

July 2025 Director's Report

Staffing Updates

The library is currently conducting recruitment for several key positions: one Part-Time Public Services Assistant, two Library Pages, and a new Publicity and Marketing Associate. Interview processes are scheduled to commence during the first week of July 2025.

Recognition and Awards

NJLA Publicity Award: The Plainsboro Public Library has been honored by the New Jersey Library Association with a publicity award recognizing our 2024 Annual Impact Report. The commemorative plaque is now on display in the Peter Cantu Library History Room. We extend our appreciation to former Publicity and Marketing Associate Ishva Mehta for her exceptional work that contributed to this recognition.

Foundation Partnership and Technology Enhancement

The Plainsboro Free Public Library Foundation has generously committed support for both our Summer Reading Program and significant technology upgrades to the Science Center. Over the course of the summer, we will be implementing high-speed 3D printing capabilities and multi-color 3D printing technology. These enhancements will substantially expand our capacity and expedite our 3D printing services to the public. We extend our profound gratitude to the Foundation for their continued investment in our summer programming and Science Center offerings.

Library Services and Database Access

JerseyClicks Statewide Database Extension: Access to JerseyClicks electronic resources, provided through the New Jersey State Library at www.jerseyclicks.org, has been extended through September 30, 2025. During this three-month extension period, New Jersey residents will retain full access to all resources from Data Axle, EBSCO, Gale, and HeritageQuest databases selected for the July 2022-June 2025 contract period. Decisions regarding the open Request for Quotations process for the 2025-2028 contract period are currently delayed due to uncertainty surrounding federal and state budget allocations. Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

Facilities Updates

Quiet Balcony Canopy Installation: Through the dedicated efforts of Assistant Director Nick Olimpaito and Patron Access Associate Kevin Piedrahita, the canopy over the quiet balcony has been successfully reinstalled and is now being utilized and appreciated by library patrons.

Strategic Planning Progress

We have successfully completed focus group sessions with three key demographic groups: teens, parents, and young working adults. A fourth focus group session remains pending. Our community survey has generated 1,083 responses to date, surpassing our target goal of 1,000 responses. Following completion of the final focus group, comprehensive review of collected data will commence, and the Strategic Planning Committee will begin their formal work.

Summer Reading Program Launch

Summer Reading Kickoff 2025: Color Your World: Our summer reading program launch event attracted over 100 participants. The event was occurred in partnership with Katlyn Shaffery, Summer Camp Coordinator from the Recreation Department. We commend our library staff for their exemplary efforts in delivering comprehensive summer reading programming for all age groups.

Professional Activities and Development

Director's Meetings and Engagements:

- June 4, 2025: Friends of the Library meeting
- June 6, 2025: Foundation Board meeting
- June 10, 2025: Township Department Head meeting
- June 25, 2025: Quarterly STELLA consortium meeting

Community Outreach Programs:

- April 3, 2025: Chrissy Holcombe presented library resources alongside the West Windsor Youth Librarian at middle school "Lunch and Learn" sessions
- April 26, 2025: Chrissy Holcombe participated in STEM programming at Town Center Elementary School
- May 19, 2025: Sew Yeng Chong and Joyce Huang provided technology assistance at Riverwalk ICON

Staff Professional Development:

- May 28, 2025: Sloane Kazim attended New Jersey Library Association conference
 - June 2, 2025: Sew Yeng Chong completed "Frontline Workers: How to Back Up Your Coworkers" training
 - June 3, 2025: Regan Tuerff participated in STELLA Bibliographic Committee Annual Summit
 - June 4, 2025: James Fahey completed Hoopla platform training
 - June 6, 2025: Sew Yeng Chong attended De-Escalation Core Training
 - June 10, 2025: Sew Yeng Chong participated in "Beyond Prompt Engineering: Practical Strategies for Everyday AI Use in Libraries"
 - June 13, 2025: Sloane Kazim completed Youth Mental Health Training
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Respectfully submitted,

Darren Miguez

Library Director

Plainsboro Public Library