

PROPOSED
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 16, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library was held on Thursday, October 16 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
Prof. Christine P. Bartholomew, Esq., Secretary
John D. Craik, Esq., Treasurer*
Nathaniel W. Barnes*
Alan J. Bedenko, Esq.
Kathleen Berens Bucki, MLS
Kimberly Johnson
Sharon M. Kelly, Esq.
Elaine Panty

Chair El-Behairy called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

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

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

Agenda Item C – Minutes of the Meeting of September 18, 2025. Trustee Johnson motioned to approve the Minutes. Trustee Panty seconded, and this was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item D – Report of the Chair. Chair El-Behairy began her report by reminding the Board of the annual *Books, Bites & Banter Happy Hour* event being held at Big Ditch Brewing Company located at 55 E. Huron St. Buffalo, New York on Tuesday, October 21 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. She encouraged Board members to attend. Chair El-Behairy also encouraged the Board to attend Angola Public Library's 15th Annual Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 18.

Agenda Item D.1 – Public Meeting – Request for Renaming. Chair El-Behairy stated that the Board received a request that was provided in their Board packets from President of the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr. requesting to name the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library's auditorium after a prominent figure in the community Dr. Tamara O. Alsace. Chair El-

Behairy informed the Board that due to ongoing construction at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library they were unable to hold the public meeting there. Therefore it is being held at the Central Library. Chair El-Behairy went on to explain that the Executive Committee had to create Guidelines and Procedures for Naming Spaces within City of Buffalo Libraries in order to move forward with the request.

Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr. issued the following statement:

On behalf of the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York, I want to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to speak in support of naming the auditorium at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library in honor of Dr. Tamara O. Alsace. Dr. Alsace's name carries deep meaning in our community – not just because of her impressive credentials, but because of her lifelong dedication to education, equity, and inclusion. For over 32 years, she served the Buffalo Public Schools as a bilingual teacher, special education teacher, and later as Director of Multilingual Education, helping countless children and families find their voice and strength through language.

Dr. Alsace has been a tireless advocate for multilingual learners and immigrant families, ensuring that our schools reflect the diversity and richness of our community. Her leadership strengthened bilingual, ESOL, and world language programs and inspired generations of educators to see language as a bridge rather than a barrier.

Even after retirement, she continues to serve as a consultant and scholar, providing guidance to schools across New York State and nationally through her work with the Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network, the Council of Great City Schools, and the CUNY Initiative on Immigration in Education.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dr. Alsace is a pillar of community service – serving on nonprofit boards, mentoring young educators, and shaping policies that uplift the voices of multilingual and immigrant students. Her life's work reflects the very mission of the Library: to foster learning, inclusion, and cultural pride.

Naming the auditorium at the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library after Dr. Tamara Alsace would be a fitting tribute to a woman who has given so much of herself to Buffalo's educational and cultural landscape. It would ensure that her legacy continues to inspire future generations who walk through these doors to learn, connect, and grow.

On behalf of our board, our members, and the many individuals whose lives have been touched by Dr. Alsace, I respectfully and wholeheartedly support this naming proposal.

Thank you for your time, for your consideration, and for your ongoing commitment to celebrating the diverse voices that make Buffalo strong.

Chair El-Behairy thanked Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr. for the statement. On a motion by Trustee Johnson, and a second by Trustee Panty it was approved unanimously to name the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library's auditorium after Dr. Tamara O. Alsace.

Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr. thanked the Board for their approval and stated that the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York will work in conjunction with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, as well as, help with signage costs. He also wanted to thank Central Library's Special Collections Manager Susan Buttaccio and her staff for their assistance with the Jaime Nunó documentary project.

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
October 9, 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, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik, Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Joy Testa Cinquino and Assistant to the Director Cait Goodrich

The meeting of the Executive Committee began at 4:00 p.m. After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Chair El-Behairy began the meeting by reviewing the agenda. She stated that there will be an additional resolution added. Vice Chair Sasiadek suggested that it be added to Agenda Item I – Unfinished Business. Following that, Vice Chair Sasiadek motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Trustee Kelly seconded. Chair El-Behairy invited Interim Director Darden, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik, Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Testa Cinquino, and Assistant to the Director Goodrich to stay. The Executive Committee entered into Executive Session at 4:02 p.m.

Trustee Johnson entered the meeting at 4:09 p.m. The Executive Committee exited Executive Session on a motion by Vice Chair Sasiadek. Trustee Johnson seconded, and Executive Session ended at 4:18 p.m. No action was taken.

Following that, the Executive Committee continued to review the proposed agenda for the Thursday, October 16 Board meeting. Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Testa Cinquino suggested that “Public Meeting” be added to the title Agenda Item D.1 – Renaming Spaces Request since a public notice was posted informing the community of the request. Discussion ensued regarding the request, and naming guidelines that are followed in this situation. Vice Chair Sasiadek suggested drafting a proposed resolution, and ensuring that the information regarding the

naming request be included in the Board packet. Further discussion ensued regarding when to vote, and signage guidelines.

Next, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik summarized the Monthly Financial Report ending on August 31, 2025, and stated that the Library is in good standing. Following that, she shared that the New York State Comptroller released the employer retirement system contribution rates in September. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik stated that the Library uses a blended rate because there are employees on Tier 3, 4, 5, and 6 which have their own rates. Therefore, an estimate is made because the Library has to submit their budget to Erie County which is typically before the New York State Comptroller releases the employer retirement system contribution rates. The Library budgeted at 12.7%. There will be an anticipated \$291,000 expense. She stated that this number is not a definite, and will change due to other factors.

Next, Assistant Deputy Director – Patronik stated that she anticipates that the Erie County Executive will release Erie County's proposed budget on Wednesday, October 15.

For the Report of the Director, Interim Director Darden shared that she attended the *21st Annual Hassett Reading: The Humanities, Education, and Democracy: A Conversation with Dame Louise Richardson, President of the Carnegie Corporation* held at Canisius University on Thursday, October 2. Mick Cochrane, English Professor and Coordinator on the Contemporary Writers Series provided a tribute for the late Director John Spears. Next, she shared that she attended a virtual meeting regarding the *Virtual Court Access Network (VCAN)* pilot initiative proposed by Honorable Amy C. Martoche, 8th Judicial District Administrative Judge on Tuesday, October 7. They are interested in having this pilot at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library. Another virtual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21 to further discuss this potential collaboration. She stated that she invited Assistant Deputy Director – Buffalo Libraries Maria Lowe and Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library Manager Joshua Mitch to attend the meeting as well.

Next, Interim Director Darden stated that she will be attending the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Libraries and Education Technology *Public Hearing on The Future of Libraries and Their Integration of Electronic Materials* held in Albany on Tuesday, October 14.

Following that, she will be attending Erie County Legislature's *Health & Human Services Committee Meeting* on Thursday, October 16 for the confirmation of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Board of Trustees City of Buffalo reappointments Trustees John Craik, Kimberly Johnson, Joel Moore and Elaine Panty. There will also be a new appointee from Erie County, Adam Bojak. Information regarding Adam Bojak will be provided in the Board packet.

Lastly, Interim Director Darden shared that she will be attending Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) *Advocacy Meeting* on Friday, October 17 with Bonnie Lockwood, Western New York Regional Director for Governor Hochul.

Following that, Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Testa Cinquino summarized proposed Resolution 2025-36 - RFP Award – Fundraising & Donor Management Software. Discussion ensued regarding the RFP, Blackbaud Raiser’s Edge, and FSH Technologies.

Next, Interim Director Darden shared that there will be an additional proposed Resolution added to the agenda. Discussion ensued regarding proposed Resolution 2025-39 – Literacy Buffalo Niagara Agreement Amendment and Renewal and its purpose.

Lastly, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik summarized proposed Resolution 2025-38 – Authorization for Year-End Transfers in Excess of \$5,000.

There being no further business, Vice Chair Sasiadek motioned to adjourn, and Trustee Johnson seconded. The meeting ended at 4:49 p.m.

Agenda Item E.2 – Budget and Finance Committee.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees
Budget and Finance Committee Minutes
September 18, 2025

Present: Budget and Finance Committee Members Michael Amodeo, Alan J. Bedenko, Carima El-Behairy, and Ex-Officio member Joel Moore. 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, Caitlin Goodrich.

The meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee began at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik began the meeting by presenting the Budget and Finance with the *2026 Operating Budget Request*. This request outlined how the operating budget would look with a 3% increase. Discussion ensued regarding the *2026 Operating Budget Request*.

Following that, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci shared that she, Interim Director Darden, and Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik met virtually with Enterprise Fleet Management to discuss how they can assist with the Library’s Mobile Services vehicles. Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Marinucci explained that this is a service that Erie County uses. Discussion ensued regarding how Enterprise Fleet Management works, and potential benefits to the Library.

With no further business, on a motion by Trustee Amodeo, seconded by Trustee Moore the Budget and Finance Committee adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Agenda Item E.2.a – Monthly Financial Report. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Emily Patronik began by sharing that Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz released the proposed budget on Wednesday, October 15. Erie County Executive Poloncarz adopted the Library’s request for a 3% increase in the Library property taxes which would be a \$928,000 increase. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik stated that this will keep the Library’s operations status quo. She went on to explain that the next step in the proposed budget process is in November when the Legislature have their annual meeting to review the proposed budget. Following that, in December it will be adopted. Next, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik shared that on Thursday, September 4 the New York State Comptroller released their employer retirement system contributions. The Library uses a blended rate when it comes to retirement because there are employees on Tier 3, 4, 5, and 6 which have their own rates. Therefore, an estimate is made by the Library in order to submit their budget to Erie County. The Library has to submit their budget before the New York State Comptroller releases the employer retirement system contribution rates. The Library budgeted a 12.7%. There will be an anticipated \$291,000 expense. She stated that this number is not a definite, and will change due to other factors. Following that, Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik summarized the monthly financial report ending on August 31, 2025, and stated that the Library is in good standing.

Agenda Item E.2 – Search Committee. Chair El-Behairy notified the Board that the Search Committee has a meeting directly following the Board meeting. The deadline for RFPs for a search firm was Wednesday, October 15. She stated that the Search Committee will have a recommendation for a search firm for the Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 20. Trustee Berens-Bucki had several grammatical corrections to the Search Committee Minutes. These amendments were made as discussed.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library
Board of Trustees – Search Committee
September 29, 2025

Present: Chair Carima El-Behairy, members Michael Amodeo*, Christine Bartholomew*, Kathleen Berens Bucki*, John Craik, Kimberly Johnson, Joel Moore*, Elaine Panty, Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) Representative Martha Buyer. Also present were Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci*, Process Improvement Manager Erin Vest*, and Assistant to the Director Cait Goodrich

*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.

After a call of the roll, it was noted that a quorum was present.

Chair El-Behairy began the meeting by reviewing the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) document that was sent over earlier in the month of September. Following that, she distributed copies of a timeline that was provided during the Library Director search in 2021. Chair El-Behairy shared that the Board does not need to post for 30 days. She stated that the Board can reach out to the search firms that applied for the RFP three years ago, and invite them to apply when the RFP is posted. Next, Chair El-Behairy recommended posting the RFP with a Wednesday, October 15 due date.

Discussion ensued regarding the RFP from 2021. Next, discussion ensued on whether or not the Wednesday, October 15 due date is appropriate. Member Amodeo clarified that if there are no acceptable candidates, the RFP would be extended. Chair El-Behairy confirmed that would be the course of action. Following that, the Search Committee discussed the submission time.

Deputy Director – COO Marinucci asked if the Search Committee plans on reviewing and scoring the RFPs in the same meeting. Member Amodeo suggested reviewing the RFPs following the Board meeting on Thursday, October 16 and then holding another Search Committee meeting to score them. The Search Committee decided that another meeting should be scheduled for Monday, October 20 at 5:00 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding the RFP process, and how it was handled during COVID-19 in 2021. Member Craik commented on the timeline for the RFP process. Chair El-Behairy stated that ideally the RFP candidates will be interviewed before the Thursday, November 20 Board meeting. Member Bartholomew asked if the Search Committee should consider confirming if search firms can comply with the condensed timeline. Chair El-Behairy stated that would be appropriate. Following that, Chair El-Behairy asked if there are other places to post the RFP. Deputy Director – COO Marinucci stated that there are several library listservs, such as Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO), New York Library Association (NYLA), and American Library Association (ALA) where the RFP could be shared. Chair El-Behairy suggested International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Deputy Director – COO Marinucci also stated that she can send it to Human Resources focused groups like Public Employer Labor Relations Association (PELRA) as well.

Following that Chair El-Behairy went through the proposed RFP, and the Search Committee amended the document based on previous discussion. ACT Representative Buyer asked what the cost estimate for hiring a search firm is. Member Bucki stated that it is between the \$20,000-\$30,000 ranges. Discussion ensued regarding cost. Further discussion ensued regarding the final interview dates for Library Director candidates. Next, amendments were proposed to the RFP regarding dates, and grammatical changes.

After amendments to the RFP document were made, Chair El-Behairy proposed for a motion to publish the RFP. Member Panty motioned to publish the RFP with amendments, Member Johnson seconded, and this was approved unanimously. Further discussion ensued regarding scheduling future Search Committee meetings.

With no further business, on a motion by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Panty, the Search Committee adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Agenda Item F – Report of the Director. Interim Director Dorinda Darden began her report by notifying the Board that she attended the New York State Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology Public Hearing on *The Future of Libraries and Their Integration of Electronic Materials*. It was held onsite in Albany on October 14. Along with representatives from the New York State Library, New York Library Association (NYLA), Bethlehem Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Queens Public Library, New York Public Library, Ramapo Catskill Library System, Upper Hudson Library System, Monroe County Library System, and Onondaga County Public Library System. She provided a testimony on the continued integration of electronic materials in public libraries and their impact, especially eBooks, on the budget, infrastructure, operations, and offerings. Interim Director Darden noted that the demand for electronic materials and online resources has increased dramatically over the years. To meet this demand, the Library, like other libraries are purchasing more electronic materials. However, digital book pricing is a major concern for libraries because in contrast to owning a physical book, we do not own digital books, so the Library must continuously repurchase the content with the licenses being significantly more expensive than physical books. Purchasing differs from title to title, publisher to publisher. Public Libraries in New York are committed to finding solutions to this including by working with our state legislature. The *NYS eBook Working Group* was created this summer to focus efforts on the most effective strategies to address eBook licensing challenges. Our Collection Development Manager Kelly Donovan serves on this group.

Next, Interim Director Darden shared that she attended the Erie County Legislature's *Health & Human Services Committee Meeting*, chaired by Legislator Lawrence Dupree this morning for the confirmation of City of Buffalo Board of Trustees reappointments including John Craik, Kimberly Johnson, Joel Moore and Elaine Panty. The Board will also have a new appointee from Erie County, Adam Bojak. Copies of Adam Bojak's resume were provided to the Board.

Genealogy Specialist Rhonda Hoffman's article titled *Overlooked Opportunities in Public Libraries: A Genealogy Librarian's Perspective* is featured in the current *National Genealogical Society Magazine's* October-December 2025 issue. Copies were provided to the Board.

Bostwick Design Partnership and the Library will host a Livestream session via Zoom on Wednesday, November 5, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The intent is to provide an overview of the Central Library's Draft version of the *Space Utilization Study*. Plans are also underway to set up a dedicated website page for the Study, including a community survey in both English and Spanish. There will also be Focus Groups during November

with the community, elected officials, and in-house partners. She encouraged Trustees to attend, and more details will be available through email.

For an update on construction and maintenance repairs in the City Branches, Interim Director Darden shared that the Isaías González-Soto Branch Library reopened on Monday, October 13, after several months of construction to install a new HVAC system. With the exception of the restrooms, the lower level remains closed to the public until all HVAC work is completed, and the East Clinton Branch Library remains closed for repairs and updates with plans to reopen in mid- November.

Interim Director Darden announced that NYLA's *Library Advocacy Day* will be held in Albany on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. She will be providing an email to staff and Trustees to begin planning for the trip to Albany.

Finally, Interim Director Darden reminded Trustees that the Library's *Books, Bites & Banter Happy Hour* annual fundraiser will be held next Tuesday, October 21, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Big Ditch Brewing Company. Tickets are available online or Trustees can see Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Joy Testa Cinquino.

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

**B&ECPL Monthly Report
September 2025**



Buffalo Humanities Festival - Central Library played host to the Buffalo Humanities Festival – entitled Fabrication - on September 20. In partnership with the University at Buffalo's Humanities Institute, Canisius University, Daemen University, and SUNY Buffalo State University, 125 attended the daylong series of speakers. Assistant Deputy Director **Joy Testa Cinquino** coordinated the event.

Buffalo State University Social Work Interns – The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has embarked on a partnership with the Buffalo State University Social Work Department to provide internships to students in their final year of undergraduate studies. Students will be involved in a number of projects and activities that may include, identifying community resources, creating an Asset Map of the library's neighborhood, and working a "help desk" to connect patrons to appropriate

community resources. Students have been placed at the following libraries: Central, Leroy R. Coles, Jr., Lackawanna, North Park, and the Town of Tonawanda Public Libraries.

Civics Day Fair @ Central Library - Adult Services Librarian **Leslie Carr** coordinated the annual *Civics Day Fair*, in honor of *National Voter Registration Day*. Present at tables to educate and inform the community were the National League of Women Voters, Voice Buffalo, Erie County Board of Elections, and **Leslie Carr**, who had a table devoted to government information sources from the *Federal Depository Library Program*. The event took place near the Ring of Knowledge and included visits and news coverage from Spectrum and WGRZ-TV.

Comic Book Bash - North Park Branch Library hosted their second Comic Book Bash party, September 20, in honor of *National Comic Book Day*. The event featured game stations, craft tables, a superhero photo booth with Justice League of WNY cosplayers, and face painting. North Park staff, as well as other City branch staff, worked together to both create and execute the program.

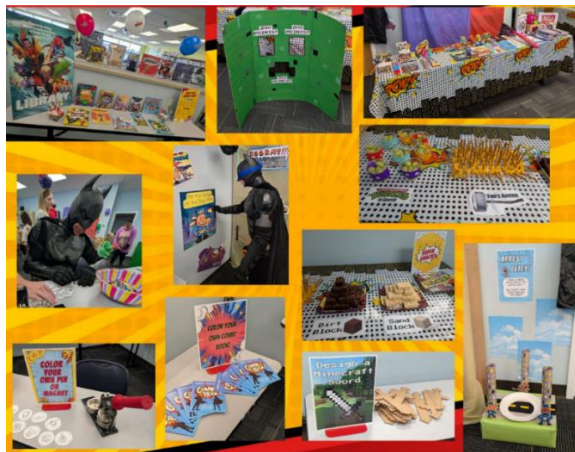


Photo – Justice League of WNY cosplayers, various snacks and activities that made up Comic Book Bash at the North Park Branch Library

Doors Open Buffalo - Central Adult Services Manager **Pamela Edholm** coordinated with Explore Buffalo to participate in the popular annual *Doors Open Buffalo* event. Librarians from the Central Library provided tours on the hour, highlighting the history of our building and library, and giving the public a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the Central Library. The Children's department provided a hands-on button-making activity, and the Launch Pad assisted patrons in making a commemorative letter-pressed poster. There was total of 330 people who checked in for the event and 84 people joined the guided tours, with many others taking advantage of a self-guided experience and enjoying library programs and services.

Erie County Fall Fest - Mobile Services staff attended the annual *Erie County Fall Fest* at Como Lake Park in Lancaster. Thousands of residents attended the all-day event that celebrated the beauty and diversity of Erie County. With the Bookmobile not being available due to electrical upgrades at the Central Library, Mobile Services staff

took the opportunity to table at the event on September 27. Nearly 400 youth and adult patrons visited the table to learn about library programs and services. Staff also distributed bat-themed take and make craft as well. In addition to the library, visitors had the opportunity to enjoy live music, hayrides, food trucks, and vendors, as well as interact and play with alpacas and other animals from Kester Farms.

Hispanic Heritage Month - Joy Testa Cinquino was liaison for the *15th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off* at the Central Library on September 15, in partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York. President of the Hispanic Heritage Council of Western New York Casimiro D. Rodriguez, Sr. provided a lovely tribute to the late Director **John Spears** and asked for a moment of silence in Director **Spears'** honor during the celebration. There were 75 attendees including media, dignitaries, and tabling participants. Interim Director **Dorinda Darden** was a featured speaker along with representatives from the Hispanic community, Erie County, New York State, and the City of Buffalo. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System-wide, *Cultural & Special Days Committee* celebrated *Hispanic Heritage Month*, by providing all of the libraries with reading lists of Hispanic authors for children, young adults, and adults. They also provided the libraries with two scavenger hunts to provide passive programming throughout the month. Also provided was a list of the recorded *Virtual Author Talks* by Hispanic writers to promote among patrons as well as a live *Virtual Author Talk* on October 2 entitled *Nuestra America: 30 Inspiring Latinas/Latinos Who Have Shaped the US* presented by the Smithsonian Institute. Some Buffalo & Erie County Public Library locations also held their own programs in celebration of *Hispanic Heritage Month*.

IMAGINE Buffalo Speaker Series - Special Collections Manager **Susan Buttaccio** was the guest speaker at the *IMAGINE Buffalo Speaker Series* held virtually on September 16. **Dorinda Darden** introduced her. **Susan** presented information about the Special Collections Department and their initiatives.

It Takes a Village (ITAV) Action Organization Graduation Ceremony – Mobile Services Manager **Andrew Maines** continues to work with Executive Director of It Takes a Village (ITAV) Action Organization Dr. Beverly Newkirk. The organization works to find employment for formerly incarcerated individuals and other at-risk populations in Buffalo. **Andrew** participated in ITAV's *Graduation Ceremony* held at the Central Library on September 11. Ten graduates received certificates of recognition from local, county, and state elected officials. Phenomenal Ladies of Rhythm provided a musical performance. After the ceremony, 63 family and friends of the graduates, celebrated with a potluck dinner.

Retirement - Rare Book and Map Librarian **Charles Alaimo** retired this month after employment with the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library for decades. We wish him well and thank him for his dedication and expertise in Special Collections throughout his career.

World's Largest Yard Sale – System Adult Outreach Services staff hosted a table at the *World's Largest Year Sale* held at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, NY on September 12 and

September 13. They provided information about library programs, distributed library card applications, distributed crafts, and shared library resources with over 500 people in attendance.

1. Programs and Outreach

Central Library – Adult and Launch Pad Services

- *Cookbook Club*
- *Afternoon Art Break Buffalo Field Recording Treasure Hunt Initiative*
- *Chess Clinic and Club*
- *Printing Certification Class*
- *Virtual Reality Demonstrations*
- *Movie Matinee:* Selected movies for Hispanic Heritage Month included *Moana 2* (2024), *Spare Parts* (2015), and *The Mask of Zorro* (1998).
- *Annual Civics Day Fair*, in honor of National Voter Registration Day
- *Noon Yoga with Parkside Yoga*
- *Tai Chi with Taoist Tai Chi Society*
- *Universal Anime Saturday:* Studio Ghibli's film *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988) *Speculative Fiction Book Club*
- *Tea Blends Workshop*
- *Bad Art Night*
- *Zen Garden Kit Take n Makes*
- *Trivia Night*

Central Library – Teen Services

- *BINGO*
- *Teen Advisory Group (TAG)*
- *Weekly jewelry-making*
- *Brains Sparks*

Central Library – Children's Services

- *Pint-Sized Picasso*
- *Tiny Tots Storytime*
- *Book Lovers scavenger hunt*
- *Take n' Make Craft bags*
- *Kid Librarian*
- *BTPM Ready to Learn backpacks were given to 31 Buffalo children between the ages of 3 and 5*

Central Library - Special Collections/Rare Book Room

- *Getting the Most out of Ancestry Library Edition* - Town of Collins Public Library
- *Jumpstart Your Genealogy* - Lancaster Public Library
- *Paging Through History: The Grosvenor Room Quiet Reading Club*

Central Library – System Adult Outreach Services/ TechKnow Lab

- *Wellness @ Central*
- *Mental Health Peer Connection's Kites and Kindness Festival* - Cheektowaga Town Park
- *TechKnow Lab - Android Basics, Internet Basics*
- *Technology Training: AHEPA Senior Living*

- *Walk-up Tech Help*

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:

- *Local Environmental Awareness Festival (LEAF)* in Boston, NY
- *Kenmore Farmers Market*
- *Welcome Back Night* – Buffalo Public School (BPS) #195 City Honors High School
- *Library Services* - Isaías González-Soto Branch Library

City Branch Libraries

All Branches: Self- directed programs: *Scavenger Hunt* and *Take-and-Make craft bags*

Multiple Branches:

- *Preschool Storytimes*
- *Adult/Kid Craft*
- *Technology Training Sessions*
- *Adult Book Groups*
- *Board Game Night*
- *Video Games*

Individual Branches:

- *Legal Services:* The Civil Legal Advice Resource Office (CLARO)
- *DMV Services*
- *Adult/Kids Writing Club*
- *Open Chess*
- *Twilight Zone Watch and Discussion*
- *Teen Book to Screen Club*
- *Short Story Open Mic*
- *Cellist Alex Cousins:* Performance and educational talk on the history of stringed instruments,
- *Drag Storytime*
- *Piñata-making* with Explore and More
- *Film Screening: Ripples of Plastic*, sponsored by the WNY Environmental Alliance
- *Really, Really, FREE Market*
- *Business of Music*

Displays and Exhibits:

Rare Book Room staff visited the Road Less Traveled Theater on September 11 to install a display case of Shakespeare objects donated by Dr. Warren Perry. The theater is showing *The Book of Will*, a play about the making of the first Shakespeare folio. A facsimile of the first folio was loaned to Road Less Traveled Theatre for the run of the play that will be displayed until October 19.

Tours and Visits:

Rare Book Curator **Heather Gring** provided a tour of Special Collections on September 17 to Library Development Specialist for the New York State Library Division of Library Development Natalie McDonough accompanied by **Dorinda Darden** who provided a tour of the other areas of the Central Library including the closed stacks. Natalie also accompanied **Dorinda** for a visit to the Kenmore Branch Library on September 17. They also visited the Crane Branch and Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Libraries, and attended the System Board of Trustees Meeting on September 18. **Heather Gring** provided a tour of Special Collections to Executive Director of the Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Sheryl Knab and New York State Librarian Lauren Moore on September 23, and **Susan Buttaccio** provided a tour of Special Collections to New York Library Association (NYLA) Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon on September 24. **Dorinda Darden** accompanied them on the tours and provided them with tours of the other areas including closed stacks at the Central Library. A tour of Special Collections was also provided to Director of Roycroft Campus Press Necole Witcher on September 24. A Curator's tour of the current Rare Book Room exhibit, *What Does It All Mean? Exploring the Dictionary* was provided on September 25.

2. Collection Development**Physical Collections:**

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
Juvenile Print	2,454	22,082	235	2,444	508,977
Young Adult Print	421	3,739	50	745	69,475
Adult Print	3,189	32,376	615	6,395	1,758,619
Media	2,769	18,744	311	2,548	510,063
Other*	1,777	15,770	52	211	174,160
Subtotal	10,610	92,711	1,263	12,343	3,021,294

*Includes magazines, generic copies, and other.

Electronic Collections*:

	Item Adds		Title Adds		Collection Size
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	
eBooks	4,670	38,128	1,276	12,235	123,802
eAudiobooks	8,698	69,606	381	3,538	59,479
Digital Magazines	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,242
Subtotal	13,368	107,734	1,657	15,773	189,523

*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	23,978	200,445	2,920	28,116	3,210,817
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Rare Book and Special Collections:

The Special Collections Department received a large genealogy donation by one of the founders of the Western New York Genealogical Society (WNYGS) Glenn Atwell. Atwell donated the materials to the Society's collection, which is accessible in the Grosvenor Room. The donation represents a lifetime's worth of genealogical work including indexes and transcriptions of Erie County church records, cemetery records, and gravestones; early Amherst Bee obituary and marriage indexes; and genealogical research vertical files. Also donated were original St. John's Lutheran Church and orphanage records, published genealogy works, maps, and microfilmed genealogical records.

A selection of 240 postcards from the Rare Book Room have been digitized and is now available on the Library's digital collections site.

3. Fundraising**Fundraising:**

Campaign Name	Campaign Dates	Raised to Date
Annual Appeal Total	January 1 – September 30, 2025	\$343,445.32

Highlights:

In September, the Library's **Online Store** had:

- 32 orders
- 52 items sold
- \$1,174.05 in sales

Upcoming:

- *Books, Bites & Banter* fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, October 21 at Big Ditch Brewing (55 E. Huron St.) from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$35 each. Available online at <https://bl.buffalolib.org/Bites-2025>. Tickets include 2 drinks and light hors d'oeuvres. This fundraiser helps to support the Library's *Bucks for Books* campaign.

Mass email sent in September:

- Public Periodical - Sent to all library cardholders that opted in to receive communications (over 90,000), 43% open rate.

4. Funding/Facilities**Funding:**

Erie County's 2026 budget process continues. Per Erie County Department of Budget and Management (Budget Office) instructions and consistent with the guidance adopted by the Board of Trustees in Resolution 2025-28. We can expect to hear more once the County Executive releases his proposed 2026 Budget on October 15.

On September 4, the New York State Comptroller released rates for employer retirement system contributions that will be charged to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library beginning April 1, 2026. Those rates are significantly higher than expected, with rates for the Tiers with the largest number of library employees, Tiers 3, 4, 5 and 6 has significantly increased for 2026. For budget purposes, we use a blended rate, and in our 2026 Budget submission to Erie County we used a rate of 12.7%. Based off the new rates released, the projected blended rate for retirement will be approximately 15.0%. The net change is approximately \$291,000. Staff will closely monitor the situation.

Facilities:

September 3 marked the deadline for New York State Construction Aid applications to be submitted to the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System for review prior to being sent to the state. In total, there were 4 applications submitted in this round of funding requests. Libraries submitting applications were the Central Library, Boston Free Library, Elaine M. Panty Branch Library, and the Newstead Public Library. Respectively, these projects addressed building envelope rehabilitation, LED lighting installation, building-wide improvements, and flat roof replacement. The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board of Trustees approved the request recommendations for these projects at the September 18 Board meeting.

On September 11 and 25, Central Library Administration met virtually with Bostwick Design Partnership to discuss the ongoing *Space Utilization Study* at the Central Library. Topics of discussion included the proposed Public Comment Report, which, once publicly available, will summarize at a high level what has been discussed and what is proposed, in an easily digestible format and length, to gain further input from the community. In conjunction with the report will be an online public survey requesting input on the report as well as opportunities for the public to submit their own thoughts and ideas on how they envision the Central Library in the future.

On September 12, **Dorinda Darden**, Deputy Director – Chief Operating Officer **Angela Marinucci**, and Facility Operations Manager **Andrew Wiede** presented the Buffalo & Erie county Public Library's 2026 Capital Budget and Capital Improvements requests to the City of Buffalo Citizens Planning Council. Two requests were submitted this year. The Elaine M. Panty Branch Library requested \$430,000 to complete a full replacement of the building's HVAC system. The Leroy R. Coles, Jr. Branch Library requested \$349,888 to replace the building's boiler system. This funding would be leveraged to request future, additional funding through the New York State Library Construction Aid Program.

On September 26, the switchgear replacement project began at the Central Library. It involved a weekend-long, building wide, electrical shutdown to begin the replacement of the building's original electrical switchgear equipment. Trautman Associates and Erie County Department of Public Works are managing the project, along with Frey Electric performing the actual work. Three to five more shutdowns will be required to

complete the entire scope of work. The dates for these future shutdowns are still being finalized.

East Clinton Programming Highlights: *Closed for repairs and upgrades*

Gonzalez-Soto Programming Highlights: *Closed for HVAC replacement*

5. Staff Development

Annual Compliance Training Begins – Compliance training for all staff began in September, through a new platform, Traliant. All employees are required to complete the courses *Preventing Workplace Harassment*, *Workplace Violence Prevention*, and *Cybersecurity Awareness* by December 15. To date, 40% of staff have completed their training, an impressive start!

Performance Evaluation Training for Supervisors - On September 16, the Human Resources department hosted a presentation on performance evaluations for Buffalo branch managers and Central department heads. The class focused on how to conduct effective performance appraisals, ensuring they are meaningful, objective, and ongoing, avoiding common pitfalls. The class was presented by Assistant Deputy Director for Human Resources **Judy Fachko**. There were 15 supervisors in attendance at this hybrid event, held concurrently in person at Central Library and virtually via Zoom.

Youth Services Group Training – Eileen Anderson, School Library System Director at Erie 1 BOCES, conducted a training about how to best contact and work with school librarians for the Youth Services Group and other interested employees on September 18. Twenty-three staff members attended the virtual event.

Webinars – Clarence Public Library Director **Monica Mooney** presented as part of a panel for the New York State Education Department Webinar *Creating Literacy Solutions for All Readers: Successful Models for Supporting Emergent, Dyslexic and Other Striving Readers* on September 17. In addition, employees participated in a variety of webinars and other online learning programs in September, with several staff members attending these sessions: *Prepared to Help: Library of Things and Emergency Response* (from New York State Library), *Teen Services that Matter: Designing Supportive Library Experiences* (from WebJunction), and *The Ultimate AI Policy for Your (Public, Academic, Museum, etc.) Library* (from Empire State Library Network).

6. Communications

Marketing/Media - Library Card Sign Up Month - Instagram Campaign

For *Library Card Sign-Up Month*, the team pushed [our commercial](#) to remind the broader community all that a library card has to offer. The advertising push lasted for two weeks, and with a total cost of about \$195 garnered **over 27,000 views** and **over**

380 website visits (library card sign-up page.) The post itself totaled nearly **600 likes**, and nearly **50 shares**. The Library signed up **2,773** new library cardholders.



Photo – Screenshot of the Library's Instagram page highlighting the "Profoundly Public" commercial

Media Coverage

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

Type of Communication	Topic	Air Date/Publish Date
Earned Media	Buffalo Humanities Festival	UBNow: Buffalo Humanities Festival opens with textile artist Nick Cave (9/12)
Earned Media	Hispanic Heritage Kickoff	WGRZ: Celebrating 15 years of Hispanic Heritage in Western New York (9/15)
Earned Media	Buffalo Humanities Festival	BTPM: Humanities Festival carries on tradition of sparking creative discussion (9/18)
Opinion	Celebrating the legacy of John Spears	The Buffalo News: Letter: Spears left big shoes to fill at the library (9/20)

Earned Media	Special Collections Partnership with THE BOOK OF WILL	Buffalo Rising: Road Less Traveled' s THE BOOK OF WILL is a Marvelous Mosaic That Has You Laughing One Minute, Crying the Next (9/24)
Opinion	Celebrating Erie County's Library System and the legacy of John Spears	Bee Newspapers: Chimera: Celebrating literacy and libraries in Erie County (9/25)

Social Media:

	Staff Activity		Public Activity		Followers	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD	Month (New)	Total
Facebook	85	878	1,764	28,858	75	15,098
Flickr	-	112	1,308	23,947	-	59
Google Ads ¹	N/A	N/A	2,414	23,238	N/A	N/A
Instagram	17	160	25,099	90,333	169	8,802
Pinterest	-	230	58	461	-1	2,047
Twitter (X)	63	468	58	1,898	-2	10,436
Bluesky	4	140	8	794	4	1,221
YouTube	7	51	166	9,233	5	861
TikTok	-	6	682	7,050	3	1,059
Total	176	2,045	31,557	185,812	253	39,583

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

7. Partnerships

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

- **5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition**
- **Buffalo Humanities Festival**
- **Buffalo State University**
- **Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System**
- **Children's Centers in the Courts**
- **Erie 2 BOCES**
- **Erie County Historical Commission**
- **Explore & More - The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Children's Museum**
- **International Institute of Buffalo**
- **Just Buffalo Literary Center**
- **Live Well Erie**

- New York Library Association LAMS (Leadership and Management Section) Committee
- Visit Buffalo
- Western New York Archivists (WNYA)
- Western New York Integrated Care Collaborative, Inc.
- Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Committees

8. Director Activities

List of Meetings and Events

Attended by Interim Director Dorinda Darden

September 2025

DATE	MEETING / EVENT
September 2, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
September 2, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
September 2, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
September 3, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
September 3, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
September 3, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
September 3, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
September 3, 2025	Meeting - Zonta Club of Kenmore
September 4, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
September 4, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
September 8, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
September 8, 2025	Virtual Meeting - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition Steering Committee
September 8, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
September 9, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
September 9, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
September 9, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
September 9, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Public Library Systems Directors Organization (PULISDO)
September 9, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
September 10, 2025	Meeting - Managers/Directors
September 10, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
September 10, 2025	Meeting - Linda Rizzo
September 10, 2025	Meeting - Michigan Street Preservation Corporation Board
September 11, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
September 11, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino

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September 11, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
September 11, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Bostwick Design Partnership
September 11, 2025	Meeting - B&ECPL Board of Trustees Executive Committee
September 11, 2025	Meeting - Literacy Buffalo Niagara Board Advisory Committee
September 12, 2025	Meeting - City of Buffalo Capital Improvements Program at City Hall
September 15, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
September 15, 2025	Event - Hispanic Heritage Month Kick-Off Celebration
September 15, 2025	Meeting - Andrew Maines
September 16, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
September 16, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
September 16, 2025	Virtual Program - IMAGINE Buffalo featuring Special Collections Manager Susan Buttaccio
September 16, 2025	ErieNet Audit & Finance Committee
September 16, 2025	Meeting - ErieNet Board
September 16, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
September 17, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Enterprise Fleet Management
September 17, 2025	Tour - Central Library with New York State Library Development Specialist Natalie McDonough
September 17, 2025	Tour - Central Library's Special Collections with New York State Library Development Specialist Natalie McDonough
September 17, 2025	Library Visit - Kenmore Branch Library with New York State Library Development Specialist Natalie McDonough
September 18, 2025	Library Visit - Crane Branch Library with New York State Library Development Specialist Natalie McDonough
September 18, 2025	Library Visit - Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch Library with New York State Library Development Specialist Natalie McDonough
September 18, 2025	Meeting - B&ECPL Board of Trustees
September 19, 2025	Retreat - 5/14 Buffalo Massacre Community Memory Coalition
September 22, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
September 22, 2025	Meeting - Administrative Team
September 23, 2025	Tour - Central Library with Executive Director at Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC) Sheryl Knab and New York State Librarian Lauren Moore
September 23, 2025	Meeting - Angela Marinucci
September 23, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
September 23, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik
September 23, 2025	Meeting - 2025 Annual WNYLRC Membership

September 24, 2025	Tour - Central Library with New York Library Association (NYLA) Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon
September 24, 2025	Meeting - Cait Goodrich
September 24, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
September 25, 2025	Meeting - Maria Lowe
September 25, 2025	Meeting - Carol Kowalik-Happy
September 25, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Bostwick Design Partnership
September 25, 2025	Virtual Meeting - Ecosystem for Public Library Association (PLA)
September 25, 2025	Event - Buffalo History Museum's Director of Library & Archives Cynthia Van Ness's Retirement Party
September 26, 2025	Meeting - Joy Testa Cinquino
September 27, 2025	Event - Nash House Museum Tour Coverage
September 29, 2025	Virtual Meeting - 2025 New York State Alliance of Library Systems (NYALS) Advocacy Launch
September 30, 2025	Meeting - Jennifer Childs
September 30, 2025	Meeting - Chelsey Lonberger
September 30, 2025	Meeting - Susan Buttaccio
September 30, 2025	Meeting - Emily Patronik

Appendices

A. Monthly Statistics

System Programming Statistics:

Regular/Virtual	Number of Programs		Total Attendance	
	Month	YTD	Month	YTD
Regular*				
Adults	1339	11235	3592	33980
Children 5 and under	736	11941	3991	49062
Children 6-11	1804	28939	2836	51296
Intergenerational/Combined	3372	46733	9393	108484
Teens	155	2811	358	5788
Regular Total	7406	101659	20170	248610
Regular Total	7406	101659	20170	248610
Virtual				
Live Virtual				
Adults	15	201	111	1618
Children 5 and under	0	8	0	169
Children 6-11	0	7	0	193
Intergenerational/Combined	4	46	50	691
Teens	2	33	2	98
Live Virtual Total	21	295	163	2769
Recorded Virtual				
Adults	7	31	458	2288

Children 5 and under	0	0	0	0
Children 6-11	2	20	474	4538
Intergenerational/Combined	9	83	1536	10308
Teens	0	10	0	10
Recorded Virtual Total	18	144	2468	17144
Virtual Total	39	439	2631	19913
Grand Total	7445	102098	22801	268523

*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

Cheektowaga Public Libraries: Julia Boyer Reinstein Library and Anna M. Reinstein Library - submitted by Daniel Caufield, Director

The Cheektowaga Public Libraries continue to serve its diverse community with entertaining, educational, and topical programming/collections. Our weekly preschool story times at both locations have seen thousands of children, and their families visit for a story, craft and a chance to find a new favorite book. So successful are these programs that Erie County Legislator Frank J. Todaro, Celebrating National Librarian Day, presented a proclamation honoring Children's Librarian Kathy Goodrich for her 30 years of service.

The Library's workforce development focus and partnerships with the Department of Labor, Small Business Administration and Small Business Development Center have allowed the Cheektowaga Libraries to offer two large Job Fairs this year (each featuring 35 hiring companies and an attendance of over 500). Additionally, we offered four daylong entrepreneurial focused seminars for individuals who want to start a business or improve on running their business. Partnering with local and state legislators the Cheektowaga Libraries offered community space for Town Hall meetings featuring County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Cheektowaga Supervisor Brian Nowak and New York Assemblyman Patrick Chludzinski.

Three programs that continue to be successful and grow are the Library's Book Clubs, Knitting Clubs and Dungeons and Dragons programs for teens and adults. The Library's Book Clubs, both meeting monthly (Silent Book Club and Next Chapter), continue to lead many to their next favorite story and author. The Cheektowaga

Knitting Clubs (Hooks Needles and Threads, and Twisted Stiches) meet and teach textile skills at both locations to anyone interested. Throughout 2025 the Hooks Needles and Thread knitting and crochet group started "Random Acts of Knitting Kindness" in which their created items (keychains, baby hats, knitted animals, etc.) were given out for free to surprised and grateful recipients. Both Cheektowaga Libraries have seen growth in Dungeons and Dragons programming, which was able to happen through the time volunteered by community members who see this activity as a healthy way to limit the isolation of computer/cellphone use and build a more social community.

The 2025 Summer Reading push was very well received by residents as both Libraries offered a reading basket raffle for adults/teens and reading logs exchangeable for small prizes and books for children. Over 1000 participants read more than 6000 books over the summer and attended many library programs.

New and exciting programs for families were sought out this past year and included; magicians Super Amy and Chris Johnson, the Zoo-Mobile. Musician Sally Schafer and the Colored Musicians Club, A Llama Fest (featuring real Llama's and over 400 attendees) an End of Summer Bubble Party. Shakespeare performances (Romeo and Juliet) at the Library and various holiday events. Both Cheektowaga Libraries continue their goal to bring together people of different generations, classes, and ethnicities through its collections/digital access, programming and welcoming space. We empower the community and make life better for all of Cheektowaga and Erie County.

Agenda Item G – The Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT)/Contracting Library Trustee Report. Martha Buyer shared that the ACT Fall meeting will be on Saturday, October 18 at the Kenmore Branch Library. Martha Buyer asked Interim Director Darden if she could present on eBooks at the meeting. Interim Director Darden stated that she will.

Agenda Item G.1 – Contracting Library Liaison Report(s). Trustee Panty stated that the Kenmore Branch Library had their unveiling of the mural created by artist Molly Reagan. She stated that she was unable to attend but read that it was well received.

Agenda Item H – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item I – Unfinished Business.

Agenda Item I.1 – Resolution 2025-36 – Interim Library Director Retention Bonus. Chair El-Behairy summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-36

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library has exclusive authority to hire a Director of the Library and set the salary of the Director pursuant to Section 6224 of the New York State Unconsolidated Laws, and

WHEREAS, after consideration, the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library has found Director Darden's performance to be strong during an extraordinary time period, and

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes a one-time Retention Bonus for Interim Director Darden based on performance, and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Contractual Salary Reserves budget line, now therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Library authorizes Dorinda Darden a one-time Retention Bonus totaling \$10,000, which will consist of two payments, \$5,000 each. It will be distributed in the Library's standard payroll process in Pay Periods #23 and #26 on November 7, 2025 and December 19, 2025 respectively.

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

Agenda Item J – New Business.

Agenda Item J.1 – Resolution 2025-37 – RFP Award – Fundraising & Donor Management Software. Assistant Deputy Director – Development and Communications Testa Cinquino summarized the proposed resolution as presented below. Trustee Bartholomew had several grammatical corrections. These changes were made.

RESOLUTION 2025-37

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2025, the Library issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking a qualified, experienced, financially sound, and responsible firm to provide a configurable solution with capabilities in the areas of Donor Relationship Management, Donation/Giving Management, Reporting and Analytics, Online Donation System, and

WHEREAS, the Library's RFP evaluation committee reviewed all proposals received, and

WHEREAS, the proposal from FSH Technologies was the best and most cost efficient, and

WHEREAS, the proposed base cost, at \$32,950 is reasonable, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library selects FSH Technologies to provide Fundraising and Donor Management Software, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Library Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and execute the necessary contract based upon this resolution, the terms listed in the RFP, and the response submitted by FSH Technologies.

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

Agenda Item J.2 – Resolution 2025-38 – Authorization for Year-End Transfers in Excess of \$5,000. Assistant Deputy Director – Controller Patronik summarized the proposed resolution as presented below.

RESOLUTION 2025-38

WHEREAS, the 2025 year-end closing process is approaching and involves finalizing encumbrances (or commitments to spend budgeted funds), and

WHEREAS, some costs, such as termination payouts for retiring employees, will impact other accounts including the System salary and fringe accounts and individual contracting library salary and fringe benefit accounts, requiring transfers, and in the case of contracting libraries, contract budget amendments, be processed quickly to ensure payroll expenses can be met on a timely basis, and

WHEREAS, it may be in the Library's interest to encumber items that may require budget transfers in excess of \$5,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) authorizes the Library Director or designee, with the approval of the Board Chair or the Budget and Finance Committee Chair, to approve transfers within the budget impacting objects of expenditure in excess of \$5,000 for the purposes of making year-end encumbrances and/or expenditures as stated above, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that any such transfers be incorporated into the monthly financial statements submitted to the full Board prior to the close of the fiscal year.

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

Agenda Item J.3 – Resolution 2025-39 – Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara, Inc. Contract Amendment & Renewal. Deputy Director - Chief Operating Officer Angela Marinucci summarized the proposed resolution as presented below. Trustee Bartholomew and Trustee Bucki suggested a couple edits. These changes were made.

RESOLUTION 2025-39

WHEREAS, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (the "Library") and Literacy New York Buffalo-Niagara, Inc. ("LNYBN"), the region's primary provider of free, one-on-one adult literacy services serving individuals in Erie and Niagara Counties, have operated under a contract dated December 15, 2009 which includes allocation of space in the Central Library for their operations, and

WHEREAS, Library patrons have benefited from this longstanding partnership and its furtherance of the Library's mission to connect our diverse community with Library resources that enrich, enlighten and entertain, and

WHEREAS, LNYBN has expressed a desire to expand their footprint in the Central Library building to move into recently vacated space on the second floor formerly held by another tenant, and

WHEREAS, the Library Interim Director met with LNYBN and agrees that a move of LNYBN's operations into the larger space on the second floor would be mutually beneficial, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library approves amending and restating the contract with LNYBN to include the following:

- 1) Lease of 1,350 sq. ft. on the second floor of the Central Building and relinquish the currently occupied 830 sq. ft. for a net increase of 520 lease sq. ft.;
- 2) Increase space by \$4,426 annually, to be prorated based on occupancy of new space on November 1, 2025; and
- 3) Reaffirm subsequent year space rent to adjust automatically on July 1 based upon the change in Consumer Price Index – All Urban Consumers ("CPI-U") for the calendar year ending the previous December 31 over the prior calendar year with a floor of 0% and a cap of 2.0%, allowing reopening of rent discussions should CPI-U increase more than 2.0% in a given year.

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

Agenda Item K – Adjournment. There being no further business, on a motion by Trustee Johnson with a second by Trustee Panty, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine P. Bartholomew
Secretary