

Howland Public Library

**Annual Report to the
Community
2021**

Messages from Director & Board President

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This report captures some of the highlights from 2020 and includes financial information from our fiscal year of July 2019 to June 2020.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions at:

director@beaconlibrary.org or by phone at 845-831-1134 ex 100.

Without a doubt 2020 was one of the most challenging years that many of us have ever experienced. COVID took so much from so many, but I actually prefer to think about the things it gave us. It gave us a deeper appreciation for family and friends. It gave some of us time to explore ourselves. It gave an opportunity to bring out humanity's ingenuity. Here at the library it gave us an opportunity to recognize where we excelled and where we could improve. It solidified our plans to continue to strive for better technology and services for our patrons. I look forward to continuing our efforts, and working towards a time when we can connect more in person again. Words cannot express the gratitude that I have for every one of our patrons who thanked us for what we do, checked in on us, and continued to lean on us when they needed to. We are, as always, proud to serve the community.

Warmly,
Kristen Salierno, Director

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT

As the 2020 year unfolded and our world changed with this historic pandemic our Director Kristen Salierno guided us through the process of adapting to the new reality. We learned to be flexible and follow her lead in keeping the staff, the board, and the public as safe as possible while still offering safe services to our library members and the community.

The board never missed a monthly meeting as we adjusted to our new "norm" of meeting on-line. And as we became more adept, we held committee meetings, made decisions, and brought them to a vote. Planning for the future is continuing with lots of work in organizing and upgrading policies and programming.

Jan Dolan
President of the Board of Trustees
Howland Public Library

Children's Department



We held the BE A FRIEND/MAKE A FRIEND program in collaboration with the Be A Friend Project anti-bullying organization. Children wrote letters of encouragement, drew pictures, and made a Dalmatian stuffed animal for a child who was being severely bullied. They then got to make their own Dalmatian to take home.



We took our popular LEGO after school program virtual and had a LEGO Challenge each week on Facebook and Instagram!



No Strings Marionettes who, after years of performing spectacular shows in collaboration with the Howland Cultural Center, created a magical virtual performance of The Snow Maiden for us this past December.

Young Adults



In January and February teens enjoyed programs such as Paint Your Own Tote Bag (L) and Bakeology 101 (R).



After March we had some great “take and make” programs such as the Mask Take and Make above (L). The pandemic lead to some really great and innovative Teens stepping forward like Kekoa pictured above (R) who paired with the library to organize an online D&D club.

Adult Program Highlights



July 23, 2020. "Brunch at Home" - an Adult Summer Reading Program 2020 special event, led by local Chef Jennifer Clair. Interactive event on Zoom.

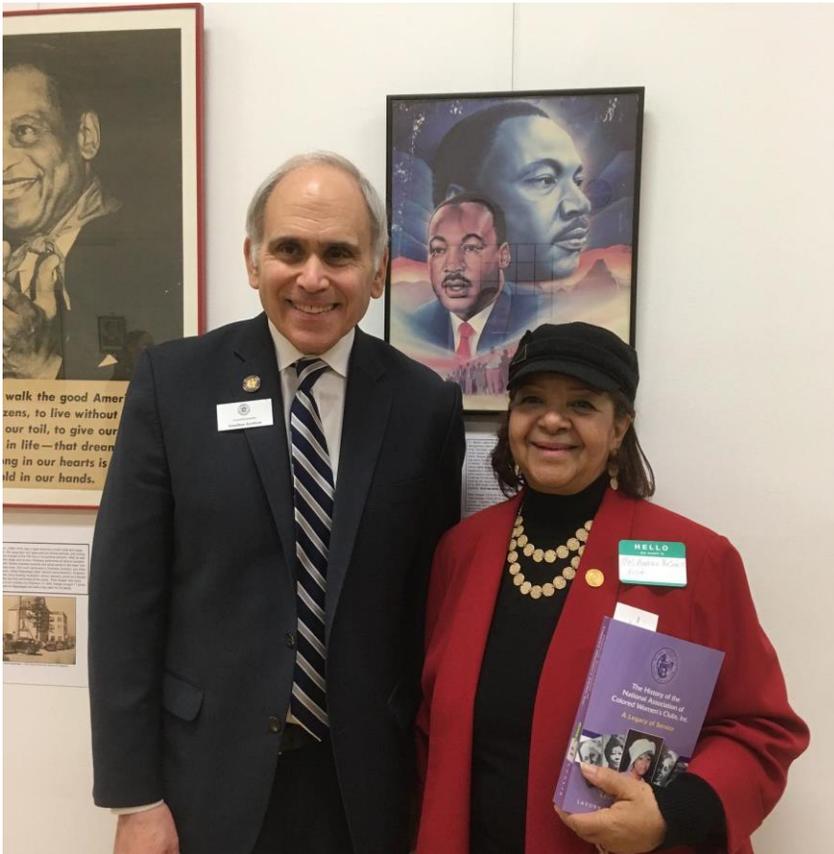


June 11, 2020. "DIY Ginger Ale and DIY Vanilla and Almond Extracts" Presented by the mother and daughter duo known as Grounded Goodwife. Interactive event on Zoom.



May 20, 2020.
"Language of Flowers" storytelling and music, live streamed event. Storyteller, Diane Edgecomb (L) and Celtic Harper, Margot Chamberlain (R).

Art Exhibits



Before the library closed due to COVID we hosted a month-long Black History Exhibit that came to us courtesy of the NAACP - Southern Dutchess Branch. It included artwork, political posters, and historic ephemera. (L) Assembly member Jonathan Jacobson and Barbara McCaskill

**BEACON CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Virtual Student
Art Exhibit**

After the pandemic struck, finding new and inventive ways to virtually share art was critical. We paired with the BCSD to host a virtual art exhibit for students.



beaconlibrary.org/virtualgallery
Howland Public Library
Beacon, NY

Programs, Resources & Services (pre-COVID)

RESOURCES & SERVICES

Friendly, knowledgeable & professional staff to answer your questions & assist you

Public access computers & printing

Databases through our website

www.beaconlibrary.org including



Downloadable audiobooks & eBooks & Music

Magazines & Newspapers (print & online)

Local History Collection & Genealogy Assistance

Music CDs, Books on CD, DVDs

Access to over 1.6 million books, CDs, DVDs available through the Mid-Hudson Library System

Interlibrary Loan (access to items outside of MHLS)

FAX MACHINE (send only)

Photocopier (15 cents a page)

Meeting Rooms (reservations necessary)

FREE AARP Tax Assistance (January-April)

Access to NYS Library Talking Books for the Blind

CLUBS & PROGRAMS

After-School Programs

Baby & Me Program

Battle of the Books

Book Club for Adults

Brain Games for Adults

Craft Workshops

Cultural Programs

Knitting Club for Adults

Language Programs

School Visits

Story/Craft Times

Summer Reading Programs for kids, teens & adults

Teen Library Council

Friday Teen Programs

Programs for Children with Special Needs

ART AT THE LIBRARY

Ongoing Rotation of art exhibits in Community Room

Ceramic "Common Clay" Mural at the entrance of Children's Room (conceived by Mika Seeger)

Library Mural by Rick Price on Main St. façade wall

Marble busts of General & Mrs. Howland in the corner alcove

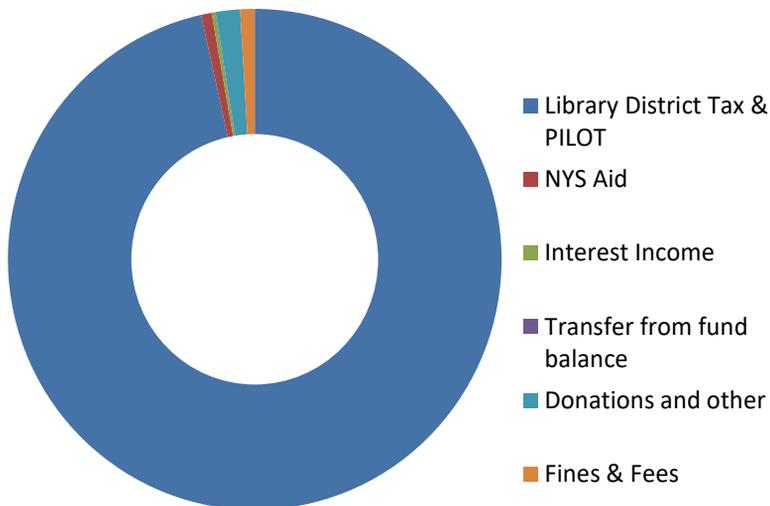
Hello Beacon 2163, a time capsule project created by local artist Jill Reynolds.

Income & Expenditures

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

	Income
Library District Tax & PILOT	\$ 1,121,042
NYS Aid	\$ 8,004
Interest Income	\$ 3,053
Transfer from fund balance	\$ -
Donations and other	\$ 18,495
Fines & Fees	\$ 11,005
	\$ 1,161,599

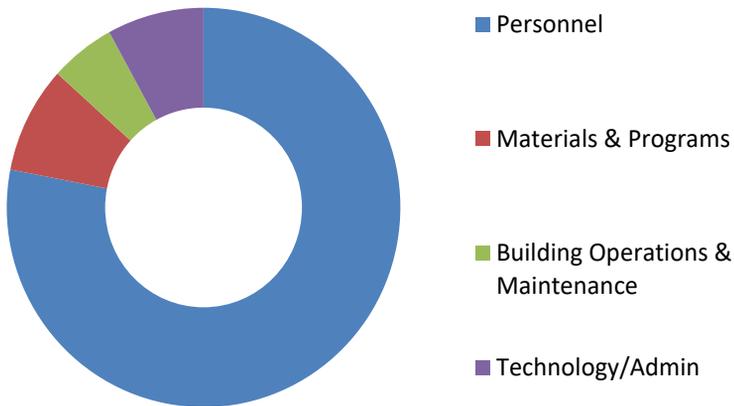
Income



Income & Expenditures continued...

	Expenditures
Personnel	\$ 825,502
Materials & Programs	\$ 91,444
Building Operations & Maintenance	\$ 56,628
Technology/Admin	\$ 84,156
Transfer to fund balance	\$ 103,869
	\$ 1,161,599

Expenditures



Long Range Plan Updates

Themes and Goals		
Theme	Goals	
Theme 1 Community members require access to technology and technology services that are relevant and functional.	Goal: Ensure that community members have access to current and functional technology. Goal: Expand technology services.	Goal: Continue to expand our “Library of Things” to include technology items.

We have successfully completed phase one of our technology upgrade plan. Patrons and staff have all new computers. Phase two of the plan is scheduled to be completed by summer 2021. This will include a self print kiosk with color printing capabilities, Microsoft Office products on public computers, new printing services, and credit card payment capabilities.

The Library of Things is still being developed (both technology and non-technology offerings) and will be available starting in summer 2021.

Updates con'd

Theme 2 Community members require a building that meets their needs.	Goal: Obtain professional assessment on the status of the physical building.	Goal: Obtain input from community members regarding the physical space, needs, uses, and future aspirations for the library.
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Research has been completed by the Director regarding construction projects and the history of the library building. We will strive to obtain professional input in 2021.

Theme 3 Community members want a safe and walkable city with safe spaces for all people	Goal: Collaborate with community organizations to increase young adult programming outside the library. Goal: Host safety programming at the library.	Goal: Meet with city officials to share findings from Community Conversations regarding pedestrian safety.
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This theme in our long range plan was heavily effected by COVID but the library adapted and held many virtual programs in the effort to keep all the community members connected in some way.

Updates con'd

Theme 4 Community members want communication to be transparent, accessible, and centralized.	Goal: Provide opportunities in the library for community members to meet their local government officials.	Goal: Increase community information on the website.
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Goals were temporarily shifted to staff providing information to the community about COVID, safety, reliable resources, vaccines, and more. Information was made available on our website to the public in line with our mission to be responsive to the community's changing needs.

Theme 5 Community members want to maintain the welcoming and diverse community that exists while exploring new opportunities to make connections.	Goal: Increase the number of adult programs that allow for social interaction. Goal: Seek partnerships with community organizations to expand art exhibits that highlight diversity.	Goal: Explore tools and methods to better examine and quantify collection diversity. Goal: Explore opportunities for the Teen Council to volunteer outside the library.
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With in-person social interactions extremely limited in 2020 we did not meet any of the in-person specific goals. With the movements occurring in 2020 regarding racial equality the library will be concentrating on not only examining diversity in the collection but stretching that reach further in areas such as policies. We will continue to examine diversity and equity in as many areas of the library and its services as possible moving forward.