

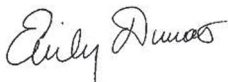
Year in Review

It is very exciting to be completing my first annual report...and what a first year on the job it has been! I began the 2018-19 season as Head of Youth and Teen Services and ended it as Director, so it has been quite a period of transitions. In March we said goodbye to our longtime director, Mary Karshner. Mary had proudly served the library as director for ten years, weathered a recession, and got to see the library rebuild to the strong place it is now. As Mary's and my careers had followed similar trajectories with her starting as the Head of Youth & Teen Services also, I saw her as a mentor and will continue to honor her legacy of love and respect for the community of Royal Oak by providing the best library services possible to our city.

In my place, Amy Howes took the helm of Youth & Teen Services, and Amy's years of experience as a librarian at ROPL will no doubt serve the youth of the city well.

The year has been a time of new beginnings, and not just in leadership. The 11 Mile Entrance reopened, creating an accessible route on the north side of the building for the first time in many years. New programs, collection materials, and services were added with the staff always thinking forward towards innovation. The library board approved a strategic plan that they had put years of work into which outlined the goals for the library over the next five years, and the staff got right to work making these goals a reality.

This is indeed an exciting time for ROPL, and I cannot wait to see what our future holds. I look forward to leading the library and will do my very best to serve our wonderful community. I thank you, the patron, for taking this journey with me and for supporting Royal Oak Public Library!



Emily Dumas
Director

Cover photos by Annalise Freytag.

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*The Royal Oak Public Library
provides opportunities for all to
learn, connect, create, and innovate.*



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**Royal Oak
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2018 to
June 30, 2019

Library Revenues

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Library Millage	\$2,063,681	\$2,134,657	\$2,197,664	\$2,268,051	\$2,329,221
Penal Fines	\$86,003	\$115,652	\$121,061	\$115,952	\$119,688
State Aid	\$33,710	\$35,602	\$37,428	\$39,681	\$43,856
Fines, Fees, Misc.	\$80,573	\$65,216	\$61,512	\$52,549	\$44,455
Grants/Gifts	\$34,360	\$12,579	\$11,784	\$2,307	\$33,475
Interest	\$7,305	\$9,601	\$14,213	\$20,477	\$56,697
Transfer from Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,492	\$0
Total operating revenues	\$2,226,807	\$2,305,362	\$2,443,662	\$2,512,509	\$2,627,392

Library Expenditures

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Personnel	\$1,421,955	\$1,385,725	\$1,442,043	\$1,496,716	\$1,587,490
Books, music, video	\$164,848	\$214,368	\$245,094	\$259,940	\$259,069
Other expenses*	\$697,168	\$687,601	\$673,441	\$755,853	\$748,253
Total operating expenses	\$2,283,971	\$2,287,694	\$2,360,578	\$2,512,509	\$2,594,812

*Maintenance, services, supplies, utilities, debt service on bonds issued for 2006 renovation

Library Operating Activities

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	% Change FY 2017-18 to FY 2018-19
Visitors	173,612	184,998	193,697	163,415*	-16%
Programs	425	513	513	580	13%
Program Attendance	13,518	15,503	16,794	24,819	48%
Reference Questions	28,736	27,280	26,346	20,369	-23%
Computer Uses	36,782	30,467	28,736	22,861	-20%
Lending Transactions	372,934	403,009	399,759	424,360	6%
Card Holders	33,140	24,317	24,262	23,885	-2%
Collection Size	179,393	162,945	154,781	149,530	-3%

*Door counter was not installed on the 11 Mile entrance for over a month. Old door counter also malfunctioned on a number of busy days on south entrance.



Teens waiting for Teen Café to begin.



Young Participant at a Pinkalicious Party.



Participants helping each other during a coding class.

Of Interest in 2018-2019

For the first time in 13 years, the 11 Mile entrance of Royal Oak Public Library is open for public use. Previously, the entrance had only been an emergency exit dating back to the 2006 renovation. The new entrance and accompanying vestibule were installed in May and corresponded with the opening of the 11 Mile parking structure. Now it is only a short trip between exiting your car and entering the library, creating a more convenient means of visiting ROPL.

The library proudly introduced many new and exciting types of circulating media, including mobile hotspots and Launchpad tablets. Hot spots provide wireless internet on the go or at home, and are especially handy for travel. Launchpads are preloaded tablets for kids that include game apps, videos, and other educational content. ROPL is very excited to introduce the new collection items, and both are available for check out with a library card.

Summer Reading Program participation was at an all-time high with over 1,500 children, teens, and adults signed up. Opening Day of Summer Reading was attended by over 700 guests. Participants read thousands of books and collected many prizes along the way. ROPL was once again proud and honored to support so many readers, and acknowledged the accomplishments of all kids and teens by distributing over 900 prize books during the free book giveaway at the close of the program.

Recognizing the need for services for the many teens who frequent the library after school, ROPL began offering “Teen Café” on Mondays between the months of September through June. This event gives teens the chance to make crafts, eat snacks, play video and board games, use computers, do homework, watch movies, or simply hang out and chat in a safe and supervised setting. These weekly gatherings have proven to be wildly popular and are always well-attended.

Over the year, ROPL greatly increased its program offerings. The library presented 580 programs, 67 more than the prior year. These programs spanned all ages, and covered topics in science, arts, music, cinema, technology, and more. As a result of the increased number of event options and high quality of content, program attendance increased 48% from the year prior.

Partnerships and Outreach

The library continues its involvement in the community by working with local partners, including schools, businesses, senior centers, and community groups. In the 2018-19 year, the library staff increased school visits and reached about 2,000 students to inform them about Summer Reading Program. The library also continued targeted outreach for senior citizens with the homebound delivery program, presence at the Senior Expo, and book clubs at the senior center.