



RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

February 28, 2024

Broad Rock Branch Library
4820 Old Warwick Road
Richmond, Virginia 23224
804.646.8488

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, February 28, 2024
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-January 24, 2024, Regular Meeting
- Approval of Statistical Report
- Approval of Pending Deposited Gifts Report

Public Comment Period:

Reports:

- Library Friends Ms. DeBoer/Mr. Dishon
- Library Foundation Ms. Revere/Mr. Firestine
- RPL Administration Mr. Firestine
- Advocacy Taskforce Mr. Sawyer
- Early Learning Literacy Ms. Peterson

Board Committee Reports:

- Chair Report Mr. Yates
- Finance Committee Mr. Sawyer/Mr. Firestine
- Facilities Committee Ms. Woody
- Governance Committee Ms. Altman

Unfinished Business

- Discussion/Vote: Bookmobile Mr. Yates/Mr. Firestine

New Business

Mr. Yates

Adjourn

Mr. Yates

Next Meeting:

Date: March 27, 2024

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Location: East End Branch Library
 1200 North 25th Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23223

Library Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
January 24, 2024

PRESENT: Chair William Yates, Vice Chair Sheron Carter-Gunter, Barbara Burton, Emily Altman, Christine Peterson, Gail Zwirner (Virtual)

ABSENT: Brent Graves, Garrett Sawyer, Janet Woody

STAFF: Scott Firestine, Clay Dishon, Attorney Shannan Fitzgerald, Friends of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer, Cheryl Clarke, Gianna Pack, Susan Revere, Ben Himmelfarb, Phil Shephard

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 23219. The meeting was posted, and the public 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.

Chair Yates announced Gail Zwirner would like to attend today’s Library Board of Trustees Regular meeting via electronic means, which complies with the RPL Governance Policy 4.12. This policy is to comply with requirements of section 2.2-3708.2(C)(1) of the Code of Virginia to allow for and govern participation by one or more Library Board of Trustees in meetings by electronic communication means.

Ms. Zwirner has met the requirement of notifying the Chair in advance that she is unable to attend in person due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents her physical attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Yates called for a motion to approve Ms. Zwirner’s request to attend the meeting by electronic means from the LBOT Members present.

Motion: Christine Peterson, Second by Sharon Carter-Gunter

AYES: 5 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Approved Unanimously.

Agenda	Approve the January 24, 2024, Agenda as amended adding a possible discussion/vote on approving Ms. Zwirner’s continued efforts on the bookmobile project under New Business. <i>Motion: Barbara Burton, Second by Emily Altman</i> <i>AYES: <u>6</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i>
Consent Agenda	Approve the December 6, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, the Current Financial Reports, Statistical Reports, and Donations Report as submitted: <i>Motion: Emily Altman, Second by Sheron Carter-Gunter</i> <i>AYES: <u>6</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i>
Public Comment Period	None.

REPORTS

<p>Friends of the Library (FOL)</p> <p><u>Clay Dishon</u> <u>Ruth DeBoer</u></p>	<p>Ms. DeBoer reported on the FOL operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 7: RPL Friends Board Meeting – Main Library. • February 17: Book Drive (9:00A-2:00P). • April 4, 5, and 6: Spring Book sale with a bag sale included. Announcement of the book sale will be going out soon. • Working with Library/Community Services Manager Ben Himmelfarb on working through the Friends personal items vs. Library items in the Collections Room and the library stacks – Ongoing.
<p>Library Foundation</p> <p><u>Susan Revere</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Ms. Revere reported on the Library Foundation Operations:</p> <p>Foundation Update: The Foundation has achieved a Platinum Seal of Transparency for 2024 on Candid/Guidestar (moving up from Gold).</p> <p>Mr. Yates also announced contributing to the Foundation in the new year shows the LBOT support.</p>
<p>Administration</p> <p><u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Director’s Report: In addition to the items submitted on the Director’s Report in the Board Packet, Mr. Firestine reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the Mellon Grant Press Release went out, there was positive interest by the public reaching out to the library wanting more information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been an increase in requests to use the memory lab. ○ The team also had their first logistics meeting on how to proceed in the upcoming years of the grant requirements. • Hired 18 people. • Added more operational hours going from 412 hours to 440 hours a week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main Library and Ginter Park and West End Branch Libraries are now opened on Sundays from 1:00P-5:00P. ○ Main Library and the West End Branch Library now opened at 9:00A. • New logo has received positive feedback. The Outreach and Engagement Team is coming up with new and exciting ways to spread awareness about our new look. • Door Count was a concern, but electronic items are about an 87% increase and is moving in the right direction. Once more programs kickoff, door count will increase. • Ms. Peterson commented she was glad to see the “Things to Celebrate” from each of the Branches in the Board Report. Having this information on hand is very helpful when talking about the good happening in the library.
<p>Advocacy Task Force</p> <p><u>Garrett Sawyer</u> <u>Sheron Carter-Gunter</u></p>	<p>No formal report.</p>

REPORTS (CONTINUED)

<p>Early Literacy Update</p> <p><u>Christine Peterson</u></p>	<p>Ms. Peterson reported Library/Community Services Manager Beth Morris and Mr. Firestine are planning great things in 2024. Everything is moving well on hiring staff and receiving grants to at least double interns on Summer Reading Program. There is still a need to have interns at each of the Branches.</p> <p>Programming is going well. The new undertaking is looking at children’s space, not only at the Main Library, but at all the Branches.</p> <p>Ms. Peterson shared she had a conversation with Cabell Foundation. They might be interested in a refresh in the children’s spaces system wide.</p> <p>Mr. Firestine also added staff has been hired for the Main Library and at Branches to help support what is needed to move forward successfully. Also, the Branch Library Associates who do story times were elevated to Youth Services Librarians. Those positions now require an MLS and are expected to do more in that capacity.</p>
<p>Chair Report</p> <p><u>William Yates</u></p>	<p>Mr. Yates reported and commented on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Literacy: Had a great year in 2023. It is set up to be a better year in 2024 and moving forward, which also has increased awareness and image of the library.• Advocacy: There is a need to look and see what needs to be done in the next 6-8 weeks, with the Operating Budget being the primary advocacy for this coming year.• Main Renovations: Continue to do everything possible to keep that moving and in the sightline for discussion. Some challenges may halt discussions such as it being an election year and the recent publicity about the John Marshall Building and the effect that may have on Capital budgeting for the moment. Efforts are much better focused on getting more in the Operating Budget. Mr. Yates stated this needs to be a priority and done quickly.
<p>Finance Chair</p> <p><u>Garrett Sawyer</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Mr. Firestine reported the City is bumping back the introduction of the Budget from March 6 to the end of March, which will give the Mayor an extra 30 days until he introduces his budget.</p> <p>Mayor Stoney will give the City of Richmond 2024 State of the City address on January 30, 2024, at 6:00p.m. at the Science Museum of Virginia.</p> <p>Mr. Firestine has been working very hard with the Budget Department on the impact of the new hires and moving forward. Currently, we are a bit behind in our budget depicting at about 40% used. It should be closer to 50% at this time. It is mostly attributing to the hiring lag of getting new people in place. It is estimated to be on target by the end of the year. The Operations part of the budget is looking good.</p>
<p>Facilities Chair</p> <p><u>Janet Woody</u> <u>Gail Zwirner</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Ms. Zwirner reported the subcommittee met in December and learned about Library/Community Services Manager (Outreach and Engagement) Jenn Deuell’s extensive research regarding bookmobiles. Ms. Deuell met with Henrico bookmobile librarians, contacted 2 jurisdictions in California with e-vehicles, and participated in a forum with 14 “Rocky Mountain” libraries.</p>

<p>Facilities Chair (Continued)</p> <p><u>Janet Woody</u> <u>Gail Zwirner</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Common Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodating the mission in the build-out of the vehicle. Henrico, for example has multiple vehicles — STEM vs. a general “wanderer”. • It is worth the time to over-think the build-out. Lighting, shelving, and seating are all important details. • Determine whether City fleet services or an independent group will handle maintenance/repair. • The size of the vehicle may determine the type of license of the person driving. • Create a schedule considering it may take 1-2 hours to stock the vehicle. • Get feedback from other jurisdictions about month-to-month costs. <p>Richmond’s goal will be to focus on the Strategic Plan issues of Early Childhood Literacy and attention to underserved communities. Services could also include book delivery/return, wi-fi, homework help, and job assistance.</p> <p>Ms. Zwirner contacted Maryn Campbell in Jennifer McClellan’s Richmond office to confirm that the grant guidelines have not yet been issued for 2025 and that we are on the distribution list.</p> <p>Ms. Peterson asked whether or not additional funding sources (other than federal) should be included in the language of a motion. Ms. Zwirner feels it does not need to be just a federal initiative. Her goal is to move forward with the federal approach because of the connection with Donald McEachin and for RPL to honor him through that kind of grant.</p> <p>Chair Yates added that the LBOT is committed to doing this only if proper funding is identified. In other words, that no other programs will be cut to pursue those funds. Also, Ms. Zwirner be the lead on both the federal initiative and research with staff on the bookmobile project.</p> <p>After giving the report, Chair Yates moved the discussion and possible motion voting under New Business.</p>
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<p>Governance Chair</p> <p><u>Emily Altman</u></p>	<p>Ms. Altman reported Ms. Barbara Burton’s final term will end on June 30, 2024. Recruitment will start for one position on the LBOT. There are three other positions that are coming up for reappointment. The Clerk’s Office will be reaching out to those individuals soon. Ms. Altman also mentioned if anyone was not interested in reappointment, to give her a heads up.</p> <p>Ms. Altman proposed to have a discussion on criteria for future recruiting. Chair Yates recommended to have a discussion at the next meeting.</p>
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Yates opened New Business to discuss Ms. Zwirner’s request to provide a motion to move forward on the bookmobile project. Ms. Peterson suggested a draft motion to read as “The LBOT wishes to pursue a Bookmobile Program and sources of funding for that bookmobile including federal sources with Ms. Zwirner taking the lead to move forward.”

Mr. Firestine wanted to be clear this is going to be a commitment to start a new program. The purchase of this vehicle and this activity is going to be added to our outreach services. It was stressed that multiple layers of support will be needed to sustain this type of service.

After extensive conversation, it was recommended a draft of a motion be presented for consideration at the next meeting on February 28, 2024.

Chair Yates called for a motion to request Executive Assistant Ms. Pack to work with Ms. Zwirner on drafting a motion to propose the bookmobile for the Federal Community Project Funding Grant, which will be dedicated in the memory of the late Congressman Donald McEachin, who was a Richmond Public Library supporter and bring the motion for consideration to the February 28 meeting.

Motion: Christine Peterson, Second by Sheron Carter-Gunter

AYES: 6 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 Approved Unanimously.

Final Comments:

Ms. Carter-Gunter shared her thoughts on future advertising, especially on the Southside of Richmond. She suggested partnering with South Richmond News, Church Hill electronic newsletters, different community newsletters, and during planned events.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35P by unanimous consent from the members that were present.

The next meeting of the LBOT will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at the Broad Rock Branch Library located at 4820 Old Warwick Road, Richmond, Virginia 23224.

Approved: _____
Mr. William Yates, Chair

*Recorder: Gianna Pack, CAP
Senior Executive Assistant*

Director's Report January 2024

Director Activities:

Feb 6	Participated in Interview Process for Young Adults Senior Librarian and Childhood and Early Literacy Senior Librarian Positions – Main Library
Feb 7	RPL Friends Board Meeting – Main Library
Feb 9	CALD Meeting – Henrico County
Feb 12	Informal and Council Meeting – City Hall/Virtual
Feb 13	CIP Quarterly Update – Virtual
Feb 14	Foundation Finance Committee Meeting – Virtual
Feb 15	Mandatory First Aid/AED Training – Main Library
Feb 19	Holiday-Presidents' Day
Feb 21	Foundation Executive Committee Meeting – Virtual
Feb 26	Informal and Council Meeting – City Hall/Virtual
Feb 27	Greening RPL Team Meeting

Hiring Update

- **February 2024 Hiring Update:**
 - 0017 PTE Library Technician – Ginter Park – Posting Phase
 - 0181 PTE Library Technician – Ginter Park – Posting Phase
 - 0006 FTE Library Technician – Westover Hills – Posting Phase
 - 0112 FTE Library/Community Services Manager – Belmont – Candidate Selection Phase
 - 0102 FTE Librarian, Senior (Young Adults) – Candidate Selection Phase
 - 0140 FTE Librarian, Senior (Childhood and Early Literacy) – Candidate Selection Phase
 - 0011 PTE Library Technician – West End – Candidate Selection Phase
- **Promotions:**
 - Carla Winston was promoted to 0027 FTE Library Technician at Ginter Park Branch on January 27.
- **New Hires/Locations:**
 - Broad Rock Branch: 0178 PTE Library Technician Lyrenda Frazier – February 12
 - Ginter Park Branch: 0187 PTE Library Associate (Young Adult) Kayleigh McCoy – February 12
 - North Avenue Branch: 0176 PTE Library Associate (Young Adult) Madeline Palmer – February 12
 - Hull Street Branch: 0047 FTE Library Technician, Senior Colorado Two Eagles – February 26

Staff Training: As part of the Life, Safety & Health Committee Plan, Ms. Clarke coordinated a First Aid/AED training that is Mandatory for all staff at all locations. This is a focused mandatory training, which will delay the opening of locations until 2:00P on the following days:

- Monday, February 5 — Belmont
- Wednesday, February 7 — East End
- Thursday, February 8 — Ginter Park
- Friday, February 9 — Hull Street
- Monday, February 12 — North Avenue
- Tuesday, February 13 — West End
- Wednesday, February 14 — Westover Hills
- Thursday, February 15 — Main
- Thursday, February 22 — Broad Rock

Director's Report (Continued)
January 2024

Outreach and Engagement Update: There were no requests for outreach for the month of January. Instead, the Outreach & Engagement Team focused on rebranding with the Library's new logo and are working to revamp the Library's outreach kit.

The Outreach & Engagement Team has also been looking into the potential to advertise events in various community newsletters throughout the City per a Board Member's suggestion. There are several possibilities, and the Team will be working with Library/Community Services Manager and Youth Services staff to pursue these opportunities.

Operational Hours Update: Beginning Monday, March 4, 2024, the following changes to library hours will take place:

- Broad Rock Library (+10 additional hours)
 - Sunday 1-5p.m.
 - Monday 9a.m.-8p.m.
 - Tuesday 9a.m.-8p.m.
 - Wednesday 9a.m.-8p.m.
 - Thursday 9a.m.-8p.m.
 - Friday 9a.m.-6p.m.
 - Saturday 9a.m.-5p.m.

- East End Library (+6 additional hours)
 - Monday 9a.m.-6p.m.
 - Tuesday 9a.m.-8p.m.
 - Wednesday 9a.m.-6p.m.
 - Thursday 9a.m.-8p.m.
 - Friday 9a.m.-6p.m.
 - Saturday 9a.m.-5p.m.

- North Avenue Library (+4 additional hours)
 - Monday 10a.m.-8p.m.
 - Tuesday 10a.m.-6p.m.
 - Wednesday 10a.m.-8p.m.
 - Thursday 10a.m.-6p.m.
 - Friday 10a.m.-6p.m.
 - Saturday 10a.m.-5p.m.

Through the recent additions of new and talented staff, everyone has been very supportive in helping to increase our capacity for public service. We have an amazing staff that really help make a difference for so many of our patrons.

Director's Report (Continued)
January 2024

Things to Celebrate: Stories from our locations of things to celebrate that happened during the month.

- **Broad Rock Branch Library:** We had a patron tell us that she loves Broad Rock Library because we provide such great service.
- **East End Branch Library:** Because of support and information from staff at the East End Branch, a patron who has struggled with substance abuse stopped by to let us know that they have an appointment to go to a rehab facility and take steps to get clean. They stated that it was “only because of the help that [East End Staff] gave me that I’d even be strong enough to do this.”
- **Ginter Park Branch Library:** During one of the new Sunday shifts, a patron came in saying “Thank God you all are open on Sundays now.” She was able to print off some important documents and left both happy and relieved.
- **Main Library:** A regular computer use patron that occasionally asks for assistance with job applications was offered a position within one of the companies he applied to and will begin his orientation/onboarding process next week.
- **North Avenue Branch Library:** A patron came in and broke down to staff on how the library was the safe space they needed while they were going through a difficult time. Between the staff assisting them when they needed it and knowing they could relax inside the branch, the patron explained how they were able to turn their life around and get everything back on track.
- **Westover Hills Branch Library:** Youth Services Librarian Ashley Edmiston’s baby story times have become so popular (35-40 attendees throughout December and January story times) that she is adding a second baby story time to occur on Fridays after Baby Arts Play.

CIRCULATION FY24														
LOCATION	FY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
Belmont	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
	FY23	8,400	9,297	8,586	8,967	7,642	6,982	8,312	8,167	9,161	8,345	8,716	9,056	101,631
	FY24	9,417	9,967	9,066	9,340	8,224	7,515	9,085						62,614
Broad Rock	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
	FY23	1,886	2,413	2,106	1,977	1,721	1,531	1,758	1,807	2,330	2,290	2,080	1,884	23,783
	FY24	1,897	1,953	1,950	2,106	1,836	1,828	2,008						13,578
East End	FY21	1,431	1,738	1,493	1,493	1,599	1,621	1,673	1,427	1,575	1,539	1,768	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	3,061	2,830	35,510
	FY23	2,898	3,313	2,951	2,837	2,246	1,990	2,671	2,600	2,487	2,526	2,519	2,451	31,489
	FY24	2,952	3,044	2,307	2,215	2,041	1,988	2,534						17,081
Ginter Park	FY21	2,829	3,198	2,523	2,227	1,992	1,836	1,906	2,019	2,278	2,380	2,953	3,965	30,106
	FY22	4,175	4,452	4,292	3,990	3,754	3,074	3,671	3,585	4,340	3,877	4,015	4,821	48,046
	FY23	4,607	4,802	4,463	4,174	3,610	3,612	4,283	3,728	4,660	4,232	3,889	4,525	50,585
	FY24	4,819	4,795	4,104	3,878	3,733	3,391	4,214						28,934
Hull Street	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
	FY23	1,987	2,359	2,346	2,331	1,895	1,822	2,069	2,073	2,049	2,272	2,233	1,930	25,366
	FY24	2,386	2,461	2,030	2,359	2,470	2,137	2,281						16,124
Main	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
	FY23	7,932	9,457	8,777	8,957	7,149	6,313	8,304	8,189	9,523	8,891	9,053	8,341	100,886
	FY24	9,347	9,863	9,016	9,344	7,839	7,022	7,933						60,364

CIRCULATION FY24 (CONTINUED)														
LOCATION	FY	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
North Avenue	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
	FY23	2,139	2,118	2,085	2,378	2,367	1,743	949	77	-	-	226	1,005	15,087
	FY24	1,638	2,294	2,259	2,390	1,998	1,943	2,392						14,914
West End	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
	FY23	13,150	13,412	10,950	11,072	10,121	8,552	10,395	9,966	10,771	10,338	10,968	11,745	131,440
	FY24	12,573	12,176	10,311	10,507	9,828	8,881	10,400						74,676
Westover Hills	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
	FY23	8,424	8,612	8,155	8,407	7,765	6,496	7,540	7,706	8,344	7,423	7,463	8,703	95,038
	FY24	10,057	9,438	8,550	8,313	7,733	7,198	7,721						59,010
E-Content	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
	FY23	16,079	16,510	14,806	14,910	15,126	16,515	19,182	17,810	23,496	24,317	24,593	24,071	227,415
	FY24	25,640	27,387	26,401	27,051	26,710	27,809	34,405						195,403
Totals	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
	FY23	67,502	72,293	65,225	66,010	59,642	55,556	65,463	62,123	72,821	70,634	71,740	73,711	802,720
	FY24	80,726	83,378	75,994	77,503	72,412	69,712	82,973	-	-	-	-	-	542,698

PROGRAMS FY2024	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	TOTAL FY24	TOTAL FY23
Belmont														
Adult Programs	9	9	8	12	10	9	8						65	90
Adult Attend	20	29	29	44	31	10	13						176	507
Young Adult Programs	0	1	1	1	0	1	1						5	5
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	1	0	2	0						3	2
Juvenile Programs	13	17	12	16	14	15	14						101	156
Juvenile Attend	226	315	168	316	240	192	235						1,692	1,680
Total Attend	246	344	197	361	271	204	248						1,871	2,189
Total Programs	22	27	21	29	24	25	23						171	251
Broad Rock														
Adult Programs	8	15	5	6	4	7	9						54	65
Adult Attend	48	284	42	39	52	22	34						521	193
Young Adult Programs	1	1	2	2	1	1	1						9	75
Young Adult Attend	37	16	12	2	0	0	6						73	115
Juvenile Programs	23	21	31	26	24	19	27						171	219
Juvenile Attend	135	230	240	247	107	99	88						1,146	928
Total Attend	220	530	294	288	159	121	128						1,740	1,236
Total Programs	32	37	38	34	29	27	37						234	359
East End														
Adult Programs	8	8	3	3	5	8	8						43	88
Adult Attend	14	33	16	16	31	45	90						245	718
Young Adult Programs	14	9	5	8	4	8	8						56	65
Young Adult Attend	96	51	32	55	30	46	74						384	412
Juvenile Programs	11	8	5	1	0	1	10						36	93
Juvenile Attend	371	181	280	20	0	22	103						977	2,189
Total Attend	481	265	328	91	61	113	267						1,606	3,319
Total Programs	33	25	13	12	9	17	26						135	246

PROGRAMS FY2024 (CONTINUED)	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	TOTAL FY24	TOTAL FY23
Ginter Park														
Adult Programs	13	10	9	9	11	6	3						61	61
Adult Attend	71	77	49	52	52	26	15						342	302
Young Adult Programs	0	0	1	0	0	1	0						2	7
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	4	0						4	0
Juvenile Programs	16	14	15	14	10	11	13						93	123
Juvenile Attend	203	138	158	163	114	80	109						965	895
Total Attend	274	215	207	215	166	110	124						1,311	1,197
Total Programs	29	24	25	23	21	18	16						156	191
Hull Street														
Adult Programs	6	1	7	1	1	2	5						23	26
Adult Attend	30	4	48	6	3	2	56						149	245
Young Adult Programs	5	0	0	0	0	0	1						6	13
Young Adult Attend	19	0	0	0	0	0	3						22	81
Juvenile Programs	14	2	4	5	3	2	4						34	62
Juvenile Attend	340	47	15	39	53	31	38						563	979
Total Attend	389	51	63	45	56	33	97						734	1,305
Total Programs	25	3	11	6	4	4	10						63	101
Main														
Adult Programs	13	14	19	2	10	1	8						67	137
Adult Attend	207	232	409	27	281	15	262						1,433	2,714
Young Adult Programs	0	0	0	0	0	1	1						2	3
Young Adult Attend	0	0	0	0	0	10	10						20	28
Juvenile Programs	18	19	17	19	16	16	20						125	196
Juvenile Attend	479	412	279	315	234	255	365						2,339	3,360
Total Attend	686	644	688	342	515	280	637						3,792	6,102
Total Programs	31	33	36	21	26	18	29						194	336

PROGRAMS FY2024 (CONTINUED)	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	TOTAL FY24	TOTAL FY23
North Avenue														
Adult Programs	9	3	6	4	5	4	3						34	34
Adult Attend	61	12	206	18	30	20	40						387	364
Young Adult Programs	0	5	0	0	0	0	0						5	3
Young Adult Attend	0	132	0	0	0	0	0						132	8
Juvenile Programs	2	1	1	0	0	8	9						21	29
Juvenile Attend	15	6	10	0	0	45	96						172	455
Total Attend	76	150	216	18	30	65	136						691	827
Total Programs	11	9	7	4	5	12	12						60	66
West End														
Adult Programs	5	6	6	5	6	5	8						41	68
Adult Attend	63	65	52	48	35	27	66						356	629
Young Adult Programs	3	1	3	2	3	4	3						19	12
Young Adult Attend	6	0	2	1	2	6	3						20	117
Juvenile Programs	15	17	12	16	12	8	14						94	145
Juvenile Attend	356	299	212	334	205	218	308						1,932	2,534
Total Attend	425	364	266	383	242	251	377						2,308	3,280
Total Programs	23	24	21	23	21	17	25						154	225
Westover Hills														
Adult Programs	3	1	2	4	0	1	1						12	13
Adult Attend	28	2	20	91	0	26	0						167	62
Young Adult Programs	1	1	1	2	1	0	1						7	12
Young Adult Attend	3	5	0	8	5	0	0						21	129
Juvenile Programs	4	4	5	6	10	12	14						55	76
Juvenile Attend	244	247	188	286	216	243	353						1,777	3,546
Total Attend	275	254	208	385	221	269	353						1,965	3,737
Total Programs	8	6	8	12	11	13	16						74	101
Grand Total Attend	3,072	2,817	2,467	2,128	1,721	1,446	2,367	0	0	0	0	0	16,018	23,192
Grand Total Programs	214	188	180	164	150	151	194	0	0	0	0	0	1,241	1,876

DOOR COUNT FY2024	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	TOTAL
Belmont	4,560	4,883	4,629	5,201	4,156	4,362	5,690						33,481
Broad Rock	4,400	4,799	4,422	4,913	3,475	3,194	4,006						29,209
East End	4,216	4,853	4,128	4,198	3,729	4,191	4,916						30,231
Ginter Park	4,782	6,962	4,480	3,450	2,802	2,883	3,428						28,787
Hull Street	1,794	3,920	2,893	2,789	1,031	1,258	1,205						14,943
Main	7,875	7,661	-	13,757	9,142	8,311	10,846						57,592
North Avenue	2,751	4,257	3,664	3,015	1,065	4,084	3,369						22,205
West End	3,669	3,911	3,257	3,126	2,846	3,007	4,063						23,879
Westover Hills	5,335	5,723	5,167	5,347	4,570	4,584	5,099						35,825
TOTALS FY24:	39,382	46,969	32,640	45,796	32,816	35,874	42,622	-	-	-	-	-	276,099
TOTALS FY23:	44,405	45,027	38,340	37,779	31,237	29,286	29,662	29,786	30,609	32,727	26,813	34,076	409,747
TOTALS FY22:	30,685	32,619	32,702	35,028	34,519	35,716	36,999	31,189	37,658	38,159	37,378	45,822	428,474

09/2023: Main Library: Door Counter broken. Will be replaced for October.

NEW PATRON CARDS													
FY2024	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total
Belmont	156	173	139	115	86	107	196						972
Broad Rock	93	54	63	63	41	48	67						429
East End	53	68	59	63	40	31	59						373
Ginter Park	39	67	64	57	36	32	69						364
Hull Street	97	91	55	55	48	49	60						455
Main	253	273	358	618	634	219	313						2,668
North Avenue	22	55	40	44	32	41	47						281
West End	70	87	76	76	56	58	75						498
Westover Hills	117	129	92	83	53	43	76						593
Online Reg E-Card	626	692	546	594	642	572	962						4,634
Total FY24:	1,526	1,689	1,492	1,768	1,668	1,200	1,924	-	-	-	-	-	11,267
Total FY23:	1,334	1,498	1,366	1,217	1,035	917	1,343	1,270	1,167	1,171	1,301	1,330	14,949
Total FY22:	1,055	1,218	1,064	1,467	1,072	879	1,209	984	979	957	1,017	1,170	13,071

COMPUTER USE FY2024	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb- 23	Mar- 23	Apr-23	May- 23	Jun- 23	TOTAL
Belmont Workstation	619	658	640	702	551	584	709						4,463
WIFI	650	642	676	717	510	562	674						4,431
Broad Rock Workstation	797	732	632	735	548	537	661						4,642
WIFI	1,034	1,115	1,134	1,271	963	773	950						7,240
East End Workstation	664	729	646	636	506	470	690						4,341
WIFI	1,248	1,543	1,191	1,582	1,344	1,166	1,261						9,335
Ginter Park Workstation	580	713	561	615	484	450	568						3,971
WIFI	627	801	620	665	568	572	580						4,433
Hull Street Workstation	589	646	485	479	369	411	512						3,491
WIFI	1,003	1,073	939	851	671	799	875						6,211
Main Workstation	1,673	2,123	1,996	1,862	1,358	1,654	1,725						12,391
WIFI	3,505	4,089	4,388	4,861	3,443	3,626	4,057						27,969
North Avenue Workstation	381	533	398	436	314	355	393						2,810
WIFI	436	518	407	481	317	450	512						3,121
West End Workstation	294	363	267	305	240	314	330						2,113
WIFI	731	730	755	777	623	668	751						5,035
Westover Hills Workstation	630	643	544	623	438	429	504						3,811
WIFI	730	851	897	965	488	435	544						4,910
TOTALS FY24:	16,191	18,502	17,176	18,563	13,735	14,255	16,296	-	-	-	-	-	114,718
TOTALS FY23:	13,430	14,930	14,136	14,657	11,832	11,834	13,204	13,045	13,988	13,375	15,025	15,034	164,490
TOTALS FY22:	7,868	7,453	7,484	10,192	7,706	7,583	8,709	8,046	9,346	10,404	10,819	11,897	107,507
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

TECHNICAL SERVICES - FLOATING ITEMS ADDED / DISCARDED				
FY2024	Printed Materials Added (All Branches)	Overdrive Added	Monthly Total Added	Monthly Total Discarded
Jul-23	304	210	514	827
Aug-23	879	384	1,263	764
Sep-23	2,213	282	2,495	846
Oct-23	613	253	866	1,532
Nov-23	1,279	226	1,505	2,587
Dec-23	1,096	93	1,189	1,388
Jan-24	2,437	483	2,920	2,440
Feb-24				
Mar-24				
Apr-24				
May-24				
Jun-24				
FY24 Totals:	8,821	1,931	10,752	10,384
FY23 Totals:	29,114	10,656	39,773	5,565
FY22 Totals:	17,756	5,387	23,143	2,117

Richmond Public Library
 FY24 Operating Budget
 as of January 31, 2024

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	Budget	Actual and Encumbered 31-Jan-24	% Spent	Balance Available 31-Jan-24
60000	SALARIES - FULL TIME	\$ 4,413,494	\$ 2,009,500	45.5%	\$ 2,403,994
60001	OVERTIME PERMAN	\$ 19,176	\$ 3,349	17.5%	\$ 15,827
61000	SALARIES - PART TIME	\$ 369,366	\$ 107,974	29.2%	\$ 261,392
62000	SALARIES - TEMPORARY	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,310	0.0%	\$ (16,310)
63000	FICA	\$ 250,302	\$ 127,069	50.8%	\$ 123,233
63001	RET CON RSRs	\$ 649,740	\$ 401,794	61.8%	\$ 247,946
63002	MEDCARE FICA	\$ 58,539	\$ 29,764	50.8%	\$ 28,775
63003	GROUP LIFE	\$ 23,459	\$ 13,189	56.2%	\$ 10,270
63004	CONSTITUTIONAL	\$ -	\$ 1,068	0.0%	\$ (1,068)
63006	HVC ACT TEMP	\$ 600,930	\$ 364,077	60.6%	\$ 236,853
63008	STATE UNEMPLOYMENT	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
63011	HEALTH SAVINGS	\$ -	\$ 9,979	0.0%	\$ (9,979)
63100	VRS HYBRID DB	\$ -	\$ 3,256	0.0%	\$ (3,256)
63105	VRS HYBRID DC	\$ -	\$ 758	0.0%	\$ (758)
63110	VRS HYBRID VLDP	\$ -	\$ 567	0.0%	\$ (567)
64103	Educntv #81	\$ -	\$ 3,250	0.0%	\$ (3,250)
	Personnel Expenses	\$ 6,395,006	\$ 3,101,906	48.5%	\$ 3,293,100
71141	BOOKS	\$ 952,359	\$ 270,402	28.4%	\$ 681,957
71141	DATABASES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71142	MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS	\$ 2,456	\$ 33,175	1350.8%	\$ (30,719)
72122	MAGS & NEWSPAPER	\$ 29,277	\$ 17,604	60.1%	\$ 11,673
	Collection Development	\$ 984,092	\$ 321,181	32.6%	\$ 662,911
70131	ADVERTISING	\$ 2,297	\$ 489	21.3%	\$ 1,808
70161	PLANNING MGMT SERVICES	\$ 483,050	\$ 237,004	49.1%	\$ 246,046
70215	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	\$ 81,200	\$ 13,291	0.0%	\$ 67,909
70218	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$ 2,902	\$ 4,492	154.8%	\$ (1,590)
70412	TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
70416	EMPLOYEE PARKING	\$ 21,600	\$ 13,291	0.0%	\$ 8,309
70311	PRINTED SUPPLIES	\$ 3,000	\$ 137	4.6%	\$ 2,863
70413	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE	\$ 2,263	\$ 4	0.2%	\$ 2,259
70551	SECURITY	\$ 294,543	\$ 269,263	91.4%	\$ 25,280
70552	CONTRACT AND TEMP PERSONNEL	\$ 22,000	\$ 71,287	324.0%	\$ (49,287)
71012	OFFICE STATIONARY SUPPLIES	\$ 3,047	\$ 7,804	256.1%	\$ (4,757)
71016	ADVERTISING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71143	LIBRARY OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 19,220	\$ 15,742	81.9%	\$ 3,478
72113	POSTAGE	\$ 4,456	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 4,456
72121	CONFERENCES & CON	\$ 1,904	\$ 844	0.0%	\$ 1,060
72123	MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 677	\$ 2,194	324.1%	\$ (1,517)
72124	TRAINING	\$ 1,055	\$ 1,240	117.6%	\$ (185)
72131	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	\$ 25,662	\$ (9,601)	-37.4%	\$ 35,263
72153	EQUIPMENT	\$ 12,200	\$ 2,757	0.0%	\$ 9,443
73104	BANK FEES	\$ -	\$ 6,982	0.0%	\$ (6,982)
76119	PAGERS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
76652	PAPER PRODUCTS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77103	FUEL-D/O VEHICLE	\$ 2,298	\$ 1,217	53.0%	\$ 1,081
77104	VEHICLE MONTHLY STANDING	\$ 493	\$ 288	58.4%	\$ 205
77201	INTERNAL PRINTING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77501	DIT CHARGES	\$ -	\$ 4,723	0.0%	\$ (4,723)
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%	\$ -
	Other Expenses	\$ 991,027	\$ 643,448	64.9%	\$ 347,579
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 8,370,125	\$ 4,066,534	48.6%	\$ 4,303,591

Richmond Public Library
 Foundation, Friends, Groups and Individual Donations
 FY 2024

Consent Agenda: Deposited Gifts Over \$100 Shown
 as of February 28, 2024

Date of Check	Donor Name	Current Month Amount	Purpose/Location	YTD Account Balance		
				Gift	Foundation	Friends
	<i>No Donations</i>					
	Monthly Total	\$ -				
	YTD Total	\$ 11,650.00	Year To Date Total	\$ 650.00	\$ -	\$ 11,000.00

Congressional earmark requests for libraries: Fiscal Year 2025

United for Libraries, Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations NEWS & UPDATES
February 15, 2024 united@ala.orgFunding

Website: [Congressional earmark requests for libraries: Fiscal Year 2025 - United for Libraries News & Updates \(ala.org\)](https://www.ala.org/unitedforlibraries/news-and-updates/congressional-earmark-requests-for-libraries-fiscal-year-2025)

The upcoming fiscal year 2025 appropriations bills may offer an opportunity for interested libraries to submit requests for local project funding (earmarks) to their Members of Congress.

Background: Officially called “Community Project Funding” in the House and “Congressionally Directed Spending” in the Senate, earmarks provide federal funding for specified local projects. Earmark funding goes directly to the entity designated by Congress for the specified project (separate from regular federal programs).

Recent earmarks for libraries: In fiscal years 2022 and 2023, Congress directed earmarks to more than 100 projects involving libraries, totaling nearly \$150 million. (As of 2/13/2024, appropriations bills for fiscal year 2024 are still pending.)

When can libraries apply? Generally, applications will be due in February or March. See “How can libraries apply?” below.

What can libraries request funds for? Projects are typically for specific, one-time activities (and do not fund ongoing activities like annual operating expenses). Most library projects in FY22 and FY23 were capital projects, such as building renovation or construction; others included pilot programs or one-time activities related to technology, children and youth, and history.

How much funding can libraries request? The Congressional share of funding for library projects in FY22 and FY23 typically ranged from \$50,000 to \$2,000,000.

Which types of libraries can apply? Library projects in FY22 and FY23 included projects at school, academic, public, Tribal, state, and special libraries.

How can libraries apply? Libraries with a potential project can reach out to their Representative and Senators to discuss the idea and ask for their request form and deadline.

Note:

- Each Congressman establishes their own request forms and deadlines, which can vary between offices. Ask your Representative and Senators individually.
- The House and Senate Appropriations Committees establish overall project eligibility and deadlines. Your Representative or Senators can provide information.
- Applicants can submit the same request to all the Congressmembers who represent the project location (i.e., the district’s Representative and the state’s two Senators).
- Some Congressmembers do not accept requests.

When would successful requests receive funding? Funding would likely be distributed in calendar year 2025, assuming enactment of FY25 appropriations laws.

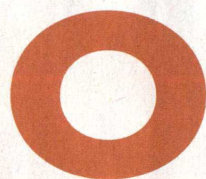
∞ END ∞

Kollatz, Harry, Jr. "Special Collections." *Richmond Magazine*, Sourcebook 2024, Feb. 2024, pp. 140-141.

EDUCATION \ LIBRARIES

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Celebrating a century, the Richmond Public Library reorients its holdings and looks to the future *By Harry Kollatz Jr.*



One of the weirdest Richmond stories Chloe McCormick encountered since moving here last year from Indiana is about how the city's first mayor, William Foushee, got an eye yanked out when he was younger by a Revolutionary War street tough. Then, being a physician, he managed to shove the dangling ball back into the socket.

The image makes her shudder a bit and laugh. "I've never lived anywhere so steeped in history," she says.

McCormick is the Richmond Public Library's Community Memory Fellow, a one-year, grant-funded position through the Commonwealth History Fund, which is administered by the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Her fellowship complements a five-year, \$900,000 Mellon Foundation award to the century-old library to expand and modernize the Memory Lab at its Main Library branch. The Memory Lab is part of the national Memory Lab Network and Central Virginia's first.

RECOLLECTIVE POWERS

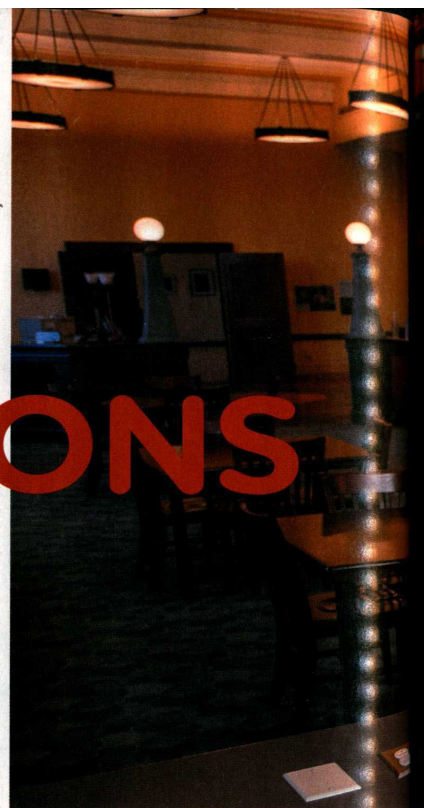
Library Director Scott Firestine puts it this way: "Say you find in your attic a shoebox full of photographs and you want to preserve them. Now, a shoebox can be a great way to do that — nothing beats the thing itself — but in terms of sharing that material and preserving it long term, we'll be able to scan and digitize them."

For those without resources to digitize their materials, they'll be able to come to the library to get this accomplished, and not only pictures, but fragile documents, too. Oral histories are also part of this vision.

McCormick's department has recorded 10 videos of library memories and more than 30 for patrons, who filled out forms that are available at the 100 tab on RPL's website (rvalibrary.org/rpl-100/).

STORIES ABOUT STORIES

McCormick came across the posting for her position online in September 2022. Her degrees from the University of Indiana are in anthropology and urban folklore. Her training includes



the presentation of traditional arts and culture using community input to organize festivals and exhibits, similar to arts administration and museum studies.

She felt the job description of a community memory fellow aligned well with her interests and experience.

Her fellowship placement coincided with the library's centennial. McCormick went to work initiating the Stories and Memories Program and reorganized local history materials. This entailed consolidating collections and also diving into the depths of unexamined materials.

It turned out to be an immense yet rewarding task and, in some cases, revelatory.

CHAPTER AND VERSE

The new Richmond Room holds personal memories: Some patrons came to know the space as the children's room and, most recently, the law library. The Richmond Room is also home to law, business and nonprofit resources. Law Librarian



Chloe McCormick,
Richmond Public
Library's Community
Memory Fellow, in
the Richmond Room

Charlie Schmidt leads a kind of tag-team effort running the Richmond Room.

McCormick consolidated the history collections and brought the Richmond City Directories to the first floor where patrons can, for example, trace the residents of their houses over the years.

Computer terminals are available with links to Ancestry Library, Heritage Hub, African American Genealogy Source and other family research databases.

The adjacent space, by the Gellman Room used for exhibitions and presentations, for years contained records and music that are now stored downstairs. Today, as McCormick says, "It's affectionately called the Time Capsule Room."

The time capsule is a box slid into an upper niche above neatly arranged, leather-bound volumes of curious and near-forgotten lore. Its contents are labeled as "Sealed Records of the Virginia Capital Bicentennial Commission To Be Opened In 2037 By The Tercentenary Commission."

With McCormick's guidance, the

chamber has been lined with shelves of civic reports and rare or antique state and city histories. Vitrines display library artifacts that include, as signage indicates, "Old, Un-Digitized, Rare, Small & Hyper Local Publications."

Also on display are documents and images of the Rosemary Library. The private reading room began in 1890, founded by Thomas Nelson Page, a "Moonlight and Magnolias" novelist and lawyer, to memorialize his wife, Ann Seddon Bruce Page, as the Rosemary Reading Club for Boys. The library grew and moved until its 1916 merger with then-downtown John Marshall High School. This library remained open in the evenings for after-work use by white adults.

Richmond was one of the last Southern cities to build a public library, due in part to services divided by race.

McCormick created the Ephemera Files after spending weeks in the basement sorting through newspaper clipping folders assembled by generations of librarians —

"mountains of paper," she says. "And, yes, basically I pulled out everything that wasn't a newspaper clipping and categorized them. A lot of things we found as ephemera we didn't know we had."

Some of her finds are displayed in an exhibition, complete with QR codes.

While some items may seem obscure and niche, there's no telling what a researcher on the hunt for an academic paper or trying to connect to a family member may need. "It's absolutely like sleuthing," McCormick says.

She often fields research questions, ranging from the name of a tobacco company on an old sign that a restorer is working on to the address of a missionary to China who had lived in Richmond. She answers what she can, but counsels, "I won't claim to say that all the information I provide to patrons comes from our collection, but a big part of what I do is knowing how to navigate Richmond's various historical institutions and pointing people in the correct direction." ■



Press Release: Richmond's Ginter Park Branch Library is Going Green

by [jrvirginia](#) | Feb 6, 2024 | [News](#), [Press Release](#) | [0 comments](#)



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

CONTACT:
Erin Hillert, Director of Marketing & Communications
James River Association
p: (608) 239-2644 e: ehillert@thejamesriver.org

Richmond's Ginter Park Branch Library is Going Green!

Residents are encouraged to share their input as planning gets underway

RICHMOND, VA – A group of community partners is working together to plan improvements to the grounds of Richmond's Ginter Park Branch Library with the intention of managing stormwater and strengthening community resilience through the use of green infrastructure like rain gardens and conservation landscaping. The partnership leading this project, known as the [Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative](#), includes Richmond Public Library, Richmond Department of Public Utilities/RVAH2O, Four Winds Design and the James River Association. The partners are seeking input from the public as they develop a green infrastructure plan for Ginter Park Branch.

"The innovative green infrastructure project underway at Ginter Park Branch will create more welcoming outdoor spaces for library patrons while ensuring alignment with the community's vision for sustainability and environmental stewardship," said **Scott Firestine, Director of Richmond Public Library**.

Community engagement activities kick off this month and include a public meeting that will be held at Ginter Park Branch Library on Wednesday, February 21, at 6:00 pm. The Greening Richmond Public Libraries team will be soliciting input from attendees during the meeting and encourages anybody interested in the project to complete a questionnaire [available online](#) and at the library through March 15, 2024.

"Stormwater runoff poses a significant threat to the health of the James River by carrying pollution to the river and its tributaries," said **Justin Doyle, Director of Community Conservation with the James River Association**. "Green infrastructure can help reduce polluted stormwater runoff while strengthening the resilience of communities in the face of a changing climate. We are thrilled to be continuing our partnership with Richmond Public Library to plan, design, and implement a green infrastructure plan at Ginter Park Branch."

The Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative launched in 2019 with the implementation of a community-supported green infrastructure site plan at Westover Hills Branch Library. Since then, the partners have worked together to engage library users and stakeholders in planning and design processes that resulted in the implementation of green infrastructure site plans at Broad Rock Branch, East End Branch, North Avenue Branch, and West End Branch. The primary goal of these plans is to manage stormwater on and around library grounds with green infrastructure like rain gardens and conservation landscaping. The Greening Richmond Public Libraries team intends to work at Belmont Branch and Hull Street Branch beginning next year.

The Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative is made possible by generous support from Altria, Arbor Day Foundation, Richmond Department of Public Utilities/RVAH2O, Richmond Neighborhood Climate Resilience Grant Program, Richmond Public Library Foundation, Virginia Department of Forestry, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency through a grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

For more information about the Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative, please visit <https://thejamesriver.org/greening-richmond-public-libraries/>.

ABOUT THE JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION: The James River Association is a member-supported nonprofit organization founded in 1976 to serve as a guardian and voice for the James River. Throughout the James River’s 10,000-square mile watershed, the James River Association works toward its vision of a fully healthy James River supporting thriving communities. The James River Association believes that “when you change the James, the James changes you.” With offices in Lynchburg, Richmond, Williamsburg, and Scottsville, the James River Association is committed to protecting the James River and connecting people to it. For more information visit www.thejamesriver.org.



∞ END ∞



Richmond's Ginter Park Branch Library is Going GREEN!

Join the Greening Richmond Public Libraries team for a public meeting at Ginter Park Branch Library on Wednesday, February 21, at 6 pm to tell us about green infrastructure practices you would like to see on library grounds.

Ginter Park Branch Library is located at 1200 Westbrook Avenue, Richmond, VA.



To learn more about the Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative, visit TheJamesRiver.org.



The Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative is supported by Altria, Richmond Department of Public Utilities/RVAH2O, Richmond Public Library Foundation, and United States Environmental Protection Agency through a grant from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Project partners include Richmond Public Library, Richmond Department of Public Utilities, James River Association, and Four Winds Design.



For more information, contact Justin Doyle,
Director of Community Conservation for the James
River Association, at jdoyle@thejamesriver.org.