William Kelly welcomed the group, and provided the following updates:

- We have launched the beta version of our new Shared Collections Catalog, which promises to improve ease of access to our collection materials, and which Denise Hibay will discuss later in the meeting. We are also working to improve access to our audio and moving image archival holdings, through a grant funded project to digitize and serve these materials. We will find a short-term solution to assist researchers who would like to review this material in the meantime.

- We are pleased to announce a number of major acquisitions this year: the James Baldwin, Sonny Rollins, Charlie Parker and Renata Adler archives. We are processing and preserving these collections now, as well as beginning a multi-year collections evaluation that will investigate the physical integrity of holdings across NYPL’s special collections.

- Declan Kiely, the former Robert H. Taylor Curator of Literary and Historical Manuscripts at the Morgan Library and Museum, has joined the Library staff as Director of Exhibitions. A new exhibition of recent acquisitions, *What’s New?* will open on Thursday, October, 12, in the Wachenheim Gallery, and we are looking forward to our next exhibition in the Gottesman Exhibition Gallery, *You Say You Want a Revolution*, opening in January 2018.

- We have also welcomed Salvatore Scibona, the noted writer, to the NYPL staff as the Director of the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. We have secured funding recently for a new Latin American Curator, and continue to seek funding for an Asian and Middle Eastern Curator and a Slavic and Baltic Curator.

- Capital projects continue across the research libraries, with the $23M renovation to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture nearing completion. We are delighted that the Center has been designated a National Historic Landmark, and that the interior of the Rose Main Reading Room and the Bill Blass Catalog have been designated as interior landmarks by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
• Work has begun on the full renovation of the Mid-Manhattan Library, and some initial work has been completed in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building: fire alarm upgrades, data infrastructure improvements, renovation of room 100 (new home of the picture collection), renovation of ground floor spaces previously closed to the public. The Mid-Manhattan Library at 42nd Street has opened and is functioning effectively, with relatively little impact on existing services and spaces. When the Mid-Manhattan Library moves into the renovated space across 5th Avenue (early 2020), renovation of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building will continue, with a focus on improving infrastructure and back-of-house spaces. The Library has also commissioned Beyer Blinder Belle, the architect of record for the renovation, to investigate options for the above-ground book stacks in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building.

• Denise Hibay introduced a new Library colleague, Melissa Gasparotto, who has joined the Library staff as the Assistant Director for Research Services. Together, they reported on the launch of the Library’s Shared Collection Catalog. This catalog, still in beta (public testing) version, allows the discovery of and simple request of items held in the ReCAP shared collection. NYPL readers now have access to an additional 7.3M items through this project, which has also enabled a simplified request process and improved communications relating to requests. The more user-friendly request process also draws attention to the ease with which up to 50 pages of an off-site item may be delivered electronically to a reader’s inbox. During this launch phase, the shared collection materials are being delivered to the General Research Division of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building. Expansion to other research divisions, as well as further catalog improvements, will take place over the coming months. In line with best practices in development of digital products, the Library will release improvements to the catalog gradually, so that researchers will continue to notice small changes that enhance their searches and requests. On the strength of the digital infrastructure created for the Shared Collections Catalog, the digital team will create a single request button in the catalog for all general collections material in the next year.

Kelly thanked the Council for their understanding in rearranging the order of the group’s discussions. With a focus on expanding educational activities across the Library, we will look forward to discussing education in the research libraries at our next regular meeting, and the special collections acquisitions policy at the following. During the brief introduction of NYPL’s research education work, council members suggested forming a separate education task force to discuss this topic more fully.