

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
June 16, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at the Central Library and remotely via Zoom pursuant to due notice to trustees. Per Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021, which modifies Open Meetings Law through the end of the declared COVID-19 state disaster emergency, trustees attending remotely were counted for quorum and voting. The following members were present; those designated with an asterisk (\*) attended the meeting remotely:

Kimberly Johnson, Chair  
Carima El-Behairy, Vice Chair  
Joel C. Moore, Secretary\*  
Alan J. Bedenko, Esq., Treasurer\*  
Michael Amodeo, Esq.\*  
Sheldon M. Berlow\*  
Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS\*  
John D. Craik\*  
Frank Gist  
Frank Housh, Esq.\*  
Elaine M. Panty  
Christopher Sasiadek, Esq.

Chair Kimberly Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A call of the roll was taken. A quorum was present.

Agenda Item B – Approval/Changes to the Agenda. There were no changes to the proposed agenda.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of May 19, 2022. Trustee Panty noted the *RiverRock Times* should be correctly identified going forward, as the paper's name had changed. On motion by Trustee Panty, seconded by Trustee Sasiadek, the Minutes were unanimously approved as mailed.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair.

Chair Johnson reported she, Trustee El-Behairy, and Director John Spears have continued to visit contracting library boards, recently attending meetings for the Alden

Ewell Free Library and Amherst Public Library. They have visited 11 library boards so far on their tour.

Chair Johnson also reminded trustees of the local author talk she was hosting the next day at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library for the book *The Juneteenth Story* by Alliah L. Agostini. She encouraged all trustees to attend and participate.

#### Agenda Item E – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 – Executive Committee. The Executive Committee met on June 9, 2022. A copy of the written report was included in the Board packet. Trustee El-Behairy summarized the meeting. She mentioned Resolution 2022-19, which was approved by the Executive Committee at the meeting, explaining the resolution addressed closure and holiday pay on Juneteenth for 2022, but for future years, the holiday would be subject to union negotiations.

Trustee Bedenko joined the meeting during this summary, at 4:08 p.m.

Trustee Sasiadek asked how closures would be addressed going forward. Director Spears explained a determination would be made for the Central Library and Buffalo Branches based on applicable union contracts. Contracting libraries each determine their own schedules; a major factor likely will be whether the unions representing contracting library employees negotiate for holiday pay going forward. Following discussion, Trustee Panty moved to have the written report entered into the Minutes, Trustee Sasiadek made a second, and this was approved unanimously.

Present: Executive Committee Chair Kimberly Johnson, Vice Chair Carima El-Behairy, members Frank Housh and Elaine Panty, and ex-officio member Kathleen Berens Bucki\*. Also present were Director John Spears, Chief Financial Officer Ken Stone\*, and Assistant to the Director Erin Vest. Those designated with an asterisk (\*) attended the meeting remotely, as permitted by Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021.

The meeting of the Executive Committee began at 4:03 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Director Spears introduced Resolution 2022-19 – Closure of Central Library & Buffalo Branches for Juneteenth Holiday on June 20, 2022 and explained it as presented. Chair Johnson asked about the budgetary impact. Director Spears and CFO Stone confirmed the impact would be minimal; full-time and regular-part-time employees working on that day would be paid at the higher holiday rate, but there would also be savings from part-time employees not being scheduled. Trustee Housh asked how the holiday would be addressed in future years. Vest noted that holidays are subject to collective bargaining. Trustee El-Behairy asked about the impact on patrons. Director Spears said this was taken into consideration by administration; comments from the public

regarding Juneteenth have been in favor of closing in honor of the holiday. He noted that some contracting libraries have indicated they would remain open if the date is designated a holiday, as they already have Juneteenth programming scheduled.

Director Spears also noted spring Sunday hours will be ending after this week, so they are assessing the impact of having libraries closed for two days in a row, especially the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library. He was already planning to meet with Assistant Deputy Director Samantha Purpora and Merriweather Branch Manager Joshua Mitch to discuss open hours, given the increased use of the branch following May 14. Trustee Housh spoke in favor of extending Sunday hours into the summer as well as increasing evening hours during the week. He noted that funds for such extension could be requested from New York State. Director Spears said they would evaluate what open hours will be most impactful for the community. Patrons have requested more evening hours, while Sundays have had the lowest attendance. Staffing and scheduling requirements will also need to be considered. Discussion ensued.

Following discussion, Trustee El-Behairy moved to approve Resolution 2022-19. Trustee Panty seconded, and approval was unanimous.

Chair Johnson reported she had been selected to serve on the Buffalo 5/14 Survivors Fund Steering Committee. They will help determine the criteria for dispersing the funds. Trustee Housh offered to assist with or provide reference for any legal services the committee needs.

The Executive Committee then reviewed the proposed agenda for the June 9, 2022 B&ECPL Board of Trustees meeting.

CFO Stone reviewed proposed Budget & Finance items. Resolution 2022-20 would distribute funds from a Grant-in-Aid sponsored by Erie County Legislator Jeanne M. Vinal to support extension of hours of operation at the Williamsville Branch Library for 2022. Director Spears noted he had attended the latest Amherst Public Library Board of Trustees meeting and emphasized that these are one-time funds for 2022. They are planning to double their current hours from 20 hours per week to 40 hours per week. Their board is also looking into adding Saturday hours in the fall.

CFO Stone next referred to Resolution 2022-21, which authorizes the Board Chair to execute 2022 contracts with the contracting libraries. He stated this year is fairly normal when compared to the past two years. Budgets have been amended to reflect recent board resolutions, such as implementing the fine free initiative. Finally, he reported the B&ECPL remains within budget.

Director Spears noted that ACT President Richard Earne has been asked to attend an upcoming meeting to report on behalf of ACT.

Following review, the Executive Committee had no changes to the proposed agenda.

With no further business to discuss, the Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. on a motion by Trustee El-Behairy and a second by Trustee Housh.

Agenda Item E.1.a – Closure of Central Library & Buffalo Branches for Juneteenth Holiday on June 20, 2022. Resolution 2022-19 was passed unanimously by the Executive Committee on June 9, 2022. Pursuant to the Bylaws, the resolution was mailed to the full Board within three business days.

RESOLUTION 2022-19

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library is responsible for the provision of benefits to its employees, and

WHEREAS, benefited B&ECPL employees receive paid holidays on dates negotiated for union employees through the process of collective bargaining or as set by the B&ECPL Board of Trustees for non-union employees, and

WHEREAS, the Central Library and Buffalo Branch libraries typically close to the public on such dates, and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the AFSCME bargaining unit negotiated to include Juneteenth as a paid holiday per their union contract, and

WHEREAS, on May 31, 2022, Erie County announced that all Erie County buildings and offices would be closed on June 20, 2022 in recognition of the Juneteenth Holiday and all full-time and regular part-time Erie County employees, regardless of bargaining unit, would receive a paid holiday, and

WHEREAS, given the above factors, Library Administration recommends the closure of the Central Library and Buffalo Branch libraries on June 20, 2022 in observation of Juneteenth, and

WHEREAS, Library Administration further recommends that June 20, 2022 be treated as a paid holiday for all full-time and regular part-time employees System-wide, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Central Library and Buffalo Branch libraries be closed to the public on June 20, 2022, and be it further

RESOLVED, that June 20, 2022 be treated as a paid holiday for all full-time and regular part-time employees System-wide at the rate established for paid holidays by the bargaining unit or benefits package applicable to each employee.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Amend 2022 Budget: Erie County Legislature Member Grant-in-Aid. Chief Financial Officer Ken Stone explained Resolution 2022-20 as presented. He emphasized that this resolution does not commit funds to continue the expanded hours in future years. Trustee Gist moved for approval, Trustee El-Behairy seconded, and the following was approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2022-20

WHEREAS, in May, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was informed that the Erie County Legislature approved a \$25,000 Grant-in-Aid sponsored by Erie County Legislator Jeanne M. Vinal to support *extension of hours of operation at the Williamsville Branch for 2022*, and

WHEREAS, Library staff subsequently consulted with the Amherst Public Library Director to determine which accounts to adjust to implement this additional service in 2022, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL accepts the one-time award of \$25,000 in County Legislator Member Aid, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL approves the following amendment to the 2022 Operating Budget, increasing revenues and expenses as follows:

**2022 Operating Budget**

Account #	Description	Cost Center	Library	Amount
<b>Revenue</b>				
460000	Misc. Receipts Revenue	4205040	Williamsville Br.	\$ 25,000
<b>Expense</b>				
500010	Part-time Wages	4205040	Williamsville Br.	\$ 23,072
502010	Employer FICA - Regular	4205040	Williamsville Br.	\$ 1,430
502020	Employer FICA - Medicare	4205040	Williamsville Br.	\$ 335
502050	Workers Compensation	4205040	Williamsville Br.	\$ 108
502060	Unemployment Insurance	4205040	Williamsville Br.	\$ <u>55</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>				<b>\$ 25,000,</b>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL understands the sponsor's designation that the funds are to be used to support extension of hours of operation at the Williamsville Branch for 2022, and be it further

RESOLVED, that there is no commitment by the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL to fund the extension of hours at the Williamsville Branch beyond 2022, rather it is subject to the Library's budget process and overall fiscal situation, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution and a revised Exhibit A be transmitted to the Amherst Public Library.

Agenda Item E.2.b – Authorize Chair to Execute 2022 Contracts with Contracting Libraries. CFO Stone explained Resolution 2022-21 as presented. He noted this resolution is done annually. Trustee El-Behairy moved for approval, Trustee Gist seconded, and approval was unanimous.

#### RESOLUTION 2022-21

WHEREAS, budgetary allocations from Erie County and New York State to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library constitute the vast majority of the financial resources supporting the contract with the "Public Library," and

WHEREAS, Erie County's 2022 allocation was not known until early December, and New York State's overall allocation was adopted in early April, and

WHEREAS, this made it difficult for the B&ECPL and the contracting libraries to develop, consider, and approve a contract prior to the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year on January 1, 2022, and

WHEREAS, to meet 2022 operating expenditure needs of the contracting libraries, the B&ECPL Board of Trustees on December 16, 2021 adopted Resolution 2021-42, implementing the extension provision contained in the 2021 contract until such time as a final 2022 contract is adopted, not to exceed July 31, 2022, with budgetary amounts based upon the 2022 Board-adopted budget and any subsequent modifications thereof, and

WHEREAS, Erie County's 2022 budget is now in place and the New York State budget has been adopted, and

WHEREAS, the impact of these changes is now known, allowing necessary budget adjustments to be made, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL authorizes the Chair of the Board of Trustees to execute 2022 contracts subject to the terms and conditions noted above and with budget figures reflecting the 2022 Board-adopted budget as amended.

Agenda Item E.2.c – Monthly Financial Report. The monthly financial report for the year as of April 30, 2022 month-end close was included in the Board packet as an

information item. CFO Stone again emphasized utility costs have been extremely high. He expects utilities will end the year over budget but is confident the Library will remain within budget overall due to savings in other areas, especially part-time personnel.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Director Spears began by thanking the administrative team for stepping up in his absence after the mass shooting on May 14. He also commended Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Manager Joshua Mitch for his continued outstanding efforts to provide support and services at the library following the shooting. Director Spears noted the theme of the *Metropolitan Libraries Conference* he had attended was *Fostering Resilient Cities. How can public libraries support communities through challenging times and crises?*, and the B&ECPL response to May 14 was exactly appropriate according to experts. He said the keynote presentation from the conference is now available online, and he would send a link to the Board.

Director Spears reported copies of the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements completed by each System Trustee and Key Employee of the B&ECPL for the year 2022 had been sent to Alan Bedenko, Chair of the Governance Committee per the B&ECPL Conflict of Interest Policy, Article III, Section 3.2 – Annual Disclosure.

He further reported New York State regulation 8 CRR-NY 90.4 *Standards for central libraries* was in the process of being revised. Current stipulations denote that certain State aid funds must be spent on adult nonfiction materials; this could potentially be expanded to other materials or even personnel costs.

Director Spears informed the Board that a survey regarding the current written director's report would be transmitted to each of them following the meeting. The survey will assess the current version of the report and ask what information and statistics trustees would find most useful going forward.

Trustee Housh joined the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Director Spears reported he has visited all Buffalo Branches and 13 contracting libraries so far. He has also been shadowing departments at the Central Library. His next goal is to meet with each Board member individually. Erin Vest will reach out to trustees to schedule these meetings, which can be formal or informal.

In entering the budget season, Director Spears advised the Board that the Library would be requesting more than a 2% increase this year. Inflation has far outpaced that rate, and staffing at the Central Library and Buffalo Branches is already as lean as it can be. Essentially, a 2% increase would equate to a budget cut based on current economic trends and would affect library services. Trustee Gist noted there is support in the

community for the Library; the public has rallied before against budget cuts. Director Spears felt it was important to be proactive in demonstrating their needs this year.

Director Spears also noted he and the administrative team are assessing current open hours at the Buffalo Branches. They will be looking at community feedback but within the confines of current staffing. He noted staffing is incredibly lean, and most staff are at capacity. As part of this study, they will be costing out hours in terms of staffing to have ready for any budget questions. Chair Johnson asked if the B&ECPL utilizes the Mayor's Summer Youth program. Assistant Deputy Director Joy Testa Cinquino noted they have been used for specific projects, such as the 2020 Census, but cannot do the work of regular employees. Trustee Gist asked if the B&ECPL could offer more money to employees. CFO Stone noted the AFSCME union had negotiated a flat dollar increase in their last contract, and the CSEA contract currently being voted on includes one as well. These increases are especially impactful for lower job grade titles, which includes most library staff.

Finally, Director Spears noted a recent shift in the administrative organizational structure. The Assistant Deputy Director of Public Services and Assistant Deputy Director of Extension and Outreach Services would now be reporting directly to him instead of Chief Operating Officer Jeannine Doyle. Before this change, almost all departments reported up through the COO. This will allow COO Doyle to focus on support services. Trustee Housh asked for an updated organization chart, which Director Spears said would be provided.

The following report was submitted by the Director and transmitted to Board members prior to the meeting:

### **B&ECPL Monthly Report May 2022**

**Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library Support** - The neighborhood of the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library suffered a devastating tragedy on May 14, 2022. Merriweather Branch Manager **Joshua Mitch**, Library Associate **Miranda Pawlak**, Library Technology Clerk **Harrison Oldham**, Building Guard **Tony Bolden**, and Caretaker **Robert Green** have done a tremendous job supporting the community by opening extra hours, opening meeting spaces to Tops Friendly Markets' personnel, keeping public restrooms open for community partners, and more. The Merriweather Branch's role as a supportive community hub has been acknowledged by many in the neighborhood. In addition to maintaining regular library operations, this staff has gone above and beyond to support their community in this time of need.

***Celebrating Art!*** - The Central Library main floor was again adorned with dozens of wonderful student artworks representing every Buffalo Public School and every grade level for the annual *Celebrating Art!* exhibit during the month of May. The Library's



Graphics Department worked with BPS to hang the large display. An awards ceremony and reception was held on May 12 recognizing the student artists, their teachers, and their families. Assistant Deputy Director **Dorinda Darden** opened the program.

**Mental Health Awareness Month** – In celebration of *Mental Health Awareness Month*, Information Services and Outreach Librarian **Shanley Olszowy** collaborated with Restoration Society, Inc.; Western New York Independent Living; BestSelf Behavioral Health; Mental Health Peer Connection; and the Erie County Department of Mental Health to provide the *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness Day in Buffalo* on May 12 at the Central Library. An opening welcome was provided by Mark O'Brien, Erie County Commissioner of Mental Health, and Buffalo Police Captain Amber Beyer, Supervisor of the Buffalo Police Department's Behavioral Health Team. The event also included the annual musical flash mob and dancing on the Central Library ramp. Inside the Central Library, a *Mental Health Fair* featured over 20 County agencies and non-profits offering information regarding mental health services available to anyone in need. There were over 350 people in attendance.

**National Small Business Week** – In celebration of *National Small Business Week* from May 1 – 7, the Central Library provided virtual programs on Facebook that were offered through the Small Business Administration, New York Small Business Development Center, and the Central Library's Grow with Google partnership.

**Reading Park** – The Central Library's outdoor Reading Park is coming to life again post-pandemic, beginning with the first ever *Immigrant & Refugee Resource Fair* on May 14, coordinated by the Buffalo office of the New York Immigration Coalition and Community Engagement Manager **Anne Conable**. Twelve organizations providing health, education, and job training services were represented. Additionally, there were poetry workshops from Just Buffalo Literary Center. Planning for a number of upcoming Reading Park programs this summer is ongoing, and we are especially excited for the upcoming **Colored Musicians Club Queen City Jazz Festival** on July 30.

**May is Mystery Month** – In recognition of *National Mystery Month*, Information Services and Outreach Manager **Daniel Caufield** and Librarian **Andrew Maines** coordinated two programs with local author and Edgar Award winner Gary Earl Ross at the Central Library. Ross and author Susan Lynn Solomon participated in a *Mystery Writers Workshop* and hosted a *Mystery Writers Panel Discussion* on May 7 and May 12, respectively.

**Tours of the Central Library** - Children's Services and Outreach Manager **Kristi Dougherty** and Librarian **Jennifer Lelinski** assisted **Shanley Olszowy** in conducting library tours, bibliographic instruction, and research help for students of St. Francis High School on May 16. In addition, Special Collections staff provided assistance with research in the Grosvenor Room. On May 22, **Daniel Caufield** hosted a tour of the Central Library for staff and members of the Board of Trustees of the Angola Public Library. Attendees were also provided information about the history of the B&ECPL.

System and how the Central Library supports service to all Buffalo and Erie County Public Libraries.

**Genealogy Classes** – Genealogy Specialist **Rhonda Hoffman** continues to draw attendees to her very informative classes. On May 18, genealogists learned about *New York County Miscellaneous Records*. These records are rich with genealogical documents such as adoptions, land records, estate records, military discharges, name change documents, and naturalizations. On May 24, Rhonda hosted *Kindred Stories* in a continuing partnership with the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora. Family stories were presented by BGSAD society members.

**B is For Book Virtual Tour** – A 3D tour of the *B is for Book* exhibit has been completed and made available on the Library's 3D/VR Virtual Exhibits webpage. This resource, produced by Tours 360VR and funded by C-SAAHN, provides continuing access long after the exhibit has ended. Viewers can teleport into the virtual exhibit and explore our rare books collections and developed content at [www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening/3dvr-virtual-exhibits](http://www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening/3dvr-virtual-exhibits).

## 1. Public Services

### System Programming Statistics:

Regular/Virtual	Number of Programs		Total Attendance	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
<b>Regular</b>				
Adults	729	2,813	2,459	8,542
Children 5 and under	1,571	8,041	4,137	17,466
Children 6-11	1,442	7,515	2,739	13,408
Intergenerational/Combined	3,269	20,489	5,826	33,025
Teens	392	1,570	731	2,813
<b>Regular Total</b>	<b>7,403</b>	<b>40,428</b>	<b>15,892</b>	<b>75,254</b>
<b>Regular Total</b>	<b>7,403</b>	<b>40,428</b>	<b>15,892</b>	<b>75,254</b>
<b>Virtual</b>				
<b>Live Virtual</b>				
Adults	24	133	276	1,817
Children 5 and under	0	3	1	38
Children 6-11	0	3	0	71
Intergenerational/Combined	4	20	626	3,063
Teens	7	33	86	305
<b>Live Virtual Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>5,294</b>
<b>Recorded Virtual</b>				
Adults	18	69	406	1,918
Children 5 and under	14	89	416	2,734
Children 6-11	3	22	279	2,106
Intergenerational/Combined	19	106	845	4,678
<b>Recorded Virtual Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>11,436</b>
<b>Virtual Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>16,730</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,492</b>	<b>40,906</b>	<b>18,827</b>	<b>91,984</b>

## **B&ECPL Programming Highlights:**

### **Central Library**

- *In-Person Programs: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness Day in Buffalo; Book a Technology Trainer; Crafting at Central; Cultivate Cinema Circle Classic Movies Series; It Takes a Village Employment Entry Program; Mystery Writers Workshop and Mystery Writers Panel Discussion; Sensory Stay n' Play; Stitch Circle; Teen Advisory Group Meeting; Teen Anime/Manga Club; Wednesday Movie Matinee; Wellness on the Ramp.*
- *In-Person/Virtual Programs: Internet Basics; Internet Privacy and Safety; Lunchtime Learning: Android Basics, Buying Tech, GPS and Tracking, Mobile Files Home Internet Setup; Using Google.*
- *Virtual Programs: Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2022: Part One Find Pathways to Breakthroughs, Part Two Innovating for Real-World Solutions (presented by USPTO); Book a Librarian; Checkers Library TV: Snoozer's Storytime Adventures; Cooking with a Librarian: Cake Mix Oatmeal Cookies; Crowdfunding for Your Small Business; Develop Your Business Plan; Easy Erie County Places: The Buffalo History Museum – Cherry Blossom Festival; Finding Customers for Your Small Business with DataAxel Reference Solutions; Grow with Google: Connect with Customers and Manage Your Business Remotely, Jumping Off Right: What to Know, Where to Go, and How to Approach Your Small Business Start-up, Making a Living on an App; Reader's Quest Middle School Book Group; USPTO Trade Secrets Symposium 2022: Trending Cross-Border Issues Part 1 and 2.*
- *Take and Make Crafts: Art Kit; Black Out Poetry; Blind Date with an International Book; Brain Sparks - Brush Lettering; Mother's Day Card; NASA James Webb Telescope Fun Pack; Origami Kit; Star Wars Puppet.*

### **Buffalo Branches**

- *In- Person Programs: Bookmobile Storytimes at UB Childcare Center; Bookmobile "Planting Wildflowers" Program at Highland Elementary School; Dudley Branch Library Storytimes; Dudley Branch Library Anime Party; Dudley Branch Library Reading Circle Literary Discussion Group; SPCA Wildlife Visit at East Clinton Library; East Clinton Library Stitch Circle; Weekly Storytime at González-Soto Branch Library; Arabic Storytime at González-Soto Branch Library; The Hispanic Heritage Council's Cinco de Mayo Celebration at González-Soto Branch Library; One-on-One Technology Trainings; Storytimes at North Park Branch Library; Decorate Your Own Bucket Hat at North Park Branch Library; Composting and Rain Barrel Workshop at Panty Branch Library; Stitchcraft at Panty Branch Library.*
- *Virtual Programs: Teen Manga Club Virtual Meetings on May 2, 9, 16, and 23.*
- *Take and Make Crafts: Bird Watching Field Guides; Color Your Own Mother's Day Bookmark; Felt Butterfly Finger Puppets; Foam Binoculars; Gemstone Butterfly Dragonflies; Make Your Own Spring Bouquet; Mother's Day Cards; Mother's Day Tulips; Paper Bird Nests; Paperclip Flower Bookmarks; Paper Squirrels; Spring Showers Mobile; Star Wars Cube Characters; Star Wars Origami.*

***B is for Book Exhibit:***

	Month	Number of Visitors	
		YTD	From Opening (9/2020 to Present)
Non Tour-Related	1,384	8,672	34,766
Tour/Program	246	506	1,642
<b>TOTAL <i>B is for Book</i></b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>9,178</b>	<b>36,408</b>

**Outreach:**

**Buffalo Bisons Game** - Children's Services and Outreach Librarians **Jennifer Lelinski** and **Kelly Woods** provided tabling at the Buffalo Bisons game on May 22 as part of the *Live Well Erie* initiative. Although the game was rained out, 50 attendees stopped by the table for information, and three attendees won gift baskets full of books and library items.

**Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra Kids Concert** - **Kelly Woods** provided library information and music related crafts to 225 children and families at Kleinhans Music Hall as part of preconcert activities for the *BPO Kids: Peter and the Wolf* concert.

**Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education Division Career and Job Fair** - Information Services and Outreach Librarian **Jacob Rachwal** attended the 7<sup>th</sup> *Annual Job and Career Fair* sponsored by the Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education Division held at the Career Collegiate Institute and at the Northwest Community Center in Buffalo on May 4 and May 18, respectively. **Jacob** provided tabling that highlighted library resources for job hunting, resume writing, and the *Book a Librarian* service.

**Massachusetts Avenue Project** - TechKnow Lab Librarian **Brendan Chella** and Library Technology Clerk **Amanda Brown** staffed an information table for a community gardening event at the Massachusetts Avenue Project on May 14. They promoted library programs and services as well as the Launch Pad's Seed Library and provided seeds to attendees.

**World's Largest Yard Sale** - **Jacob Rachwal** and Information Services and Outreach Library Clerk **Denise Sweet** staffed an information table and craft area at the *World's Largest Yard Sale* held at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg on May 6 and 7. Information on library programs and resources, library card applications, and free books, provided by Project Flight, were distributed. **Jacob** and **Denise** also offered craft activities for families attending the event. Over the course of the two days, over 300 visitors stopped by to learn more about library activities and services.

**Library on Wheels Bookmobile** - The Library on Wheels had 15 regular stops and three special stops and welcomed 990 visitors. The Bookmobile also issued 83 new library cards and added a new rural community stop at Farnham Town Hall. The Bookmobile went to Highland Elementary and Buffalo Public School #56 literacy night events.

**Library2GO Van** – The Library2GO Van continued regular stops at Fox Run, Bethel Estates, Concord Senior Center, Elderwood Tonawanda, Seneca Pointe, Orchard Place, StoneGate Apartments, Elderwood Cheektowaga, Asbury Pointe, Turtle Creek Apartments, Union Square Apartments, and Elderwood Williamsville. Three new stops were added: Fox Creek Estates, Brookdale Kenmore, and Fox Creek Apartments.

**Library by Mail** – Library by Mail added seven new users (193 total).

## 2. Collection Development

### Physical Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Juvenile Print	3,157	12,958	195	1,503	543,783
Young Adult Print	594	2,449	73	482	78,968
Adult Print	4,788	19,470	632	4,186	1,802,044
Media	2,615	14,580	290	1,791	569,279
Other*	1,767	9,750	21	68	175,104
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>12,921</b>	<b>59,207</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>8,030</b>	<b>3,169,178</b>

\*Includes magazines, generic copies, and other

### Electronic Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
eBooks	2,575	9,834	1,275	6,033	87,202
eAudiobooks	4,320	13,525	305	1,412	39,511
eVideos	0	0	0	0	202
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,895</b>	<b>23,359</b>	<b>1,580</b>	<b>7,445</b>	<b>126,915</b>

\*Includes 428 EBL titles.

### All Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,816</b>	<b>82,566</b>	<b>2,791</b>	<b>15,475</b>	<b>3,296,093</b>

### Purchase Suggestions:

	Received	% Owned*	Unique Titles	% Ordered
Patron Initiated	623	4.0	619	66.8
Staff Initiated	17	0.0	17	70.6

\*Items in system or on-order at time of suggestion.

## 3. Technology

**Study Rooms** – Three 10' x 10' study rooms are now available in the Whisper Space on the first floor of the Central Library for individual or small group use. Each study room is equipped with a computer with Microsoft Office Suite software, internet access, and printing capabilities. Patrons can sign up to use these study rooms free of charge in-person or by calling the library.

**Accessibility Devices** – Pocketalk Plus Voice Translators purchased from the Digital Inclusion Grant are now available at the Central Library, Clearfield Branch Library, Isaías González-Soto Branch Library, and the Lackawanna Public Library. This device can be checked out by adult patrons for seven days and returned at the owning location, with up to two automatic renewals unless there is a hold. In addition, Handheld Video Magnifiers have been distributed to the Buffalo Branches as well as the Central Library for in-house use.

#### 4. Fundraising

##### Fundraising:

Campaign Name	Campaign Dates	Raised to Date
Annual Appeal Total	January 1 – May 31, 2022	\$52,214.79

**Grant Submitted** – The Library submitted a grant request to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for \$3,600 to purchase Wonderbooks for the children’s collection.

**Library Night at the Ballpark** - The Library will once again host *Library Night at the Ballpark* on Friday, July 29. Tickets are \$15 each. Fireworks will follow the Buffalo Bisons game against the Worcester Red Sox. To purchase tickets, contact Maureen Germaine at 716-858-7197 or [germainem@buffalolib.org](mailto:germainem@buffalolib.org).

#### 5. Facilities

**Graphics** – The Library Graphic’s Department provided signage and other support to 11 libraries in May. Additionally, signage about ending racism and hate was created and produced for libraries.

#### 6. Staff Development

	Number of Program Attendees		Number of Programs Presented	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Staff	298	1,249	2	8

**Staff Training Offered/Attended** – *ACT Workshop* (presented by ACT/B&ECPL); *Hoopla Introduction Training* (presented by B&ECPL).

**Conferences Attended** – *Metropolitan Libraries Conference* (presented by IFLA); *School Library Journal Day of Dialog 2022* (presented by School Library Journal).

**Webinars Viewed** – **63 webinars, including** *Addressing Community Grief and Trauma in the Wake of the Tragedy in Buffalo* (presented by NYS Office of Mental Health); *How to Hoopla: Library Staff Introductory Training* (presented by Hoopla/Midwest Tape); *How to Support Employees in Times of Crisis* (presented by Buffalo Niagara Partnership); *The Librarian’s Guide to Homelessness* (presented by Homeless Institute); *Talking to Patrons About Northstar Assessments* (presented by Northstar Digital Literacy).

**Other** – *American Sign Language Course* (presented by Deaf Access Services); *Safe Zone Training* (presented by Safe Zone Project).

**Makerspace Webinar Presented** - Launch Pad Makerspace Manager **Jordan Smith** conducted a webinar titled *Introduction to Creating Makerspaces in Libraries* on May 17 as part of WNYLRC's continuing education resources for librarians. Librarians from across New York attended the training.

## 7. Communications//Media Coverage/Media Releases/Social Media

### Media:

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date/Publish Date
Statement from Library Director John Spears following the mass shooting on Buffalo's East Side	Cycle of violence must stop; we pledge to combat the apathy & racism that leads these horrific acts wherever/whenever we can. Libraries exist to serve the entire community, and in doing so we aim to ensure the entire community feels welcome & included within our library doors and throughout Erie County.	Social media, library website, posted May 15 and 16 <a href="https://tinyurl.com/bdzfayca">tinyurl.com/bdzfayca</a>
Interview with Library Technology Clerk Amanda Brown	Seed Library at the Central Library	<i>Edible Western New York</i> , May edition
Article written by Genealogy Specialist Rhonda Hoffman	Genealogical Society Publications: Creative and Successful Strategies for Acquiring Content	<i>National Genealogical Society Magazine</i> , April-June 2022 issue
Taped TV interview with Genealogy Specialist Rhonda Hoffman	Genealogy research	Spectrum News, May 4
Newspaper article	Library System goes fine free	<i>The Buffalo Criterion</i> , May 7
Taped radio interview with Director John Spears	Global supply chain	WBFO radio, taped May 11
Newspaper article about the Elaine M. Panty Library	Library activities	<i>RiverRock Times</i> , May 12
Taped radio interview with Director John Spears	Library events and activities including going fine free and the new streaming service	WECK radio, May 28
Taped radio interview with Director John Spears	Library activities including going fine free	Townsquare Media radio stations: The Breeze, WYRK, WBLK, May 29

### Social Media:

	Staff Activity		Public Activity		Followers	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month (New)	Total
Facebook	113	603	4,883	17,122	35	10,640
Flickr	34	107	4,721	30,975	0	58
Google Ads <sup>1</sup>	N/A	N/A	2,220	13,155	N/A	N/A

Instagram	42	177	5,958	15,670	152	4,204
Pinterest	41	140	84	608	-13	2,125
Podcast <sup>2</sup>	4	19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TikTok	1	7	255	1,245	4	367
Twitter	60	315	595	2,890	52	10,995
YouTube	14	48	1,194	6,405	7	388
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>19,910</b>	<b>88,070</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>28,777</b>

<sup>1</sup>Google Ads is provided to the Library through a grant. Monthly activity based on public clicks and verified calls from the Library's online advertisement.

<sup>2</sup>Podcast public activity measurement cannot be tracked accurately because it is available through multiple applications.

## 8. Partnerships

**Erie 1 BOCES and Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES - Kristi Dougherty** provided summer reading and program information to Erie 1 BOCES and Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES to share with schools on May 19.

**NASA@ My Library - Jordan Smith** continued to coordinate with NASA Subject Specialist Ethan Landers of Old Dominion University on his upcoming NASA@ My Library program that will be held virtually on June 30 in the Ring of Knowledge at the Central Library.

**New York Zero-to-Three Erie County Infancy Leadership Circle - Kristi Dougherty** attended a virtual meeting of the New York Zero-to-Three Erie County Infancy Leadership Circle on May 20.

**Rare Book Connections** – On May 27, Rare Book Curator **Amy Pickard** hosted visiting Associate Curator of the Cary Collection at R.I.T., Amelia Hugill-Fontanel, giving a tour of the Rare Book Room and Central Library, including all exhibit areas. The Cary Collection houses the Kelmscott printing press that produced some of the most beautiful examples of printing held in our rare book Kelmscott Collection.

**WNYLRC Committees** – B&ECPL continues to be well-represented on WNYLRC's standing committees. A new member orientation was held on May 25. **Dorinda Darden** and **Kristi Dougherty** have accepted positions on the *Committee for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism* for 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2022. **Harrison Oldham**, North Park Branch Senior Library Clerk **Sarah Barry**, and Borrower Services Library Associate **Tami Linkowski** have also accepted positions to serve on the *WNY Library Support Staff Committee* for 3-year terms.

## 9. Director Activities

### Meetings/Events Attended by Director John Spears May 2022

Date	Meeting/Event
May 2, 2022	Meeting - Hamburg Public Library Board of Trustees
May 3, 2022	Event - Library Foundation Reception



May 4, 2022	Department Shadowing - Stacks
May 4, 2022	Meeting - Sheryl Knab, WNYLRC & Stephanie Adams, LOSA
May 5, 2022	Meeting - Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz
May 5, 2022	Meeting - Administrative Team
May 6, 2022	Meeting - Dorinda Darden, Meg Cheman
May 6, 2022	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
May 7, 2022	Event - ACT Workshop
May 7, 2022	Event - Derby Days at the Carousel
May 9, 2022	Department Shadowing - Security
May 9, 2022	Meeting - City of Tonawanda Board of Trustees
May 10, 2022	Virtual Event - IMAGINE Buffalo Lecture ( <i>as speaker</i> )
May 10, 2022	Virtual Meeting - PULISDO
May 11, 2022	Virtual Meeting - Erin Vest
May 11, 2022	Meeting - Marisa Wigglesworth, Buffalo Museum of Science
May 11, 2022	Media Interview - WBFO
May 11, 2022	Meeting - Eden Library Board of Trustees
May 12, 2022	Department Shadowing - Borrower Services
May 12, 2022	Virtual Meeting - Susan Latham, Queens Public Library
May 12, 2022	Meeting - B&ECPL Board of Trustees Executive Committee
May 12, 2022	Meeting - Grand Island Memorial Library Board of Trustees
May 13, 2022	Event - Creative Mornings
May 13, 2022	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
May 17, 2022	Conference - IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Conference
May 18, 2022	Conference - IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Conference
May 19, 2022	Conference - IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Conference
May 20, 2022	Conference - IFLA Metropolitan Libraries Conference
May 23, 2022	Meeting - Administrative Team
May 23, 2022	Meeting - Clarence Public Library Board of Trustees
May 24, 2022	Meeting - Aurora Town Public Library Board of Trustees
May 25, 2022	Media Interview - WECK
May 26, 2022	Media Interview - Issues and Views Radio Show
May 26, 2022	Department Shadowing - Special Collections
May 27, 2022	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
May 30, 2022	Meeting - Tyler Sodoma, World Central Kitchen
May 30, 2022	Meeting - Mo Sumbundu, Empire State Development

## Appendix

### Contracting Member Library Activity Reports

**Amherst Public Library** – submitted by Roseanne Butler-Smith, Director

**Generous Contributions** – The Amherst Public Library was extremely fortunate to receive \$60,000 from various parties for various library needs in May.

- \$25,000 was received from Erie County Legislator Jeanne M. Vinal (District 5). This funding was specifically allocated to the Williamsville Branch. Currently this branch of the Amherst Public Library is open 20 hours per week for public service. This monetary support from Legislator Vinal and Erie County tax

dollars will be used to open the library an additional 20 hours per week for a total of 40 hour of public service through the end of 2022. Beginning the week of June 27, the library will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from noon until 8:00 pm. The Amherst Public Library Board of Trustees are still discussing hours for Saturdays.

- New York State Assemblymember Karen McMahon (District 145) was able to secure a \$25,000 grant for the Amherst Public Library. This funding will be used to purchase and install security systems at the Clearfield, Eggertsville-Snyder, and Williamsville Branches.
- The family of Lillian Unuerleider, a lifelong patron of the Clearfield Library, has donated \$10,000 to this library. The family has requested that this very generous gift be used to set up a special collection in memory of their mother that will include several of the mystery titles she loved to read.

**Expansion Project** – The Main Library at Audubon expansion project is moving along, with anticipated completion of both the new children’s area and the community room by November 2022.

Agenda Item H – Report of the Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT)/ Contracting Library Trustee Report. ACT President Richard Earne reported the ACT Board planned to meet in July to start preparing for an ACT meeting in September. They hope to have presentations regarding trustee training as well as budget concerns.

Agenda Item H.1 – Contracting Library Liaison Report(s). Trustee Panty reported she had attended meetings of the City of Tonawanda Public Library Board of Trustees and Town of Tonawanda Public Library Board of Trustees in the past month. At the City of Tonawanda meeting, they discussed upcoming projects, including parking lot rehabilitation and the design of a new children’s reading park. They are also looking to collaborate with the city’s mayor on his reading program in the future. Their Board requested more interaction with the System Board going forward.

The Town of Tonawanda meeting included discussion of new signage for the Kenilworth Branch Library as well as plans to submit a construction project to build an ADA-accessible restroom in that branch. Their director reported some patron complaints about auto renewals as well as concerns about FOIL requests. Director Spears said he would reach out. Trustee Panty noted their Board also requested more contact with the System Board. Trustee Bucki mentioned, prior to 2020, the System Board held two meetings per year at locations outside the Central Library; perhaps this could be reinstated. Trustee Panty felt their Boards were looking for collaborative meetings with the System Board, not just visits to their locations.

Agenda Item I – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item J – Unfinished Business. None.

Agenda Item K – New Business. None.

There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Sasiadek with a second by Trustee Panty, the meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Moore  
Secretary