



# RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 27, 2022

Main Library – Auditorium  
101 E. Franklin Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

11:45 a.m.



**Richmond Public Library**  
101 E. Franklin Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
(804) 646-4256 / fax: (804) 646-7685



## **Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

**11:45 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

**Call to order:**

11:45 a.m.

Mr. Yates

**Agenda**

Mr. Yates

**Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Yates

- Approval of Minutes-June 22, 2022 Regular Meeting
- Approval of Statistical Report
- Approval of Pending Deposited Gifts Report

**Public Comment Period:**

**Reports:**

- Library Friends
- Library Foundation
- Administration Reports

Ms. DeBoer/Mr. Dishon  
Ms. Revere  
Mr. Firestine

**Board Committee Reports:**

- Chair Report
- Finance Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Governance Committee
  - Committees

Mr. Yates  
Mr. Sawyer  
Ms. Woody  
Ms. Altman

**Unfinished Business**

Mr. Yates

**New Business**

- Sunday Public Service Hours

Mr. Firestine

**Adjourn**

Mr. Yates

**Next Meeting:**

Date: September 28, 2022 Meeting

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Location: North Avenue Branch Library, 2901 North Avenue

**Library Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**  
**June 22, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Chair William Yates, Vice Chair Christine Peterson, Emily Altman, Barbara Burton, Brent Graves, Sheron Carter-Gunter, Garrett Sawyer, Janet Woody, Gail Zwirner

**ABSENT:** Attorney Laura Drewry, Clay Dishon, Cheryl Clarke, Susan Revere

**STAFF:** Scott Firestine, Gianna Pack, Phil Shephard, Friends of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer,

Meeting of the Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) was called to order by Chair William Yates at 11:45am at the Main Library located at 101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia. The public was noticed and could attend in person or by viewing the Richmond Public Library YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/2VfKL9U>, where it was live streamed. A quorum was established.

<b>Agenda</b>	Approve the June 22, 2022, Agenda as submitted: <i>Motion: Barbara Burton Second by Emily Altman</i>  <i>AYES: <u>7</u>      NOES: <u>0</u>      ABSTAIN: <u>0</u>    Approved Unanimously.</i>  Mr. Graves and Mr. Sawyer were not present during the vote.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	Approve the May 25, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, the Current Financial Reports, Statistical Reports, and Donations Report as submitted: <i>Motion: Christine Peterson, Second by Sheron Carter-Gunter</i>  <i>AYES: <u>7</u>      NOES: <u>0</u>      ABSTAIN: <u>0</u>    Approved Unanimously.</i>  Mr. Graves and Mr. Sawyer were not present during the vote.
<b>Public Comment Period</b>	None Present
<b>REPORTS</b>	
<b>Library Foundation</b>  <u>Scott Firestine</u> <u>Susan Revere</u>	Mr. Firestine reported on the Library Foundation Report in Ms. Revere's absence:  <b>Foundation Update:</b> Mr. Firestine thanked everyone who donated this year. He announced the Foundation is closing in on the end of its fiscal year (June 30). He also announced if anyone has not already done so to please consider supporting the Richmond Public Library through a donation to the Foundation.  <b>Grant Activity/Partnership Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Foundation will submit a grant request to the Robins Foundation to expand the impact of the Library's highly successful RVA Reads Program. Notification of awards will occur in September.</li></ul>

<b>REPORTS (CONTINUED)</b>	
<b>Library Foundation (Continued)</b>  <u>Scott Firestine</u> <u>Susan Revere</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Foundation applied for a grant to the R.E.B. Foundation through the Community Foundation in support of RVA Reads. Notification will occur in September.</li> </ul> <p>The Foundation will apply to the Commonwealth Virginia Campaign again this year. Last year the Foundation received \$500 in donations through this opportunity.</p> <p>Mr. Firestine reported there was a full Foundation Board meeting that met at the North Avenue Branch Library on June 8. A budget was set up for FY23 and the Gift Policy for the Foundation is being updated. Overall the Foundation has about \$1M in assets. The meeting was finished with the tour of the storm water gardens. An appreciation luncheon for volunteers working at each site of the storm water gardens is in the process. Stay tuned for more details.</p>
<b>Friends of the Library (FOL)</b>  <u>Clay Dishon</u> <u>Ruth DeBoer</u>	<p>Ms. DeBoer reported on the Friends of the Library Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Friends of the Library fiscal year is off to a good start.</li> <li>Had a successful bag sale along with cash donations.</li> <li>New Board Members are starting; still looking for a few more new members.</li> <li>No July meeting.</li> <li>Annual Meeting and evening book sale – November 4.</li> <li>Currently not taking any donations, but will announce when starting back up.</li> </ul>
<b>Administration</b>  <u>Scott Firestine</u>	<p><b>Highlights and Additions to Director’s Report:</b> Mr. Firestine reported on the highlights from the Director’s Report and Statistical Report as follows:</p> <p>Mr. Firestine reported the circulation numbers are up and at most locations surpassing 2019. Some of the other locations have challenges, but he is very optimistic they will catch up.</p> <p>Covid is still around. There have been a couple of locations where staff have been exposed and became positive. City Administration advised all staff to wear masks in the buildings, but it is not a mandate. Sites are still distributing masks and Covid tests when available.</p> <p>July’s meeting location was scheduled at the Belmont Branch Library. It has a very small meeting room. Mr. Firestine recommended meeting at another location or the Main Library. The members agreed to meet at the North Avenue Branch Library if available.</p> <p>At the May 25 LBOT meeting, Ms. Carter-Gunter asked Mr. Firestine about how the Marketing was done for the Urban Fiction Experience. Mr. Firestine reported an ad was taken out in the Free Press, advertised on several websites, several social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, NextDoor, etc.), handouts and posters at each library location.</p> <p>Website Newsletter: The RPL@Home has not been used since the Libraries opened back up, but it will restart in the late July timeframe. Once the layout and timeline is complete, staff will also make some hard copies to have available.</p> <p>Mr. Firestine passed out the One Pager thank you sheet, which was requested from May 25 meeting. This document will assist LBOT members when they reach out to their respective Councilmembers to thank them for all of the support given to the Library during the Budget workshops. It also displayed the new operation hours of the Main Library and the Branches.</p> <p>Mr. Firestine will provide an update on the Master Plan Conceptual Design to all LBOT, Foundation, and Friend members on June 29 at 4:00P—All are welcome to attend.</p>



BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS	
<b>Chair Report</b>  <b><u>William Yates</u></b>	<p>Chair Yates followed up on his written report from the May 25 meeting when he was absent. He mentioned there was some confusion on not getting information and was not positive on the Master Plan from members of the Foundation. Chair Yates stressed that Mr. Firestine did a fine job with updating everyone.</p> <p>Chair Yates clarified the role of the Foundation Board is to support the Library and is a fundraising organization to support the mission that the LBOT decides on and moves forward with. He also mentioned the Foundation members can support the mission even though they do not agree with it, or they can move over for those who will support the LBOT mission. The Foundation Board is not a governing board. Vice Chair Peterson added that Mr. Firestine's focus should be on working with the City to get the money as fast as possible to get going. She also added William Yates, Ruth DeBoer, and John Ulmschneider should run interference when disagreements or disgruntle comments are made regarding the Master Plan Conceptual Design, not Mr. Firestine.</p> <p>Chair Yates also clarified the City is in the middle of Collection Bargaining. He wanted to make it clear that this was not within purview of the LBOT. It is a City/HR function and there is nothing for the LBOT to be involved with.</p> <p>On an added note, Chair Yates mentioned the LBOT focus should be on advocacy, funding for the Conceptual Design/Master Plan, programs for the schools, Early Literacy, and move away from the day-to-day operations of the Library.</p>
BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)	
<b>Finance Chair</b>  <b><u>Scott Firestine</u></b> <b><u>Garrett Sawyer</u></b>	<p>Mr. Firestine reported the fiscal year ends June 30, 2022. Requisitions stopped mid-May. Purchase Orders are being paid out by the end of the fiscal year. Operations and personnel spending are looking good. Overall RPL is at 97.4% spending the budget, where it should be. Right on target. Mr. Firestine pointed out the Personnel Budget is high due to there being two more pay cycles and pay raises and cost of benefits.</p> <p>He also mentioned a concern with the Book Budget. We were behind with the ordering, but caught back up and are on track. The Operation Budget is on track and heading into the new fiscal year in a positive direction.</p> <p>Still waiting on the Waiver response at the state level.</p>
<b>Facilities Chair</b>  <b><u>Janet Woody</u></b> <b><u>Gail Zwirner</u></b> <b><u>Scott Firestine</u></b>	<p>Ms. Woody reported still in the process of waiting on the Master Plan document. It was decided not to continue to call the document The Master Plan, but to start calling the document Conceptual Design for Renovation of the Main Library.</p> <p>Ms. Woody noted there was a 2009 renovation plan where it mentioned the Main Library and the needs to renovate the building. The Conceptual Design for Renovation of the Main Library is not a new process. It came from that 2009 document.</p>
<b>Governance Chair</b> <b><u>Emily Altman</u></b>	<p>Ms. Altman announced Brent Graves was appointed to his first full term, to start July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2026, after completing a partial term.</p> <p><b><u>Elections:</u></b>  Motion to reappoint William Yates as Chair of the LBOT to serve a 2 year term, starting July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2024.  <b><i>Motion: Emily Altman, Second by: Garrett Sawyer</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>AYES: <u>9</u>      NOES: <u>0</u>      ABSTAIN: <u>0</u>    Approved Unanimously.</i></b></p>

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)	
<b>Governance Chair (Continued)</b>  <u>Emily Altman</u>	<b><u>Elections:</u></b> Motion to appoint Sheron Carter-Gunter as Vice Chair of the LBOT to serve a 2 year term, starting July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2024. <i>Motion: Emily Altman, Second by: Gail Zwirner</i>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>AYES: <u>9</u>      NOES: <u>0</u>      ABSTAIN: <u>0</u>    Approved Unanimously.</i></p>
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
<p>Ms. Peterson reported wrapping up this years' budget advocacy with LBOT members reaching out to their respective Councilmembers to thank them for their support using the One Pager Mr. Firestine provided (not ask for money). Continue to build on the relationship. Chair Yates also suggested not bringing up the Conceptual Design of the Main Library and to just focus on the budget support and what RPL is going to do with the money that was allocated.</p>	
NEW BUSINESS	
<p>Ms. Peterson led a discussion on Early Literacy. She put a team together, which included Dr. Joan Rhodes, Chairperson of VCU's Reading and Early Education Department, Dr. Cynthia Hutchinson, Director of VCU's Literacy Institute/Excel, and Dr. Tamilah Richardson, Director of Early Childhood Learning of the Virginia Department of Education. This team will work with RPL Youth Services Librarian Beth Morris on programs for early literacy for all children in the City of Richmond to be prepared to enter school with the skills necessary for success.</p> <p>Ms. Peterson is leading three facets of Early Literacy. First, working with the experts above. Second, identifying libraries with strong early literacy programming, which Mr. Firestine will be exploring libraries while attending the ALA conference with the same focus. Mr. Firestine will also be following up with the Martin Luther King Library in Washing, DC. Third, Ms. Peterson will be looking at partners with early literacy goals to have a well-rounded resource guide for partners and parents to have a resource guide in early education. Once Ms. Peterson has gathered more information, she will report back to the LBOT members in 3-4 months.</p>	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14pm by unanimous consensus from the members that were present in the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2022, for a Regular Monthly Meeting at the North Avenue Branch Library located at 2901 North Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23222, if the meeting room is available. Ms. Pack will confirm meeting room location with the members.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. William Chair

Recorder: Gianna Pack, CAP  
Senior Executive Assistant

## Director's Report

July 2022

### Director Activities:

Jul 4	Libraries Closed – 4th of July Holiday
Jul 5	City Council Special Meeting – Virtual
Jul 7	Toured the Ginter House
Jul 11	RPL Master Plan UDC Regroup Meeting with Architect – Virtual
Jul 12	VMHC Award Reception – Receive Grant
Jul 14	Education and Human Services Standing Committee – Virtual
Jul 18	City Council – Special Meeting – Virtual
Jul 18	RPL Conceptual Design Document Meeting – Main Library
Jul 19-20	Strategy Alignment/Team Development Retreat – Main Library
Jul 21	Literacy Coalition Meeting – The Station; The Rails
Jul 21	Meet with John Bryan to Discuss the James River Book – Main Library
Jul 25	City Council Informal and Council Meetings – City Hall

### Hiring Update:

- July 2022 Hiring Update:
  - 0046 FTE Library Technician Senior for Broad Rock Branch – In Progress for Posting: 07/21/2022
  - 0175 PTE Library Associate for Broad Rock Branch – In Progress: 07/11/2022
  - 0085 PTE Library Technician for Broad Rock Branch – In Progress: 07/11/2022
  - 0177 PTE Library Technician for Broad Rock Branch – In Progress: 07/11/2022
  - 0178 PTE Library Technician for Broad Rock Branch – In Progress: 07/11/2022
  - 0079 FTE Library/Community Services Manager – Offer in Progress: 07/21/2022
- North Avenue Branch Library welcomes (0072) FTE Library Associate Craig Gill-Walker on July 18, 2022
- Westover Hills Branch Library/Community Services Manager Tori Nunnally resigned effective July 8, 2022.
- Broad Rock Branch Library Technician, Senior David Fahey resigned effective July 15, 2022.
- Main Library welcomes Ben Himmelfarb (0096) FTE Library/Community Services Manager effective July 30, 2022
- Hull Street Branch welcomes Meldon Jenkins-Jones (0101) FTE Library/Community Services Manager effective July 30, 2022

**VCU Common Book:** The VCU Common Book for 2022 – 2023 is *The Organ Thieves: The Shocking Story of the First Heart Transplant in the Segregated South* by Chip Jones. The Richmond Public Library (RPL) Foundation funded the purchase of 500 copies for RPL, which will be given away for free to any community members who request them. The books can be used by individuals or book groups (people can come claim more than one book).

Library/Community Services Manager Ben Himmelfarb is preparing and sending to every branch a box of books that have an RPLF sticker on the back and a Discussion Guide pamphlet inserted in the front, as well as flyers for public programs related to the Common Book that will be held in September and October 2022.

Copies of *The Organ Thieves* book and flyers will be displayed starting August 1 at all RPL locations. The VCU Common Book website is <https://commonbook.vcu.edu/>.

CIRCULATION FY22														
LOCATION	FY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
Belmont	FY19	8,429	8,074	8,103	7,888	7,303	6,144	7,099	6,630	8,077	6,712	6,436	7,110	88,005
	FY20	7,451	7,560	7,207	7,097	5,795	5,963	6,495	6,449	3,028	11	6	1,044	58,106
	FY21	4,292	4,463	3,675	3,715	3,895	3,662	3,663	3,576	3,888	3,924	5,400	6,455	50,608
	FY22	10,105	7,973	7,528	7,249	7,173	6,764	7,283	7,235	7,934	7,118	7,967	7,424	91,753
Broad Rock	FY19	3,910	3,609	2,671	3,217	2,505	2,086	2,488	2,801	2,843	2,389	2,419	3,119	34,057
	FY20	3,652	3,036	2,939	2,998	2,323	2,389	2,331	2,347	1,166	5	10	291	23,487
	FY21	1,570	1,791	1,373	1,277	1,254	1,203	1,115	913	1,096	954	979	1,403	14,928
	FY22	2,105	2,733	2,315	2,073	1,945	1,579	1,545	1,502	1,667	1,624	1,641	1,581	22,310
East End	FY19	2,996	2,648	2,614	2,820	2,587	2,176	2,915	2,451	2,249	2,046	2,087	2,534	30,123
	FY20	2,696	2,663	2,476	2,574	2,020	2,240	2,219	2,431	1,061	15	0	381	20,776
	FY21	1,431	1,738	1,493	1,493	1,599	1,621	1,673	1,427	1,575	1,539	1768	2,317	19,674
	FY22	2,519	2,799	3,073	3,039	3,149	2,993	3,230	2,928	2,992	2,897	3061	2,830	35,510
Ginter Park	FY19	5,211	5,163	4,864	4,278	3,762	2,812	3,864	3,653	4,408	3,384	4,174	4,381	49,954
	FY20	4,397	4,580	4,030	3,823	3,332	3,021	3,599	3,327	1,690	0	0	736	32,535
	FY21	2,829	3,198	2,523	2,227	1,992	1,836	1,906	2,019	2,278	2380	2953	3,965	30,106
	FY22	4,175	4,452	4,292	3,990	3,754	3,074	3,671	3,585	4,340	3877	4015	4,821	48,046
Hull Street	FY19	2,010	2,305	3,323	1,844	1,838	1,852	2,287	1,870	1,854	1,828	1,976	2,026	25,013
	FY20	3,082	1,912	2,065	2,508	2,128	2,012	2,012	1,846	1,020	6	14	377	18,982
	FY21	873	1,231	916	1,231	1,135	1,108	1,254	825	1,368	1,432	1,555	1,481	14,409
	FY22	1,884	2,141	1,986	2,144	2,014	2,475	2,397	2,324	2,634	2,361	2,065	2,046	26,471
Main	FY19	8,719	8,877	8,655	9,774	9,099	8,202	9,418	8,749	9,621	9,177	8,795	9,300	108,386
	FY20	10,098	9,666	8,766	9,068	7,683	7,728	8,141	8,884	4,104	1,067	40	916	76,161
	FY21	4,804	4,167	3,259	3,252	3,164	3,266	2,909	2,750	3,071	3,714	4,652	5,589	44,597
	FY22	6,925	7,554	6,708	6,748	6,810	6,026	6,904	7,269	8,068	6,675	6,442	6,757	82,886

CIRCULATION FY22 (CONTINUED)														
LOCATION	FY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
North Avenue	FY19	2,979	2,493	2,709	2,918	2,390	2,059	2,604	2,264	2,367	2,887	2,243	2,657	30,570
	FY20	2,962	2,210	2,462	2,197	1,689	1,925	2,731	1,722	865	91	15	170	19,039
	FY21	692	820	695	526	750	891	689	566	870	1,345	2,007	1,878	11,729
	FY22	2,003	2,229	2,141	2,241	2,041	1,724	1,755	1,850	2,256	1,825	1,783	1,706	23,554
West End	FY19	11,660	11,438	10,076	10,172	8,539	7,313	9,145	7,434	9,007	8,380	8,746	9,681	111,591
	FY20	11,712	10,702	9,142	8,743	8,067	8,072	9,006	9,183	4,541	80	127	1,897	81,272
	FY21	6,888	6,701	5,819	5,107	5,039	5,639	5,192	4,873	5,769	6,685	9,084	10,859	77,655
	FY22	12,036	12,125	11,087	10,998	9,998	9,073	10,369	10,305	11,090	10,253	11,113	12,224	130,671
Westover Hills	FY19	8,071	7,787	7,566	7,102	6,120	5,364	7,072	6,155	6,511	6,120	5,793	6,435	80,096
	FY20	7,419	7,175	5,888	6,137	5,631	5,376	6,043	6,342	2,946	70	8	1,561	54,596
	FY21	5,425	6,884	5,627	5,513	4,323	4,315	4,074	4,151	4,815	4,246	4,702	6,244	60,319
	FY22	7,604	8,163	7,214	8,653	7,649	6,836	7,650	6,983	7,908	7,144	7,833	7,803	91,440
E-Content	FY19	5,985	6,407	5,683	5,581	5,278	5,874	6,375	5,874	6,532	6,132	6,424	6,798	72,943
	FY20	7,526	7,283	6,250	5,145	4,926	5,365	6,125	5,380	6,643	9,558	11,344	10,649	86,194
	FY21	12,811	12,564	11,976	11,413	10,990	13,742	14,912	15,034	15,990	12,429	12,782	12,108	156,751
	FY22	12,630	13,139	11,175	10,431	11,019	11,061	13,230	11,146	11,981	12,939	14,980	14,655	148,386
TOTALS	FY19	59,970	58,801	56,264	55,594	49,421	43,882	53,267	47,881	53,469	49,055	49,093	54,041	630,738
	FY20	60,995	56,787	51,225	50,290	43,594	44,091	48,702	47,911	27,064	10,903	11,564	18,022	471,148
	FY21	41,615	43,557	37,356	35,754	34,141	37,283	37,387	36,134	40,720	38,648	45,882	52,299	480,776
	FY22	61,986	63,308	57,519	57,566	55,552	51,605	58,034	55,127	60,870	56,713	60,900	61,847	701,027

PROGRAMS FY2022	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	TOTAL FY22	TOTAL FY21
<b>Belmont</b>														
Adult Programs	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	7	7	23	1
Adult Attend	0	4	4	4	4	0	0	0	6	13	175	29	239	38
Young Adult Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Programs	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	1
Juvenile Attend	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7	0	23	0
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Broad Rock</b>														
Adult Programs	2	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	17	1
Adult Attend	68	51	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	130	53
Young Adult Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0
Juvenile Programs	4	1	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	8	8	5	35	9
Juvenile Attend	55	6	14	12	3	0	0	0	0	50	29	38	207	84
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>East End</b>														
Adult Programs	0	6	5	0	14	7	2	8	11	4	5	8	70	2
Adult Attend	0	102	34	0	114	30	35	34	73	70	42	76	610	35
Young Adult Programs	4	5	2	2	3	4	3	3	4	6	6	4	46	3
Young Adult Attend	37	71	18	12	49	54	41	45	53	35	37	17	469	10
Juvenile Programs	7	5	4	3	4	5	5	4	7	9	4	11	68	5
Juvenile Attend	40	104	43	46	24	40	49	58	86	150	78	260	978	23
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>PROGRAMS FY2022 (CONTINUED)</b>	<b>Jul-21</b>	<b>Aug-21</b>	<b>Sep-21</b>	<b>Oct-21</b>	<b>Nov-21</b>	<b>Dec-21</b>	<b>Jan-22</b>	<b>Feb-22</b>	<b>Mar-22</b>	<b>Apr-22</b>	<b>May-22</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>TOTAL FY22</b>	<b>TOTAL FY21</b>
<b>Ginter Park</b>														
Adult Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	6	0
Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	7	3	15	0
Young Adult Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Programs	5	3	2	3	2	1	4	0	0	8	4	4	36	2
Juvenile Attend	20	0	2	3	6	2	15	0	0	22	5	14	89	8
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Hull Street</b>														
Adult Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	9	12	0
Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	46	48	0
Young Adult Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Programs	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	15	16
Juvenile Attend	21	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	11	22	99	137
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Main</b>														
Adult Programs	5	6	10	7	6	6	3	5	11	4	7	5	75	6
Adult Attend	652	53	382	197	234	119	155	251	321	50	381	240	3,035	34
Young Adult Programs	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	3	3	2	1	1	17	2
Young Adult Attend	4	0	5	7	2	0	4	12	4	56	5	10	109	27
Juvenile Programs	3	5	9	13	11	12	7	16	0	6	15	20	117	2
Juvenile Attend	29	81	81	145	153	242	110	238	0	72	149	357	1,657	17
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>4,801</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>PROGRAMS FY2022 (CONTINUED)</b>	<b>Jul-21</b>	<b>Aug-21</b>	<b>Sep-21</b>	<b>Oct-21</b>	<b>Nov-21</b>	<b>Dec-21</b>	<b>Jan-22</b>	<b>Feb-22</b>	<b>Mar-22</b>	<b>Apr-22</b>	<b>May-22</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>TOTAL FY22</b>	<b>TOTAL FY21</b>
<b>North Avenue</b>														
Adult Programs	6	4	5	4	4	4	3	4	3	11	6	2	56	8
Adult Attend	25	29	45	115	55	268	8	36	53	47	59	26	766	273
Young Adult Programs	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	8	17
Young Adult Attend	8	6	20	12	6	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	72	102
Juvenile Programs	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	4	15	0
Juvenile Attend	25	0	45	50	22	7	0	24	0	0	45	51	269	0
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>West End</b>														
Adult Programs	1	3	1	3	5	3	0	0	1	2	5	6	30	7
Adult Attend	8	59	20	19	34	12	0	0	10	18	20	89	289	51
Young Adult Programs	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1
Young Adult Attend	7	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	26	8
Juvenile Programs	11	9	11	10	9	9	11	12	12	12	11	11	128	10
Juvenile Attend	133	147	120	110	46	12	47	74	50	98	116	161	1,114	215
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>274</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Westover Hills</b>														
Adult Programs	1	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	4	2	7	32	2
Adult Attend	3	10	25	8	28	3	3	23	11	50	11	62	237	11
Young Adult Programs	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	7	0
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	15	15	15	6	12	0	2	0	22	87	0
Juvenile Programs	3	5	3	4	4	6	2	2	3	12	11	13	68	5
Juvenile Attend	71	248	143	131	134	268	61	36	92	187	240	342	1,953	386
<b>Total Attend</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>397</b>
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Grand Total Attend</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>1,881</b>	<b>12,525</b>	<b>1,512</b>
<b>Grand Total Programs</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>100</b>



<b>DOOR COUNT FY2022</b>	<b>Jul-21</b>	<b>Aug-21</b>	<b>Sep-21</b>	<b>Oct-21</b>	<b>Nov-21</b>	<b>Dec-21</b>	<b>Jan-22</b>	<b>Feb-22</b>	<b>Mar-22</b>	<b>Apr-22</b>	<b>May-22</b>	<b>Jun-22</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Belmont	3,415	3,785	3,820	3,494	3,295	3,981	3,703	3,454	4,171	3,967	4,097	4,052	45,234
Broad Rock	2,721	3,917	2,834	2,868	2,101	1,871	1,869	2,569	3,852	2,606	2,890	2,859	32,957
East End	2,719	2,531	2,583	2,737	2,319	2,357	2,440	2,438	3,018	3,034	2,935	3,279	32,390
Ginter Park	2,237	2,820	2,985	2,875	2,407	3,005	3,210	3,302	3,867	3,570	3,540	3,919	37,737
Hull Street	2,636	2,351	2,439	2,421	2,395	2,690	2,927	3,087	3,885	4,446	4,358	3,401	37,036
Main	6,480	7,114	6,412	6,537	6,328	6,333	5,647	6,555	8,136	8,113	6,554	7,471	81,680
North Avenue	3,104	3,228	2,782	3,680	5,573	6,248	5,857	3,341	3,999	3,193	3,613	7,438	52,056
West End	3,040	2,373	2,751	2,645	2,301	2,188	2,468	2,414	2,893	2,680	2,670	3,364	31,787
Westover Hills	4,333	4,500	6,096	7,771	7,800	7,043	8,878	4,029	3,837	6,550	6,721	10,039	77,597
<b>TOTALS FY22:</b>	30,685	32,619	32,702	35,028	34,519	35,716	36,999	31,189	37,658	38,159	37,378	45,822	<b>428,474</b>
<b>TOTALS FY21:</b>	15,077	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,689	15,223	23,380	<b>74,369</b>
<b>TOTALS FY20:</b>	<b>81,759</b>	<b>79,026</b>	<b>71,250</b>	<b>70,158</b>	<b>57,245</b>	<b>2,729</b>	<b>62,154</b>	<b>64,890</b>	<b>30,917</b>	-	-	-	<b>570,128</b>

NOTE(S): Westover Hills Branch Library received a new Door Counter in October 2021. Numbers are skewed.

COVID-19 Impact: Door Count is specific only to when libraries are open to the public. RPL reopened to the public on April 5, 2021 moving towards expanding services.

COMPUTER USE FY2022	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	TOTAL
Belmont Workstation	455	488	603	539	474	546	592	518	677	654	611	656	6,813
WIFI	310	18	222	395	249	252	237	225	311	352	495	574	3,640
Broad Rock Workstation	550	316	591	713	567	469	539	531	738	655	691	614	6,974
WIFI	189	-	201	238	102	116	178	89	170	280	258	329	2,150
East End Workstation	576	599	0*	775	415	466	593	561	669	718	661	720	6,753
WIFI	158	-	175	272	249	253	315	221	244	336	425	515	3,163
Ginter Park Workstation	425	433	470	464	368	361	440	516	559	491	470	537	5,534
WIFI	285	190	136	216	208	187	268	196	302	407	495	509	3,399
Hull Street Workstation	437	549	452	588	441	509	478	449	521	544	519	462	5,949
WIFI	262	241	232	323	182	202	310	138	219	325	337	524	3,295
Main Workstation	1,125	1,286	1,182	1,355	1,085	1,072	1,152	1,132	1,343	1,263	1,270	1,348	14,613
WIFI	1,081	1,672	959	1,508	1,382	1,212	1,708	1,298	1,272	1,861	1,973	2,417	18,343
North Avenue Workstation	526	666	525	559	468	444	444	506	705	668	622	565	6,698
WIFI	139	-	288	456	258	318	284	174	142	265	304	365	2,993
West End Workstation	336	326	366	354	289	220	327	292	350	336	344	334	3,874
WIFI	219	8	287	607	318	306	208	217	310	326	342	463	3,611
Westover Hills Workstation	461	507	534	513	408	397	418	474	574	557	540	516	5,899
WIFI	334	154	261	317	243	253	218	509	240	366	462	449	3,806
<b>TOTALS FY22:</b>	<b>7,868</b>	<b>7,453</b>	<b>7,484</b>	<b>10,192</b>	<b>7,706</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>8,709</b>	<b>8,046</b>	<b>9,346</b>	<b>10,404</b>	<b>10,819</b>	<b>11,897</b>	<b>107,507</b>
TOTALS FY21:	6,529	1,836	2,417	2,660	2,907	2,853	2,116	1,842	2,413	3,544	4,354	6,353	39,824
TOTALS FY20:	28,117	28,674	26,036	27,447	21,130	22,167	25,353	25,300	12,723	1,500	792	1,612	220,851

NOTE(S): April 2022 Report: North Avenue Branch Library' workstation stats were unavailable.

September 2021 Report: East End Branch Library's computer was down and could not get obtain stats.

August 2021 Report: Broad Rock, East End, and North Avenue Branches were effected by a glitch in the DIT system where WIFI totals could not be captured in this report.

TECHNICAL SERVICES - ITEMS BY LOCATION										
FY2022	Belmont	Broad Rock	East End	Ginter Park	Hull Street	MAIN	North Avenue	West End	Westover Hills	OverDrive
Jul-21	229	124	179	139	132	392	125	245	189	80
Aug-21	263	172	151	156	142	297	131	327	221	223
Sep-21	193	120	110	102	107	262	84	228	157	75
Oct-21	110	66	83	69	98	182	64	145	89	322
Nov-21	139	78	87	77	85	183	67	175	90	191
Dec-21	272	163	162	172	145	282	137	286	231	634
Jan-22	198	174	116	145	96	198	115	292	187	55
Feb-22	181	165	123	134	116	333	99	268	189	5
Mar-22	126	97	78	86	76	281	71	196	153	285
Apr-22	113	81	75	73	53	274	89	153	91	2,486
May-22	141	116	88	72	88	181	78	167	110	444
Jun-22	310	262	235	221	228	607	215	348	280	587
Branch Total FY22:	2,275	1,618	1,487	1,446	1,366	3,472	1,275	2,830	1,987	5,387
Branch Total FY21:	2,800	1,659	1,765	1,822	1,466	4,525	1,443	3,393	2,377	3,156
Average:	190	135	124	121	114	289	106	236	166	449

NEW PATRON CARDS													
FY2022	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
Belmont	114	134	99	82	71	76	118	90	71	79	84	105	1,123
Broad Rock	45	61	52	54	61	92	34	52	58	62	51	70	692
East End	47	48	61	100	49	32	61	50	50	62	49	65	674
Ginter Park	28	37	41	35	13	21	29	38	25	45	29	58	399
Hull Street	70	60	48	65	53	42	61	60	55	48	55	52	669
Main	217	237	240	541	392	162	237	149	158	148	157	227	2,865
North Avenue	63	50	48	48	29	30	26	32	58	36	58	45	523
West End	75	85	72	82	34	52	55	52	55	45	63	87	757
Westover Hills	79	78	84	95	70	47	70	64	60	80	71	72	870
Online Registration E-Card	317	428	319	365	300	325	518	397	389	352	400	389	4,499
Total FY22:	1,055	1,218	1,064	1,467	1,072	879	1,209	984	979	957	1,017	1,170	13,071
Total FY21:	648	464	717	455	392	423	395	420	432	594	758	988	6,686

Richmond Public Library  
FY22 Operating Budget  
as of June 30, 2022

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	Budget	Actual and Encumbered 30-Jun-22	% Spent	Balance Available 30-Jun-22
60000	SALARIES - FULL TIME	\$ 3,081,366	\$ 2,852,765	92.6%	\$ 228,601
61000	SALARIES - PART TIME	\$ 177,086	\$ 134,571	76.0%	\$ 42,515
62000	SALARIES - TEMPORARY	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,210	0.0%	\$ (1,210)
63000	FICA	\$ 185,446	\$ 189,565	102.2%	\$ (4,119)
63001	RET CON RSRs	\$ 653,698	\$ 729,508	111.6%	\$ (75,810)
63002	MEDCARE FICA	\$ 43,370	\$ 44,334	102.2%	\$ (963)
63003	GROUP LIFE	\$ 17,471	\$ 17,992	103.0%	\$ (521)
63006	H/C ACT TEMP	\$ 589,620	\$ 546,941	92.8%	\$ 42,679
63008	STATE UNEMPLOYMENT	\$ -	\$ 914	0.0%	\$ (914)
63011	HEALTH SAVINGS	\$ -	\$ 6,188	0.0%	\$ (6,188)
64104	EDUCATION PAY	\$ -	\$ 21,960	0.0%	\$ (21,960)
64105	BONUS PAY	\$ 252,336	\$ 167,040	0.0%	\$ 85,296
64110	VRIP INCENTIVE	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 5,010,393</b>	<b>\$ 4,722,987</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>\$ 287,406</b>
71141	BOOKS	\$ 519,105	\$ 506,888	97.6%	\$ 12,217
71141	DATABASES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71142	MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS	\$ 2,456	\$ 600	24.4%	\$ 1,856
72122	MAGS & NEWSPAPER	\$ 29,277	\$ 7,047	24.1%	\$ 22,230
<b>Collection Development</b>		<b>\$ 550,838</b>	<b>\$ 514,536</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>\$ 36,302</b>
70131	ADVERTISING	\$ 2,297	\$ 2,004	87.2%	\$ 293
70161	PLANNING MGMT SERVICES	\$ 223,055	\$ 256,659	115.1%	\$ (33,604)
70218	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$ 2,650	\$ 1,520	57.4%	\$ 1,130
70412	TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ 1,234	0.0%	\$ (1,234)
70311	PRINTED SUPPLIES	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 3,000
70413	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE	\$ 2,263	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 2,263
70551	SECURITY	\$ 446,373	\$ 283,244	63.5%	\$ 163,130
70552	CONTRACT AND TEMP PERSONNEL	\$ 22,000	\$ 41,777	189.9%	\$ (19,777)
71012	OFFICE STATIONARY SUPPLIES	\$ 3,047	\$ 2,669	87.6%	\$ 378
71016	ADVERTISING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71143	LIBRARY OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 19,220	\$ 6,789	35.3%	\$ 12,431
72113	POSTAGE	\$ 4,456	\$ 341	7.7%	\$ 4,115
72121	CONFERENCES & CON	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
72123	MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 677	\$ 8,471	1251.3%	\$ (7,794)
72124	TRAINING	\$ 297	\$ 20	6.7%	\$ 277
72131	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	\$ 25,662	\$ 11,599	45.2%	\$ 14,063
72153	EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,200	\$ 4,356	0.0%	\$ 7,844
73104	BANK FEES	\$ -	\$ 6,416	0.0%	\$ (6,416)
76119	PAGERS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
76652	PAPER PRODUCTS	\$ -	\$ 136	0.0%	\$ (136)
77103	FUEL-D/O VEHICLE	\$ 1,921	\$ 1,915	99.7%	\$ 6
77104	VEHICLE MONTHLY STANDING	\$ 493	\$ 493	100.1%	\$ (0)
77201	INTERNAL PRINTING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77501	DIT CHARGES	\$ -	\$ 3,130	0.0%	\$ (3,130)
80001	DEPRECIATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80004	BUILDINGS & STR	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80006	EQUIPMENT & OFFICE MAINTENANCE	\$ 7,160	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 7,160
80007	VEHICLE EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
95002	OPERATING TRANS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
<b>Other Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 776,771</b>	<b>\$ 632,774</b>	<b>81.5%</b>	<b>\$ 143,998</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>\$ 6,338,002</b>	<b>\$ 5,870,296</b>	<b>92.6%</b>	<b>\$ 467,706</b>

June 30, 2022

Richmond Public Library  
Foundation, Friends, Groups and Individual Donations  
FY 2022

Consent Agenda: Deposited Gifts Over \$100 Shown  
as of July 27, 2022

Date of Check	Donor Name	Current Month Amount	Purpose/Location	YTD Account Balance		
				Gift	Foundation	Friends
	<i>No donations this month</i>					
	<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>				
	<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,929.33</b>	<b>Year To Date Total</b>	<b>\$ 370.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,126.98</b>	<b>\$ 11,432.35</b>

[The Richmond Public Library Receives Inaugural Commonwealth History Fund Grant | Richmond \(rva.gov\)](#)  
July 13, 2022

# City News

## Press Releases and Announcements

### **The Richmond Public Library Receives Inaugural Commonwealth History Fund Grant**

It is with great excitement that we announce Richmond Public Library (with partner Richmond Public Library Foundation) is one of 12 inaugural recipients to receive a grant from the Virginia Museum of History & Culture's Commonwealth History Fund. Richmond Public Library has been generously awarded \$30,000.00.

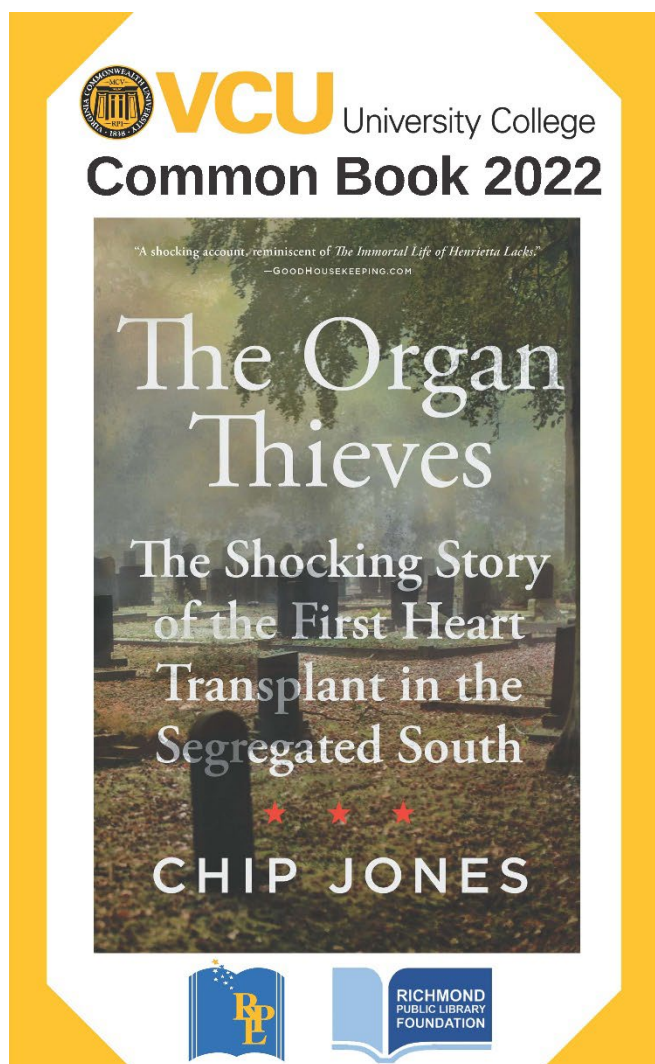
The Commonwealth History Fund is made possible by generous funding from Dominion Energy and is administered in partnership with Virginia's Department of Historic Resources. It was established to provide grants annually to history organizations and projects across the state of Virginia. Key selection criteria include: the significance of the project or resource as well as its impact on its community and the Commonwealth; the emphasis of the project on historically underrepresented topics and communities; as well as the need for funding and the urgency of the project. This year \$402,500 was awarded to 12 organizations, and the VMHC plans to give nearly \$2,000,000 over the first five years.

We are incredibly honored to be one of the 12 compelling projects chosen by the Commonwealth History Fund for its inaugural year. Through this amazing opportunity, we will be able to give back to our communities by implementing a project that will help us to continue telling the story of Virginia and have a lasting impact on future generations.

Richmond Public Library will establish a Community Memory Fellow position within the library. The position will be posted in fall of 2022 and is envisioned as a collector, interpreter, historian, and preservationist who will work closely with other cultural institutions across the City of Richmond. The Fellow's work will include collecting oral histories across neighborhoods, faith communities, school communities, sports, and grassroots civic organizations. The goal is to create one publicly accessible location where one can readily access a diverse, wide interpretation of public history. One will be able to learn, engage, and participate in Richmond history through traveling exhibits, outreach programs, and self-guided research.

Library Director Scott Firestine shared, "With a mission to Inform, Enrich, Empower all of Richmond, we see this position as an investment to broaden the notion of what public history is in Richmond and make that history accessible to everyone from students to scholars."

More information on The Commonwealth History Fund can be found at [VirginiaHistory.org/HistoryFund](https://VirginiaHistory.org/HistoryFund).



**RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
rvalibrary.org

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

<b>September 22, 7:00pm</b> <i>Organ Transplantation &amp; Donation Today</i> Ginter Park Library 1200 Westbrook Ave	<b>September 29, 7:00pm</b> <i>Transplantation, Medical Ethics, and the Pursuit of Equity</i> Main Library 101 E. Franklin St
<b>October 6, 7:00pm</b> <i>Organ Transplantation &amp; Donation Today</i> Broad Rock Library 4820 Old Warwick Rd	<b>October 12, 6:00pm</b> <i>Chip Jones</i> Keynote Address VCU - Singleton Center 922 Park Ave

**FREE BOOKS!**

Copies of *The Organ Thieves* available for you, family, friends or book groups!

Contact Ben Himmelfarb  
804-646-2559 or  
benjamin.himmelfarb@rva.gov



## Myth v. Fact: Organ Donation & Transplantation

**MYTH:** If emergency room doctors know I am a donor, they won't try to save my life.

**FACT:** If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. The doctors who work to save your life are not the same doctors involved with organ donation. It is only after every attempt has been made to save your life that donation will be discussed.

**MYTH:** Your financial or celebrity status is as important as your medical status.

**FACT:** The organ allocation and distribution system is blind to wealth or social status. The length of time it takes to receive a transplant is influenced by a variety of factors including location, severity of illness, physical characteristics (blood type, weight, genetic typing, and size) and length of time on the waiting list. Factors such as ethnicity, gender, age, income or celebrity status are never considered.

**MYTH:** They might take my organs before I am really dead.

**FACT:** Organ donation is only accepted following the declaration of death by a doctor not involved in transplantation. In order to donate organs, a patient must be declared dead. Using specific medical criteria, a physician can confirm brain death.

**MYTH:** It is in my will that I want to be a donor, so I don't have to tell my family about my wishes.

**FACT:** Have a discussion with your family so they're aware of your wishes, and you should electronically register as an organ donor. You can sign up as an organ donor at [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org), at your local DMV, or Donate Life America (DLA). You may register at your local DMV (state registration) or at DLA (national registration).

Information provided by United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). Additional information available at [unos.org](http://unos.org)

## Public Programs Fall 2022

**September 22, 7:00pm**  
Organ Transplantation & Donation Today  
Ginter Park Library  
1200 Westbrook Avenue

**September 29, 7:00pm**  
Transplantation, Medical Ethics,  
and the Pursuit of Equity  
Main Library  
101 E. Franklin Street

**October 6, 7:00pm**  
Organ Transplantation & Donation Today  
Broad Rock Library  
4820 Old Warwick Road

**October 12, 6:00pm**  
Chip Jones Keynote Address  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Singleton Center  
922 Park Avenue

### GET IN TOUCH

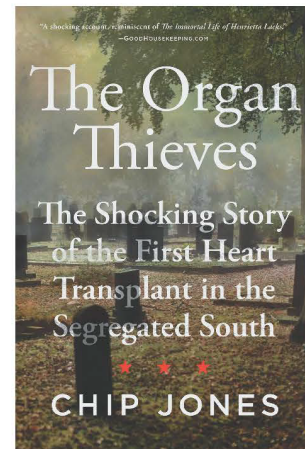
**VCU:** Carver Weakley  
[weakleyac@vcu.edu](mailto:weakleyac@vcu.edu)  
804-827-0838

**RPL:** Ben Himmelfarb  
[benjamin.himmelfarb@rva.gov](mailto:benjamin.himmelfarb@rva.gov)  
804-646-2559

**UNOS:** Bernadette Jay  
[bernadette.jay@unos.org](mailto:bernadette.jay@unos.org)  
804-782-4865

## Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

### Common Book 2022



Presented by



**UNOS**

[rvalibrary.org](http://rvalibrary.org)

## Whose Stories? Whose Voices? by Professor Stephanie Rizzi (VCU Department of Focused Inquiry)

I must admit that when I learned that *The Organ Thieves* would be the VCU Common Book selection for Fall 2022, my feelings were mixed. On the one hand, it is important that stories like these are unearthed and discussed, on the other, to those of us with lived experience, having our historical trauma splayed out before audiences who can never know what being Black in America is truly like, can be a kind of trauma all on its own.

I am a third generation Richmonder. My grandparents moved to Church Hill in 1958 during the height of white flight. Both of my parents were life-long Church Hill residents. I was born at MCV just a year after the Tucker transplant, and my grandmother attended the nursing school at St. Phillips, the segregated Black hospital where many of Drs. Hume and Lower's "experiments" were conducted. I grew up in a community of people who were extremely skeptical of the American medical system and saw MCV as a place where Black people would enter and often never return. My grandmother spent time perfecting all sorts of tinctures and potions meant to cure our ailments, and any Black person will tell you that mercurochrome was thought to cure virtually everything. So suspicious of institutional medical care was my grandmother that she pulled her own teeth when they began to bother her.

The lack of trust that Black people have of the healthcare system is legitimized by real life horrors: the Tuskegee experiment, the Indiana radiation experiments, J. Marion Sims and his horrific gynecology research are all prominent examples of such horrors. My people seem to carry in their DNA deep memories of ancestral cruelty borne by white people with scalpels. What happened to Bruce Tucker is just one of many stories that get passed on to younger generations. Often the details are lost, but the message is always clear—we cannot trust the white medical system. The fear and mistrust continue today with good reason. Black Americans represent only about 5 percent of the nation's EMTs, Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy related cause than white women, and there is evidence that fully half of white medical trainees

believe such myths as Black people have thicker skin or less sensitive nerve endings than white people. It is difficult to express just how restricting and powerless it feels to live in a country where finding basic healthcare can literally feel like walking through a minefield.

It is because of this lived experience that I must express some concern over the fact that those who have the power and privilege to write about and profit from the telling of our stories do not have to navigate the condition of living in a country where their bodies are considered less worthy of care. As a journalist who once worked for *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, the very publication that celebrated the heart transplant, Mr. Jones comes from a place of privilege. He has taken it upon himself to tell the story that Bruce Tucker's own family doesn't want to share. That gives me pause.

Do I believe these stories need be told? Of course I do, but I also dream of a day when the people who live them get to use their own authentic voices to communicate their experiences, when the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized have the support and opportunity to benefit from the telling of their stories, when their voices aren't translated through the lens of privilege. As a Black professor, I must admit to being exhausted by teaching my people's trauma second hand.

As my colleague, Professor Troy Martin, Department of Focused Inquiry, stated: "When studying ethnographic work about marginalized people, teachers and students are encouraged to examine critically the production of knowledge (Who gets to speak for whom? What are the limitations?). We must also be careful not to assume that we can understand a diverse people or a complex issue just because we've examined one piece of research. Ongoing discussion and conversation on how we're internalizing and interpreting these stories may mitigate against 'consuming the Other' or reducing lived experience into spectacle."

As we embark upon the journey of reading and analyzing *The Organ Thieves*, let us not forget the humanity of Bruce Tucker and his family or the cultural conditions that enabled what happened to them and that continue to trouble our nation's healthcare system. Let us also remember that for readers of this book, many of whom will be learning of this for the first time, having their ancestral trauma on display for dissection and study may prove deeply troubling.

**Whether they wish to speak or not, listen to them.**

## Discussion Questions

1. Was this the first time you learned about Bruce Tucker? If not, what did you know before reading the book?
2. How did you think organ donation and transplantation worked before you read *The Organ Thieves*? What do you know about how it works now?
3. What do you make of the Tucker Family's decision not to revisit this story publicly?
4. Have you had experiences where some aspect of your identity or presentation affected your medical care or lack of care?
5. Did you have knowledge of MCV's record and reputation among Black Richmonders? How did you come to that knowledge?
6. What does the history of MCV and the people who worked there reveal about how racial hierarchies were established and maintained in Richmond?
7. Do you have any personal (or friends/family) experience with organ donation or transplantation that you are willing to share about?
8. How does *who* is telling us history and *how* they are telling it effect our understanding of history?

**Free copies of *The Organ Thieves* are available upon request.  
Contact Ben Himmelfarb, RPL  
804-646-2559 or  
benjamin.himmelfarb@rva.gov**



Richmond Public Library  
rvalibrary.org



The Online Newsletter is back....If you did not see it in your email, Please check your SPAM folder.

[View Online](#)



July 18, 2022

## Long(er) Summer Days

Summer is here, and that means long, hot days; our Summer Reading Program; and fun in the sun for all ages! But if the heat gets to be a bit too much for you, we have great news: you can now spend even longer (in the A/C) at all Richmond Public Library locations! Effective July 5th, every location has added evening hours, in order to better serve our communities.

One way you might use these new hours is to come check out our hottest titles to add to your reading log for our Summer Reading Program. Everyone who reads for 15 minutes a day, at least 30 days over the summer, will receive a special cinch bag as a prize; anyone

who reads for 50 days over the summer will be entered to win a \$100 Grand Prize! It's never been easier to participate, so get started today!

And since summer is the season for making memories, it's the perfect time for us to announce that we have been awarded a major grant to establish a Community Memory Fellow position from the Virginia History and Culture Museum. This person will help create a central repository for oral histories that capture lived experiences and moments in time from different neighborhoods and communities across Richmond.

So as summer heats up, come cool down with a good book at any one of our nine locations! We can't wait to see you, day or night!

## New Hours at All Locations

If you've been waiting for us to resume our evening hours, that day has arrived! Effective July 5th, all locations are open until 8:00pm at least one night a week. Check out our new schedules below, and be sure to come by and say hello!

**UPDATED HOURS**

**STARTING JULY 5TH  
RICHMOND PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES WILL HAVE  
NEW OPERATING HOURS**

**BELMONT:**  
M&W 10:00-8:00PM;  
T,TH,F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**BROAD ROCK:**  
M&W 10:00AM-8:00PM;  
T,TH,F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**EAST END:**  
M,W,F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
T&TH 10:00AM-8:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**GINTER PARK:**  
M&W 10:00-8:00PM;  
T,TH,F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**MAIN LIBRARY:**  
M-TH 10:00AM-8:00PM;  
F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**HULL STREET:**  
M,W,TH,F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
T 10:00AM-8:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**NORTH AVE:**  
M 10:00AM-8:00PM;  
T,W,TH,F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**WEST END:**  
M&W 10:00AM-8:00PM;  
T, TH, F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

**WESTOVER HILLS:**  
M&W 10:00AM-8:00PM;  
T,TH,F 10:00AM-6:00PM;  
SAT 10:00AM-5:00PM

## RPL Summer Reading Program

Have YOU signed up for our Summer Reading Program yet? It's easier than ever this year to take part and win prizes!

- Get your Reading Log: register at your neighborhood RPL or [register online](#). Pick up your calendar log or download a copy from our website.
- Start reading! Read 15 minutes or more and color in that day on the calendar.
- 30 Days of Reading: After 30 boxes are colored in, bring your calendar into any RPL branch to collect a cinch bag.

- Win Prizes! Finish coloring 50 boxes and your reading adventure is complete! Bring your calendar into RPL and register for the Grand Prize - a \$100 Visa gift card!



It is with great excitement that we announce Richmond Public Library is one of 12 inaugural recipients to receive a grant from the [Virginia Museum History & Culture's Commonwealth History Fund](#). Richmond Public Library has been generously awarded \$30,000.00.

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## Free COVID-19 At-Home Tests



Richmond Public Library is working with the [Richmond and Henrico Health Districts](#) to provide FREE at-home COVID-19 tests on a first-come first-served basis at five locations:

[Main Library](#)  
[Broad Rock](#)  
[East End](#)  
[Ginter Park](#)  
[North Avenue](#)

If you are experiencing symptoms, please send a healthy helper inside or call the library to request contactless pick-up. We encourage you to pick up a test for yourself and one for each member of your household.

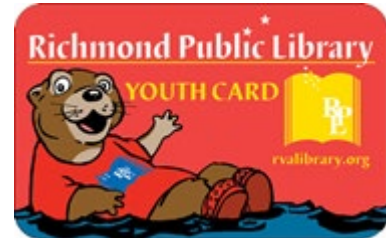
For more information on COVID-19, community testing events, and other places where you can find at-home tests, please click [here](#).

## How to Access Materials

## Your Library at Your Fingertips: Always Open Online!

With your library card, you can check out tens of thousands of digital [books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, and TV shows](#) and explore [the more than 30 databases RPL subscribes to](#). But what if you don't have a card? Don't worry, the e-card is here to save the day!

Click [this link](#) or the images to the right for more information. Answer a few questions and you'll instantly be given access to a treasure trove of materials, enough to keep you busy, entertained, and enlightened.



## Moment of Calm

### "Muffin of Sunsets" by Elaine Equi

The sky is melting. Me too.  
Who hasn't seen it this way?

Pink between the castlework  
of buildings.

Pensive syrup  
drizzled over clouds.

It is almost catastrophic how heavenly.

A million poets, at least,  
have stood in this very spot,  
groceries in hand, wondering:

"Can I witness the Rapture  
and still make it home in time for dinner?"



***Like the Newsletter you just read? Want more updates from RPL?***

*Click on the button below to sign up for future editions of RPL at Home, as well as other news from the library!*

**Sign me up!**

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***Want to support your local library even further?  
Click below to make a donation.***

*Donations made to the Richmond Public Library Foundation are tax-deductible and help support a wide variety of public programs and initiatives.*



**Richmond Public Library**

101 East Franklin Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
(804) 646-7223 <https://rvalibrary.org/>

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