Explore, Discover, Connect...

for a lifetime of education

2012 Annual Report

Providence Public Library
Providence Public Library Foundation
Mission

Providence Public Library inspires lifelong education among all Rhode Islanders, fostering personal fulfillment and enhanced quality of life for an informed, enlightened and engaged citizenry.

Vision

The Library is both a physical and virtual presence and is the premiere free, personal learning institution in Rhode Island. All ages and backgrounds engage in robust and vigorous lifelong learning, which occurs in ways from delightfully serendipitous to intensely purposeful.

The Library is a committed partner with each individual in meeting their intellectual and cultural goals and with the broader community of learners to achieve an informed, enlightened, and engaged citizenry.

On the cover
One of our young readers knew just what to do at the new Chace Children’s Discovery Library on Opening Day.
From Our Chair and Director

Pursuing innovative collaborations…

Sharing our assets and resources…

For decades, Providence Public Library has engaged in partnerships and pursued innovative and collaborative endeavors in order to create and expand upon our vital services for all Rhode Islanders.

This year we achieved successes in each of our primary service areas by initiating new and maintaining ongoing partnerships and collaborations. Moreover, we recognize that our success is attained through the achievements of those who turn to us in pursuit of lifelong learning. In this report, we are proud to showcase a number of accomplishments through our collaborative efforts to better serve our patrons.

We’ve had much to celebrate this year! Working with Providence Children’s Museum to create and open our new Chace Children’s Discovery Library, we have welcomed thousands of young children and their families to their special library for the first time and watched as they took their initial steps together on a path to lifelong learning.

Through our ongoing relationship with the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative and a perennial partnership with Rhode Island Service Corps of Retired Executives, we continued to meet the needs of adult learners and those seeking career and economic advancement opportunities.

And, as always, those who turned to our Library for enriching lifelong learning experiences were not disappointed! Among our unique assets and resources are our outstanding Special Collections. This year, we were fortunate to work both with individuals and community organizations on multiple projects and presentations to preserve and share these wonderful and historic collections. Similarly, we successfully delivered a wide array of quality lifelong learning opportunities in conjunction with fellow public libraries and educational institutions. These enriching programs and series included lectures, discussions, exhibits, films, author presentations and more.

Finally, we are pleased to report significant progress in a new area — sharing with all Rhode Islanders one of our prime assets, our historic Renaissance building and its unique spaces. Through a new partnership with Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions, we will proudly be “opening our doors” to all who wish to hold their personal celebrations at our grand library in the coming year.

…Achieving our service goals
Working Together to Build a Destination Learning Place for Young Children and Families

With the help of hundreds of guests, Mayor Angel Taveras, and donor Malcolm Chace, our *Chace Children’s Discovery Library* — *The story starts here* officially opened January 28, 2012. It was the culmination of a year-long collaboration between the Library and Providence Children’s Museum to plan and build a one-of-a-kind destination learning place for young children and families. We can say our new destination children’s library has been years in the making, as the enriching place for early learners features the Library’s premiere Children’s Collection of more than 60,000 items! Coupled with our expert staff, and wonderfully engaging environment and activities — including an enchanting silvery birch Forest — it has become a “must” for Rhode Island’s young children and families.
Early Childhood Learning
While several hundred guests came for our new Library’s opening day, during the few months after more than 2,000 visitors attended our regular programs and activities and countless more simply came to see and explore their new *Chace Children’s Discovery Library*. A direct result of the new library has been an increase in the number of early care and pre-school groups that have visited us. Also, through the exceptional outreach efforts of Americorps volunteer Kate Leszkowicz, we visited an incredible number of early care agencies reading and sharing a total of 847 books and countless invitations to visit!

By the numbers...

4,906 Books Loaned to Teachers and Care Givers
4,503 Attended Children & Family Programs
1,776 Books Read
1,193 Children from Schools and Agencies Visited Us
237 Learning Programs
202 Bulk Loans to Schools and Agencies
171 Library Visits to Early Care Agencies
102 LARK (Learning & Reading Kits) Borrowed
79 Schools and Child Care Agencies Visited the Library
60 Attended Programs for Parents of Young Children

Our popular year-round programs for young children and families include:

**Lapsits** for children under 1 year old
**Cradle to Crayons** for ages 1 to 3
**Evening Story Hour** for ages 4 and up
**Family Learning Sundays**
**Summer Reading Program**

Throughout the year, we present several programs specifically for parents of young children.
In March, the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI) based at PPL received word from Better World Books and the National Center for Family Literacy that the Library would receive a $10,000 Libraries and Families award to implement an innovative new program that would enable selected adult students in RIFLI’s ESL program to become Discover Guides in our new Chace Children’s Discovery Library.

In addition to providing valuable work experience to RIFLI adult learners, this grant is helping us promote a love of reading in young children and giving immigrant parents the tools they need to help their children become successful readers and learners.

With the introduction of our four new Discovery Guides, PPL’s staff language skills expanded three-fold: our guides speak Spanish, Chinese and Korean and are helping us to greet and assist immigrant families in the Chace Children’s Discovery Library, as well as aiding with critical outreach to our varied immigrant communities.

Pictured (l - r) Myungsook Ji, a native of Korea; Eubalda Coates, a native of Guatemala; Tina Fang, a native of China; Yesicca Cranshaw, a native of Colombia.

Right — Yesicca with Library visitors Wendy and Ryan Vitek.
Ongoing Partnerships Enable Innovative Initiatives and Quality Learning Experiences

Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative — Striving for Success

The Libraries and Families award that enabled the hiring of four Discovery Guides is just one example of the innovative undertakings and ongoing successes achieved through the joint efforts of the Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI) and the Library. RIFLI continually seeks new community partnerships and explores different avenues to meet and exceed its goals for educating the ESL adult learners in its program and helping them to achieve their individual economic advancement objectives. RIFLI’s ongoing collaborations include its five public library partners (in Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket and Providence), Healthcentric Advisors, University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Citizenship Consortium and Gordon School.

This year, RIFLI pursued a partnership with URI Feinstein Providence campus’ LOOK and LEAP programs — college transitional programs that offer reading, writing, math instruction and help with study skills, applying for financial aid, and time management — all designed to help students succeed in college. Learners who complete the LEAP program also qualify for a scholarship for their first for-credit URI course. Ten or more RIFLI students will enroll in this program in the coming year. These one-semester programs offer the literacy help and close guidance that non-traditional college students often need in order to succeed. This was part of a College Access and Success Grant from the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education.

Pen Pal Project — A New Way to Share Languages, Experiences

When Gordon School Spanish teacher Tricia Kelly was looking for a willing partner for her language sharing idea, she didn’t have to ask RIFLI instructor Larry Britt twice. He agreed her “pen pal” project made for a great collaborative learning opportunity for all and put the wheels in motion. Soon, eighth grade Gordon School Spanish and French language students were paired with and sharing communications with RIFLI adult ESL students, each writing in their “target” language. After several exchanges, all 41 Gordon students and 22 RIFLI students met at the Library and shared a final learning experience — a tour of the Library. The Gordon School students created the project’s culminating product — a book of photos and biographies of the participants written in either Spanish or French and translated into English. All agreed the project was a success and encouraged that it be continued.

Professional Support for Small Business Entrepreneurs

Through our ongoing partnership with RI SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives), the Library again offered its twice-a-year Starting a Small Business workshop series for more than 60 individuals seeking to begin their own small businesses. Over five weeks, these popular programs give participants the basics needed to plan and begin the process of establishing themselves in business and are augmented by the Library’s business and workforce resources and librarian research support.


RIFLI offers all levels of ESL, Citizenship Preparation, pre-CNA, computer-based distance learning and family literacy. A high school external diploma program is also under way.

This year, RIFLI served 270 adults and 40 children. Still, 100 students are on a wait list.

The program met all state and national performance targets for improving two or more reading levels in a year, receiving a performance bonus from the RI Department of Education.

42 RIFLI students became U.S. Citizens, 29 got jobs, and 6 successfully enrolled in a college transition program.
Lifelong Learning
Nearly 200,000 patrons walked through our doors this year, many receiving direct expert service from our Children’s, Reference and Circulation staffs, the Special Collection librarian, or through their attendance at programs such as films, author talks and lectures. Close to 250,000 items were loaned to patrons statewide and beyond. About 3,000 adults attended 120 varied learning programs and activities.

Partnerships Yield Diverse Adult Learning Programs and Audiences
This year, we offered three popular program series, two of which were supported by NEH/ALA public program funds: Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women and In a Nutshell — The Life and Work of Maurice Sendak. The third series was offered in connection with the Rhode Island Center for the Book’s Reading Across Rhode Island selection for 2012, Caleb’s Crossing by Geraldine Brooks.

Each of the series featured varying elements: lectures, films, live performances, exhibits, and even a field trip to Louisa May Alcott’s home in Concord, Massachusetts. The programs drew attendance from many quarters, thanks to outreach afforded by our partner organizations, including The Providence Athenaeum, Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island College, Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Rhode Island.

Also, through Living Literature, a local readers’ theater troupe, we welcomed many new faces for two performances.

We continued our relationships with several community partners, offering space and staff support for long-running events at the Library. The African Alliance of Rhode Island held their day-long symposium in October. Members of the African community and Bryant University students participated in workshops, a lecture on African immigration, and a musical performance by the Senegalese Sabar group led by Lamine Toure.

The Rhode Island Black Storytellers held their 14th annual Funda Fest Family FUNDay storytelling workshop and public performance in January. And, once again we hosted the Rhode Island International Film Festival’s and Horror Fest’s free screenings in our auditorium.
Special Collections — Collaborating to Preserve and Share Our Treasures

With contributions from numerous volunteers logging 603 hours, we had a tremendously busy and productive year in Special Collections. Highlighting cataloging efforts, 468 books in our Edith Wetmore Children’s Collection and more than 1,000 items from the Percival Magic Collection were added to our online catalog. In addition, 14 Collection Guides were produced and made available through our Web site and the Archive-Grid repository. Collections organized or processed, included:

- Acts of the Rhode Island General Assembly
- The Arnold Family Papers
- Harris Civil War and Slavery Collection Ephemera
- Updike Autograph Collection
- Updike Ephemera Collection
- World War II Ephemera

Multiple physical and online exhibits, as well as varied supporting digital image galleries, were also mounted on our Web site.

A Time for Wonder

An extremely successful collaborative effort this year was the multi-dimensional Wonder Show. Artist volunteers Carolyn Gennari and Anya Ventura dedicated several months mining our glass plate negative collection to create magic lantern slides, conducting community writing workshops at our Library and elsewhere to produce a script, and working with local actors to prepare and deliver the show to standing-room only crowds. Thanks also to their efforts, we mounted Sympathetic Magic, physical and online exhibits on the history of optical entertainments and the process they went through in creating and delivering a magic lantern show in Providence.

Updike Autograph Collection Is Now Open for Use

The processing of our previously uncatalogued Daniel Berkeley Updike Autograph Collection of over 800 important and wide-ranging manuscript items is complete and now available to researchers, through the terrific volunteer efforts of Ramon Cartwright, a RISD graduate. In addition to Ramon’s work documenting and producing a finding aid in order to fully list the collection online, conservation efforts to preserve the collection are also well under way.

Getting Their Hands Dirty, and Loving It

Thanks entirely to funds contributed by generous subscribers to our quarterly Occasional Nuggets and the ongoing efforts of long-time volunteer Patricia Loan, the entire Updike Autograph Collection is being re-housed in new acid-free containers. Patricia, along with her husband James Loan, came the Library in 2009 offering their volunteer services. Since then, they have tackled a range of projects in Special Collections, never shying away from jobs where they had to get their hands dirty!

More than 500 researchers and visitors called upon our Special Collections Department, including 11 classes of students and instructors from AS220, Brown University, Providence College, Rhode Island College, and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

We mounted 5 physical and online exhibitions and our materials were loaned to 4 external exhibitions.

Left

Patricia Loan carefully worked on re-housing the Updike Autograph Collection over several months.
Fiscal Year 2012
Statement of Revenue & Expenses from Operations
July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012 (unaudited)

REVENUE
Public Funds
State of RI – Reference Resource Center $ 402,535
State of RI – Grant in Aid 478,002

Private Funds
Contribution from Endowment 1,753,506
Program Grants & Donations (Restricted) 1,261,692
Fees, Fines & Other 96,350
Donations (Unrestricted) 64,923
Subtotal Income $ 4,057,008

EXPENSES
Salaries $ 1,882,497
Benefits 712,047
Books, Databases & Materials 120,285
Library Supplies 223,261
Facility Maintenance 363,575
General & Administrative 388,631
Utilities 134,709
Security Services 4,702
Subtotal Expenses $ 3,829,707
Surplus (Deficit) $ 227,301

Note: Library Revenue Program Grants includes $206,589 and Other includes $39,338 of previously reported revenue reserved and expended during FY2012. Library Revenue Program Grants also includes $484,451 of revenue reserved for FY 2013.

Volunteer Services
Our library benefits greatly each year from the varied services of many volunteers. This includes time and talents contributed by our PPL and PPL Foundation trustees, numerous committee members, and a diverse group of dedicated individuals who together have helped us with countless achievements in all areas. This year, volunteers contributed 4,130 hours.

Information Services
Our librarians helped 33,485 patrons with reference questions.
Visitors came to our Web site 275,452 times and viewed 626,724 pages.
Our Special Collections blog received 15,937 visits.
We welcomed 1,136 participants in 221 computer training classes.
Patrons used our 46 public computer workstations 43,272 times.

On their Library tour, Gordon School and RIFLI students got to see and hear about a few rare items in our Special Collections from librarian Jordan Goffin.
**Opening Doors — Sharing Our Spaces**

While the Library’s programs and services are focused on early childhood, economic advancement and lifelong learning, with our *Opening Doors* campaign we add a fourth focus: sharing our spaces. We want to:

- Preserve our historically significant building for the future
- Make our architecturally beautiful spaces available for use by the broader Rhode Island community
- Increase awareness about our valuable institution and what we offer
- Generate new revenue and new supporters to further our library services
- Promote the value of our building as an economic driver for the city and state

Key to our success will be our business partnership with **Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions**. In addition to welcoming people into our wonderful spaces for personal and special occasions, we are recreating a traditional research room — the **Providence Journal Rhode Island Room**, aided by a new full-time Rhode Island Collection librarian — enabling us to shine the spotlight on and more fully share our rich and unique Rhode Island Collection, as well as our other outstanding Special Collections.

Our partnership with Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions was formally announced on February 24.

**Top** — Library Director Dale Thompson and Russell Morin made it official.

**Above** — The Library’s Atrium Chandelier will remain as a centerpiece in the newly renovated Grand Hall and Garden Courtyard.

**PHOTO CREDIT**
Left — Erin McGinn for Bliss Publications
Providence Public Library Foundation

Providence Public Library Foundation seeks to ensure continued excellence in library services for the Providence Public Library community by providing private funding to enhance programs and services.

From Our Chair

Without doubt we continue to experience extremely challenging times. However, it is during these times when it becomes clear just how important our library’s role is in our community. Further, we realize that we must find new ways to guarantee that our unmatched assets and unique resources are plentiful and accessible to all. Indeed, we must continue to embrace innovative opportunities to ensure that we thrive as the critical statewide center for lifelong learning that Rhode Islanders have depended on for 137 years.

We have reported numerous successful collaborations this year in our commitment to our mission, vision and services. In the PPL Foundation, where we are focused on providing the private support necessary to ensure our library’s continued excellence, we have taken a similar approach to help preserve our institution and all that distinguishes it, including our historic Renaissance building.

We are excited that, through our new business partnership with Russell Morin Hospitality Solutions, we will be able to offer our spaces to individuals and groups for special personal and other occasions. With this venture and our $4 million “Opening Doors” campaign, we will not only gain important revenue to support our mission, but we are looking forward to sharing our exquisite library and all that it offers in new ways and with those who may not ordinarily experience it.

Fiscal Year 2012

PPL Foundation Sources of Philanthropy Revenues
July 1, 2011—June 30, 2012 (unaudited)

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Grants &amp; Donations (Restricted)</td>
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<td>Annual Appeal (Unrestricted)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Funds &amp; Bequests</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED</strong></td>
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NOTE: The Providence Public Library Foundation’s endowment contributed $1,753,506 to Providence Public Library’s FY 2012 operating budget.
Each year countless volunteers, donors and organizations collaborate with and contribute their invaluable time and talent to the Library and their community. The Providence Public Library Foundation and Providence Public Library recognize and thank these and all Fiscal Year 2012 supporters and donors whose contributions ensure that the Library continues in its mission as a vibrant and vital resource providing lifelong learning opportunities to all Rhode Island residents.

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* Reflects giving over 5 or more consecutive years.
† Deceased

This list reflects the generous support of
our donors from July 1, 2011 through
June 30, 2012. Some gifts may include
an employer’s match. Multiyear pledges
are listed in full in the year they are made;
annual payments are reflected in the list
above. We make every effort to produce
accurate lists. We apologize if we have
misspelled or omitted a name.

Please remember Providence Public
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To donate, simply write Providence Public
Library in the space provided for donor
option on the United Way form.

Planned Giving is an integral part of
ensuring Providence Public Library’s excel-
ence for generations to come. When
arranging your financial or estate plan,
we hope you will consider the Library.
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Kathy Cashman

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Ms. Maureen McCool
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Mr. and Mrs. Leroy A. Grinnell
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In Memory of Janice Cowsill
Ms. Patricia Healy

In Memory of Howard Krasnow
Mr. Herman H. Rose

In Memory of Liebe Kravitz and
Miriam Kravitz
Mr. Steven Subotnick and
Ms. Amy Kravitz

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In Honor of Rosemary Murphy
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Loren Brigham
Ms. Jane K. Thompson

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Edna Frazier Memorial Collection
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Kestin and Drabienko Book Fund
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