

2025 Annual Report

This year, **297,096 people** visited our library locations and bookmobile Rover, checking out **250,577** physical media.

Our patrons downloaded **147,617 items**, demonstrating the continuing demand for “anytime, anywhere” library access.

We held **2,532 programs**, which **40,604 people** attended.

Rover made **118 stops** and welcomed **4,222 people**.

Acclaimed and award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson spoke to over 2,000 local students and educators during Big Read 2025: *Eve of Revolution*. Learn more inside.



In 2025, PPLD...

- **Celebrated a record-breaking Children's Book Festival.** More than 2,300 people attended the 2025 Poughkeepsie Children's Book Festival, where hundreds of new children's books were distributed free of charge, helping inspire a lifelong love of reading among young readers.
- **Hosted bestselling author James Patterson.** More than 800 attendees gathered to hear the Alex Cross author discuss his book *Disrupt Everything* at the Lateef Islam Auditorium at the Family Partnership Center.
- **Presented powerful conversations on justice.** At the Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch, Dan Slepian, senior investigative producer for *Dateline NBC*, led a compelling discussion of his book *The Sing Sing Files: One Journalist, Six Innocent Men, and a Twenty-Year Fight for Justice*, engaging the community in conversations about wrongful convictions and justice reform.
- **Celebrated 50 years of hip-hop culture.** Journalist and Fashion Institute of Technology professor Elena Romero brought fashion, music, and cultural history together through *Fresh, Fab, Fly: 50 Years of Hip-Hop Style*, one of the year's standout programs at The Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library.
- **Honored the legacy of Frederick Douglass.** Kevin Douglass Greene, great-great-grandson of Frederick Douglass, shared family stories and civil rights history during commemorative events, marking Frederick Douglass' landmark 1858 speech at College Hill Park.
- **Expanded access to regional cultural attractions.** The Library District added five new Museum, Attractions & Parks (MAP) Pass destinations—DIA Beacon, Historic Huguenot Street, MoMA, Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, and Wethersfield Estate & Garden—giving patrons even more opportunities to explore world-class cultural institutions.
- **Expanded library services through Rover.** Rover, the Library District's bookmobile, made 118 community stops, serving 4,222 visitors by bringing books, programs, and library services directly into neighborhoods throughout the district.
- **Had hundreds of thousands online visits.** Virtual library services remained essential, generating more than 400,000 website visits, 81,191 database sessions, along with thousands of views on the Library District's YouTube channel and online calendar.
- **Expanded digital learning opportunities.** PPLD increased the number of computer and technology classes offered, helping more community members build digital literacy and technology skills.

Interested in making a gift to PPLD? Your generosity will help us meet the growing demand for our extensive collections, Ebooks, educational classes for the Hispanic community, after-school programs, and our computer resources and training. Honor a beloved family member or a friend with a memorial gift in their name.

Consider making a qualified charitable distribution to PPLD, sourced from your required minimum distribution (RMDs). Visit poklib.org/your-library/volunteer for more information. Thank you for your support.



PPLD's Public Computer Center makes it easy to get connected!

2025 saw significant growth in all aspects of library life, but notably in our Public Computer Center (PCC). With three regular instructors, the PCC's roster of classes has expanded to 30 different classes designed to get patrons started with all the most current technology. Now patrons can take classes on cryptocurrency, Android, iPhone, getting started with Mac computers, AI, and file management in File Explorer. Additionally, the PCC has opened two new computer labs — a monthly lab at our Sadie Peterson Delaney African Roots Branch Library and a periodic pop-up lab at our local senior centers.

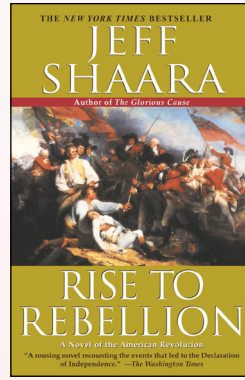
These computer classes empower patrons with little or no tech experience in personal and professional endeavors, as well as making it easy for those with experience to try new things, such as our two-part series, Blockchain & Crypto Basics.

"The course relieved the anxiety I had about using the new phone and provided me with confidence," stated a student of Using an iPhone. Patrons routinely describe PCC instructors as helpful and encouraging, and come away from our technology classes with new knowledge and abilities.

PPLD offers Spanish-language computer classes. These now include beginner courses in using a PC from mouse and keyboard to Microsoft Word; the internet; email; smartphones; and Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

"I created this project because of the need for technological literacy in the Hispanic community in the area," said one of PPLD's bilingual library assistants. "The feedback from participants has been very positive."

Highlights of Big Read 2025



Big Read 2025: *Eve of Revolution* kicked off on October 18 with bestselling historical novelist Jeff Shaara, whose presentation on flagship title *Rise to Rebellion: A Novel of the American Revolution* attracted an audience of 350 at the Lateef Islam Auditorium.

The Big Read sparked community-wide interest in Revolutionary-era history and set the stage for weeks of shared reading, discussion, and learning.

A diverse lineup of public programs connected history, culture, and the arts. Patrons explored colonial foods, book discussions with authors and academics, musicians, historians, games, arts and crafts, and more. Highlights included Grammy- and Smithsonian-affiliated B.E. Farrow of Gangstagrass.

Community members borrowed *Rise to Rebellion*, nearly 500 times throughout the program.

Young readers explored Revolutionary-era history with acclaimed award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson. Elementary students explored the Revolution with *Independent Dames: What You Never Knew About the Women and Girls of the American Revolution*, beautifully illustrated by Matt Faulkner, while middle school and teen readers read and discussed her novels *Chains* (Book One in her Seeds of America series), and standalone novel *Rebellion 1776*. Anderson made six school visits where over 2,000 students and educators were touched and inspired by the opportunity to converse with the beloved *Speak* author and have their copies autographed (see cover image).

During the Big Read, PPLD distributed 2,494 free books to students at 23 area schools, ensuring broad access to the program's featured titles.

The Big Read offered a Professional Development Workshop through The Art Effect that provided teachers with curriculum resources and strategies for incorporating the featured books and themes into classroom instruction and helping to equip educators with tools to enrich student learning and engagement.

FINANCIALS

Revenue

Real Property Taxes: \$10,187,265.00
PILOT Payments: \$135,958.93
Library Charges: \$24,733.77
Interest Earnings: \$81,502.29
Grants: \$2,500.00
State Aid: \$307,274.00
Gifts & Donations: \$290,187.29
Miscellaneous: \$110,867.78
Interfund Transfers: \$406,922.08
TOTAL: \$11,547,211.14

Expenses

Salaries & Wages: \$5,269,304.30
Employee Benefits: \$2,555,151.19
Library Materials & Information Services: \$578,329.81
Equipment: \$38,672.34
Circulation & OPAC Management Fees: \$128,546.29
Operations: \$1,532,654.06
Debt Service: \$1,342,137.50
Increase in Fund Balance: \$102,416
TOTAL: \$11,547,211.14

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Friends of PPLD

The Friends of PPLD contributed over \$150,000 to promote the importance of the library as an informational and cultural force in the community; to stimulate use of the library's services and resources, to assist the Library District in meeting the needs of the community.

In Memoriam:

PPLD Staff Members & Retirees

- Jewel S. G. Ratzlaff, 2025
- Joe Van Wassenhove, 2025
- Andrew Follette, 2026



POUGHKEEPSIE
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
poklib.org

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A Message from Our Board President

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence provides us with an ideal opportunity to reflect on the key role played by public libraries in American civic and cultural life. Even before the Revolutionary War, lending libraries flourished in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. According to leaders such as Benjamin Franklin, accessible knowledge was essential to active citizenship in a democracy.

Poughkeepsie was an early participant in this movement. As told on PPLD's website, a lending library functioned in the city as early as the 1790s. By 1841, Poughkeepsie residents enjoyed access to a 680-volume public library. When we walk through the doors of the Adriance Memorial Library, we enter a space that has served as a hub for the community since 1898.

Today, PPLD patrons enjoy access to three brick-and-mortar sites, a vast array of print and digital resources, and outreach programs in a variety of locations. Amid all these changes, our library district serves as a point of connection between America's past and present. By embracing the chance to engage with new ideas, resources, and conversations, we fulfill the Founders' best hopes for our country.

– **Moira Fitzgibbons**,
President, Board of Trustees

Adriance Memorial Library
93 Market Street, Poughkeepsie

Boardman Road Branch Library
141 Boardman Road, Poughkeepsie

Sadie Peterson Delaney
African Roots Branch Library
29 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie