

August 2025 Director's Report

Staffing Updates

This month marked a significant milestone as we completed another successful hiring and onboarding period, welcoming several new team members to fully staff the library. We are pleased to introduce Ashley Hu and Tithi Mehta as the library's first part-time Page positions, representing an important expansion of our support services.

Additionally, we welcome Margaret "Maggie" Finnell and Myra de Paz-Leon as part-time Public Services Assistants. Both will provide valuable support across all public service desks, enhancing our capacity to serve patrons throughout the library.

We are also pleased to announce that Carol Bustos has joined our team as the new Publicity and Marketing Associate. Ms. Bustos returns to the library, having previously served as a Passport Acceptance Agent, bringing valuable institutional knowledge to her new role.

With these appointments, the Plainsboro Public Library is now fully staffed across all departments.

Summer Programming Excellence



Friday Night Summer Concert Series

Our summer concert series has achieved remarkable success this year, demonstrating the resilience and adaptability of our programming team. Despite the ongoing Market Square Park

renovation project requiring relocation of events to the library's entry plaza, attendance increased by 25% over the previous year's figures.

The concerts consistently drew crowds of 100-125 attendees and featured successful partnerships with community organizations including the Plainsboro Lions Club and the Emergency Squad. These collaborations enhanced both the safety and community engagement aspects of the events.

Programming enhancements included art displays by Plainsboro Library Art Club members and engaging children's activities coordinated by our youth services staff, creating truly intergenerational community events that allowed families to enjoy live musical performances together.

We extend our appreciation to Community & Digital Librarian James Fahey and Youth Services Department Head Amelia Grant and her dedicated staff for their collaborative efforts in making this event series a highlight of our summer programming calendar.



31st Annual Egg Drop Event

Our beloved annual summer egg drop tradition continued on Saturday, July 19th, with the event taking place from the library's front balcony. The event successfully engaged 44 participants who submitted egg drop capsules for the engineering challenge. As Library Director, I had the

pleasure of serving as announcer, using a megaphone to introduce each participant as their carefully designed protection systems were put to the test.

We extend special recognition to Programming Coordinator Sew Yeng Chong for her exemplary oversight of this popular engineering challenge. The event's success was further enhanced by the dedicated assistance of numerous teen volunteers, whose enthusiasm and support ensured smooth operations throughout the day.

Strategic Planning Progress

Our comprehensive strategic planning initiative has achieved significant milestones this month. Community engagement has exceeded expectations, with survey responses reaching 1,200 participants, surpassing our initial target of 1,000 responses by 20%.

All scheduled focus group sessions have been successfully completed. Notably, we made a strategic adjustment to our original plan, pivoting from a Senior Citizens focus group to a General Community Focus Group. This modification proved highly successful, attracting 25 community members and generating valuable insights for our planning process.

Library Crossroads, our strategic planning consultants, are currently conducting comprehensive analysis of both survey data and focus group findings. Based on their review timeline, we anticipate scheduling two Strategic Planning Committee meetings to review consultant findings and collaborate on crafting our next strategic plan. This process will ensure that community input is meaningfully integrated into our future direction and service priorities.

Professional Activities and Development

Director's Meetings and Engagements:

- July 8, 2025: Township Supervisors Meeting
- July 21, 2025: Meeting with PSEG Advanced Custom Program
- July 22, 2025: Meeting with Giuseppe Lentini and Rich DeGhetto, BCB Bank/BancCard
- August 1, 2025: Plainsboro Public Library Foundation Meeting

Community Outreach Programs:

- July 9, 2025: Pritiben Solanki attended the Plainsboro Senior Citizens Club
- July 10, 2025: Nature & Stories Preserve/Library collaboration with Chrissy Holcombe
- July 11, 2025: Lightbridge Academy visit with Amelia Grant
- July 16, 2025: Discovery Years Learning Center Library visit with Sloane Kazim and Amelia Grant
- July 17, 2025: Dutchneck Elementary School visit with Chrissy Holcombe
- July 24, 2025: Nature & Stories Preserve/Library collaboration with Chrissy Holcombe
- July 25, 2025: Lightbridge Academy visit with Amelia Grant
- July 31, 2025: Nature & Stories Preserve/Library collaboration with Chrissy Holcombe

Staff Professional Development:

- June 2, 2025: Sew-Yeng Chong attended "Frontline Workers: How to Back Up your Coworkers"
- June 3, 2025: Regan Tuerff attended STELLA Bib Committee - Annual Summit
- June 4, 2025: James Fahey attended Hoopla Training
- June 6, 2025: Sew-Yeng Chong attended "De-Escalation Core Training"
- June 10, 2025: Sew-Yeng Chong attended "Beyond Prompt Engineering: Practical Strategies for Everyday AI Use in Libraries"
- June 13, 2025: Sloane Kazim attended "Youth Mental Health Training"

Respectfully submitted,

Darren Miguez

Library Director

Plainsboro Public Library