



New Rochelle Public Library Director's Letter to the Community

August 2026

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

At the end of July, I had the privilege of participating in an Executive Education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design focused on the future of library design and transformation. The program brought together library leaders, architects, designers, and community-focused professionals from around the world to explore how libraries continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of their communities.

While I came away with new ideas and fresh perspectives, one message stood out above all others: the most successful libraries are not defined by their buildings—they're defined by the people who use them. The physical space matters, but its greatest purpose is to support learning, creativity, connection, and belonging.

That idea resonated deeply because it reflects the work already underway here in New Rochelle.

As we continue planning for our once-in-a-generation renovation, I've been reminded that we're not simply renovating a building. Together, we're reimagining one of our city's most important civic spaces—a place where people of every age and background come to discover, create, connect, and grow.

The conversations at Harvard reinforced how important it is to listen first. Every community is different, and the best libraries are those that reflect the people they serve. I'm grateful that so many members of our community have already shared their ideas and aspirations for the future of the New Rochelle Public Library. Those voices will continue to guide us as planning moves forward. If you have not yet filled out our [community survey](#), please take a moment to do so now.

I returned inspired—not because I saw a blueprint for our future, but because I was reminded that there is no single blueprint. The strongest libraries grow from the character, creativity, and aspirations of their own communities. That's exactly what we're striving to create together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I'm excited for the work ahead and for the opportunity to create a library that will serve and inspire New Rochelle for generations to come.

Warm regards,

Eugenia Schatoff

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Executive Director