Harrison Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: Monday, September 8, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Halperin Building

Agenda

Call to order

HPLF presentation

Minutes of the last meeting

Financial report

Action item - Monthly budget

President's report

Director's report

Action item – Conference attendance approval

Action item - Wine serving approval

Old Business
Director's evaluation
2025 Board retreat

New Business

Adjournment

Harrison Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

(Downtown Halprin Building)

July 9, 2025

CALL TO ORDER	Public meeting called to order at 7::	34 pm by Jacob Benmeir. Vice
CALL TO ORDER	President	
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular	A.
	Library Board of Trustees	Library
	Jacob Benmeir, Vice President	Galina Chernykh, Director
	Shauna Rae Long, Secretary	
ATTENDERS	Usha Saxena	
ATTENDEES	David Pinkowitz, Treasurer	
	Harrison Katz	
	Hannah Kenny	
	James Anderson	
NOT IN ATTENDANCE	Todd Hohlweck, Randi N. Gray	
MEETING GUESTS	Ron Blatt member of public	
QUORUM PRESENT?	Yes	
PUBLIC FORUM		7

Minutes of Previous Meeting

o Resolution:

Approve June 4, 2025 minutes

Motion by: Shauna Rae Long

Second: Harrison Katz

• In Favor: Unanimous

Financial Report

- o Resolution:
 - Approve March monthly financial report
 - Motion by: David Pinkowitz
 - Second: Shauna Rae Long
 - In Favor: Unanimous

President Report

o No report this month.

Director's Report

o Resolution:

- Approved white wine to be serve at the Sip and Paint Night on July 28 event and Lynne Wesolowski reception on August 4.
 - Motion by: Shauna Rae Long
 - Second: David Pizowitz
 - In Favor: Unanimous

o Resolution:

- Approved the temporary adjustment of the West Harrison Branch hours, effective September 2, 2025, to address staffing needs following staff departure. The branch will offer late evening hours only on Tuesdays, from 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM, replacing the current Monday and Wednesday late evenings (10:00 AM to 7:00 PM). This will allow the branch to operate with three staff members, with the fourth temporarily relocated to the main library, helping maintain service quality, support staff wellbeing, and continue popular evening programs.
 - Motion by: Shauna Rae Long
 - Second: David Pinkowitz
 - In Favor: Jacob Benmeir, Shauna Rae Long, Usha Saxena, David Pinkowitz, Harrison Katz, Hannah Kenny
 - Against: Jim Anderson

New Business

Board Retreat dates and topics discussed

PR person – crisis PR presentation discussion lead by Harrison Katz and Hannah Kenny

Old Business ED review questionnaire follow up

Adjournment

- Motion: Shauna Rae Long
- Second: Hannah Kenny
- In Favor: Unanimous

The Board Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled to be held on Sept 8, at the Halperin Branch

2025 BUDGET - HARRISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

BUDGET LINE ITEMS		BUDGET		SPENT	% SPENT	% THRU	REMAINING	PER MONTH LEFT
102: SALARIES	69	\$1,243,865.00	69	809,728.42	65%	67% \$		434 136 58 5 144 717 19
120: OVERTIME SALARIES	49	50,000.00	49	16,788.96	34%			\$ 11,070,35
130: PART TIME SALARIES	49	43,952.00	69	23,991.42	55%	67%		
151: SICK INCENTIVE PAYOUT	69	1,666.00	€9	-	0%	67%		
181: LONGEVITY	€9	11,304.00	\$	-	0%		\$ 11.304.00	\$ 3,768,00
401: BUILDING MAINTENANCE/SUPPLIES	↔	95,178.00	49	73,166.92	77%			
402: EQUIPMENT MTCE & REPAIRS	€	12,000.00	69	10,102.50	84%			
403: OFFICE SUPPLIES	↔.	9,000.00	8	6,651.92	74%	75%	\$ 2,348.08	
406: TRAVEL AND CONFERENCES	€,	13,500.00	69	10,608.21	79%		\$ 2.891.79	
407: SPECIAL SERVICES/PROGRAMMING	49	29,650.00	69	26,305.76	89%		\$ 3,344,74	\$ 111475
408: SPECIAL CONSULTANT	€9	88,674.91	69	88,587.55	100%			S
409: COMPUTER/EXP/SER/TRAINING	\$	15,400.00	\$	7,681.55	50%	75%	\$ 7,718.45	\$ 2
417: POSTAGE	€9	500.00	€9	302.00		75%	\$ 198.00	
418: TELEPHONE	\$	6,000.00	69	3,889.98	65%			
420: PASNY	\$	26,000.00	\$	19,773.89	76%			
421: WATER/UTILITY	\$	3,500.00	69	2,959.46	85%		\$ 540.54	
422: GAS HEAT	↔	12,000.00	69	8,204.25	68%		\$ 3,795.75	
433: MEMBERSHIPS	\$	2,355.00	\$	2,218.03			\$ 136.97	
436: INSURANCE PREMIUMS	€9	41,800.00	69	41,389.51	%66		\$ 410.49	
451: BOOKS/SERIALS/PERIODICALS	↔	120,000.00	69	102,966.75	86%	75%	\$ 17.033.25	\$ 5,677.75
453: AUDIO/VISUAL MATERIALS	€9	10,000.00	€9	8,289.32	83%		\$ 1.710.68	
475: WLS/Processing	€9	94,000.00	\$	93,157.63		75%	\$ 842.37	\$ 280.79
480: EXTERMINATING	€9	1,200.00	69	1,100.00	92%	75%		
490: CONTINGENT	↔	35,000.00	€9	-		75%	\$ 35,000.00	

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Notes:

Column G (Green) - Remaining amount to spend Column H (Grey) - Average we can spend each month moving forward

\$2000 from 409 to 475 Transferred \$1500 from 417 to 406

\$2,000 from 409 to 406

Transferred \$1500 from 417 to 406 \$2000 from 409 to 475 \$2,000 from 409 to 406

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- 3			2	1,140.01	664.84	680.91	1,971.44	3,058.31	\$2,997.73	3,116.54	\$ 3,159.18		120: OVERTIME SALARIES
6 9				96,626.20	96,502.57	96,029.40	95,892.28	93,263.94	\$95,447.51	94,599.17	\$ 141,367.35		102: SALARIES
DEC JAN '26 TOTAL	NOV	0CT	SEP	AUG	JUL	NOC	MAY	APR	MAR	HEB	JAN	TRETAIL	102 CALABITE

25 FUND 9 BUDGET - HARRISON PUBLIC LIBRARY

27,191.62 45,637 **\$ 52,028.10** 9 OUT OF 12

oles:

ti H (Grey) - Average we can spend each month moving forward

										\$ 3,375.00				\$ 5,000.00	2,000.00	4,800.00			\$ 22,560.00																								\$ 7,143.00		
TOTAL	ArtsWestfchester Grant	Foundation payment#1, #2, #3, #4, #5	Budget Forward - 2024	DEPOSITS		TOTAL	Sign of Success	Grants	Kiyoko Brown Fund	Miscellaneous			Reading Garden programs		M&M production	Craft	Spencer	Dawny Dew	Armelle	Programs	9/11 Museum	New York Hall of Science	Stone Bard	Frick Collection	Mohonk Preserve	Westchester Children's Museum	Storm King Art	Stepping Stones Museum	Stamford Museum & Nature Center	Science Museum	NYS narks	New York Historical Society	Museum of the City of New York	MOMA	Jewish Museum	Intrepid	Hudson River Museum	Hammon Museum	Guggenheim	Cooper Hewitt	Children's Museum of Manhattan	Boscobel Museum	7,143.00 Museum passes		Petty Cash
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INVOICES TO BE PAID IN SEPTEMBER 2025

401 - Building Supplies

To 1 - Dulluling Cupplics	
Amazon.com Credit Plan Atlantic Westchester, Inc. Cleaning Systems Co. VJS Plumbing Corp.	\$985.96 \$3,470.95 \$1,800.00 \$389.69
	\$6,646.60
402 - Equipment Supplies	
Calculated Fire Protection Co., Inc.	\$1,536.00
	\$1,536.00
403 - Library Supplies	
Brodart Dawn Forcelli / Petty Cash De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. W.B. Mason Co., Inc.	\$77.44 \$17.95 \$600.00 \$98.91
	\$794.30
406 - Travel	
Kenji Kaneshiro	\$859.64
	\$859.64
407 - Special Services	
•	****
Abraham Ovadia Enjoy Erica Art Studio Erin Schirota Kenji Kaneshiro Sofia's Pizzeria & Restaurant Inc.	\$350.00 \$200.00 \$375.00 \$78.00 \$325.00
Cona 3 i izzona di Nestadiant inc.	
	\$1,328.00
421 - Water	
Westchester Joint Water Works	\$303.50

\$303.50

451 - Books, Serials & Periodicals

 Baker & Taylor, Inc.
 \$34.89

 Brodart
 \$21,191.42

 OverDrive
 \$6,300.00

\$27,526.31

453 - Audio Visual

Midwest Tape \$698.16

\$698.16

475 - Processing

Brodart \$2,929.15
NetConnect, Inc. \$5,212.50
\$8,141.65

480 - Pest Control

R. Dana Pest Control \$100.00

\$100.00

Total: \$47,934.16

Purchase Orders and Claim Vouchers

Incurred in August 2025 Paid in September 2025

Order Number	Amount	Line Number
22090	200.00	407
22091	5,212.50	475
22092	98.91	403
22093	325.00	407
22094	150.00	403
22095	8,191.42	451
22096	698.16	453
22097	929.15	475
22098	1,800.00	401
22099	350.00	407
22101	303.50	421
22103	1,536.00	402
22105	3,470.95	401
22107	450.00	403
22108	100.00	480
22109	985.96	401
22110	375.00	407
22111	13,000.00	451
22112	2,000.00	475
22113	17.95	403
22114	859.64	406
22115	78.00	407
22117	34.89	451
22118	6,300.00	451
22119	77.44	403
22120	389.69	401
Total	47,934.16	-

Line Number	Total
401	6,646.60
402	1,536.00
403	794.30
406	859.64
407	1,328.00
421	303.50
451	27,526.31
453	698.16
475	8,141.65
480	100.00
Total	47,934.16

INVOICES TO BE PAID IN SEPTEMBER 2025

788 - Fund 9 Code

Amazon.com Credit Plan
Ann Parkin
Salina Chernykh, Director
Lucia Maestro Martinez
Red Monkey Theater Group, Inc.
\$263.41
\$250.00
\$138.81
\$350.00
\$400.00

\$1,402.22

Total: \$1,402.22

Purchase Orders and Claim Vouchers

Incurred in August 2025 Paid in September 2025

Order Number	Amount	Line Number
22088	138.81	788
22100	400.00	788
22102	350.00	788
22106	263.41	788
22116	250.00	788
Total	1,402.22	-

Line Number	Total
788	1,402.22
Total	1,402.22

Proposed Resolutions for Board Action

Harrison Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: September 8, 2025

Resolution 1: Meeting Minutes

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Harrison Public Library approves the minutes of the July 9 meeting as presented.

Resolution 2: Financial report

Monthly Budget Approval

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Harrison Public Library approves the financial report as presented at the meeting.

Resolution 3: Director's report

1st Wine Serving Request Approval

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Harrison Public Library approves the request to serve wine at Amelia Jones' reception on Saturday, September 20.

Resolution 4: Director's report

2nd Wine Serving Request Approval

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Harrison Public Library approves the request to serve wine at Vildan Starr's reception on Saturday, October 11.

Resolution 5: Director's report

3rd Wine Serving Request Approval

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Harrison Public Library approves the request to serve wine at the workshop *Downsizing and Decluttering* on Monday, September 15.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

9-8-25

Finance

- The final 10% payment for the West Harrison Garden construction grant, in the amount of \$15,014, has been received and deposited.
- The 90% Local Library Services Aid (LLSA) payment for 2025–26, in the amount of \$8,024, has been received and deposited.

Employee Development

• Board permission is requested for Librarian II Giovanna Iannace, Library Assistant Mariella Diaz, and myself to attend the NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY, from November 5–8. The total cost of registration, lodging, and travel should not exceed \$2,500. These funds are already allocated in the Library's operating budget. All receipts will be submitted to the Comptroller's office upon our return.

Library Operations

- August dashboard statistics will be posted on September 10
- Board approval is requested for the following:
- ✓ Amelia Jones to serve white wine at her reception on Saturday, September 20.
- ✓ Vildan Starr to serve white wine at her reception on Saturday, October 11.
- ✓ Amie Beckman of Caring Transitions to serve white wine during her workshop on *Downsizing and Decluttering* on Monday, September 15.
- ✓ Summer Reading. Our summer reading program has been a definite success. We saw a remarkable turnout of young readers at the library. Although we are still working on finalizing the data, the enthusiasm and engagement of the children have been truly inspiring. The library has remained a hub of activity as kids continue to visit, proudly presenting their reading logs and eagerly requesting brag tags as a testament to their literary achievements. Program attendance exceeded our expectations, prompting us to offer back-to-back events on several occasions due to the overwhelming interest.
- ✓ 120 Days of LIT. This summer's 120th Anniversary programs were a delight, highlighted by our augmented reality events, where children's drawings came to life as 3D objects on the big screen. The Booklings tours, developed in partnership with talented Harrisonian Tara Meddaugh through a Foundation grant from ArtsWestchester, were equally engaging. Tara refined the tours into a lively, story-driven format that kept even our youngest participants laughing, learning, and eagerly interacting with the Booklings. Children left letters, drawings, and even notes asking for replies proof of how deeply they connected with the experience.

- Mark your calendar!
- ✓ The Harrison Public Library will be hosting the 8th Annual Fall Authors' event on Saturday, October 18 from 1-5 pm at the Halperin Building.
- ✓ The Battle of the Books is scheduled for Saturday, October 25.

Buildings and Grounds

- HVAC Update
- ✓ **July 17**: During preventive maintenance, the technician reported that the compressor in condenser ACCU-1 was damaged and some copper line sets had been crushed. Because this occurred during a heat wave, the unit was replaced immediately at a cost of \$8,500, and Board officers were notified prior to approving the repair.
- ✓ August 28: A service call was made last week and the company reported a refrigerant leak and fan motor issue with unit RTU-B. A compressor replacement quote of nearly \$10,000 was provided. After discussion with Board officers, the decision was made to seek three competitive proposals for the replacement. Proposals are expected within the next few weeks and will be presented to the Board. In the meantime, windows in the Children's Room are being opened to provide ventilation.
- Bathroom Issues at the West Harrison Branch
 In July, the men's bathroom at HWE experienced repeated toilet overflows, requiring several plumber visits. After a major incident was barely prevented, paper towels were removed from the men's bathroom and a lock was installed, requiring patrons to request a key at the upstairs service desk.
 - In August, new hand dryers were installed in both bathrooms. Keys are no longer needed, and paper towels are no longer available to the public.

Feasibility Study Updates

• The Feasibility Study RFP was posted on July 16, with pre-bid conferences and walk-throughs held at both library locations in early August. Proposals, to be submitted to me with an electronic copy sent to the Board email, will be opened on Monday, September 15 at 10 am in Town Hall. Submissions must include firm qualifications, methodology, references, and cost breakdowns. Proposals will be evaluated based on experience, team expertise, understanding of scope, quality of approach, and cost-effectiveness. Four firms attended the walk-throughs: Geddis Architects, EnviroSpace Architecture, LAN Associates, and Andrea Steele Architecture. Several additional companies expressed interest by emailing questions. I anticipate receiving at least ten proposals.

Trustees Education

• Trustee Handbook Book Club

November 18, 2025, 5-6:30 pm — Trustee Handbook Book Club — Next Level Trusteeship: Building an Effective and Impactful Board Culture To register for and to learn more information about each of the 2025 sessions, go to the Trustee Handbook Book Club website at https://midhudson.org/trusteebookclub/. Archived recordings of earlier sessions are available on the Trustee Handbook Book Club Archive at https://midhudson.org/trustee-handbook-book-club-archive/.

- WLS Member Library Foundation Roundtable (Trustees welcome!)

 Lessons from the Field: How to Start and Sustain a Library Foundation

 Thursday, September 25 at the WLS Headquarters, 6 8:30 pm.

 This roundtable will feature library foundation leaders in a facilitated discussion on how and why they established their foundations, the challenges they faced, and the practices that have contributed to their success. Join us as Laura Rossi, vice president of the NY Community Trust, Westchester Division, interviews Nancy Maron, the co-founder of the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library, and Danielle Marion, the new executive director of the White Plains Public Library Foundation. In lively and informal discussion, we'll learn how they navigated growing pains, met the challenges of fundraising, and built a sustainable model for success. You'll have an opportunity to ask your questions too!

 REGISTER. Light refreshments will be served.
- Sustainable Fundraising Strategies! Demystify Incorporating Planned Giving Designated Funds and Working with Professional Advisors

 Thursday, October 30 at the WLS Headquarters, 6-8:30 pm
 Join us in conversation with Laura Rossi, vice president of the New York Community Trust, Westchester Division. Ms. Rossi will demystify the process of planned giving, share how the NYCT promotes planned giving to individuals to support the causes and issues they care about the most, how they work with professional advisors to boost awareness, and how a designated fund for a library (or WLS itself) can be a solution. REGISTER. Light refreshments will be served.