



RICHMOND PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

October 22, 2025

Hull Street Branch Library
1400 Hull Street
Richmond, Virginia 23224
Phone: 804.646.8699

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, October 22, 2025

11:45 a.m.

AGENDA

Call to order:

11:45 a.m.

Ms. Peterson

Agenda

Ms. Peterson

Consent Agenda:

Ms. Peterson

- Approval of Minutes-September 24, 2025, Regular Meeting
- Approval of Statistical Reports
- Approval of Pending Deposited Gifts Report

Public Comment Period:

Reports:

- Library Friends
- Library Foundation
- Library Administration
 - Youth Services Update by LCSM
- Advocacy Taskforce
 - Draft Advocacy Plan
 - Discussion
- Policy Taskforce

Ms. DeBoer/Mr. Dishon

Ms. Revere/Mr. Firestine

Mr. Firestine

Ms. Beth Morris

Ms. Peterson

Ms. Carter-Gunter/Mr. Yates

Trustees

Ms. Altman

Board Committee Reports:

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

Ms. Peterson

Mr. Yates/Mr. Firestine

Ms. Woody/Mr. Firestine

Mr. Sawyer

Unfinished Business

Ms. Peterson

New Business

Ms. Peterson

Adjourn

Ms. Peterson

Next Meeting:

Date: December 3, 2025 (Joint November/December Meeting)

Time: 11:45 a.m.

Location: Westover Hills Branch Library
1408 Westover Hill Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23223
Phone: 804.646.8833

Library Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
September 24, 2025

PRESENT: Chair Christine Peterson, Vice Chair Sheron Carter-Gunter, Emily Altman, Brent Graves, Cynthia Hinds, William Yates

VIRTUAL: Janet Woody

ABSENT: Garrett Sawyer, Friends of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer, Clay Dishon, Susan Revere

STAFF: Scott Firestine, Attorney Shannan Fitzgerald, Gianna Pack, Cheryl Clarke, Phil Shephard, Erin Brallier, Heather Montgomery

GUEST: David Lydiard, Former LBOT Member

The Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) meeting was called to order by Chair Christine Peterson at 11:45 a.m. at the Main Library located at 101 East 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 Peterson announced Janet Woody would like to attend today's Library Board of Trustees Regular meeting via electronic communication 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. Woody has met the requirement of notifying in advance that she is unable to attend in person due to a personal illness that prevents her physical attendance at the meeting. Ms. Woody will attend from her residence.

Chair Peterson called for a motion to approve Ms. Woody's request to attend the meeting by electronic communication means from the LBOT Members present.

Motion: William Yates, Second by Sheron Carter-Gunter, and moved by unanimous consent from the members that were present.

Chair Peterson welcomed guests attending the meeting.

Agenda	Approve the September 24, 2025, Agenda as submitted. <i>Motion: Sheron Carter-Gunter, Second by Emily Altman</i> <i>AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i>
Consent Agenda	Approve the July 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes, the Current Financial Reports, Statistical Reports, and Donations Report as Submitted: <i>Motion: William Yates, Second by Cynthia Hinds</i> <i>AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i>

Public Comment Period	None present.
Reports	
Friends of the Library (FOL) <u>Ruth DeBoer</u> <u>Clay Dishon</u>	Mr. Firestine provided an update on the Friends of the Library's activities in the absence of Chair Ruth DeBoer: - September 6: The Fall Book Drive to prepare for the November Book Sale. - October 1: Friends Executive Board Meeting.
Library Foundation <u>Susan Revere</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	Mr. Firestine provided an update on the Foundation's recent developments with the Jack R. Anderson Foundation Grant Report in Ms. Revere's absence. Ms. Revere provided a summary report: At the July 23 meeting, Ms. Revere provided an overview of the Jack R. Anderson Foundation Grant Report, noting at the time that the report was in the final stages of preparation. The finalized Foundation Update outlined progress toward three key grant objectives: <u>Goal 1: Increase Family Visit Duration:</u> Prior to the Early Learning Center (ELC) upgrades, families typically attended story time and spent only a few minutes selecting books before leaving. Since implementation, families are now staying an average of 45 minutes to an hour longer. <u>Goal 2: Attract and Retain First-Time Visitors:</u> New visitors arrive daily, with compelling evidence of strong retention. <u>Goal 3: Generate Community Awareness and Attraction:</u> Multiple social media stories highlighted new resources, extending our reach to new users. Existing partnerships evolved into expanded programming opportunities. Chair Peterson added that over the past two summers, participation increased 52%.
Administration <u>Scott Firestine</u>	Mr. Firestine reported the conclusion of the Summer Reading Program, noting a decrease in attendance of approximately 300 participants compared to the previous year. The program's final event was held at Pine Camp, which coincided with a Richmond Public Schools event. This scheduling conflict likely contributed to the lower turnout than anticipated. Despite this, the event, and the overall program, was considered a success. In terms of library usage, Mr. Firestine shared positive news regarding circulation figures. Circulation numbers are approximately 15,000 higher than the same period last year, indicating strong and encouraging growth in library engagement.
Tech Services Update by LCSM <u>Erin Brallier</u>	Erin Brallier is the Library/Community Services Manager for Technical Services, system wide. She is responsible for the selection of print and digital titles for all ages, as well as, selecting and evaluating the online learning databases. The Tech Service Team is responsible for processing the new materials and together help evaluate and manage the collection for the entire system.

Reports (Continued)	
Tech Services Update by LCSM (Continued) <u>Erin Brallier</u>	<u>Key Accomplishments Over 2.5 Years with RPL:</u> • Collection Management: Partnered with Thrift Books to repurpose discards and earn credits for new materials. • Space Optimization: Created an Overflow area to increase shelf space and improve item browsability. • Catalog Enhancements: Improved discoverability through updated subject headings, record cleanup, and reclassification of Biographies. <u>New Materials Introduced:</u> • Vox Books – Talking books that support early literacy. • Book Club Bags – Promote community engagement through shared reading. • Zines – Launching October; reflect Richmond’s strong DIY and cultural scene. <u>Circulation Growth:</u> • Surpassed 1 million circulations last fiscal year. • Print circulation up 3%, digital circulation up 30% in the current fiscal year’s first quarter compared to last year. <u>Focus Ahead:</u> Meeting growing demand on Libby despite rising content costs—while continuing to build a responsive, engaging collection for all patrons.
Advocacy Task Force <u>Christine Peterson</u> <u>Sharon Carter-Gunter</u>	Chair Peterson gave an update on the Library Board of Trustees’ advocacy work, focusing on four main points: 1. Trustee Assignments to Council Members: There is a list of which Trustees are paired with which City Council members. Please review and let Chair Peterson know if you want to switch to a different council member or take a break from contacting your current one. The goal is to have these assignments finalized by early October before budget season and the advocacy campaign kickoff. 2. Emails About Children’s Programs: Trustees should have already sent an email about the library’s children’s programs to their assigned Council Members. If not, this needs to be done by the end of September. 3. Speaking at Council Meetings: Chair Peterson spoke at the Council meetings twice last year and will be speaking again at the meeting on October 14 to keep the library’s needs on their radar. 4. Getting Ready for a Tough Budget Year: Since the budget looks tight this year, Chair Peterson asked Mr. Firestine and Vice Chair Sharon Carter-Gunter to work with Finance Chair Mr. Yates on putting together a draft advocacy plan. This plan will cover: ○ What key messages LBOT should share with Council and when to share them. ○ Any special approaches or techniques should be used to get our points across. They will have this draft ready to discuss at the next meeting on October 22, focusing on how the LBOT will handle advocacy through the budget process. Chair Peterson stressed the importance of everyone staying involved and coordinated getting ready for a busy advocacy season ahead.

Reports (Continued)	
Policy Taskforce <u>Emily Altman</u>	Ms. Altman reported the LBOT approved all the policies except for Policy 5.01 Library Card Registration at the July 23 meeting. She noted that Mr. Firestine had developed a plan to address the concerns raised regarding this policy and invited him to present his approach. Mr. Firestine explained that he has formed a committee composed of staff members to review and gather all existing RPL procedures related to policies, including those specific to individual departments. The committee will be responsible for updating and redrafting Policy 5.01. Once the revised draft is complete, it will be reviewed by managers and staff for feedback. Following this internal review, the updated policy will be presented to the LBOT for final consideration and approval.
Chair Report <u>Christine Peterson, Chair</u>	Chair Peterson talked about major facilities initiatives and asked members to reflect on how to move forward with addressing the facility needs at the July 23 meeting. Key Facilities Areas Identified: 1. Main Library: Upgrades needed to bring the building up to current City Building Codes. 2. Branch Libraries: Belmont, Westover Hills, and East End were identified as the oldest branches, each located in high-use areas. All three are currently too small to adequately serve their communities. 3. Future Growth Areas: Scott's Addition, Council District 8, and Council District 9 were highlighted as growing and significantly underserved regions, signaling a need for expanded library services. After further discussion on a path forward on the key facilities areas identified, and Mr. Firestine's eagerness to support and move the initiatives forward into the future, Chair Peterson called for motion. The Library Board of Trustees fully supports Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Director Scott Firestine's effort to improve and expand RPL facilities to include Main Library, expansion/replacement at Westover Hills, Belmont Branch and East End Branch Libraries, and the consideration of new libraries. <i>Motion: William Yates, Second by Brent Graves</i> <i>AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i>
Finance <u>Bill Yates, Chair</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	Mr. Yates reported the budget is on target. He did note there were certain line items that were at 100% with only being two months into the FY26. These were encumbered funds for the year, such as Security. There is a need for more money for next fiscal year.
Facilities <u>Janet Woody, Chair</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	No Formal Report.
Governance <u>Garrett Sawyer, Chair</u> <u>Christine Peterson</u>	No Formal Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
No Unfinished Business was discussed.
NEW BUSINESS
No New Business was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. by unanimous consent from the members who were present.

The LBOT's next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at the Hull Street Branch Library located at 1400 Hull Street, Richmond, Virginia 23224, starting at 11:45 a.m.

Approved: _____
Christine Peterson, Chair

Recorder: Gianna Pack, CAP
Senior Executive Assistant

Director's Report October 2025

Director Activities:

Oct 1-3	VLA Conference – Richmond
Oct 1	Library of Virginia Directors' Meeting – LVA
Oct 1	Friends of the Library Executive Board Meeting – Main Library
Oct 2	Budget Season/Advocacy Messaging Collaboration Meeting with Bill Yates and Sheron Carter-Gunter – Willow Lawn
Oct 8	Brainstorming Planning with Chair Peterson and Susan Revere – Main Library
Oct 8	Facilities Discussion with Chair Peterson – Main Library
Oct 13	Indigenous People Day Holiday – All Libraries Closed
Oct 14	Informal and Council Meetings – City Hall/Virtual
Oct 16	Tour and Meeting with Amy Nisenson – Main Library

Hiring:

- **October 2025 Hiring Update:**
 - 0034 – FT Library Technician, Main Library – Requisition Phase
 - 0026 – FT Library Technician, East End Branch Library – Posting Phase
- New Hires/Location:
 - 0179 – Adri Newman, PT Management Analyst, Associate – Read with Ripple Program – October 6, 2025
 - TEMP0179 – Shawn Williams, PT Library Technician – Read with Ripple Program – October 6, 2025
- Departing:
 - 0034 – Chris Sloce, FT Library Technician, Main Library – September 29, 2025
 - 0026 – LaTasha Ellis, FT Library Technician, East End Branch Library – Resigned October 17, 2025

Outreach and Engagement Update: September was Library Card Sign-Up Month and a major time for outreach. The library team participated in a total of 31 outreach events, connecting with over 1,600 community members. As a result, 1,088 new cardholders were registered during the month. A key talking point was the Library Card Sign-Up Month design contest, featuring two exclusive designs by local artist Ash Rudolph. One of the winning designs will appear on T-shirts, bags, mugs, and other merchandise available through the library's new online store. Community members were invited to vote, with 10 lucky participants winning a free T-shirt. The eye-catching artwork and the chance to win swag attracted many people to the outreach tables and sparked engaging conversations about library services.

Director's Report Continued
October 2025

Something Amazing Happened at the Library!

- **Ginter Park Branch Library:** We had two young girls come into the branch who were very proud because they had fully completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Challenge. They received their certificates and prizes, the first kids to finish the challenge at Ginter Park.
- **Main Library:** A person who spent the night outdoors after being released from Federal prison came in right as we opened and asked where to go. We were able to provide him with accurate information referring him to Daily Planet and the City's Community Resource Center at 1900 Chamberlayne. He had no phone, no ID for a library card, so he needed to speak with someone who had updated, accurate, trustworthy information—and we had it!
- **North Avenue Branch Library:** We had a patron come into the branch who needed help with basic computer help for a job application and was having trouble understanding the language. One of our teen volunteers stepped up and assisted the patron with reading the questions and answering the questions on the application for the patron. The patron returned a few days later and thanked us and the volunteer for the assistance.

CIRCULATION FY2026														
LOCATION	FY	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total
Belmont	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	8,454	8,780	9,182	9,140	9,329	107,499
	FY25	9,655	8,891	9,159	9,439	8,600	9,685	9,164	9,328	9,468	9,614	9,043	9,811	111,857
	FY26	10,213	9,752	11,015										30,980
Broad Rock	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	2,135	2,556	2,417	2,229	2,415	25,330
	FY25	2,543	2,564	2,515	2,701	2,433	2,490	2,515	2,241	2,307	2,148	2,138	2,589	29,184
	FY26	2,507	2,094	2,325										6,926
East End	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	2,742	2,961	2,967	3,003	3,038	31,792
	FY25	3,418	2,890	2,989	3,180	2,661	2,606	2,709	2,690	2,782	2,556	2,571	3,160	34,212
	FY26	3,166	2,922	3,254										9,342
Ginter Park	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	3,947	4,242	3,943	4,241	4,733	50,040
	FY25	5,575	5,005	4,430	4,460	4,045	4,169	4,550	4,683	5,323	5,033	5,169	5,806	58,248
	FY26	6,204	5,920	5,939										18,063
Hull Street	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	2,059	1,870	1,849	1,777	2,036	25,715
	FY25	2,123	2,120	2,146	2,295	1,785	1,847	1,500	1,517	1,709	1,516	1,445	1,503	21,506
	FY26	1,706	1,778	1,827										5,311
Main	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	8,265	9,416	9,041	8,665	8,386	104,137
	FY25	8,724	9,236	8,857	8,888	7,880	7,467	8,022	8,039	9,212	8,823	8,639	9,568	103,355
	FY26	10,102	9,751	10,612										30,465

CIRCULATION FY2026 (CONTINUED)														
LOCATION	FY	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total
North Avenue	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	2,108	2,011	2,119	2,358	2,748	26,258
	FY25	2,943	2,899	2,907	2,965	2,321	2,375	2,468	2,478	2,843	2,441	2,702	3,318	32,660
	FY26	3,217	3,201	3,530										9,948
West End	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	10,328	10,789	11,027	11,457	12,216	130,493
	FY25	13,977	12,956	11,756	11,346	9,624	9,890	11,234	10,498	10,948	10,547	10,591	12,538	135,905
	FY26	13,404	12,202	12,155										37,761
Westover Hills	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	8,131	8,432	8,196	8,131	9,168	101,068
	FY25	10,085	9,495	8,938	8,821	7,746	7,906	8,363	8,067	8,351	8,209	8,659	9,636	104,276
	FY26	10,556	9,937	9,759										30,252
E-Content	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	35,378	37,274	36,890	37,078	39,698	381,721
	FY25	41,178	40,652	40,124	39,955	42,109	44,466	50,662	46,551	51,789	50,778	52,187	46,592	547,043
	FY26	54,175	54,617	52,066										160,858
Totals	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	80,964	82,302	76,087	77,602	72,788	71,882	83,052	84,421	89,019	88,063	87,982	94,249	988,411
	FY25	100,221	96,708	93,821	94,050	89,204	92,901	101,187	96,092	104,732	101,665	103,144	104,521	1,178,246
	FY26	115,250	112,174	112,482										339,906

PROGRAMS FY2026	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY25
Belmont														
Adult Programs	9	11	9											96
Adult Attend	57	60	75											837
Young Adult Programs	3	0	2											21
Young Adult Attend	3	0	2											35
Juvenile Programs	20	6	17											184
Juvenile Attend	460	132	323											3,710
Total Attend	520	192	400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,112	4,582
Total Programs	32	17	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	301
Broad Rock														
Adult Programs	3	0	6											104
Adult Attend	6	0	18											1,698
Young Adult Programs	3	3	3											36
Young Adult Attend	16	9	11											236
Juvenile Programs	44	24	33											318
Juvenile Attend	242	77	98											2,153
Total Attend	264	86	127	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	477	4,087
Total Programs	50	27	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	119	458
East End														
Adult Programs	24	17	14										55	75
Adult Attend	136	198	159										493	712
Young Adult Programs	12	7	9										28	110
Young Adult Attend	54	30	35										119	456
Juvenile Programs	22	7	17										46	242
Juvenile Attend	191	79	118										388	2,793
Total Attend	381	307	312	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	3,961
Total Programs	58	31	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	427

PROGRAMS FY2026 (CONTINUED)	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY25
Ginter Park														
Adult Programs	12	10	13										35	118
Adult Attend	51	40	43										134	433
Young Adult Programs	10	6	3										19	93
Young Adult Attend	44	10	5										59	234
Juvenile Programs	29	18	28										75	275
Juvenile Attend	351	132	195										678	1,798
Total Attend	446	182	243	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	871	2,465
Total Programs	51	34	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	129	486
Hull Street														
Adult Programs	7	7	15										29	65
Adult Attend	26	34	71										131	362
Young Adult Programs	4	1	3										8	28
Young Adult Attend	25	2	0										27	83
Juvenile Programs	12	10	19										41	80
Juvenile Attend	174	96	162										432	1,352
Total Attend	225	132	233	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	590	1,797
Total Programs	23	18	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	173
Main														
Adult Programs	16	14	25										55	279
Adult Attend	188	278	423										889	7,116
Young Adult Programs	20	17	15										52	171
Young Adult Attend	211	115	90										416	1,052
Juvenile Programs	27	19	44										90	344
Juvenile Attend	863	394	389										1,646	6,886
Total Attend	1,262	787	902	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,951	6,102
Total Programs	63	50	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	197	336

PROGRAMS FY2026 (CONTINUED)	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL FY26	TOTAL FY25
North Avenue														
Adult Programs	9	7	11										27	74
Adult Attend	45	36	84										165	594
Young Adult Programs	2	2	5										9	20
Young Adult Attend	59	40	19										118	208
Juvenile Programs	25	17	22										64	240
Juvenile Attend	342	312	378										1,032	3,396
Total Attend	446	388	481	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,315	4,198
Total Programs	36	26	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	334
West End														
Adult Programs	12	10	17										39	154
Adult Attend	48	53	106										207	736
Young Adult Programs	4	2	2										8	18
Young Adult Attend	25	17	5										47	40
Juvenile Programs	29	16	21										66	235
Juvenile Attend	504	194	231										929	3,337
Total Attend	577	264	342	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,183	4,113
Total Programs	45	28	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113	407
Westover Hills														
Adult Programs	6	6	10										22	128
Adult Attend	35	27	35										97	971
Young Adult Programs	3	4	2										9	32
Young Adult Attend	21	38	0										59	98
Juvenile Programs	33	17	30										80	286
Juvenile Attend	739	550	1,591										2,880	5,468
Total Attend	795	615	1,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,036	6,537
Total Programs	42	27	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	111	446
Grand Total Attend	4,916	2,953	4,666	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,535	46,794
Grand Total Programs	400	258	395	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,053	3,826

DOOR COUNT FY2026	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL
Belmont	5,000	5,000	5,587										15,587
Broad Rock	5,285	5,381	4,888										15,554
East End	5,175	5,658	5,538										16,371
Ginter Park	4,921	4,820	4,234										13,975
Hull Street	2,646	2,654	3,358										8,658
Main	16,091	18,303	15,550										49,944
North Avenue	3,256	3,380	3,256										9,892
West End	4,638	4,358	4,280										13,276
Westover Hills	6,673	5,865	7,133										19,671
TOTALS FY26:	53,685	55,419	53,824										162,928
TOTALS FY25:	51,117	54,769	46,019	50,443	37,015	41,276	43,168	39,985	48,783	45,396	46,593	51,924	556,488
TOTALS FY24:	39,382	46,969	32,640	45,796	32,816	35,874	42,622	46,082	46,907	56,662	54,040	52,146	531,936

NOTE: July-August 2025: The Belmont door counter was currently out of service and scheduled for replacement.

NEW PATRON CARDS													
FY2026	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Total
Belmont	163	147	145										455
Broad Rock	84	101	86										271
East End	60	75	60										195
Ginter Park	83	79	53										215
Hull Street	64	51	49										164
Main	284	392	448										1,124
North Avenue	42	47	55										144
West End	105	87	82										274
Westover Hills	125	79	110										314
Online Reg E-Card	1,061	1,068	1,116										3,245
Total FY26:	2,071	2,126	2,204										6,401
Total FY25:	1,545	1,715	2,165	1,743	1,598	1,375	2,020	1,844	1,868	1,745	1,745	1,978	1,341
Total FY24:	1,526	1,689	1,492	1,768	1,668	1,200	1,924	1,581	1,655	1,595	1,510	1,534	19,142

COMPUTER USE FY2025	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	TOTAL
Belmont Workstation	611	575	468										1,654
WIFI	763	885	901										2,549
Broad Rock Workstation	695	675	734										2,104
WIFI	1,662	1,167	1,107										3,936
East End Workstation	210	547	530										1,287
WIFI	1,375	1,586	1,319										4,280
Ginter Park Workstation	719	700	577										1,996
WIFI	895	1,506	1,532										3,933
Hull Street Workstation	457	599	662										1,718
WIFI	1,295	1,379	995										3,669
Main Workstation	2,175	2,241	2,244										6,660
WIFI	7,388	8,683	6,996										23,067
North Avenue Workstation	588	617	493										1,698
WIFI	1,411	959	766										3,136
West End Workstation	357	372	331										1,060
WIFI	1,874	1,367	1,681										4,922
Westover Hills Workstation	587	531	528										1,646
WIFI	744	726	745										2,215
TOTALS FY26:	23,806	25,115	22,609										71,530
TOTALS FY25:	21,187	21,829	20,636	23,149	17,841	19,621	17,496	18,232	21,343	21,448	21,953	23,306	248,041
TOTALS FY24:	16,191	18,566	17,176	18,563	13,735	14,255	16,296	17,267	17,903	18,723	19,691	19,587	207,953
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

TECHNICAL SERVICES - FLOATING ITEMS ADDED / DISCARDED				
FY2026	Printed Materials Added (All Branches)	Overdrive Added	Monthly Total Added	Monthly Total Discarded
Jul-25	2,424	787	3,211	785
Aug-25	1,806	335	2,141	420
Sep-25	1,602	427	2,029	709
Oct-25				
Nov-25				
Dec-25				
Jan-26				
Feb-26				
Mar-26				
Apr-26				
May-26				
Jun-26				
FY26 Totals:	5,832	1,549	7,381	1,914
FY25 Totals:	16,705	4,573	21,278	23,358
FY24 Totals:	14,096	5,041	19,137	43,251

LAPTOP CHECKOUTS FY2026	Jul- 25	Aug- 25	Sep- 25	Oct- 25	Nov- 25	Dec- 25	Jan- 26	Feb- 26	Mar- 26	Apr- 26	May- 26	Jun- 26	TOTAL
Belmont	2	3	1										6
Broad Rock	0	1	0										1
East End	0	0	0										0
Ginter Park	1	4	1										5
Hull Street	1	2	0										2
Main Library	1	1	0										2
North Avenue	1	0	0										0
West End	2	8	5										13
Westover Hills	4	6	4										10
TOTALS FY26:	12	25	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
TOTALS FY25:	35	20	26	26	22	23	15	14	30	18	13	21	263

External Room Requests FY2026	Jul-25		Aug-25		Sep-25		Oct-25		Nov-25		Dec-25		Jan-26		Feb-26		Mar-26		Apr-26		May-26		Jun-26		Total Requests	Total Attended
	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended	Requests	Attended				
Belmont																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 15)	13	71	17	80	16	41																			46	192
Broad Rock																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 35)	20	79	3	137	21	283																			44	499
East End																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 35)	27	98	42	184	34	137																			103	419
Ginter Park																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 40)	23	116	15	55	16	114																			54	285
Hull Street																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 47)	9	107	13	309	13	254																			35	670
Main																										
Auditorium (Capacity 250)	27	1,776	26	1,637	25	1,406																			78	4,819
Annex (Capacity 45)	21	467	14	713	18	452																			53	1,632
Activity Room (Capacity 48)	11	364	15	853	17	668																			43	1,885
Gellman Room (Capacity 80)	19	843	22	1,145	28	763																			69	2,751
Memory Lab (Capacity 4)	76	76	62	62	83	83																			221	221
Innovation Lab (Capacity 12)	12	12	18	18	10	10																			40	40
Study Room B (Capacity 6)	109	219	90	222	97	205																			296	646
Study Room C (Capacity 12)	100	354	81	343	84	321																			265	1,018
Study Room D (Capacity 12)	86	326	79	387	78	302																			243	1,015
Study Room E (Capacity 6)	Meeting Room Not in Use																									
North Avenue																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 47)	15	121	17	85	13	72																			45	278
West End																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 44)	7	73	13	146	14	170																			34	389
Study Room (Capacity 8)	79	145	81	174	75	117																			235	436
Westover Hills																										
Meeting Room (Capacity 35)	5	15	3	24	10	48																			18	87
Total: FY26:	659	5,262	611	6,574	652	5,446	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,922	17,282
Total: FY25:	550	3,309	523	4,111	562	4,327	635	5,412	537	3,673	521	4,189	447	4,117	578	5,930	634	6,401	680	6,647	653	6,034	647	6,707	6,967	60,857

Richmond Public Library
FY26 Operating Budget
September 30, 2025

ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	Budget	Actual and Encumbered 30-Sep-25	% Spent	Balance Available 30-Sep-25
60000	SALARIES - FULL TIME	\$ 4,733,156	\$ 1,084,520	22.9%	\$ 3,648,636
60001	OVERTIME PERMAN	\$ 19,176	\$ 520	2.7%	\$ 18,656
61000	SALARIES - PART TIME	\$ 426,904	\$ 135,749	31.8%	\$ 291,155
62000	SALARIES - TEMPORARY	\$ 10,000	\$ 17,924	179.2%	\$ (7,924)
63000	FICA	\$ 314,974	\$ 74,591	23.7%	\$ 240,383
63001	RET CON RSRs	\$ 291,626	\$ 68,775	23.6%	\$ 222,851
63002	MEDCARE FICA	\$ 73,674	\$ 17,445	23.7%	\$ 56,229
63003	GROUP LIFE	\$ 28,766	\$ 6,113	21.3%	\$ 22,653
63004	CONSTITUTIONAL	\$ 69,193	\$ 15,819	0.0%	\$ 53,374
63006	H/C ACT TEMP	\$ 958,691	\$ 207,019	21.6%	\$ 751,672
63008	STATE UNEMPLOYMENT	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
63011	HEALTH SAVINGS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
63100	VRS HYBRID DB	\$ 439,381	\$ 85,709	19.5%	\$ 353,672
63105	VRS HYBRID DC	\$ -	\$ 5,907	0.0%	\$ (5,907)
63110	VRS HYBRID VLDP	\$ -	\$ 4,371	0.0%	\$ (4,371)
63115	VRS Hybrid 401a	\$ -	\$ 5,180	0.0%	\$ (5,180)
64103	Educncvtv #81	\$ -	\$ 2,448	0.0%	\$ (2,448)
	Personnel Expenses	\$ 7,365,541	\$ 1,732,090	23.5%	\$ 5,633,451
71141	BOOKS	\$ 952,359	\$ 131,634	13.8%	\$ 820,725
71141	DATABASES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
71142	MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTS	\$ 2,456	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 2,456
72122	MAGS & NEWSPAPER	\$ 29,277	\$ (17,650)	-60.3%	\$ 46,927
	Collection Development	\$ 984,092	\$ 113,984	11.6%	\$ 870,108
70131	ADVERTISING	\$ 2,297	\$ 16,000	696.6%	\$ (13,703)
70161	PLANNING MGMT SERVICES	\$ 483,050	\$ 185,086	38.3%	\$ 297,964
70215	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	\$ 81,200	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 81,200
70218	VEHICLE REPAIR	\$ 2,402	\$ 1,578	65.7%	\$ 824
70412	TRANSPORTATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
70416	EMPLOYEE PARKING	\$ 21,600	\$ 23,360	108.1%	\$ (1,760)
70311	PRINTED SUPPLIES	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 3,000
70413	MILEAGE ALLOWANCE	\$ 2,263	\$ 246	10.9%	\$ 2,017
70551	SECURITY	\$ 294,543	\$ 63,421	21.5%	\$ 231,122
70552	CONTRACT AND TEMP PERSONNEL	\$ 22,000	\$ 42,350	192.5%	\$ (20,350)
71012	OFFICE STATIONARY SUPPLIES	\$ 3,047	\$ (1,593)	-52.3%	\$ 4,640
71016	ADVERTISING	\$ -	\$ 10,000	0.0%	\$ (10,000)
71143	LIBRARY OPERATING SUPPLIES	\$ 19,220	\$ (6,229)	-32.4%	\$ 25,449
72113	POSTAGE	\$ 4,456	\$ 266	6.0%	\$ 4,190
72121	CONFERENCES & CON	\$ 1,904	\$ 580	30.5%	\$ 1,324
72123	MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$ 677	\$ 195	28.8%	\$ 482
72124	TRAINING	\$ 1,055	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 1,055
72131	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	\$ 25,662	\$ (21,291)	-83.0%	\$ 46,953
72153	EQUIPMENT	\$ 138,341	\$ 3,005	2.2%	\$ 135,336
73104	BANK FEES	\$ -	\$ 2,129	0.0%	\$ (2,129)
76119	PAGERS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
76652	PAPER PRODUCTS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77103	FUEL-D/O VEHICLE	\$ 1,686	\$ 479	28.4%	\$ 1,207
77104	VEHICLE MONTHLY STANDING	\$ 493	\$ 123	25.0%	\$ 370
77107	AUTO EXPENSES C	\$ -	\$ 2,461	0.0%	\$ (2,461)
77201	INTERNAL PRINTING	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
77501	DIT CHARGES	\$ -	\$ 1,524	0.0%	\$ (1,524)
80001	DEPRECIATION	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80004	BUILDINGS & STR	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
80006	EQUIPMENT & OFFICE MAINTENANCE	\$ 31,160	\$ (949)	-3.0%	\$ 32,109
80007	VEHICLE EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
95002	OPERATING TRANS	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ -
	Other Expenses	\$ 1,140,056	\$ 322,741	28.3%	\$ 817,315
	TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 9,489,689	\$ 2,168,816	22.9%	\$ 7,320,873

Richmond Public Library
Foundation, Friends, Groups and Individuals
FY2026

Consent Agenda: Deposited Gifts over \$100 Shown as of October 22, 2025

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

Council Talk
City Of Richmond Council Meeting
October 14, 2025

I'm Chris Peterson, Chair for the Richmond Public Library and I want to tell you 3 things in 3 minutes about our library.

First, we have significantly our reach to RVA communities and residents.

Over the past 2 years, we have:

- Increased print and digital media check outs by 50%
- Had 150,000 more visitors to our libraries
- Expanded our programs and doubled attendance

Second, Summer Reading. This is the second year we have had summer interns in each of our nine libraries (grant funded) so we could provide lots of personal service. We were also able to expand our programming. All our events were full. The Reptiles and Rainbow Puppets were a huge hit, and, in some instances, we had to move children and families from meeting rooms into the branch's central space to accommodate the crowd. We love being popular with this audience. All-in-all, over the past 2 years, we have increased summer reading participation 52%.

Finally, with this success for my favorite residents (childrens and families) we are planning to increase our programming further in summer of 2026 and I am going to give you a little advance information...

Ready for a secret? Next year's summer theme will be ***Unearth a Story***. If you know any dinosaur lovers, archeology fans, or rock experts, whisper this to them. They will have something fabulous to look forward too.

Richmond Public Library Travels back to the Renaissance era

By: Spectrum Editor / Daijah Hinmon, *Staff Writer*

Date: September 24, 2025

<https://commonwealthtimes.org/2025/09/24/richmond-public-library-travels-back-to-the-renaissance-era/>

The Commonwealth Times/The Independent Press of Virginia Commonwealth University



Jousters battling at the Westover Hill Renaissance Faire & Market. Photo by Naveen Griscom.

People of all ages came together to celebrate artistic expression present throughout the Renaissance era. A variety of vendors shared their handmade crafts, from flower crowns to jewelry and potion making. Visitors came in their best attire, wearing elaborate dresses and suits of armor — even some dragons were spotted.

The Westover Hills Public Library hosted a wholesome Renaissance Faire and Market on Sept. 20. The event held activities for everyone, with Virago Alley providing historical displays of crafts, tools and weapon demonstrations.

Westover Hills' mission is to create accessible libraries that allow people to feel like they are a part of the community, according to Danielle Tarullo, the Westover Hills Library community services manager. The event combined the Renaissance era with aspects of the library, like checking out fantasy and history books or "How to Train Your Dragon" movies.

"Richmond is a city that enjoys a festival and an activity," Tarullo said. "Before the pandemic, this branch used to have regular fall festivals. So this was our initial way of bringing that tradition back."

The library was able to get donations from local businesses like BBGB Books in Carytown who provided book bundles and gift cards, Tarullo said. Stella's Market, Clothes Rack and Blanchard's Coffee also donated gift cards to the library.

"There is a very strong community here, the businesses that are near us all really care about supporting the library and see the library's value in the community," Tarullo said.

Attendee Jenny Sparks just moved to the area a few months ago. She said she enjoyed visiting local artists and the Ren Faire's sword demonstrations.

"I want to say that as somebody who is in a gay relationship and is non-binary myself," visitor Ermine Lewis said. "I'm actually really encouraged by seeing a lot of LGBTQ representation here."

If the library were to hold a similar event, Lewis said they would definitely attend.

“I’m also really encouraged by the fact that the library is hosting this,” Lewis said. “I think that this is actually a really great move to get kids interested in history and in culture.”

The event successfully celebrated the Renaissance era, vendor Olivia Stone said. The Ren Faire brought the community together and celebrated the library itself, which she hopes will encourage more people to get library cards.

Virago Alley is a non-profit organization that serves as a hub for knowledge exchange, skill development and community building, according to their [website](#). They held youth combat demonstration at the Ren Faire. Bizhan Khodabandeh, vice president and Ashley Moore, treasurer are both VCU alumni.

Virago Alley will be holding an official Richmond Ren Faire in spring of 2026. Rooted in community, the Faire brings together local performers, merchants, artists, and cultural organizations, adding a modern twist that reflects the city’s vibrant creative spirit.

Amanda Robinson, founder of Virago Alley and Gallery 5 thought it was really exciting to be a part of the Renaissance Faire and Market event since the phenomenon of Ren Faires has grown exponentially over the last couple of years. Especially post-pandemic, people are returning to working with their hands and spending time in nature.

“You know, Ren Fair is not just for history nerds,” Robinson said. “It’s for fantasy nerds and folks that just need a community and a place to be weird.”

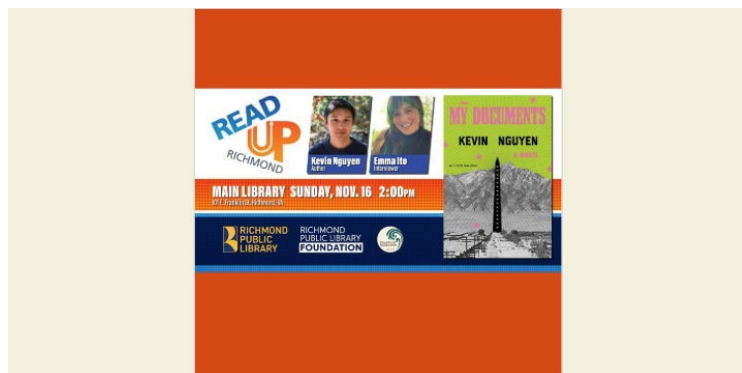
∞ END ∞



Read Up Richmond with Kevin Nguyen

November 16 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

<https://www.styleweekly.com/event/read-up-richmond-with-kevin-nguyen/>



We are thrilled to team up with Richmond Public Library to support Read Up Richmond again!

Read Up Richmond is an annual event that challenges people to read courageously, listen thoughtfully, and connect meaningfully. This program is made possible through the generous support of the Richmond Public Library

Foundation and the Friends of the Richmond Public Library.

Join us for an engaging discussion with author Kevin Nguyen at Richmond Public Library! We're honored to present *Mỹ Documents* as our 7th annual Read Up Richmond selection. This is a unique chance to hear directly from a respected writer, ask questions, and connect with others interested in the timely and thought-provoking issues raised in his book. Everyone is welcome—come be part of the conversation!

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

REGISTER HERE: [open_in_newhttps://rvalibrary.org/read-up-richmond/](https://rvalibrary.org/read-up-richmond/)

About the Book:

Informed by real-life events, from Japanese incarceration to the Vietnam War and modern-day immigrant detention, *Mỹ Documents* gives us a version of reality only a few degrees away from our own. Moving and finely attuned to both the brutalities and mundanities of racism, *Mỹ Documents* is a strangely funny and touching portrait of American ambition, fear, and family. The story of the Nguyens is one of resilience and how we return to one another, and to ourselves, after tragedy.

About the Author:

Kevin Nguyen is a celebrated author and editor known for his incisive, witty, and deeply resonant writing. He held prominent editorial roles at well-known publications such as *GQ*, *The Verge*, and *Google Play Books*. His debut novel, *New Waves* (2020), garnered critical acclaim for its exploration of friendship, grief, technology, and race. *Mỹ Documents*, his second novel

and the 2025 Read Up Richmond book, is informed by real-life events, from Japanese incarceration to the Vietnam War and modern-day immigrant detention. The highly readable and accessible novel presents a version of reality only a few degrees away from our own. Moving and finely attuned to both the brutalities and mundanities of racism, *Mỹ Documents* is a strangely funny and touching portrait of American ambition, fear, and family.

Emma Ito is the Director of Education at Virginia Humanities, where she is responsible for the development, coordination, and implementation of educational resources for K-12 students, college students, teachers, and lifelong learners. Prior to working at Virginia Humanities, Emma worked as an education and program specialist at the Library of Virginia, where she led an initiative to research and share Asian American history. Emma has also been an adjunct professor in the Virginia Commonwealth University Global Education Department and the University Honors College. She received her B.A. and M.A. in History at Virginia Commonwealth University, where her master's thesis was on the experiences of Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans in Virginia, with a focus on the time periods of Jim Crow and World War II. In her free time, Emma is an avid reader and bookstagrammer.

Withfriends believes in building financial resilience for indie bookstores through community support.

∞ END ∞

[View Online](#)



Shop Richmond Public Library Merchandise from Anywhere!

Exciting news: we've just launched our **official online store**, and you're among the first to know!

Our first design, “**Endless Possibilities**,” by local artist **Ash Rudolph**, is ready to show off on cozy tees, stylish tote bags, and more. Whether you're wearing your library pride around town, using a tote for your favorite books, or gifting a fellow book lover, this merch is a fun way to celebrate your love for Richmond Public Library.

Every purchase supports the library and helps us continue offering programs, events, and resources for the community.

Shop now and be among the first to snag “**Endless Possibilities**”!

Thank you for supporting Richmond Public Library—happy shopping!



Richmond Public Library

101 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 646-7223

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jennifer.deuell@rva.gov

∞ **END** ∞