



Annual Report

July 1, 2021 ~ June 30, 2022



Friends & Foundation *of the*
Rochester Public Library



It is a privilege to work on behalf of the Library's ongoing mission of community service, and to be able to provide critical funding and programming support for RPL and libraries in surrounding counties.

We participated in many exciting projects for FY2021-22, and we thank everyone who helped support FFRPL with their time, expertise, and donations.

Donna Borgus, Executive Director, FFRPL
donna.borgus@libraryweb.org, 585-428-8321



Serving as Board President for FFRPL is one way I help support the Library's mission of providing impactful and innovative programs and services to the community. With your steadfast support and generosity, FFRPL continues to broaden its commitment to respond to the community's ever-changing needs and interests.

Donna P. Benjamin, FY2021-22 FFRPL Board President

Board of Directors FY2021-22

Donna P. Benjamin, President
Justin Stevens, Vice President
David Hou, Treasurer
Dan Ross, Secretary
Richard Hamilton, Past President

Diana Carter, Andrew Iserson, Brian McLaughlin, Sally Millick, Kiah Nyame. Shiva Ramaswamy, Marjorie Shelly, Tiana Stephens, Sheila Strong, Patty Uttaro, William Yust

Staff FY2021-22

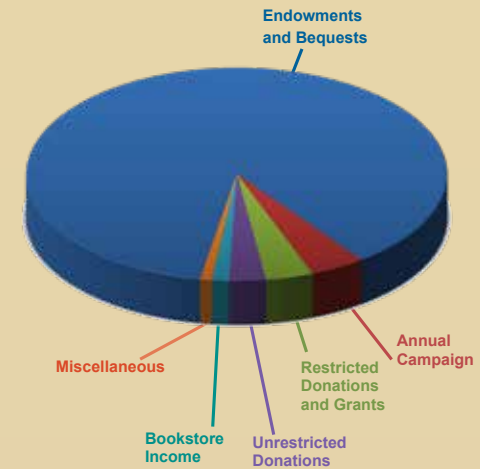
Donna Borgus, Executive Director; Reuben Burch, Financial Manager; Rebecca Fuss, Director of Advancement; Holly Hammond, Database Administrator; Susan Chekow Lusignan, Director of Marketing & Program Development; Elisabeth Pereboom-Klumpenhower, Book Pricing and Sales Specialist; Christine Weidman, Volunteer and Book Sales Coordinator

FFRPL IS THE 501(C)(3) CHARITY THAT RAISES FUNDS, PRESENTS PROGRAMS, SUPPORTS SPECIAL PROJECTS, HELPS CREATE SPECIALIZED SPACES, AND PURCHASES SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT FOR THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

FFRPL FY2021-22 REVENUE

Category	Amount Received	% of Total Income
Endowments and Bequests	\$6,138,196.91	87.15%
Annual Campaign	\$298,062.27	4.23%
Restricted Donations and Grants	\$254,997.46	3.62%
Unrestricted Donations	\$197,505.77	2.80%
Bookstore Income	\$92,302.05	1.31%
Miscellaneous	\$62,274.47	0.88%
Grand Total	\$7,043,338.93	100.00%

*The chart above outlines revenue for FY2021-22 but does not reflect total assets for the organization. FFRPL also stewards and builds an \$12.5-million endowment and investment account, which provides continuing support for the Library.

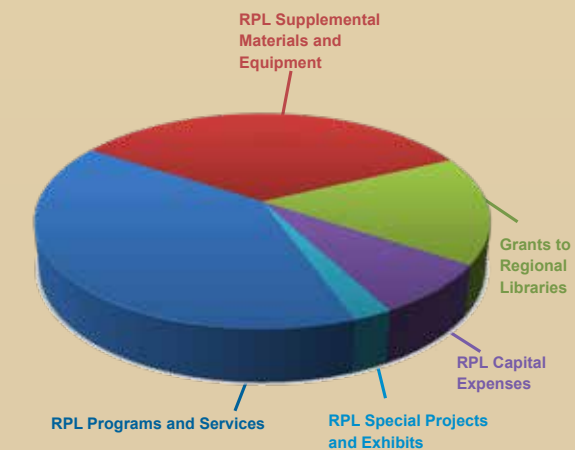


FFRPL FY2021-22 EXPENSES

Category	Amount Spent	% of Total Expenses
Net Investment Losses	\$3,060,066.89	66.18%
Library Support**	\$820,294.85	17.74%
Management and General	\$600,966.60	13.00%
Bookstore	\$50,009.95	1.08%
Investment Management Fees	\$48,791.81	1.06%
Fundraising Expenses	\$43,810.42	0.95%
Grand Total	\$4,623,940.52	100.00%

**FFRPL FY2021-22 LIBRARY SUPPORT

Category	Amount Spent	% of Total
Programs and Services	\$325,606.88	39.69%
Supplemental Materials & Equipment	\$277,453.65	33.82%
Grants to Regional Libraries	\$134,121.64	16.35%
RPL Capital Expenses	\$63,600.00	7.75%
Special Projects and Exhibits	\$19,512.68	2.38%
Grand Total	\$820,294.85	100.00%



HIGHLIGHTS

Programs & Services

Safe to be Smart Program	\$123,813.87
Raising a Reader Program	\$70,570.93
Support for Business Insight Center	\$40,507.42

Supplemental Materials & Equipment

Books, DVDs, Audiobooks, eBooks, etc.	\$184,089.13
Local History Digitized Material	\$35,000.00

Grants to Regional Libraries

Supplemental Funding for Library Materials	\$134,121.64
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RPL Capital Expenses

Art Installation for Rundel Library Terrace	\$63,600.00
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Special Projects & Exhibits

Rochester Black History Archive Project	\$7,334.99
Expansion of Arnett Library Murals	\$2,957.00



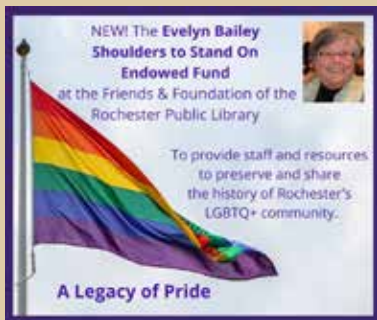
FFRPL ... RAISES FUNDS

In addition to revenue from fundraising, grants, bookstore income, endowments and bequests, net investment gains, and program and event revenue, FFRPL stewards and builds a \$21.8 million endowment and investment account, which provides continuing support for the Rochester Public Library.

Our endowment also enables our organization to provide specific materials support through restricted funds for the Monroe County Library System, OWWL Library System (formerly Pioneer) – serving Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties, and Nioga Library System – serving Niagara, Orleans and Genesee counties.

FFRPL's Annual Campaign raised **\$298,062** (an increase of \$22,548 or 8%) compared to the previous Fiscal Year.

Longtime LGBTQIA+ activist, educator and historian Evelyn Bailey partnered with FFRPL and Central Library throughout the last year of her life to establish the **Evelyn Bailey Shoulders to Stand On Endowed Fund**.



The endowed fund will help provide staff and resources at Central Library to preserve and share the history of Rochester's LGBTQIA+ community and ensure that Evelyn's 'Legacy of Pride' continues.

The endowed fund will help provide staff and resources at Central Library to



In FY2021-22, FFRPL raised \$42,365 to initiate the Fund. FFRPL was proud to work with Evelyn. She passed away July 13, 2022.



FFRPL had its most successful **ROC the Day** ever, raising approximately \$13,500 for supplemental furniture, fixtures and equipment for the Lincoln Branch reconfiguration.



Library Director's birthday fundraiser FFRPL successfully launched our first online

personal fundraiser. Thank you to Patty Uttaro for working with FFRPL to create her birthday fundraiser to support the Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries.

The fundraiser far exceeded the original goal of \$500, with individual support and a special grant, raising \$12,681 in total. FFRPL can now offer personal peer-to-peer fundraisers through email and social media.

For FY2021-22, FFRPL grants supported innovative programs and staff training for Rochester Regional Library Council Libraries (a multi-type library network serving libraries and library systems throughout Rochester's five counties).



Library Giving Day FFRPL participated in Library Giving Day on April 6 and raised \$6,443 for supplemental materials for the Children's Center Secret Room, through a combination of online giving and the in-person 'Sneak Peek' event for donors who help support children's programming.

Year-round book sales (on-line and on site): FFRPL continued to manage a team of 22 valuable, engaged volunteers who help run the Book Store at Central Library, assist with our online book sales, and help us maintain the Sustainable Shelves Program (a unique environmentally friendly operation that recycles books unfit for sale and provides merchandise credit to RPL).

FFRPL ... PRESENTS PROGRAMS

Fringe Festival 2021 We worked with Central Library's Local History & Genealogy Division on the presentation and publicity for a free, on-demand video for "Spooky Stories in the (virtual) Stacks." We also selected 1 external artist (the BenAnna Band) for 2 free, live, family performances on Saturday, September 18 in the Garden.



We were able to have our Legacy **Books Sandwiched In Series** return to



in-person reviews held in the Kate Gleason Auditorium. The **Fall 2021** series of 7 live reviews was well-attended with an average of 50 people in KGA with additional viewers watching the livestream on Facebook and our YouTube videos. New EventBrite advance registrations allowed for social distancing and capture of attendee contact info. [View the playlist here](#)

September 28: *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich (reviewed by Virginia Fifield).

October 5: *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* by Patrick Radden Keefe (reviewed by Bernard Sussman, MD)

October 12: *The Violence Inside Us: A Brief History of an Ongoing American Tragedy* by Chris Murphy (reviewed by Mark T. Henderson)

October 19: *Opal's Greenwood Oasis* by Najah-Amatullah Hylton and Quraysh Ali Lansana AND *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre* by Carole Boston Weatherford – a pair of children's titles – (reviewed by Zahyia Rolle)

October 26: *Where You Are is Not Who You Are* by Ursula Burns, former CEO of Xerox (reviewed by Sevin Yeltekin, PhD)

November 2: *Get Good with Money* by Tiffany Aliche (reviewed by Shamika Fusco)

November 9: *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson (reviewed by Mitch O'Connell, PhD)

BSI Spring 2022 Our Spring **Books Sandwiched In** reviews were very popular, close to capacity (with limits for social distancing), and the reviewers received good feedback from patrons.



Our continually increased efforts of connecting book themes and Library resources (particularly those supported by FFRPL) were received very favorably and our messaging was met with appreciation by patrons. [View the playlist here](#)

March 29: *A Quantum Life: My Unlikely Journey From the Street to the Stars* (reviewed by Dr. Casey Miller)

April 5: *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America* (reviewed by Windsor Wade)



April 12: *A Wild Idea: How the Environmental Movement Tamed the Adirondacks* (reviewed by Douglas Jones).

April 19: *Secret History of Home Economics: How Trailblazing Women Harnessed the Power of Home and Changed the Way We Live* (reviewed by Deborah Hughes).

April 26: *Betrayal: The Final Act of the Trump Show* (reviewed by Sandy Shapiro).

May 3: *Putting It Together: How Stephen Sondheim and I Created 'Sunday in the Park with George'* by James Lapine (reviewed by Mark Cuddy).

May 10: *Under A White Sky: The Nature of the Future* by Elizabeth Kolbert (reviewed by Jeff Wyatt).

Rochester Reads 2022 (Writers & Books partnership) FFRPL sponsored visiting author and botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer (*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*). We had a full house for our



free event on October 20. Approximately 54 people attended in person and an additional 200+ people participated online via Livestream. [Watch Kimmerer's presentation here](#)

FFRPL ... PRESENTS PROGRAMS (continued)



We hosted online Zoom presentations of (virtual) **Tuesday Topics** February 2022, which once

again showcased Library services/resources. We highlighted the Rochester Public Library's critical role in fostering Children's Literacy (Presenter: Tonia Burton, Children's Services Consultant, Monroe County Library System; recipient of the 2021 Jacque Cady Award for Advocacy for Children from Roc the Future), Jobs and the Economy (Presenter: Jennifer Byrnes, MLS, MPH, Manager, Business Insight Center and the Carlson Center for Intellectual Property at Central Library), and Equity and Justice, "Repairing the Historical Record through Community Collaboration" (Presenters: Christine L. Ridarsky, City Historian & Historical Services Consultant, Rochester Public Library, and Mekko Griffin Mongeon, the Exhibit Project Manager for Clarissa Uprooted, a project of Teen Empowerment). [View the playlist here](#)



FFRPL helped support and promote the **5th Annual Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues**, held March 19, 2022 at the Memorial Art Gallery (presented in partnership with the Out Alliance and Central Library's Local History/Genealogy Division). [Learn more about the Rainbow Dialogues here](#)



FFRPL promoted and funded Phillis Wheatley Community Library's **50th Anniversary Celebration** in August 2021, which included free ice cream provided by Lugia's Ice Cream Truck as well as African drumming and dancing with Womba African Drumming.



FFRPL planned, promoted and presented the in-person **Sokol High School Literary Awards**. All 6 winning students attended, and all had friends/family members with them as well. They did an outstanding job reading excerpts from their work and everyone was pleased and proud to be a part of the program. Since 2015, winning entries have been downloaded collectively more than 2,000 times, from at least 44 countries! [Watch the Sokol video](#) (posted to the Library's YouTube Channel) here. [View or download the Sokol 2022 booklet \(with all winning student work, and comments from judges\) here](#). Thanks to our partners at The College at Brockport, the winning entries for 2022 can be [viewed and downloaded here](#). The complete collection of Sokol award winning entries (2015 through 2022) can be [viewed and downloaded here](#).

FFRPL ... HELPS PRESENT AND PROMOTE EXHIBITS

FFRPL Continued to be active on **Central's Exhibits Team** FFRPL helped plan, promote, and present the *Earth Rhythms & Precious Inhabitants*, *Art of the Book & Paper 2021*, and the India Heritage Museum's exhibit **Punjab: Land of Five Rivers**. In appreciation for FFRPL's/RPL's efforts in presenting and promoting the exhibit, The India



Heritage Museum contributed **\$5,000 towards the Library's Lincoln Branch Renovation**.



Pictured (left to right) Dr. Padmanabh Kamath, Co-Chair, India Heritage Museum; Dr. Natasha Sodhi, Member of the India Heritage Museum Committee and lead partner for Central Library's Punjab exhibit; Donna Borgus, Executive Director, FFRPL; Vinod Luthra, Co-Chair, India Heritage Museum.

The India Heritage Museum is located at the Vinod and Vinay Luthra India Heritage Center of the India Community Center.

FFRPL ... SUPPORTS SPECIAL PROJECTS



Pictured: STBS Superhero Reading group, Sully Branch

Safe to be Smart Program

One of FFRPL's long-term special projects is the Library's flagship after school program *Safe to be Smart*, housed at Central Library downtown and five City library branches.

FFRPL is proud to be a founding sponsor, with Central Library and the City of Rochester, of *Safe to be Smart*, which launched in 2001. For the last decade we have given more than \$100,000 annually to the program. *Safe to be Smart* students receive mentoring, educational support and career exploration help, and are able to access Library resources including books and wi-fi.

Raising a Reader

FFRPL provides significant funding for the *Raising a Reader* program at Central Library. RPL is a *Raising a Reader* affiliate. *Raising a Reader* strives to instill a love of reading in children and involve families directly in literacy activities.



The program trains parents in how to develop the habit of sharing books with their children. High quality books are rotated into the home on a weekly basis for families to practice regular book sharing. Families are connected to the local library to help them sustain book borrowing and book sharing practices. Central Library has a few hundred *Raising a Reader* families participating in the program. [Learn more here.](#)

Rochester Black History Archive Project

FFRPL helped raise funds for Central Library's Rochester Black History Archive Project, led by Central's Local History & Genealogy Division. Funds are to be allocated for a Historical Services Consultant, Librarians, a paid Community advisory board, as well as an internal staff advisory committee.

FFRPL ... HELPS CREATE SPECIALIZED SPACES

FFRPL provided significant funds for the **Business Insight Center**, in support of the purchase of 10 proprietary databases on market trends, patent holdings, registered trademarks and business & financial reports; and towards professional services so RPL is able to offer no-cost legal advice and consultations to patrons.

Capital Expenses: support towards the Rundel Terrace Revitalization Project (*note: this expense line reflects the 2021-22 FY; the project itself spanned several Fiscal Years*).

Construction began Spring 2020 and was completed August 2022. [Learn more here.](#)



(From the story aired by WHAM/13 ABC; photographer: Matt Churpita/WHAM)

Thanks to the many individual donors – as well as our Foundation funders – whose support enabled FFRPL to provide \$125,000 towards the Rundel Terrace Revitalization Project, including an art installation: the Rochester Area Community Foundation, the Ames Amzalak Memorial Trust, the Gannett Foundation, and the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation.



FFRPL is proud to be a part of this historical project for the community.

Expansion of Arnett Branch Library Mural

With the completion of Arnett's murals, the Library has become a destination location and a source of pride for the neighborhood.





FFRPL ... PURCHASES SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

FFRPL in a bequest, FFRPL provides supplemental support of books and library materials that circulate for the Monroe County Library System, OWWL Library System (formerly Pioneer) – serving Ontario, Wayne, Wyoming, and Livingston Counties, and Nioga Library System – serving Niagara, Orleans and Genesee counties.



FFRPL purchased **Empire Passes** for every MCLS library: Central, branches, and towns. Empire Passes for New York State Parks allow users to borrow free admission passes to hundreds of New York State Parks. [Learn more here](#)

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FFRPL purchased **eSports equipment** for imagineYOU, which organized Central Library's Esports Club (free to high school and middle school students), enabling them to participate in tournaments, streaming, content creation and game creation/gaming.



FFRPL helped purchase books and bags for the **"Talking is Teaching"** program, a national campaign to boost the early learning and brain development of children from birth through age five. The "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" campaign is part of Too Small to Fail, a national initiative of the Clinton Foundation. "Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" aims to give parents and caregivers the tools to talk, read, and sing more with their young children from birth, increasing meaningful interactions that are critical to healthy brain development. [Learn more here](#)



Funds from FFRPL allocated to Central's Business Insight Center helped purchase culinary appliances for the **lending library at the Commissary**. The Commissary is a collaborative community, providing shared kitchens combined with food industry specific business assistance to help aspiring entrepreneurs build great food companies, create jobs, and strengthen our regional food economy. The Rochester Downtown Development Corporation (RDDC) is the parent organization of The Commissary; both corporations are 501(c)(3) not-for-profits.

FFRPL purchased a new **state-of-the-art camera and equipment** for Central Library's Kate Gleason Auditorium, to improve livestreaming/recording programs. The equipment that was purchased in FY2021-22 is now being used by FFRPL and the Library to livestream programs directly to the Library's YouTube channel.

Gifts \$1,000+ for FY2021-22

Individuals

- John J. Altieri
- Anonymous
- George B. Bauer
- Katherine Baynes & Joshua Stubbe
- Robert & Georgianna Becker
- Suzanne Bell & Christopher Brown
- Gail Bosso
- Joan & Robert Brimlow
- Karen Sue Brown
- Mary Allison Callaway
- Estate of Catherine Carlson
- Steve Carper & Linda Saalman
- Stephan & Mary Clarke
- Richard N. Clauss
- C. Edward Daly
- Ned Davis & Anne Kress
- Jo Ann Deblinger
- Leslie DesMarteau
- Estate of Marion Fulbright
- M. Lois Gauch
- June & Warren Glaser
- Todd & Stephanie Green
- Katherine & Peter Griswold
- Donald Hall
- Richard Hamilton & Katherine Schulze
- Amy Hecker & Howard Decker
- Bruce Holton
- Roy D. Husung & Lori L. Ferris
- Richard Irvin
- Steven Jarose & Marvin Ritzenthaler
- Ebets & Thomas Judson
- Daniel B. Karin
- James & Barbara Kolb
- Karen & Gerald Kral
- Lucinda Lamme
- Robert Lebman
- John & Barbara Lovenheim
- Kalyani Madhu & Ashwani Chhibber
- Maxine Manjos
- Dorothy L. Marchand
- Estate of Nancy McLachlin
- Sally Millick
- Paul Marc Ness & Pamela Miller Ness
- Kathy & Ted Nixon
- Lawrence O'Heron
- Xiaorong & Christopher Parks
- Katharine Parsons
- James M. Paulino
- Ron Pawelczak & Nino Vitale
- Frank Rakoski & Karen Rakoski
- Thomas & Betty Richards
- Estate of Edward Rosenberg

- John Rumsey
- Sharon & Ron Salluzzo
- Susan J. Salzman
- Edward T. Schell
- Helen Schneck
- Harold Schuler
- David Sewhuk & Rosalind Orzel
- Sanford & Miriam Shapiro
- Donald Specht
- Marilyn Tedeschi & Vickie Fumia
- Miriam I. Thomas
- Estate of Virginia Trout
- Patricia & Cosmo Uttaro
- William Valenti & James Wolk
- Elizabeth S. Van Niel
- David & Claudia Weber
- Kitty J. Wise
- George & Holly Wolf
- Assaf & Amy Yosha
- Ann G. T. Young
- William & Valerie Yust
- Ichin Zinn

Foundations & Corporations

- Ames Amzalak Memorial Trust
- Canandaigua National Bank & Trust
- Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation
- Florence M. Muller Foundation
- Friends of Fairport Public Library
- India Heritage Museum
- Joan and Harold Feinbloom
- Supporting Foundation at the Community Foundation
- Joseph Rippey Trust through the JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- Kilian and Caroline Schmitt Foundation
- Lisa and Kenper Miller Family Fund
- MAXIMUS Foundation
- MVP
- Net Results LLC
- Raymond Eckert Fund at the Community Foundation
- Reynolds Library Board
- Riedman Foundation
- Rochester Area Community Foundation
- Target Circle
- The Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation
- University of Rochester Department of History
- Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
- William and Sheila Konar Foundation

Select Bequests and Endowment Funds

Held for the Benefit of the Library

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Chester F. Carlson Patent & Trademark Center Fund
- Friends of the Rochester Public Library Legacy Fund
- George R. Parsons Jr. Fund for Branch Libraries
- Suressa Forbes Fund for Local Writers
- Harold Hacker Fund for the Advancement of Libraries
- Irving L. Kessler, Esq. Fund in Memory of Rose & Max Kessler
- Sharon & Ron Salluzzo Fund for Librarians Serving Children & Teens
- Albert O. Fenyvessy Fund for Branch Libraries*
- Anthony Mascioli Revocable Trust*
- Shoulders to Stand On Fund

Special Projects:

- Equality Fund for Humanity & Enlightenment
- Stephan & Mary Clarke Fund for Digitization & Preservation of Genealogical Records

Supplemental Materials & Equipment:

- Edna & Kenneth Kroll Fund for Library Audio-Visual Equipment
- Frances Weis Holtzman Fund for Literature & Poetry
- Kate Gleason History Fund
- Kusler-Cox Fund for Outreach
- Myles Yerden Fund for Outreach & Extension Services
- Robert & Georgianna Becker Fund for Local History in Memory of Walter F. Becker
- Ruby M. Jefferson Memorial Book Fund
- Sybil S. Craig Fund for International Relations
- Toy Resource Center – Toy Library Fund
- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 20 Fund For the Vietnam Learning Center at Central Library
- William Brewster Lee Fund for Humor In Our Lives
- William E. Beeney Fund for Children's Books & Programs

**Note: Based on the donor's original interests, this fund may be used for the purposes described above but is not required to be a permanently endowed fund. In order to provide a continued benefit to the Library, FFRPL has invested this money but retains the option to change future expenditures based on changing Library needs.*