



New Rochelle Public Library Director's Letter to the Community

June 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As summer begins at the New Rochelle Public Library, you may notice a few changes taking shape when you walk through our doors—changes designed to make the Library more welcoming, flexible, and responsive to the needs of our community.

One of the most visible additions is a new flexible program space in the lobby near the front windows. This area will primarily host children's programs, including storytimes, music and movement, STEAM activities, and family events, while also providing additional space for programs and community gatherings throughout the year.

The new space reflects something we've heard from patrons for years: the need for more room for learning, creativity, and connection. During programs, you may notice the lobby becomes a little livelier than usual—filled with conversation, movement, and activity. We see that energy as a sign of a healthy, vibrant library serving its community.

You may also have noticed another recent change on the first floor: the creation of our new Welcome Desk. By bringing together circulation and information services into a single service point, we're making it easier to get help whether you're checking out materials, asking a question, signing up for a program, or finding your way around the building. Our goal is simple: when you enter the Library, there should always be someone ready to welcome and assist you.

While these are relatively small changes, they reflect a larger vision: a Library that adapts, evolves, and responds to the people who use it every day.

That vision took an important step forward on May 19 when New Rochelle voters approved both the Library budget and the \$55 million bond referendum that will support the future revitalization of our building. On behalf of the Library's staff and Board of Trustees, thank you. We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated in the process by attending information sessions, asking questions, sharing ideas, and casting a vote.

Throughout the campaign, we heard clearly how much this Library means to our community. We also heard thoughtful feedback about what residents hope to see in the years ahead: welcoming spaces, improved accessibility, and facilities that better support how people use the Library today.

And we are listening.

As planning moves forward, community input will continue to help shape the future of the New Rochelle Public Library. In the coming weeks and months, we'll be inviting residents to help define the Library's future through surveys, interactive activities, and community conversations. We look forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue sharing your thoughts through the suggestion boxes on the first and second floors or by scanning the QR codes posted throughout the building.

This Library belongs to the community it serves, and your voice matters.

Thank you, as always, for being part of the New Rochelle Public Library.

Warm regards,

Eugenia Schatoff, Executive Director
New Rochelle Public Library