



## Introducing RPL GO! – Rochester’s New Mobile Library



Mayor Malik D. Evans was joined on December 16, 2024, by N.Y. State Senator Jeremy Cooney and library personnel and partners for a ribbon-cutting ceremony launching RPL GO! — the Rochester Public Library’s new, mobile library. The custom-converted and wrapped sprinter van will provide on-site, pop-up library services such as computer classes and story times to locations that can’t easily provide customers with transportation to a library.

**“RPL GO! will ensure that all Rochester residents—from our seniors to our toddlers—have access to the critical resources and services that our libraries offer,”** said Mayor Evans. “Mobile libraries promote literacy, inclusivity, and community. RPL GO! is a true example of collaboration; I want to thank Senator Jeremy Cooney, RIT, and the community for helping the City inspire hope and, literally, deliver opportunities.”

“The RPL GO! Mobile Library is about bringing the library directly to the people. From older adults to our youngest learners, the mobile library is about accessibility and ensuring all members of our community have access to the incredible services the Rochester Public Library has to offer,” said Senator Jeremy Cooney. “I was proud to secure funding for this project and work alongside Mayor Evans to get this van on the streets and out serving our community.”

**RPL GO! will operate out of the Lyell Branch Library to transport free library resources and services to senior living facilities, childcare centers, community organizations, the Monroe County Jail’s school system, the Rochester Correctional Facility Work Release Program, as well as to community events such as festivals, public markets, and other locations.**

Students from the Rochester Institute of Technology’s College of Art & Design collaborated with the City and RPL staff to design retrofits of the van for mobile service. **FFRPL was proud to play a minor role in this project.** Along with Senator Cooney, FFRPL co-sponsored the RIT College of Art & Design Mobile Outreach Van design project teams, who were tasked with re-imagining a modern Mobile Library concept. FFRPL provided \$2,000 in support, for the RIT students to create product prototypes as part of their presentations.

RPL GO! is equipped with modular book carts, display shelving, books, printers, digital media equipment, Wi-Fi capabilities, storage, and other amenities to help raise awareness of the numerous offerings of libraries.

The RPL GO! mobile library was the idea of a community member who pitched the idea of a bookmobile at the Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute program, which empowers parent leaders to conceptualize and execute a community impact project. “It was my passion for reading and commitment to ensuring universal access to literature that led me to the idea to revive the Rochester Library’s bookmobile,” said Kearstin Piper Brown.

**The City’s new RPL GO! mobile library celebrates the legacy of Leroy Cox who drove an older bookmobile in Rochester for 25 years.** [Watch the video of Cox’s daughter](#) as she shared her sentiments on the mobile library being dedicated in his memory.



Senator Cooney secured a \$100,000 grant through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) State and Municipal Program for the RPL GO! vehicle.

We look forward to seeing the RPL GO! Mobile Library in service at [Lyell Branch Library](#) and throughout the community.