



New Rochelle Public Library Director's Letter to the Community July 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is listening to our community imagine what's possible. Last week, the New Rochelle Public Library welcomed more than 50 community leaders representing local government, the City School District, nonprofit organizations, and community groups for our Community Partner Visioning Breakfast. Their mission was simple but important: help us imagine the future of our library.

The breakfast was one milestone in our ongoing vision planning process, which is bringing together voices from across our community to help shape the next chapter of the New Rochelle Public Library as we prepare for our once-in-a-generation renovation.



Through interactive discussions, participants shared ideas about how the library can best serve New Rochelle in the years ahead. While the conversations were wide-ranging, several themes emerged. Participants envisioned a library with flexible spaces for gathering, learning, creating, and connecting. They emphasized expanding opportunities for lifelong learning, supporting local artists and entrepreneurs, providing greater access to civic and community resources, and ensuring that every resident feels welcomed and represented.

One message resonated throughout the morning: the future library should reflect the people of New Rochelle. Our city's diversity is one of its greatest strengths, and participants envisioned a library that celebrates our many cultures, languages, generations, and experiences while creating opportunities for everyone to come together.

The Community Partner Breakfast builds upon the many conversations we've already had with staff and community members, and we're encouraged by the thoughtful ideas we've received so far. Margaret Sullivan Studio, our vision planning consultant, is now compiling the feedback from our workshops, focus groups, community survey, and partner conversations into a comprehensive vision that will help guide the future of our library.

If you haven't yet shared your thoughts, there's still time. Our [community survey](#) remains open, and while we've received an outstanding response, we want to hear from even more people—including library users and non-users alike. Whether you visit us every week, stop in occasionally, or haven't been here in years, your perspective matters. The more voices we hear, the better we can create a library that reflects the needs and aspirations of our entire community.



The next chapter of the New Rochelle Public Library won't be written by architects alone—it will be written by our community. Thank you for helping us imagine what's possible.

Warm regards,

Eugenia Schatoff

Eugenia Schatoff, Executive Director
New Rochelle Public Library