

June 2025 Director's Report

Staffing Updates

We announce with mixed feelings that Ishva Mehta will be departing her position as Publicity and Marketing Associate in late June to pursue graduate studies this fall. During her tenure, Ishva made significant contributions to our annual fundraising efforts, impact reporting, social media presence, and numerous other initiatives. We extend our gratitude for her dedicated service and wish her success in her academic pursuits.

Facilities and Infrastructure

Parking Improvements: We extend our appreciation to Plainsboro Public Works for completing the striping of parking spaces adjacent to the library building.

Park Renovation Impact: The Township's Market Square Park renovation project commenced May 21, 2025, resulting in the temporary closure of the park area. The project is currently in the demolition phase, with completion anticipated by early fall. We continue to monitor any potential impacts on library operations and patron access.

Quiet Balcony Maintenance: The cracked glass panel on the quiet balcony has been successfully replaced with Township support. Public Works will provide staff assistance for the installation of the balcony canopy, a feature that has generated frequent patron inquiries since its introduction last year.

Summer Reading Program 2025: Color Our World

Our 2025 Summer Reading Program will run from June 21 through August 16, 2025. The program will launch with a kickoff event on June 21 featuring a multi-generational scavenger hunt, outdoor activities provided by the Plainsboro Recreation Department, children's art activities, and take-and-make crafts for adults. The program will conclude with our Summer Celebration on August 16, featuring performances by George the Magician and library-wide intergenerational art events. Our popular annual egg drop event is scheduled for July 19.

Programming Highlights: In alignment with our "Color Our World" theme, we will offer a diverse array of programming including a community quilt project, adult coloring sessions, musical concerts, tie-dye workshops, sketching clubs, and art workshops for teens and adults developed in partnership with a local art academy.

Program Enhancements: This year's program features several notable improvements. We have expanded our focus on adult programming to better serve older readers and lifelong learners. For participants ages 0-13, we are introducing tactile, in-person reading trackers that provide a more hands-on experience for younger readers, with small prizes awarded every five days of reading participation.

Community Partnerships: We have significantly expanded our local business partnerships to create an enhanced prize selection that combines local business gift cards with theme-appropriate items such as art supplies and colorful hobby sets. Participating businesses include Kung Fu Tea, Lightbridge Academy, Redberry Frozen Yogurt, Art Academy, and additional local partners.

Concert Series Enhancement: Our traditional summer concert series will be elevated this year with the addition of pop-up art displays featuring local artists, children's activities, and participation from community organizations including the Plainsboro Lions Club.

Thanks to Programming Coordinator Joyce Huang and Youth Services Department Head Amelia Grant for overseeing the development of this year's program for all ages.

Fundraising Initiatives

Annual Fundraiser - Adopt a Book Campaign: Following the success of last year's Library Registry, our 2025 annual fundraiser launched May 28, 2025. As of May 30, 2025, we have achieved 16.55% of our \$10,000 goal, demonstrating strong early community support.

Strategic Planning Process

Community Survey: Our strategic planning survey is now accessible at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/plainsborolibrary>. We encourage broad community participation and request assistance in sharing this opportunity with all Plainsboro residents, including both current library users and non-users.

Survey participation stands at 133 responses as of Friday, May 30, following the first week of availability. To enhance participation, staff and volunteers will maintain survey stations within the library, and my Saturday Director's event on June 7, 2025, will focus specifically on survey awareness and engagement.

Focus Groups: The following focus group sessions have been scheduled for June:

- Thursday, June 5, 4:00-5:30 PM: Teen Focus Group (in-person)
- Saturday, June 7, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM: Parents Focus Group (in-person)
- Wednesday, June 18, 6:30-8:00 PM: Young Working Adults Focus Group (virtual via Zoom)

Community Engagement

Founders Day Participation: Favorable weather conditions contributed to successful Founders Day participation, during which library staff engaged with numerous community members and various local organizations. Consistent with previous years, the majority of public inquiries centered on passport services and event information. Our embedded librarians supported the Human Resource Council and Lions Club as part of our Connect to Community initiative.

Professional Activities and Development

Director's Meetings and Engagements:

- April 8, 2025: Follow-up pre-construction meeting for Market Square Park renovation project
- May 13, 2025: Township Supervisors Meeting
- May 23, 2025: Meeting with Pastor Boyd Hannold, Princeton Alliance Church

Community Outreach Programs:

- April 5, 2025: "Breakfast and Books" community engagement session
- April 24, 2025: Tech Help Hour at ICON at Riverwalk
- April 26, 2025: Cricut Workshop for special needs students

Staff Professional Development:

- April 29, 2025: Sew Yeng Chong attended Tech Fest 2025
- May 19, 2025: Sew Yeng Chong attended "The Safe Library" training

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Miguez

Library Director

Plainsboro Public Library