2017 Program Highlight

<table>
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<th>4,042 participants</th>
<th>123,569 hours spent reading or doing Summer Playlist activities</th>
<th>24 special events</th>
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<td>(52% increase over 2016)</td>
<td>(125% increase over 2016)</td>
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3,280 free books/coupons distributed
15,127 more items checked out (summer 2017 vs. summer 2016)

In 2017, Heather Acerro, Head of Youth Services, and her cross-divisional team developed a clear plan for a new summer reading program to remove barriers and increase participation. Summer Playlist, a program for all-ages and abilities, encourages reading, exploring, creating, and connecting.

“Your summer reading program was a wonderful idea! It was broad enough to include children who struggle with reading, but want to participate. It included both of my great nephews, one who is deaf and one who has ADHD.”

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**Dear Community Member,**

I am pleased to announce Rochester Public Library has been chosen as a National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Service!

On Thursday, May 24, I will have the privilege of accepting this award alongside a Community Member, chosen by IMLS. Current library employee and longtime library user and volunteer, James Arnold, will join me at the ceremony in Washington, D.C. Teen Librarian Sarah Joynt has also been selected to attend, along with Library Board President Bekah DeYoung.

RPL is only the fourth Minnesota library to win a National Medal since IMLS was formed in 1996. We join St. Paul Public Library, the James J. Hill Center, and the University of Minnesota libraries as recipients of the National Medal.

Winning the National Medal is an honor we can all share. Our innovative programs and services, guided by our strategic plan, would not happen without the support we receive from you. Thank you for helping make Rochester Public Library such a valuable resource for Rochester and the surrounding area!

Sincerely,

Audrey S. Betcher
Library Director
We strengthen community and enrich lives by sparking imagination, creativity, engagement, and learning.