Division** and areas dedicated to **Youth Services (Teen Central, B Hive and Middle Ground)**; create the **Anthony Mascioli Gallery** in Harold Hacker Hall, and renovate the **Kusler-Cox Auditorium**.

More recently, FFRPL has helped fund Central's **Children's Center/Secret Room** (Summer 2022), **Rundel Terrace Revitalization Project** (Summer 2022), **John Lovenheim Center for Technology and Innovation** (redesigned Fall 2020; renamed Spring 2023), and **Kate Gleason Auditorium** upgrades. FFRPL also helped fund the **Lincoln Branch reconfiguration** (Summer 2023).

And we help pay for **RPL murals** on an ongoing basis.

Special Projects

Along with the City of Rochester and Central Library, FFRPL is a founding sponsor of the after school program [Safe to be Smart](#) at Central and five City branches. On average, we have contributed \$100K annually to StbS, which launched in 2001.

FFRPL is the Fiscal Sponsor for a 3-year, \$230K pilot project funded by a private donor, in support of Central's [Raising a Reader](#) literacy program (755 families participate).

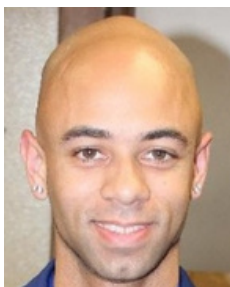
FFRPL helped create and promote the Library's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, including the online resource [Understanding Black Experiences](#) and annual [Black History Month](#) programming and online resources.



Marketing

We publicize our **Legacy Programs**; select **Library initiatives and events**; FFRPL/RPL **community partnerships**; large-scale Library **exhibits**; our **retail operation** (FFRPL store, special on site sales, online book sales); **special collections** that we helped fund (sewing machines, Empire Passes; Memory Care items); national **holidays/observances** (Black History Month, Pride Month); **fundraising efforts** (ROC the Day; Library Giving Day; end-of-year appeals; and Annual Campaign asks).

We primarily utilize **owned media**: distribution of Fall/Spring/Winter program brochures, e-blasts to FFRPL subscribers, web site, Library calendars (online and printed), and FaceBook. **Paid media** includes: Little Theatre screen ads, WXXI/LT/City e-blasts, radio spots; and other print/digital/broadcast platforms.



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