



## **New Rochelle Public Library Executive Director's Letter to the Community**

### **July, 2025**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of the New Rochelle Public Library, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who joined us on the evening of June 5 for a truly special event - our screening of FREE FOR ALL: The Public Library, an Independent Lens documentary that beautifully captures the spirit, challenges, and profound impact of public libraries across the country.

It was a joy to welcome so many community members into our space to celebrate the vital role libraries play in promoting equity, access, and lifelong learning. Following the film, we were privileged to host a thoughtful and inspiring panel discussion featuring esteemed voices from our own library and beyond.

I was honored to sit alongside Westchester Library System Executive Director Terry Kirchner, scholar and educator Dr. LaRuth Gray, and NRPL Trustee Tatiana Infante. Each panelist brought a unique perspective to our conversation about the evolving mission of libraries, the importance of inclusive access, and the work still ahead. We are especially grateful to Theresa Kump-Leghorn of the NRPL Foundation for skillfully moderating the discussion and helping to highlight the personal and civic stories that make our libraries indispensable.



We are also deeply thankful for the partnership and support of the NRPL Foundation in making this event possible. The Foundation does so much for our library and community, and we are grateful for every opportunity to collaborate on programs that inspire and engage.

The evening concluded with a warm and welcoming reception, where attendees connected with one another over light refreshments and shared memories, ideas, and hopes for the future of our public library.

Events like these reaffirm what we already know - our library is more than just a building filled with books. It is a living, breathing part of our community, made stronger by your participation, your support, and your belief in the power of knowledge and connection.

Thank you for being part of this unforgettable evening. We look forward to bringing you more opportunities to come together, learn together, and grow together.

Warm regards,

Eugenia Schatoff  
Executive Director