

PROPOSED
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
November 20, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, November 20 at the Central Library and remotely pursuant to due notice to trustees. The following members were present:

Carima El-Behairy, Chair
Christopher Sasiadek, Esq., Vice Chair
John D. Craik, Esq., Treasurer
Michael Amodeo, Esq.
Nathaniel W. Barnes*
Alan J. Bedenko, Esq.
Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS*
Adam Bojak, Esq.
Kimberly Johnson
Theodore K. Johnson
Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.
Joel Moore, Esq.
Elaine Panty

Chair El-Behairy called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present. Chair El-Behairy welcomed Trustee Bojak to the Board of Trustees.

*Trustees Barnes, and Berens Bucki attended the meeting remotely due to extraordinary circumstances and were considered full participants.

Trustee Moore arrived at 4:04 p.m.

Agenda Item B – Approval/Changes to the Agenda. None.

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of October 16, 2025.

Trustee Berens Bucki noticed several grammatical errors. These changes were made.

Trustee Amodeo motioned to approve the Minutes as amended. Trustee Craik seconded, and this was approved unanimously as amended.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair. Chair El-Behairy began her report by announcing that Trustee Lucy Candelario has resigned from the Board of Trustees. Chair El-Behairy explained that it was due to personal reasons, and given the opportunity in the future Trustee Candelario would be open to serving on the Board of Trustees again. Chair El-Behairy went on to thank Trustee Candelario for her invaluable knowledge and her contributions, and made it known that Trustee Candelario's service to the Board of

Trustees has been greatly appreciated. Next, Chair El-Behairy explained that her resignation leaves a seat open on the Executive Committee. Discussion ensued regarding the Executive Committee and the open seat.

Chair El-Behairy informed the Board of Trustees that she received a request for naming the study room inside the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library. The request is from former Buffalo State University employee Terry Harding. Terry Harding is requesting that the study room in the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library be named after former Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Buffalo State University, Dr. Phillip Santa Maria. Chair El-Behairy stated this will start the process outlined in the Guidelines and Procedures for Naming Spaces within City of Buffalo Libraries. Trustee T. Johnson shared that Dr. Phillip Santa Maria was a great man and one of his father's colleagues. Discussion ensued regarding the naming spaces process and holding the next Board meeting at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library.

Chair El-Behairy shared that she attended the *2026 Erie County Budget Hearing* on Friday, November 14 with Trustee K. Johnson. Trustee K. Johnson stated that it went well, and Legislator John Bargnesi had positive remarks regarding the Library. Chair El-Behairy wanted to thank Erie County Legislators for their time, and thanked Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz for being a Library supporter.

Moving forward through the Report of the Chair, Chair El-Behairy stated that Board Members should have received an envelope in the mail for the *Annual Year End Appeal Fund*. She encouraged each Trustee to consider making a donation to the Library.

Lastly, Chair El-Behairy informed Board Members that there is a link on the Library's homepage to fill out a letter supporting 2026 funding. She encouraged everyone to submit a letter and explained that the process is easy.

Agenda Item E – Committee Reports.

Agenda Item E.1 – Executive Committee. Trustee Sasiadek summarized the Executive Committee reports as presented below.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Executive Committee
November 13, 2025

Present: Chair – Carima El-Behairy, Vice Chair – Christopher Sasiadek, members Sharon Kelly, Elaine Panty, and Ex-Officio member Kimberly Johnson. Also present were Interim Director Dorinda Darden, Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik, Library Administrative Manager Tracy Palicki, and Assistant to the Director Cait Goodrich

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.

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Chair El-Behairy began the meeting by reviewing the proposed agenda. Discussion ensued regarding the Conflict of Interest Policy, the Ethics Policy, and how they are governed solely by the Governance Committee rather than the Policy Committee.

For the Report of the Chair, Chair El-Behairy stated that she will briefly discuss the 2026 *Erie County Budget Hearing* scheduled for Friday, November 14. She also shared that Trustee Lucy Candelario has resigned from the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees. Chair El-Behairy stated it was for personal reasons. She also wanted it known that Trustee Candelario has been an invaluable trustee, and her knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed.

Chair El-Behairy informed the Executive Committee that there is a request to name a study room at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library after former Associate Vice President and Dean of Students at Buffalo State University, Dr. Philip Santa Maria. Discussion ensued regarding the request, and the spaces available at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library.

Finally, Chair El-Behairy encouraged the Board of Trustees to make a donation to the Library's Annual Year End Appeal Fund and mentioned she would include it in her report.

Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik shared that the 2026 *Erie County Budget Hearing* is scheduled for Friday, November 14. She plans to arrive at the Chambers of the Erie County Legislature by 11:00 a.m. Next, she summarized the Monthly Financial Report ending on September 30, 2025 and stated that the Library is in good standing. Discussion ensued regarding Hoopla, digital services, and the associated expense.

Chair El-Behairy continued through the proposed agenda for the Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, November 20. Trustee Johnson shared that she noticed the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) bus with the Library's *Profoundly Public* branding and was extremely impressed. Interim Director Darden stated that Library Marketing Manager Sean Piazza, and the Graphics Department did a tremendous job coordinating the project. Further discussion ensued regarding the rebrand and graphic design.

For the Report of the Director, Interim Director Darden shared that Library Marketing Manager Sean Piazza sent out an email to All Staff and Trustees on Wednesday, November 12 about the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library kicking off its *Changed It All* marketing campaign. The campaign features high-profile Western New Yorkers, who shared with the library what *changed it all* for them: the book, the record, the film or other resource that was their game-changer. The art, designed by the Library's Graphics Department will appear on wraps of the NFTA Metro Rail, three NFTA Buses, and social media outlets.

Bostwick Design Partnership and the Library hosted a Central Library Space Utilization *Public Engagement Session* via Zoom on Wednesday, November 5. Focus Groups will be conducted via Zoom for in-house partners on Friday, November 14, community partners on Monday, November 17, and elected officials on Tuesday, November 18.

Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci and Interim Director Darden met with Shane Stephenson and Scott Gehl from the Buffalo Presidential Center to discuss

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the renewal of their lease at the Central Library which expires on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. A new lease will be drafted for another five years and a Resolution for the Contract Renewal will be presented at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting on Thursday, December 18.

Interim Director Darden shared that Chair Carima El-Behairy, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik, and herself will speak at the *2026 Erie County Budget Hearing* schedule for Friday, November 14.

Finally, Interim Director Darden reported that *Indie Author Day*, part of a nationwide movement connecting indie authors with their local libraries, will be held at the Central Library on Saturday, November 15 from 9:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will include expert-led presentations, networking opportunities, and an afternoon tabling session featuring local authors and literary professionals. Trustee Johnson shared that her friends attended *Indie Author Day* in the past and were inspired by the presentations and other authors to write their own books.

There being no further business, Trustee Kelly motioned to adjourn, and Trustee Johnson seconded. The meeting ended at 4:27 p.m.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Monthly Financial Report. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik began by sharing that the *2026 Erie County Budget Hearing* occurred on Friday, November 14. She agreed with Trustee K. Johnson's sentiment that it went well, and positive discussion regarding the Library was had. The Legislators shared what they are interested in seeing out of the Library, which is always helpful. For the Monthly Financial Report ending on September 30, Assistant Deputy Directory – Controller Patronik stated that the Library is 5% under budget in expenses. Discussion ensued regarding budget lines in the Monthly Financial Report including fuel oil, and the e-Material service Hoopla.

Agenda Item E.3 – Search Committee. Chair El-Behairy notified the Board that the Search Committee met several times in October and the first week of November. Board Members were provided the Search Committee Minutes from these meetings in their Board packet. Trustee Berens Bucki noted that Trustee Christine Bartholomew's name was spelled incorrectly in the Search Committee Minutes from Thursday, October 16. This was corrected.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Search Committee
October 16, 2025

Present: Chair Carima El-Behairy, members Christine Bartholomew, Kathleen Berens Bucki, John Craik*, Kimberly Johnson, Elaine Panty, and Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) Representative Martha Buyer. Also present were Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci and Special Projects Coordinator Erin Vest.

*Member attended the meeting remotely due to extraordinary circumstances and was considered a full participant.

The meeting of the Search Committee began at 4:53 p.m. A quorum was present.

Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci explained that the Request for Proposal for Executive Search Services was posted on the Erie County and Library websites on September 30 and printed in the Buffalo News on October 2. Additionally, the RFP was sent and posted to over 30 other firms and list serves, to cast a wide net as requested at the previous meeting. Six questions were received, and all questions and answers were posted to the Library website on October 10.

COO Marinucci revealed 15 firms ultimately submitted proposals and all responders met the majority of the qualification and documentation required, as noted in the completed arrival checklist. Copies of all fifteen proposals were distributed to the committee members. In addition, fifteen copies of a suggested rubric were provided to each member. COO Marinucci noted while rubrics are not required by Library policy, it is recommended for transparent, consistent, and objective evaluation of the responses.

Discussion ensued regarding the volume of responses and variety of search experience among the firms. Member Panty emphasized her desire for library-specific experience. COO Marinucci noted that she would expect, as the committee scored the proposals, some would rise to the top while others would fall to the bottom. The committee would be able to tailor their discussion at the next meeting based on the initial review. None of the responses warranted disqualification.

Member Bartholomew asked if committee members would prefer to turn in their scores ahead of time or bring them to the next meeting. The committee agreed to bring them to the next meeting.

Chair El-Beahry asked if proposals and rubrics could be provided as electronic copies. COO Marinucci stated she would send copies after the meeting. Member Craik asked if physical copies could be picked up by those who were not at the meeting in person. COO Marinucci stated copies would be available for pick up the next day.

With no further business, on a motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Bartholomew, the Search Committee adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Search Committee
October 20, 2025

Present: Chair Carima El-Beahry, members Christine Bartholomew, Kathleen Berens Bucki*, John Craik, Kimberly Johnson*, Elaine Panty, and Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) Representative Martha Buyer. Also present were Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci and Special Projects Coordinator Erin Vest.

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*Members attended the meeting remotely due to extraordinary circumstances and were considered full participants.

The meeting of the Search Committee began at 5:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

Chair El-Behairy started the meeting with an initial Yes/No poll for each firm to narrow down discussion. Those firms that had all “Nos” from committee members would be eliminated from further consideration. During this initial review of the 15 proposals, the committee eliminated ten firms from consideration, leaving five for deeper review.

Discussion ensued regarding the remaining firms’ experience, geographic range, sample postings, cost models, timeline, and references. The committee also noted which proposals seemed more tailored to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and which seemed more generic. Following this review, the committee selected three firms for interviews.

Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci asked when the committee would like to hold interviews. The committee decided on the week of October 27, with a preference to not hold all interviews on the same day. COO Marinucci indicated she would send a poll to determine the committee’s availability.

Discussion ensued regarding the types of questions to ask each firm. The committee also discussed the methods and results of prior director searches.

With no further business, on a motion by Member Panty, seconded by Member Buyer, the Search Committee adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Search Committee
November 4, 2025

Present: Chair Carima El-Behairy, members Christine Bartholomew*, Kathleen Berens Bucki*, John Craik, Kimberly Johnson*, Elaine Panty, and Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) Representative Martha Buyer. Also present was Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci.

*Members attended the meeting remotely due to extraordinary circumstances and were considered full participants.

The meeting of the Search Committee began at 5:04 p.m.

Chair El-Behairy moved to enter Executive Session to consider matters leading to the appointment of a particular search firm. Member Panty seconded, and the committee entered Executive Session at 5:05 p.m.

On motion by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Craik, the Search Committee exited Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. No action was taken in Executive Session.

With no further business, the Search Committee adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Agenda Item E.3.a – Executive Session. Chair El-Behairy proposed that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, and contract issue. Chair El-Behairy invited Search Committee Member Martha Buyer to stay, as well as Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci. Trustee Kelly motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and contract issue. Trustee Sasiadek seconded, and the Board entered into Executive Session at 4:20 p.m. The Board of Trustees exited Executive Session at 4:33 p.m. on a motion by Trustee Kelly, and a second by Trustee K. Johnson. The Board discussed proposed walk on resolution 2025-40 as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-40

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) Board of Trustees Search Committee desires to engage a firm specializing in nationwide recruitment efforts to assist in the recruitment of the next B&ECPL Library Director, and

WHEREAS, at the request of the Search Committee, the B&ECPL issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking experienced professional recruitment services to assist the Board in this undertaking, and

WHEREAS, the Search Committee reviewed and ranked the fifteen eligible proposals consistent with RFP evaluation criteria, including:

- Qualification and experience of the firm,
- Qualification and experience of key personnel assigned to the project,
- Proposed approach that reflects understanding of our needs and the overall quality of the proposal,
- A record of timeliness in completion of tasks as confirmed by references, and
- Cost appropriateness and values of any additional suggestions, modifications, and improvements to the Scope of Work, and

WHEREAS, the Search Committee conducted virtual interviews with the top three ranked proposers, and

WHEREAS, this process resulted in a recommendation by the Search Committee to select the proposal submitted by Bradbury Miller Associates for executive search services at a cost of \$31,000 plus reimbursable expenses, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the B&ECPL Board of Trustees authorizes the Interim Library Director and/or her designee(s) to execute the necessary documents to enter into an agreement with Bradbury Miller Associates, pursuant to the terms and conditions of B&ECPL's RFP and Bradbury Miller Associates' response, at a cost not to exceed \$31,000 plus reimbursable expenses.

Trustee Bedenko made the motion to approve. Trustee T. Johnson seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item E.4 – Governance Committee. Trustee Bedenko summarized the Executive Committee reports as presented below.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Governance Committee
October 23, 2025

Present: Members Alan Bedenko, John Craik, Carima El-Behairy, and Sharon Kelly. Also present were Interim Director Dorinda Darden, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci, and Assistant to the Director Caitlin Goodrich.

The meeting of the Governance Committee began at 5:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

After a call of the roll, Trustee Bedenko began the meeting by reviewing the Conflict of Interest Policy. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci explained that no substantive changes were made. Discussion ensued regarding Article II, Section 2.4.B. which discusses financial interest. It was decided by the Governance Committee to leave the wording as is.

Trustee El-Behairy suggested adding “501(c)(3)” before “a charitable organization” in Article III, Section 3.2.B, and in Appendix A Disclosure Statement of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. It was agreed by the Governance Committee to make this addition. Trustee Bedenko motioned to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy for submittal to the full Board as amended. Trustee El-Behairy seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Finally, the Governance Committee reviewed the Ethics Policy. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci communicated that language was amended for consistency and to follow the Bylaws of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. Trustee Craik motioned to approve the Ethics Policy for submittal to the full Board. Trustee Kelly seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

With no further business, on a motion by Trustee Bedenko, seconded by Trustee Kelly, the Governance Committee adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Interim Director Dorinda Darden began her report by notifying the Board that the East Clinton Branch Library reopened this past Monday, November 17 after being closed since August for construction.

Interim Director Darden gave an update that the Library’s *Annual Year End Appeal Fund* has received nearly 400 donations to date. One hundred thousand (100,000) letters were sent earlier this month, and over \$25,000 has been raised. She expects that number to triple by the end of the year. Interim Director Darden explained that Trustees have a flyer

at their seat. It has a QR code to make an easy online donation. She stated that the Library always hopes for 100% Trustee and Library Administration giving.

As mentioned, the *2026 Erie County Budget Hearing* was held on Friday, November 14. Interim Director Darden spoke along with Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik. She stated it was well received, and she thanked Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, and the Erie County Legislature for their ongoing support.

Along with Library Administration, staff, and Trustees from Contracting Libraries, Interim Director Darden shared that she has participated in several Advocacy meetings planned by the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC). Meetings were held with Assembly Members Pat Chludzinski, Bill Conrad, and Karen McMahon. The Library was also present in meetings with Senators Sean Ryan and April Baskin's offices. These Advocacy meetings will continue throughout December.

A reminder that the New York Library Association's (NYLA) *Library Advocacy Day* will be held in Albany on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. She instructed Trustees to let her know if they are interested in attending by Monday, December 1, 2025.

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has partnered with the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning on the *Lending Library of Things (LLOT) Project Initiative*. The Central Library has received a pair of Auto Repair, Bike Repair, Home Energy Efficiency, Home Air Quality Monitors, and Movie Night kits as well as a Party Time kit. The kits are being added to the Library's collection, and will be available for patrons to borrow in the coming weeks.

Following that, Interim Director Darden shared that there has been several public engagement meetings about the *Central Library Space Utilization Study Draft* – including three focus groups – with partners, elected officials, and building tenants. Additionally, a virtual, open to the public, community engagement session took place. In early December, Library Administration will meet with consultants at Bostwick Design Partnership to hear the overall results of the community engagement and plan next steps.

Finally, Interim Director Darden congratulated Assistant Deputy Director - Controller Patronik who was one of Buffalo's Finest Young Professional honorees at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's recent *Buffalo's Rock the Red Carpet* event. She was recognized as a leader in business and philanthropy as well as for her volunteer commitment to support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's mission of finding a cure. As an honoree, she participated in the *2025 Buffalo's Finest Program* professional development sessions and raised \$3,278 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, for which she has volunteered for the past few years.

Discussion ensued regarding advocating for eBooks licensing reform, and explaining how Libby operates.

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

**B&ECPL Monthly Report
October 2025**



The Central Library Space Utilization Study – In our ongoing commitment to better serve patrons, on behalf of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Interim Director **Dorinda Darden**, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer **Angela Marinucci**, Assistant Deputy Director **Joy Testa Cinquino**, Facility Operations Manager **Andrew Wiede**, and Special Projects Coordinator **Erin Vest**, met several times in October with the architecture, planning, and design firm Bostwick Design Partnership to put the finishing touches of the draft of the Central Library Space Utilization Study. It is available on the Library's website in both English and Spanish.

The study includes design options, and cost estimations for the interior -- reimagining and reconfiguring the 400,000 square foot building, in both public and employee spaces, along with proposed layouts for public and rare book collections. The goal is to create flexible spaces conducive to enhancing the Library's commitment to intellectual freedom and free access while realizing our vision to be a vibrant destination. After months of site visits, staff and patron surveys, and community conversations, the Library is excited to share the consultant's findings and recommendations in this draft. A public draft is available here: <https://www.buffalolib.org/central-library-space-utilization-study/public-comment-draft> . The public survey is open until the end of November here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BECPL_Central_Library. Feedback will be invaluable as we move forward.

American Revolution - The Central Adult Services Department hosted *The American Revolution* program, which began with the showing of a 45-minute screener version of Ken Burns' six-part documentary series, which will be available on PBS in November. The program continued with live music by ethnomusicologist Sally Schaeffer, crafts, foods of the era, and reenactors from Old Fort Niagara.



Photo – Reenactors from Old Fort Niagara for the Library's American Revolution program

Boo at the Zoo – System Youth Outreach Services Manager **Chelsey Lonberger** and System Youth Outreach Services Library Assistant **Monique St. Laurent** visited the Buffalo Zoo to provide tabling at the *Boo at the Zoo* event on October 18. There were over 2,000 attendees. The Library distributed bat bookmarks to decorate, as well as, bookmarks that had a QR code to the Buffalo & Erie County Library event calendar.

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) – Special Collections Manager **Susan Buttaccio** facilitated a *Book Club* for the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) on October 18. Ten attendees, including two orchestra members, read the book, *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.

Clothing Giveaway - Amazing Women's Outreach Inc. provided a free clothing giveaway event in the Ring of Knowledge at the Central Library on October 28. Gently used clothing was available for men and women.

Community Day at Canalside – **Susan Buttaccio** and System Youth Outreach Services Librarian Trainee **Max Brousseau** participated in the *Community Day at Canalside* for the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal on October 25. Children and their families visited the Library's table and made crafts, played *Pin the Tail on Sal* the mule, and took home a *Canallers Dictionary*.

Diversity Career Fair - The *Diversity Career Fair* was held on the main concourse of the Central Library on October 23. This event is in partnership with the Erie County Office for People with Disabilities and ACCESS-VR. Representatives from 32 local businesses and organizations were on hand to seek out employees, and share resources with 200 people in attendance.

Diwali - On October 19, Adult Services Librarian **Kuniko Simon** hosted Dr. Meghana V. Bapardekar from Asian Pacific American Public Affairs (APAPA) Buffalo-Niagara Chapter and Council of Heritage and Arts of India to provide a public cultural program *Celebration of Diwali* (the Hindu Festival of Lights). Participants learned how to celebrate the five days of Diwali from viewing her slide presentation and sand art, and by sampling samosas. A Special Education teacher from Niagara Children Education and Treatment Center, Mrs. Shailaja Kokil, read a children's book, *Let's Celebrate 5 Days of Diwali* (written by Anjana & Vivek).

Forever Young Fall Expo - System Adult Outreach Services Manager **Carol Kowalik-Happy** and System Adult Outreach Services Librarian **Jacob Rachwal** tabled at the *Forever Young Fall Expo* event held at the Grapevine Banquet Center in Depew on October 30. They distributed information on library programs, Libby app, and technology training provided by the Central Library's TechKnow Lab. They interacted with 295 people who visited the Library table to get information and share their admiration for the library.

Freedom to Read Week - *Freedom to Read* also known as *Banned Books Week*, took place October 5 - 11. The Library celebrated, and drew attention to current issues around book bans by offering a series of programs coordinated by Collection Development Librarian **Michelle Snyder**.

The Crane Branch Library hosted a lecture, on October 6, entitled, *The History of Book Bans & Burnings*, presented by Ellen Rajnisz from the independent bookstore Burning Books.

The Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library hosted a viewing of *Banned Together: A Film on the Fight against The Fight on Censorship* on October 9. This film follows three students as they fight to reinstate 97 books pulled from school libraries. It shows their journey from local to national activists and explores the accelerating wave of books bans in the United States. A discussion with the film producers followed the movie.

Intersect Unconference 2025 – Library Traditions: What to Update, What to Keep, What to Leave Behind – Several Buffalo & Erie County Public Library staff presented at the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Continuing Education Committee's annual *Intersect Unconference 2025 – Library Traditions: What to Update, What to Keep, What to Leave Behind* held at the Buffalo Naval Park on October 3. **Susan Buttaccio** and Genealogy Specialist **Rhonda Hoffman** and **Ryan Gleason**, from the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society provided a presentation titled *Preserve Your Historical Materials with Digitize New York*. **Jacob Rachwal** provided a presentation on *Career Connections in the Library* and **Max Brousseau** presented, *Storytime Kits Revamped* at the unconference.

Library of Things - The Dudley Branch Library launched its *Library of Things*. Items available for patrons to check out include a gingerbread kit, gas detector pen, luggage scale, dessert party kit, CPR kits, and a LED winter therapy light lamp. The Dudley Branch Library intends to grow its *Library of Things* collection with patron input.

Miniature Golf Course - The Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library staff created an 8-hole *Miniature Golf Course* throughout the Children's and Young Adult spaces. It featured an enormous paper mâché spider and kraken, as well as Plinko and Skee-Ball holes. Young Merriweather patrons joined in the fun by creating and painting decorations. The annual miniature golf program has become a staple in the Merriweather space, drawing patrons of all ages into the library and providing family engagement. Over the week the course was in use, over 100 patrons stopped in and enjoyed a game or two.



Photos – young patrons enjoying miniature golf at the Merriweather Library

Spooky Library Party - The Children's Services Department, in coordination with Circulation Services, Launch Pad, Teen Services, Adult Services, and the Grosvenor Room hosted the annual *Spooky Library Party* on Saturday, October 18 at the Central

Library. The event had two haunted rooms, including one created by the Teen Advisory Group (TAG). It also included glow-in-the-dark miniature golf, a portrait studio, crafts, and trick or treating throughout the building. It culminated in the *Super Hilarious Magic Show* by Nick Mambretti.



Photos – Patrons posing for photos during the Library's Spooky Library Party

Tarot Thursday - The first *Tarot Thursday* program took place in the Grosvenor Room at the Central Library on October 2. This month-long program highlighted selections from the Rare Book Room Tarot collection.

Teen Advisory Group (TAG) - Four members of our *Teen Advisory Group (TAG)* competed in the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's (AKG's) *Art Alive Contest* in Saturday, October 4. They entered as the statue entitled *Eight Caryatid Figures* by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. They won People's Choice and Best Craftsmanship within their division. Two additional outcomes were that people asked how they could join TAG, and staff were able to talk to attendees about the new Teen Space and its positive impact on teen visitors.



Photo – Teens from the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) dressed as statues for the Albright-Knox Art Gallery (AKG) Art Alive Contest

Trunk or Treat Celebrations - Mobile Services staff participated in the Grand Island Memorial Library's *Trunk or Treat* celebration on October 18. Families spent the afternoon celebrating and trick-or-treating from trunk to trunk. The event featured games, crafts, story times, and a photo booth. A total of 439 people visited the Library on Wheels Bookmobile. On October 28, Mobile Services staff attended the Matt Urban Center's *Annual Trunk or Treat* event at the Buffalo Central Terminal. Hundreds of families enjoyed Halloween celebrations, music, face painting, and crafts. A total of 384 people visited the Library on Wheels Bookmobile for candy and giveaways, with many visiting to learn about library services, register for cards, and check out materials. Four

patrons visited specifically to reminisce about their childhood experiences with Mobile Services.

System Adult Outreach Services staff participated in the Peaceprints of WNY's *Second Annual Trunk-or-Treat* event held in Buffalo on October 28. They provided candy to children and distributed a flyer with a QR code that allowed people to access the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library website to find out more about Library programs and services.

1. Programs and Outreach

Central Library – Adult and Launch Pad Services

- *Cookbook Club*
- *Weekly Wednesday Movie Matinee*
- *Chess Club and Clinic*
- *Bad Art Night*
- *3D Printing Certification Class*
- *Noon Yoga Recharge* hosted by Parkside Yoga
- *Universal Anime Saturday: Studio Ghibli's Kiki's Delivery Service*
- *Speculative Fiction Book Club*
- *Tea Blend Workshop*
- *Global Ethics Day Program* presented by Erie County Chief Ethics Officer Barb Piazza

Central Library – Teen Services

- *Decoden Cream Craft*
- *Teen Advisory Group (TAG)*
- *Brain Sparks Art Program*
- *After School Bingo*
- *Jewelry Making*

Central Library – Children's Services

- *Peaceful Playtime*– school-aged focused sensory hour
- *Pint-Sized Picassos*–toddler-focused painting program
- *Tiny Tots Storytime* - (0-3 year-olds)

Central Library - Special Collections/Rare Book Room

- *Buffalo Stories: The Buffalo History Channel*
- *Genealogy Virtual Training: Using FamilySearch Full-Text Search for Genealogy*
- *Explore Buffalo Speaker Series: Spiritualism in Western New York*
- *Lectures: Peyton Harris: From the Erie Canal to the Michigan Street Baptist Church, More than Words: Dictionaries as Containers, A Mighty Chain of Unfortunate Events: The 1825 Opening of the Erie Canal, and the Erie Canal and the Peopling of Western NY State.*
- *Local History Research presentation* - Historical Writing class at the University at Buffalo.
- *Paging Through History: The Grosvenor Room Quiet Reading Club*

Central Library – System Adult Outreach Services/ TechKnow Lab

- *SCORE's Starting and Managing Your Own Business* - Villa Maria College

- *Healthy & Wellness Fair* hosted by New York State Office of Children and Family Services - Ellicott Building in Buffalo
- *WNY Veteran's Services & Career Fair* - Northwest Amherst Community Center
- *Wellness @ Central*
- *Halloween Spooktacular* – Explore & More – The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum
- *Third Annual Fall Tool & Bake Sale* – The Tool Library in Buffalo
- University Express Lecture: *Witches, Werewolves, Vampires and Other Dangerous Creatures of the Night*
- *Cans for Candy Halloween* event sponsored by Power 93.7 - William-Emslie YMCA in Buffalo

Central Library – System Youth Outreach Services

- *Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) Kids Series: Symphonic Spooktacular*
- *3rd Annual Early Childhood Resource Fair* - Child Care Resource Network

Mobile Services - Library on Wheels Bookmobile/Library2Go Van

In addition to regularly scheduled stops throughout the month, the Library on Wheels Bookmobile and the Library2 Go Van participated in the following special events:

- *Fall in the Forest* – Forest Lawn Cemetery
- Town of Amherst Youth & Recreation Department's *Harvest Fest*- Bassett Park
- *Kenmore Farmers Market*

City Branch Libraries

All Branches: *Take n' Make craft bags and scavenger hunts*

Multiple Branches:

- *Chess*
- *Storytime*
- *Board game and video gaming groups*
- *Adult Book Groups by theme: General fiction, Horror, Mystery, Tea & Books and No-Pressure* (read what you want)
- *Book a Tech Trainer* appointments by Branch or Systems staff
- *Movies*
- *LEGO clubs*
- *Kid, Teen and Adult Craft programs*
- *Acting Classes for Kids* ages 6-12 in partnership with [Second Generation Theatre](#) (Frank E. Merriweather, Jr., Dudley, Isaías González-Soto)
- *Wellness programming and information* by Buffalo State Undergraduate School of Social Work Interns (North Park, Central, Leroy R. Coles, Jr.)

Individual Branches:

The Buffalo Libraries host unique programs based on the needs and interest of their community. Below is a selection of programs offered this month.

- *Open Mic Short Story and Poetry Reading* (Crane)
- *New York Spirits* (adult local haunted history program) hosted by local performer Cris Johnson (North Park)

- *Books & Beverages*—monthly drink sample and paired book recommendation
- *Boondoggle Club* (Elaine M. Panty)
- *Annual Halloween Party* (Crane)
- *Adult and Kids Writing Club* (Dudley)

Outreach

- West Side Community Center outreach (Isaías González-Soto)
- Parkside Fall Festival (North Park)
- Northwest Buffalo Community Center (North Park and Elaine M. Panty)
- Lighthouse Center preschool visit (Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.)

Tours and Visits:

- Central Library tour for ESL group from Buffalo Public School Adult Education
- Buffalo Public School (BPS) #37 Marva J. Daniel Futures Preparatory School class visit (Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.)
- BPS #32 Bennett Park Montessori Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten (Central)
- Three first grade classes from Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School (Central)
- BPS #366 Research Laboratory High School (Central)
- Special Collections staff provided tours throughout the month. They included a tour of the Rare Book collection with staff from Visit Buffalo; tour of the Grosvenor Room to 55 students from BPS #50 North Park Community School; tour of the Grosvenor Room's Local History and Music collections to Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's Annual Fund & Grants Manager Franziska Macur; tour of the Grosvenor Room to 60 students from BPS#366 Research Laboratory High School; tour of the Rare Books collection for Roycroft Press staff; tour of Rare Book Room exhibit, *What Does It All Mean? Exploring the Dictionary*; and a tour of the Grosvenor Room to filmmaker Brenda Feldstein and a guest.

2. Collection Development

Physical Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Juvenile Print	2,273	24,355	340	2,784	507,719
Young Adult Print	296	4,035	75	820	68,863
Adult Print	3,148	35,524	684	7,079	1,755,630
Media	2,470	21,214	215	2,763	508,034
Other*	1,890	17,660	34	245	174,277
Subtotal	10,077	102,788	1,348	13,691	3,014,523

*Includes magazines, generic copies, and other.

Electronic Collections*:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
eBooks	5,616	43,744	1,276	13,511	124,544
eAudiobooks	11,176	80,782	437	3,975	61,146
Digital Magazines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,341
Subtotal	16,792	124,526	1,713	17,486	192,031

*The B&ECPL also provides access to all *hoopla* eBooks, eAudiobooks, videos, and music albums. These titles are not included in the collection size total, as they are not owned by the B&ECPL.

All Collections:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Total	26,869	227,314	3,061	31,177	3,206,554

Rare Book and Special Collections:

After months of planning, The Buffalo History Museum has transferred its etching plate collection to the Grosvenor Room. In partnership with the Western New York Book Arts Center, this collection will be used to teach about historic printmaking.

The Rare Book Room has acquired a panoramic photograph of the Buffalo Musicians Local #533. The union, formed in 1917, came into existence because African American musicians were not allowed to join the white musician's union at that time. The photograph is from around 1919. Talks are underway with the Garman Art Conservation Department at Buffalo State University about how to best care for and conserve this photograph, which has sustained some damage over the years.

The Grosvenor Room has accepted a donation of 25 yearbooks from the South Park High School Alumni Association member Matt Parsons.

3. Fundraising

Fundraising:

Campaign Name	Campaign Dates	Raised to Date
Annual Appeal Total	January 1 – October 31, 2025	\$381,986.36

Highlights:

The annual *Bucks for Books* fundraising campaign mailing was sent to 10,000 Erie County households in early October. To date, 369 gifts totaling over \$37,000 has been received.

The Library welcomed over 50 library enthusiasts to Big Ditch Brewing Company on Tuesday, October 21 for the *Books, Bites & Banter Happy Hour* fundraiser. The event raised almost \$5,000 for the *Buck for Books* campaign.

Upcoming:

- Annual Appeal: 100,000 donation letters will be mailed to households in early November. Donations from the Annual Appeal will help support programs and resources throughout the 37 Buffalo & Erie County Public Library locations.

Mass Emails sent in October:

- Public Periodical – sent to all library cardholders that opted in to receive communications (over 90,000), 45% open rate.

- A mailer inviting the public to *Join us Tuesday at Books, Bites & Banter* was sent to all library cardholders that opted in to receive communications (over 90,000). The mailer had a 38% open rate.

4. Funding/Facilities

Funding:

Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz **released his 2026 Proposed Budget** – Mark Poloncarz is recommending a county funding increase of \$928,419 (3%) for libraries. The additional funding will help offset inflation-related impacts on library operating costs, including contractually-obligated labor costs and the escalating cost of supplies in this challenging fiscal environment.

County funding of \$31,875,741 combined with New York State operating aid funding of \$2,570,458, use of \$1,200,000 in Library fund balance, and \$433,860 in other library revenue, brings the Library's 2026 proposed operating budget to \$36,080,059; a 4.1% increase over the 2025 County Adopted Budget. In addition to the operating budget, \$639,881 in estimated state aid is included in the Library Grants Budget.

Erie County's 2026 Proposed Capital Budget supports improvements to the county-owned downtown Central Library and to system-related improvements, specifically:

- \$2,000,000 in bond funds for "Various Improvements & Upgrades"
- \$160,000 in pay as you go funds for Vehicle Replacement

The next event in the budget review process will be the Library's budget hearing before the Erie County Legislature's Finance & Management/Budget Committee, scheduled for Friday, November 14. A public hearing/comment opportunity on the overall County Budget is expected to be scheduled later in November. The Legislature's deliberations will continue until its vote on the proposed budget, scheduled for December 4. Should there be any vetoes, the Legislature has scheduled a veto override vote on December 12.

Facilities:

On October 9, a meeting was conducted to review the bid schedule for the Central Library Roof Replacement and Green Roof Project. It was confirmed that the bid start date would be Monday, November 3, with bids due by Thursday, December 11. A site walkthrough for potential bidders has been scheduled for Thursday, November 13.

On October 23, a meeting was held at the Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library with Zaxis Architectural and City of Buffalo DPW to review the scope of work for the upcoming RFP at the branch. A general discussion of the budget and specific air handler related costs preceded the confirmation of the scope of work including; replacing the existing air handler unit, re-piping work, Siemens control system installation, window and door security film, door replacement, window replacement, and façade replacement. The RFP will be advertised on December 1, 2025 with a bid due date of December 17, 2025.

5. Staff Development

Erie County Leadership Training – On October 1 and October 2, Library staff were invited to participate in Erie County’s Fall Leadership Training series. Six employees attended sessions on *Building Trust*, *Change Management*, *Delegation*, and *System Thinking* to build their leadership skills.

Genealogy Research Training – On October 21 and 28, **Rhonda Hoffman** presented a two-part training for library staff to master the art of online family history research, emphasizing practical resources available across all Library locations while highlighting specialized Grosvenor Room databases and services. The training was hosted at the Central Library; another session of the training will be presented at the Audubon Library in December.

Grant Writing Seminar – Fourteen Library staff attended a three-part grant writing seminar on October 3, 10, and 17 to gain skills and resources. The course was arranged by **Chelsey Lonberger** and presented by Dr. Bard and Dr. Cappella of Project Flight, who generously shared their expertise with Library staff.

Webinars – Employees participated in a variety of webinars and other online learning programs in October, with several staff members attending these sessions: *Creating Literacy Solutions for All Readers: Successful Models for Supporting Emergent, Dyslexic, and Other Striving Readers at Your Library* (from NYS Library), *Making Sense of MARC: A Practical Introduction for Library Staff* (from WNYLRC), and *Real World Resiliency – Constructive Customer Service* (from CLRC).

6. Communications

Media Coverage

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library garnered coverage across a range of topics in October. Those pieces are included below.

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date / Publish Date
Media Alert	Isaías González-Soto Branch Library Reopening	Media Alert: Isaías González-Soto Branch Library to reopen October 13, following Air Conditioner Replacement (10/9)
Earned Media – handled by Town of Tonawanda Public Library	Kenmore Library Mural	WGRZ: New mural brings color and community pride to Kenmore library (10/10) Buffalo Rising: Kenmore Library gets a Splash of Color (10/13)
Earned Media	Lackawanna Library - Halloween	WIVB: Lackawanna Library full of Frights
Press Release	Indie Author Day	Press Release: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library to Host Indie Author

		Day - Buffalo's Premier Independent Author Event
Earned Media	Indie Author Day	Buffalo Rising: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library to host Indie Author Day (10/29)
Press Release	Space Utilization: Central Library	Press Release: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Seeks Community Input on Central Library Space Utilization Study (10/29)
Earned Media	Space Utilization: Central Library	Buffalo Rising: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Invites Public Input on Central Library Revitalization (10/31) Bee Publications (wk. of 11/2)

Social Media:

	Staff Activity		Public Activity		Followers	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month (New)	Total
Facebook	87	965	6,733	35,591	446	15,544
Flickr	-	112	2,339	26,286	-	59
Google Ads ¹	N/A	N/A	2,452	25,690	N/A	N/A
Instagram	19	179	7,309	97,642	275	9,077
Pinterest	59	289	48	509	-	2,047
Twitter (X)	85	553	99	1,997	-10	10,426
Bluesky	26	166	77	871	14	1,235
YouTube	6	57	179	9,412	8	869
TikTok	-	6	474	7,524	6	1,065
Total	282	2,327	19,710	205,522	739	40,322

¹ Google Ads is provided to the Library through a grant. Monthly activity based on public clicks.

7. Partnerships

Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project - Rare Book Curator **Heather Gring** has been supporting the Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project's Oral History initiative by helping to coordinate spaces at the Central Library for the participants to record oral history interviews.

Hispanic Heritage Council of Western York - **Susan Buttaccio** provided resources and gave an interview to a team of filmmakers creating a documentary about Jaime Nuño, a composer and music director that wrote the music of the Mexican National Anthem, but later spent many years in Buffalo as a choral director, and organist. He was a beloved

figure on the Buffalo Music scene in the late 19th and early 20th centuries who has been recently rediscovered by the rest of the world. The filmmakers are working with President of the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western York Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr. to bring this story to light.

New York State Department of Civil Service - Jacob Rachwal coordinated for Adam Dolce from New York State Department of Civil Service to give a presentation titled, *New York State Civil Service Workshop* at the Central Library on October 23. This presentation provided an overview of the civil service system, how to apply for jobs, different types of jobs and the *NY Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (HELPS) Program*.

Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority - In October, North Park Branch Library Manager **Alyssa Clark** began representing the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library on the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority's (NFTA) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is "composed of 7 "riders-at-large" (people who ride the bus regularly) as well as 17 representatives from community, governmental, and philanthropic organizations who serve transit supportive and transit dependent populations. Participants meet with Metro management every two months to provide input on community transit issues. **Alyssa** encourages library staff to reach out to her regarding public transportation access or issues impacting libraries.

Public and System Services staff were also in contact or attended meetings with representatives of the following groups and organizations:

- **Cassadaga Job Corps Center**
- **Explore & More - The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum**
- **GLYS Western New York**
- **GO2 for Lung Cancer**
- **Live Well Erie**
- **New York Library Association LAMS (Leadership and Management Section) Committee**
- **Pride Center of Western New York**
- **Starting Line Thrive by 5 Coalition Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Committees**

8. Planning for the Future

Work is well underway on the next Rare Book Room exhibit, slated to open in early January 2026. This exhibit will focus on local artist Anthony-Peter Gorny, exploring his work as a printmaker and a book artist.

Susan Buttaccio has been working with President of the Buffalo Maritime Center Anne Conable to bring Jeff Klein and Alexander Scott, authors of *You Should Have Seen Us Hollering: When Buffalo Ruled the Inland Seas*, to the Central Library for a presentation in December.

9. Director Activities

List of Meetings and Events

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Attended by Interim Director Dorinda Darden

October 2025

DATE	MEETING / EVENT
October 1, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
October 1, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
October 1, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
October 1, 2025	Meeting - Zonta Club of Kenmore
October 2, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
October 2, 2025	Event - Canisius Contemporary Writers Series - 21 st Annual Hassett Reading: The Humanities, Education, and Democracy: A Conversation with President of the Carnegie Corporation Dame Louise Richardson
October 3, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
October 6, 2025	Meeting - Dr. Geraldine Bard and Dr. Elizabeth Cappella
October 6, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
October 6, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
October 7, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
October 7, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
October 7, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Virtual Court Access Network (VCAN) Pilot
October 7, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
October 8, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Managers/Directors
October 8, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
October 8, 2025	Phone Interview - Banned Books Blog from Buffalo State University Student Lindsay DePietro
October 8, 2025	Meeting - Michigan Street Preservation Corporation Board
October 9, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
October 9, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
October 9, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
October 9, 2025	Meeting - Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees Executive Committee
October 10, 2025	Event - Kenmore Branch Library Mural Unveiling
October 13, 2025	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition Steering Committee
October 14, 2025	Public Hearing - New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology Public Hearing on The Future of Libraries and Their Integration of Electronic Materials
October 15, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
October 15, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
October 15, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
October 15, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines

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October 16, 2025	Meeting - Erie County Legislature Health and Human Services Committee
October 16, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Public Library System (PLS) Directors
October 16, 2025	Meeting - Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees
October 17, 2025	Meeting - Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Advocacy Meeting with Bonnie Lockwood
October 17, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
October 17, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
October 18, 2025	Meeting - Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT)
October 20, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
October 21, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Virtual Court Access Network (VCAN) Pilot Follow-Up
October 21, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
October 21, 2025	Meeting - Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Board
October 21, 2025	Event - Books, Bites & Banter
October 22, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
October 22, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
October 23, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
October 23, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
October 23, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
October 23, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
October 23, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
October 23, 2025	Meeting - Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees Governance Committee
October 23, 2025	Fundraiser Event - Literacy Buffalo Niagara Cocktails in Character
October 27, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
October 27, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
October 28, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
October 28, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
October 28, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
October 28, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
October 29, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
October 29, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
October 30, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
October 30, 2025	Interview - Buffalo State University Work Study Student for Project Flight Matthew Savoy
October 31, 2025	Meeting - Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Board Discussion with Kristine Kasbohm
October 31, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
October 31, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino

Appendices

A. Monthly Statistics

System Programming Statistics:

Regular/Virtual	Number of Programs		Total Attendance	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Regular*				
Adults	1480	12715	5103	39083
Children 5 and under	1264	13205	7772	56834
Children 6-11	3101	32040	5984	57280
Intergenerational/Combined	5409	52142	18946	127430
Teens	229	3040	968	6756
Regular Total	11483	113142	38773	287383
Regular Total	11483	113142	38773	287383
Virtual				
Live Virtual				
Adults	11	212	185	1803
Children 5 and under	0	8	0	169
Children 6-11	0	7	0	193
Intergenerational/Combined	5	51	382	1073
Teens	1	34	2	100
Live Virtual Total	17	312	569	3338
Recorded Virtual				
Adults	5	36	63	2351
Children 5 and under	0	0	0	0
Children 6-11	2	22	379	4917
Intergenerational/Combined	8	91	1380	11688
Teens	0	10	0	10
Recorded Virtual Total	15	159	1822	18966
Virtual Total	32	471	2391	22304
Grand Total	11515	113613	41164	309687

*Regular programs include group programs, one-on-one programs, and self-directed programs (including individual take & make crafts).

Other Statistics:

Consolidated statistics on library visits, website visits, circulation, computer sessions, Wi-Fi usage, program attendance, and a summary of open hours can be found at <https://www.buffalolib.org/about-becpl/monthly-statistics>.

Detailed reports on circulation, computer sessions, Wi-Fi usage, and library visits can be found at <https://www.buffalolib.org/monthly-statistics/2025-circulation-public-access-computer-wifi-and-library-visits-detail>.

B. Contracting Library Activity Reports

Town of Tonawanda Public Libraries, Kenilworth & Kenmore branches –
submitted by Mary Muscarella, Director

Highlights:

'The Checkout' newsletter: A quarterly review magazine written 'by library patrons, for library patrons.' This publication has been extremely popular with patrons of the Kenilworth & Kenmore libraries, and we have now expanded our reach. The magazine is currently being distributed at 12 other contracting libraries in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system.

Bad Art Night: Always a favorite! For teens & adults, an opportunity to showcase their lack of artistic talent. Every craft supply we own is made available for use, and each Bad Art Night has a theme.

Meet the Grandfriends: Residents of Brookdale come to the Kenmore Library to play games, and read with families for some awesome inter-generational interaction!

NYS Dept. of Labor Job Fair: In partnership with the New York State Department of Labor, we will be hosting a job fair at the Kenmore Library on Friday, December 12 from 11am-2pm. So far, there are 18 employers scheduled to be in attendance.

Ongoing:

- **Preschool Storytime**
- **Lego "Bricks-To-Go" boxes**
- **Toddler Storytime**
- **Family Storytime**
- **Baby Bounce Storytime**
- **Sensational Story Time @ Kenilworth**
- **Book Groups for adults at both Kenilworth & Kenmore libraries**
- **Board Game Saturdays**
- **Volunteer Computer Coaches**
- **Volunteer Notary Public**
- **Volunteer Resume Helper**
- **'Broken Spine' Horror Book Club at Kenilworth library**
- **Craft Nights**
- **Kid Librarian**

Coming Soon:

- **Noon Year's Eve Party**
- **Book Bedazzling**
- **Baby Rave**
- **Author talk with Sudhir Suchak**
- **Themed Storytimes – 'All About Families' & 'Penguin Parade'**

Agenda Item G – The Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT)/Contracting Library Trustee Report. Martha Buyer shared that the ACT Annual Meeting will be held in March, and the spring meeting will be held at a location other than the Central Library.

Agenda Item G.1 – Contracting Library Liaison Report(s). Trustee Kelly stated that she visited the Aurora Town Public Library. She stated that Library Director Paula Ausberger does a tremendous job. Trustee Kelly shared that Librarian Alissa Steele presented to the Aurora Town Public Library Board regarding a program she is starting in the summer

called the *Library Leaders Program* for teens. Alissa Steele has been recruiting teens to sign-up; she currently has 10 teens signed up to participate. The teens will help organize projects, beginning with one in spring relating to Dungeons & Dragons. The teens will also act as volunteers for other library programs.

Martha Buyer shared that Alissa is enthusiastic about the program and thinks it would be an appealing presentation to take to other libraries.

Chair El-Behairy stated that she attended the *15th Annual Angola Public Library Harvest Dinner* on Saturday, October 18 with Trustee K. Johnson. Chair El-Behairy stated that it was a wonderful time.

Agenda Item H – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item I – Unfinished Business. None.

Agenda Item J – New Business.

Agenda Item J.1 – Resolution 2025-41 – Amend Conflict of Interest Policy. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-41

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) has a structure for process and review of standing policies to ensure that they remain timely and effective, and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee, who oversees the Conflict of Interest Policy, used this process to review and make recommendations which are reflected in the attached draft amended Conflict of Interest Policy, which has been vetted by B&ECPL legal counsel, and

WHEREAS, recommended changes include grammatical changes and formatting changes for consistency, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL adopts the proposed revisions to the B&ECPL's Conflict of Interest Policy to supersede and replace the prevailing policy last amended September 17, 2020, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of the approved Conflict of Interest Policy be posted on the B&ECPL's website.

Trustee Kelly made the motion to approve. Trustee T. Johnson seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item J.2 – Resolution 2025-42 – Amend Ethics Policy. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-42

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) has a structure for process and review of standing policies to ensure that they remain timely and effective, and

WHEREAS, the Governance Committee, who oversees the Ethics Policy, used this process to review and make recommendations which are reflected in the attached draft amended Ethics Policy and have been vetted by B&ECPL legal counsel, and

WHEREAS, recommended changes include language that is consistent with other B&ECPL policies and minor grammatical changes, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the B&ECPL adopts the proposed revisions to B&ECPL's Ethics Policy to supersede and replace the prevailing policy last amended on September 17, 2020, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of the approved Ethics Policy be posted on the B&ECPL's website.

Trustee T. Johnson made the motion to approve. Trustee Panty seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item J.3 – Resolution 2025-43 – Authorization to Contract with County of Erie for SilverNet Technology Project. Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-43

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (Library) has undertaken programs to expand and encourage increased use of Library locations throughout Erie County, and

WHEREAS, during and since the COVID-19 Pandemic the Library has increased use of virtual and hybrid programming to innovate and meet the needs of Library patrons, and

WHEREAS, the Library partners with organizations that complement the Library's mission and goals, including the Erie County Department for the Aging, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department for the Aging's SilverNet Technology Project offers software and hardware equipment to partner organizations for use in programming at no cost to the partner organization, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department for the Aging and the Library Administration wish to enter into contract to allow for Library locations to make use of this equipment throughout the Library system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library authorizes the Library Interim Director or her designee to execute any necessary documents to enter into a contract with the Erie County Department for the Aging to utilize the SilverNet Technology Project.

Discussion ensued regarding the SilverNet Technology Project, how useful it is, and how great University Express is. Trustee Kelly made the motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Craik seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item K – Adjournment. There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Kelly with a second by Trustee Panty, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine P. Bartholomew
Secretary