

Director's Report for Board Meeting August 20, 2025

Vision: *Welcoming, Inspiring and Connecting our Community.*

Mission: *We serve as a community hub by connecting our patrons to all forms of literacy, lifelong, learning and growth.*

[RCL Monthly Calendar](#)



Robust Collections

- ★ Provide barrier-free access to resources for the community that are most in demand.
 - Through our library's co-op, Southwest Michigan Library, we are now part of the Libby Reciprocal Lending Program, patrons can now enjoy access to expanded digital collections across Michigan libraries, increasing title availability.
 - Anne Richards introduced patrons and staff to Yoto players & cards, a screen-free audio system for kids that offers stories, music, and educational content, supporting literacy through innovative technology.



Enriching Programs

- ★ Provide opportunities to create, learn, be entertained and come together.
 - Join us September 12th for our 50th Anniversary celebration, featuring music, food trucks, costume contests, and more
 - The well-received "Navigating Modern Media" program hosted by Erica Schiller, equipped patrons with tools to evaluate information critically.
 - September's Teen Wellness series encourages teens to prioritize self-care and stress management, helping them navigate everyday challenges.
 - Adult D&D is hosted twice a month by Jason McDonald, inviting adults to have fun through storytelling and gameplay.
 - The Paint a Book Brick program is nearing completion. These colorful bricks will soon enhance our garden, reflecting community creativity. Thanks to Anna Merritt, for overseeing its engagement and success.
 - The Summer Reading Challenge saw 240 youth and teens and 65 adults complete the program, logging nearly 491,000 minutes and finishing more than 3,630 activities. One parent shared, "Thank you again for all the work and love you put into these programs that help my kids love reading as much as they do!"
 - Congratulations to Carrie Dunn and Erica Schiller for hosting 250-300 people for the end of the summer party. Carrie said it was the largest turnout ever for the library.

- **Broad Outreach**
- ★ Expand meaningful partnerships with local organizations to strengthen community inclusion.
 - Children's Librarian, Carrie Dunn, once a month welcomes a group of 15-20 kids from Home Again to the library. She leads an activity and includes a read-aloud.
 - Adults are encouraged to participate in our winter programming survey to help guide future events.
 - State Representative Matt Hall's staff hold monthly listening hours at the library.
 - At the Richland Farmers Market, many patrons explored our Library of Things and craft tools- thanks to the Richland Area Community Center for hosting us. Lots of positive feedback about the library was received from patron service staff members Desiree Mills and Mary Robertson.



Strong Operations

- ★ Ensure sustainable funding sources for operating hours, collections, services, programs and staff.
 - Annual Vanguard Fire Inspection was completed July 16th
 - HVAC inspection completed July 31st to ensure a safe, comfortable facility.
 - State Aid and Penal Fines payments received.
 - \$4,000 grant from SMLC received and applied to the Digital Services budget line.
 - Ongoing feedback through the Dot Engagement Survey continues to inform our services.
 - July marked our busiest month ever, with over 5,500 visits and 10,000 items borrowed (physical and digital), highlighting strong community use.
 - Library continues to emphasize back and forth dialogue through feedback opportunities at multiple service point areas. The feedback creates a level of co-creation where we are able to identify actions that have visible impacts through resource allocation. Feedback loop = comments and suggestions being realized and fulfilled.



Additional Information outside the scope of the RCL Strategic Plan.

- As we celebrate 50 years of service, we're energized by the community's enthusiasm and look forward to expanding our offerings and impact.
- Library Director has been asked to be a member of the workgroup that plans the MLA 2026 Conference