



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

Dear Community Members,

I am delighted to share wonderful news for the New Rochelle community: **the New Rochelle Public Library has secured \$1,180,544 in New York State funding** to support critical infrastructure improvements to our building.

This investment was made possible through the leadership and advocacy of Shelley Mayer, Nathalia Fernandez, Steve Otis, and Amy Paulin. We are deeply grateful for their partnership and their continued commitment to public libraries and the communities we serve.

Of this total, \$180,544 comes through the State Aid for Library Construction program and will fund replacement of the theater and entrance roofs, as well as renovations to the building's multi-stack chiller system—essential to maintaining safe and reliable air conditioning. In addition, the four legislators each secured \$250,000, totaling \$1 million, to fund the replacement of the main library building's roof. This funding was secured through the State and Municipal Facilities Grant program, which is designed to strengthen and improve infrastructure in public spaces across New York.

Our building welcomes more than 750,000 visitors each year. After more than two decades of exposure to the elements, our roof system has experienced significant wear, including leaks that threaten both the structure and our collections. These funds represent an essential step toward protecting this vital public space and ensuring that our library remains safe, welcoming, and sustainable for generations to come.

Libraries are more than buildings—they are engines of opportunity, innovation, and connection. This funding is a powerful vote of confidence in the role the New Rochelle Public Library plays in advancing education, equity, and lifelong learning in our city.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the Library's Board of Trustees for their steadfast leadership and advocacy on behalf of our community.

We are excited to move forward with these improvements and will keep you informed as the project advances.

With gratitude,

Eugenia Schatoff

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Executive Director

