

Director's Report for Board Meeting August 16, 2023

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.
 - Link on RCL website for patrons to request [Libby audiobook purchases](#)
 - VOX Books - Added more titles from the Library of Michigan Grant including spanish and early chapter books.
 - Adding new titles/series to graphic novel collections. Suggestion box in the GRA area for patrons to include purchase recommendations.

- ★ Strive to encourage a lifelong love of reading by connecting community members to library collections and resources.
 - Staff emphasis on improving Readers Advisory
 - Monthly displays changed out to keep fresh browsing opportunities



Enriching Programs

- ★ Provide opportunities to create, learn, be entertained and come together.
 - [Adults](#) : CreativeBug Art Contest, Richland Road Rally, Murder Mystery Party,
 - [Teens](#): Teen Book Club, T.A.B., Teen Afterhours Movie and Game Night, Dungeons & Dragons, Sewing class, Watercolors,
 - [Children's](#): STEAM Saturday, Art Club, Illustration for Kids, Lego Competition, Family Movie Afternoon, Youth Book Club,
 - RCL Staff taking over responsibility of monthly book club from FoL



Broad Outreach

- ★ Expand meaningful partnerships with local organizations to strengthen community inclusion.
 - Farmers' Market 2023 with RACC: Communal Art Canvas, Kalamazoo Book Arts Nature Produce Painting, Face Painting, Scavenger Hunt, Story Time, FoL Volunteers, Genealogy Group, Writers Group

- Director Attended August Rotary Picnic at Ross Township Park
- RCL Fall 2023 print Newsletter to be distributed late August



Strong Operations

- ★ Ensure sustainable funding sources for operating hours, collections, services, programs and staff.
 - Director educated on grantmaking capabilities from Kalamazoo Community Foundation
 - New RCL policy updates reviewed and implemented with staff
 - Monthly Patron Services meeting
 - State Aid Received. Penal Fines to be distributed to us in late September.
 - Library invests General Fund in CD at Consumers Credit Union

- ★ Create an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere with ample space for collections, programs, and community engagement.
 - Art Portrait project for All Together Summer Reading Theme
 - Children and Family programming extended beyond Library walls to outside patio, Village Park, and neighboring First Presbyterian Church, RACC



Additional Information outside the scope of the RCL Strategic Plan.

- FoL Book Donation policy increased from 5 to 10 (next book sale May 2024)
- Director was asked by Michigan Library Association to be on Director Conference 2024 Work Group
- Director and FoL President continually brainstorm on how Friends can help our Library
- Library's Statistics YTD, in categories tracked, here are some highlights from last year to present:

21% increase in patrons visiting our library

20% increase in library items added

15% increase in Overdrive/Libby usage

19% increase in MeL items received

14% increase in Wifi Logins

15% increase in RCL Website Page Views

15% increase in Hotspot Circulation

46% increase in average monthly Childrens Program Attendance

183% increase in average monthly Teen Attendance

38% increase in average monthly Adult Program Attendance

20% increase in monthly community room reservations

109% increase in monthly community room reservation attendees