

New Rochelle Public Library Director's Letter to the Community

December, 2025



Dear New Rochelle Community,

This October marked my first full year as Executive Director of the New Rochelle Public Library. I want to thank this community for the incredibly warm welcome and the partnership you've shown as I settled into this role.

My first year was truly about building stability to ensure the Library remains a protected and thriving resource for years to come. We tackled essential "behind-the-scenes" work—updating policies, strengthening financial oversight, and enhancing safety protocols. We also prioritized the team that serves you, celebrating several staff promotions and launching new staff development initiatives to ensure our workforce is stronger and more connected than ever.

Beyond the internal work, another huge focus of this first year was simply learning—getting to know our community, our partners, and the many ways people rely on their library. Listening to your stories and understanding the heart of this city has shaped everything we've put in motion.

While this foundational work isn't always visible to the public, it is what makes everything else possible. Now, I'm excited to move into more of the "fun stuff"—the creative work and community connections that made me want to become a public librarian in the first place.

Celebrating Our Wins Even amidst the operational updates, we had a year full of exciting milestones. In just twelve months, the Library secured more than **\$1.5 million in grant funding** for programming and facility improvements. This includes a transformative \$1 million award to renovate one of our major library spaces. Advocacy is a big part of my job, and I plan to keep bringing more resources home to New Rochelle.

Looking Ahead: Year 2 As we move into my second year, I am excited to focus on the creative work and connections that make libraries shine. A major step forward will be launching the **NRPL Council for Vision, Imagination & Stewardship**. This group will help guide long-term planning to ensure that every facility improvement reflects thoughtful stewardship and real community input.

I am so grateful to our staff, our Board, the Foundation, the Friends of the Library, and of course, our patrons. You have made this first year meaningful and full of promise. Together, we are growing a library that truly reflects the creativity, diversity, and spirit of New Rochelle.

May your holidays be filled with warmth, gratitude, and good company.

Warmest regards,

Eugenia Schatoff

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Executive Director