

# THE LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE

2018

Report to the  
Community



CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



THE LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE

**THE LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE HAS LONG STOOD AS SYMBOL FOR CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY'S VISION.** The design appears in a delicately leaded insert in the glass over the Main Library entrance, carved in marble over the doors leading to Brett Hall, and in tile in the lending area of the Louis Stokes Wing. This motif signals the Library's efforts to empower the public through free and open access to information and resources, a commitment that has been part of our foundation since 1869. This 2018 Report to the Community shares the work Cleveland Public Library has done this year to ensure the Lamp of Knowledge only grows brighter in the years to come.

**Our Mission:** We are The People's University, the center of learning for a diverse and inclusive community.

**Our Vision:** Cleveland Public Library will be the driving force behind a powerful culture of learning that will inspire Clevelanders from all walks of life to continually learn, share, and seek out new knowledge in ways that are beneficial to themselves, their community, and the world.

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Felton Thomas, Jr.**  
Executive Director, CEO

### A Brilliant Future

In 2018, Cleveland Public Library enjoyed an exciting and successful year. We reopened the historic South Branch after a major restoration and preservation process, an initiative that illuminates our larger commitment to breathing new life into all our branch libraries in the coming years. To that end, nine neighborhood libraries received important repair work in 2018 as the first step in a larger branch revitalization project—a project set into motion by the successful passage of the levy in 2017, for which our gratitude is endless.

Once again, the *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service granted us with their prestigious 5-star rating, an achievement that credits the hard work of our staff, the support of our community partners, and the enthusiasm of our patron base. We were also honored in 2018 with a Legacy for Justice Award from the Legal Aid Society. Even with these accolades in hand, we never rested

on our laurels and instead worked to bring innovative programs and services to our communities. From participating in the FRONT International exhibition to developing and deepening partnerships with organizations including Best Buy, the City Club of Cleveland, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, PBS/ideastream, and many others, we ignited the Lamp of Knowledge in new and inventive ways.

In 2018, we also committed to finding unique ways of introducing community members to the Library. We hosted author events in breweries and on the beach, we opened Ohio's first Best Buy Teen Tech Center, we welcomed Daniel Tiger into our Eastman Reading Garden, and much more. While we strongly maintain that literature remains something everyone should be introduced to—whether in the quiet space of a library or the not-so-quiet space of a bar—we also

“As a library and as a cultural institution, we are always evolving. Our work in 2018 helped us plan for the future and prepare for additional growth and change.”

embrace new technology, digital services, and programming surrounding eSports, robotics, virtual reality, and beyond.

As a library and as a cultural institution, we are always evolving. Our work in 2018 helped us plan for the future and prepare for additional growth and change. We have big plans, and we can't wait to get started. Until then, we pledge to keep the Lamp of Knowledge burning to signal that Cleveland Public Library's future will be more brilliant than ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Felton Thomas, Jr." in a cursive style.

**Felton Thomas, Jr.**

Executive Director, CEO

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



**Maritza Rodriguez**  
President,  
Board of Trustees

### The Human Connection

When Hurricane Maria caused widespread damage in Puerto Rico in 2017, libraries were not exempt from the devastation. Four libraries in San Juan alone suffered damage in the storm, including a Carnegie Library that dates back to 1916. As of this writing, that library still remains closed.

In April 2018, I traveled to Puerto Rico as part of the Cleveland Leadership Center and the City Club of Cleveland's mission to help clean up debris, meet with FEMA representatives, and perform additional community service work. I also met with a representative from REFORMA, an association for libraries serving Hispanic communities, and toured several libraries. My time in Puerto Rico reinforced my belief that we have a responsibility to reach out to others—whether nationally or internationally—and offer assistance when we can.

“We couldn’t anticipate our bright future or accomplish all we did in 2018 without the support of our community members, partners, and donors.”

We live in trying times. From natural disasters to political tensions, 2018 wasn’t always easy. I take comfort in knowing that every day, the good people of Cleveland Public Library are putting their hearts and minds into the effort to make our Library a better place today and into the future. Along those lines, we have some exciting events and initiatives lined up—starting with our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 and, in the years to come, a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch and a long-term plan to revitalize neighborhood branches system-wide.

We couldn’t anticipate our bright future or accomplish all we did in 2018 without the support of our community members, partners, and donors. I’m particularly grateful for our patrons’ patience during the initial stage of the branch revitalization project, for our Board’s excellent work, and for the generosity of those who supported us. In 2018, that included the late Patrick O’Connor, a



longtime resident of Garfield Heights who created a trust for the Library. The Ronald and Deborah Ratner Philanthropic Fund, meanwhile, stepped in to provide the funds for special programming and resources at our Sterling Branch.

These gifts are meaningful—because just as we support our patrons through programs, resources, and experiences, we also recognize that the community supports us in return. I look forward to the ways we'll continue building each other up in the years to come.



**Maritza Rodriguez**

President, Board of Trustees

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MAKING CHILDREN FEEL AT HOME IN THE LIBRARY

## Home Sweet Home

In 2018, as we moved ever closer to Cleveland Public Library's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we took some crucial steps to prepare for the future. Throughout the year, we considered how the Library's physical spaces could best meet the emerging needs of the community, a process that entailed evaluating all our neighborhood branch libraries and making plans for some large-scale change.

The reopening of the renovated South Branch in December served as a preview to the exciting

developments we have in store elsewhere in our library system. **South Branch**, a 1911 Carnegie library that closed in 2013 due to structural and maintenance wear, was restored to create the best of both worlds for our patrons: preserved historic architecture blended with modern amenities, expanded space, and updated and accessible facilities. A celebratory reception welcomed hundreds of community members back to South Branch on December 1.

The beginnings of a separate capital project stood as another highlight of our year. We

held an international architectural design competition for a new Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch, a competition funded by the **Cleveland Foundation** that drew entries from all over the world. **SO-IL** of Brooklyn, New York, and **JKurtz Architects** of Cleveland were named the winning team based on a proposal that envisioned a modern, functional library that honors the memory of Dr. King and stands as a symbol for social justice and equality. The new branch is tentatively anticipated to open in 2021.

While the South and Martin Luther King, Jr. Branches represent two high-profile

improvements, the Library also took some less conspicuous but no less important steps toward change in 2018. Nine branch libraries underwent critical maintenance work to ensure their facilities remained safe, sustainable, and accessible. We also solicited feedback from patrons, neighborhood residents, and community stakeholders to help inform larger changes on the horizon. Our series of collaborative public meetings and focus groups, which were held in partnership with Kent State University's **Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC)**, helped us develop a

clearer vision for how select branch libraries could be improved and updated to better serve their surrounding neighborhoods.

Above all, 2018 was a year to prepare, plan, and evaluate. When the **Environmental Design Research Association** awarded its 2018 Great Places Award to CUDC for their work on our **CPL150: Community Vision Plan**, we considered this recognition as just one more sign that we're on the right track as we envision a better future for our Library system.





THE LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE: AN ENDURING SYMBOL

## The Lamp of Knowledge

The summer of 2018 presented a unique opportunity for the entire city when **FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art** opened *An American City*, an array of art exhibitions at cultural centers throughout Greater Cleveland that received international attention. As part of FRONT International, Cleveland Public Library hosted *The American Library*, an art installation created by renowned artist **Yinka Shonibare** that highlighted the American immigrant experience.

*The American Library*, which was on display in Brett Hall from July 14 to September 30, showcased thousands of books wrapped in African wax cloth bearing the names of first- or second-generation U.S. immigrants. More than 18,500 people viewed the exhibit, and visitors also had the opportunity to share their own experiences surrounding immigration. In late September, *The American Library* provided an appropriate backdrop for a special naturalization ceremony in the Library, where Judge Thomas Parker of the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, naturalized 28 new American citizens.



## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

“I will never forget the first time I saw the marble staircases in Main Library, the murals on the walls, the floor-to-ceiling walls and walls of books, and the stacks in the Literature Department. Here I would spend lunch hours reading, exploring, and opening to possibilities.”

—Claudia Taller  
Cleveland Public Library Patron

Another significant exhibit also graced the Library this year. *Prison Nation*, which tells the story of incarceration in America through powerful photography, was displayed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch. The Library hosted several programs surrounding this exhibit, including a panel discussion with those who were wrongfully imprisoned and an event featuring formerly incarcerated individuals who now work with the re-entry and troubled youth populations. *Prison Nation* was made possible by the **Art for Justice Fund**, the **Ohio Transformation**, and the **Aperture Foundation**.

As part of One Community Reads, a collaboration among the **City Club of Cleveland**, **Playhouse Square**, and local library systems, we encouraged patrons to read Matthew Desmond’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Cleveland



Public Library hosted related events surrounding eviction and housing insecurity, including community discussions and legal aid resources, and we also participated in a bus tour led by **Cleveland Neighborhood Progress** to bring the conversation off the page and into the city's physical spaces.





BEST BUY TEEN TECH CENTER

## The Future of Libraries

Just as our Director committed to reigniting the Lamp of Knowledge in 2018, the Library worked to continue providing vital programs and services to the community, such as offering afterschool meals and summer lunches for children, free legal aid clinics, college preparedness and GED classes, and much more. But we also embarked on some innovative projects in 2018 to extend our reach in new and creative ways.

In September, our Rockport Branch became the first **Best Buy Teen Tech Center** location

in Ohio. Made possible by a grant from Best Buy and in partnership with **The Clubhouse Network**, the Teen Tech Center is a dedicated, state-of-the-art learning space for youth to explore video and audio production, computing, graphic design, programming, and more. The Teen Tech Center complements our ongoing work with digital literacy, hands-on learning, STEM education, and civic engagement.

In October, we became part of a countywide effort to provide equitable access to technology and support digital literacy by partnering to offer a new hotspot wireless internet lending

program. Thanks to a grant from the **Cleveland Foundation**, along with additional support from **Huntington National Bank** and other partner institutions, 900 4G unlimited-data hotspot devices were made available throughout Cuyahoga County. Cleveland Public Library manages 600 of these devices, which are available for free, 21-day checkout periods at all 28 Library locations.

We also embraced innovation this year by partnering with the **Cleveland Metropolitan School District**, **Cuyahoga Community College**, and **Experience Aviation** in a special program

that tasked high school students with building a Factory Five GTM Super Car in only five weeks. The resulting car was displayed at the NEOSTREAM Conference at **Cleveland State University** and at the Library's Mini Maker Faire—showing just what our young residents are capable of when given the training and encouragement to succeed.

In December, Director of Outreach & Programming Services Aaron Mason and Youth Outreach & Programming Coordinator Erica Marks participated in an eight-day workshop in Beit She'an, Israel, a trip supported by the **Jewish**

**Federation of Cleveland.** Our staff was inspired by the **Beit She’an Library’s** youth development initiative, which provides teens and pre-teens with the framework to grow as leaders, work effectively in teams, and create and lead library programs—a youth development effort that Cleveland Public Library hopes to adapt in select branches in the future to better empower our young patrons.

Finally, we hosted a symposium, “**Refusing to Be Quiet: Challenging the Traditional Library Model,**” for all Library staff and CLEVNET members on December 5. Rolf Hapel, Professor

of Practice at University of Washington iSchool and former Director of Citizens’ Service and Libraries for the City of Aarhus in Denmark, provided the keynote. Additional esteemed speakers and workshop activities helped our staff and those from other library systems discover untapped service models for our communities. It’s all part of our effort to look to the future and keep the flame of library service bright and alive.



# DEFINE AMERICAN

All the nation's leading organizations, including the American Library Association, are working to define the characteristics, values, and American identity.

[DefineAmerican.com](http://DefineAmerican.com)

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CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

JOSÉ ANTONIO VARGAS

## Writers & Readers

In 2018, we revived a beloved reading series, **Writers & Readers**, and hosted four acclaimed authors throughout the year. Held in partnership with **Literary Cleveland**, these events brought high-profile authors to Cleveland while giving local aspiring writers an insider's look at the craft of writing. The series kicked off in August with novelist, essayist, and comic book writer Benjamin Percy, whose appearance coincided with Literary Cleveland's fourth annual Inkubator writing conference held at the Main Library campus.

Writers & Readers continued through the autumn months with Paul Beatty, winner of the Man Booker Prize in Fiction; José Antonio Vargas, whose nonfiction about his status as an undocumented immigrant speaks to our nation's larger political landscape; and Susan Orlean, whose latest title, *The Library Book*, explores the treasured place libraries hold in our culture. In addition to these author appearances, the series offered free writing workshops and Q&As for local writers.

The Library also celebrated literature this year by hosting additional high-profile author events





outside of Writers & Readers. Angie Thomas, the author of the bestselling young adult novel *The Hate U Give*, spoke at the Library in February. Thomas's book addresses topical themes including racism, police violence, and the Black Lives Matter movement, and her appearance drew more than 500 attendees of all ages. Additionally, as part of our Summer Lit League, Roshani Chokshi, bestselling author of *Aru Shah and the End of Time*, made an appearance at the Library in July. And for **Cleveland Book Week** in September, we hosted Derrick Barnes and Gordon James, the author and illustrator, respectively, of *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*, a children's book that brings a young black boy's imagination to life in a celebration of self-esteem.



This year, we took a creative approach to author events. We hosted a conversation with National Book Award Finalist Ibi Zoboi in partnership with Literary Cleveland at the Happy Dog, and young adult author Tiffany D. Jackson read at Edgewater Beach as part of our Summer Lit League programming. Our Hough Branch partnered to bring another special initiative to the Library: **Hough Reads**, a program led by WKYC's Margaret Bernstein to offer weekly summertime reading events featuring local celebrities. The Library also participated in the **Cleveland Jewish Book Festival** for the first time in 2018 when Rice Branch hosted author

Steve Hartov, an event presented in partnership with the **Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland**.

This year, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the **Norman A. Sugarman Children's Biography Award**, which was established in 1998 and is presented biennially at the Library as the only prize in the nation that honors biographies written for children. In 2018, Melissa Sweet, author and illustrator of *Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White*, was honored with the award.



Roland JUNO-Di

## Cleveland Rocks

Partnerships are an important part of our work here at Cleveland Public Library. In 2018, we were fortunate to partner with some world-class institutions to offer our patrons and the larger community the best services and experiences possible.

In March, the Library hosted **Rock X CPL** in honor of the 2018 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Attendees of all ages enjoyed live music performances, presentations surrounding the 2018 Rock Hall inductees, and Fight the Power sessions highlighting the role popular music has played in

fighting injustice. Finally, representatives from the **Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library and Archives** shared Cleveland rock artifacts and memorabilia.

Speaking of music, the **Cleveland Digital Public Library** partnered with the **Cleveland Orchestra** this year to digitize the Orchestra's archives throughout its 100-year history. The Library will host the Orchestra's articles, reviews, and ephemera online to improve public access to these valuable materials. The first digitized materials were released in the fall of 2018 and can be viewed on the Library's online digital gallery.

## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

“When I look back on my life successes, I give credit to my parents for instilling the importance of reading and Cleveland Public Library for providing a magical home to enjoy it.”

—J. Kane  
Cleveland Public Library Patron

To help expose more Clevelanders to the natural wonders in Ohio and beyond, we continued our partnership with **Cleveland Museum of Natural History** to offer a family pass program, which allows Library cardholders to check out a free pass admitting up to six people into the Museum. We also embraced nature this summer when we opened the **Edgewater Book Box** at Edgewater Beach, a library housed in a decommissioned shipping container staffed by Library employees during special summer hours. At the Book Box, we partnered with **Cleveland State University’s Department of Physics** to present physics demonstrations on the beach, and we also offered a Seed Library and seed workshops courtesy of the **Cleveland Seed Bank**.

Throughout the year, Library staff participated in numerous community events. The **Ohio Center for the Book** served as a sponsor for the **Flaming River Comic Con**, an event that supports and promotes LGBTQIA+ art, books, zines, podcasts, comics, and cosplay. **TechCentral** once again represented the Library at **Ingenuity Fest**, where staff created a selfie mural wall that attendees could contribute to on the spot. TechCentral's Mobile MakerSpace also hit the road to participate in the **2018 Cleveland Wizard World Comic Con**. Additionally, staff from the **Science and Technology Department**

attended three City of Cleveland Wellness Works programs to share Library resources with attendees. And **Youth Services** rode the Book Bike to Cleveland Public Square to participate in Summer Splash in the Square.



"YOUR SILENCE WILL NOT SAVE YOU"  
DONALD BLACK, JR.  
RICE BRANCH

## Finding Common Ground

As part of our efforts to foster discussion of timely topics and forge connections, we participated in the Cleveland Foundation's **Common Ground 2018** program, a day of facilitated community conversation across Northeast Ohio. Rice and Rockport Branches hosted discussions surrounding social media's effect on well-being, and the Library also participated in another discussion about the impact of traveling outside the community. Common Ground aligns with our mission of encouraging Clevelanders to seek out new knowledge to benefit themselves and the larger world.

In March, as part of the **2018 Cleveland Humanities Festival** and through a partnership with the **St. Luke's Foundation**, the Library screened *Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope*. This documentary, which chronicles the national movement to prevent childhood trauma and to treat the stress it causes, was followed by a panel discussion featuring a therapist and a childhood trauma researcher. Additionally, as part of another initiative that aims to break down barriers, Cleveland State University offered occupational therapy classes at the Library to help refugees with their integration into American life.

In 2018, Rice Branch proudly displayed “Your Silence Will Not Save You,” a new mural from artist **Donald Black, Jr.** commissioned by the **City Club of Cleveland**. Black’s work depicts a child using a microphone to shatter an American flag, an image that represents breaking the cycle of silence and injustice while reinforcing the power of the freedom of speech.

Finally, we entered into a Benefits Navigator partnership in 2018 with **Cuyahoga County** to help our residents gain access to workforce development and education programs and apply for food, medical, and cash assistance. As part of

the initiative, our staff were trained to connect patrons with these resources to help remove barriers to community services.



**“Humankind persists in having the  
desire to create public places where  
books and ideas are shared.”**

—Susan Orlean, *The Library Book*





IBI ZOBOI SPEAKS AT GIRL POWER

## Igniting a Love of Reading

As a symbol and an ideal, the Lamp of Knowledge is arguably most important for our city's children—and Cleveland Public Library works every day to facilitate early childhood literacy and to establish a love of reading among children and teens.

In 2018, **Summer Lit League**, our newly renamed summer reading club, featured a theme of “Make the Most of Your World” to take children and teens on an eight-week reading adventure around the world, all through the magic of books. This year, the finale event at the

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo** drew an increased number of participants who had the chance to win prizes including **Southwest Airline** tickets, **Children's Museum of Cleveland** passes, Chipotle coupons, and more—just a few perks to help kids end their journey on a high note.

In August, the Library hosted **Be My Neighbor Day** for young children and their families in the Eastman Reading Garden. The program, which drew more than 300 attendees, grew out of a partnership between Youth Services and **WVIZ/PBS ideastream**. Attendees mingled with Daniel Tiger and enjoyed family-friendly activities.



Partners included PNC, PRE4CLE, **Starting Point**, Fred Rogers Productions, and Cleveland **Metroparks**, all of whom helped make the day possible.

Additional enrichment for youth included our **Girl Power** and **Man Up, Cleveland** events. **Man Up, Cleveland** was held in February for boys ages 11-17 and featured guest speaker Lamar Giles, author of *Overtuned*. **Girl Power**, held in March, inspired girls with words of encouragement from speaker Sundae Wynn as well as Ibi Zoboi, author of *American Street*.

The Ohio Center for the Book (OCFB) hosted the annual state **Letters About Literature** competition and the regional **Poetry Out Loud** competition in 2018, two programs that help foster a love of reading among our young patrons. OCFB was also proud to welcome **Whitney Porter** as our Scholar-in-Residence in 2018. This position, supported by a stipend for the first time, will enhance the Library's programming and outreach efforts.





WORLD DAY OF PUPPETRY

## Birthdays and Beyond

We had plenty to celebrate in 2018. In January, our 33<sup>rd</sup> annual **Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program** honored Dr. King's legacy through performances from the All-City Drum Line and Arts Jazz Band and a keynote address from Bishop Nelson J. Perez, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland.

The Drum Major for Change award, which recognizes those who have a demonstrated commitment to community service, was presented to **Leon Bibb**, former WEWS news anchor, and **Don and Norma Freeman**,

education advocates and publishers of *Vibration* magazine.

The summer, meanwhile, ushered in a milestone for our city. On July 22, 2018, we celebrated Cleveland's 222<sup>nd</sup> birthday with festivities in the Eastman Reading Garden. The day featured magic, bubble experiments, swing dance demonstrations, birthday cake, and a special giveaway from the **NASA Glenn Research Center**. Several Library departments arranged exhibits or events to celebrate the city's birthday, including a Cleveland history bike tour arranged by the **Center for Local and Global**

**History** as well as *When the News was New*, an exhibit showcasing 200 years of the history of newspapers in Cleveland.

Throughout the summer, Eastman Reading Garden offered visitors a place to focus on positivity through *Common Energy*, a public art installation brought to the Library by the *See Also* program. Artist **Lauren Herzak-Bauman** created a sculpture to reflect a traditional Tibetan prayer wheel, which visitors were encouraged to spin while contemplating a message based on a Buddhist phrase: “May all beings be happy and free.” *See Also* is made

possible by a partnership with **LAND Studio** and is supported by the **Lockwood Thompson** endowment with additional support from the **Char and Chuck Fowler Foundation**.

Youth Services helped bring even more patrons through our doors in 2018 by partnering with local schools to encourage school visits and by arranging puppet performances throughout the year, including programming for the **World Day of Puppetry** in March. This year, Youth Services added a new dimension to their partnership with **University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital** when the hospital made



video recordings of staff reading children's books. The videos were played on closed-circuit television in the hospital, thereby creating safe storytime programming for children who cannot risk exposure to outside visitors or materials.

At the Library's sixth annual **Mini Maker Faire**, a celebration of innovation, creativity, and technology, TechCentral hosted four virtual reality stations in partnership with a local VR artist. And speaking of technology, this year, Cleveland Public Library was the first public library in the country to be designated a Digital



## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

“Cleveland Public Library’s neighborhood branches continue to be centers for learning, friendship, and celebration for families and individuals, and I am grateful. This kind of connection to the people of the neighborhood is priceless.”

—Eileen Kelly  
Cleveland Public Library Patron

Access partner with the United States **Government Publishing Office** (GPO), a result of the collaboration of **Government Documents** and the Cleveland Digital Public Library. We also became an official partner with **Google’s** Get Your Business Online initiative. Finally, our **eSports** programming took off in 2018 with a bimonthly series of daylong free events for gamers of all ages and abilities.

That’s not all the Main Library departments accomplished this year. In 2018, our **Popular Library** hosted Urban Otaku events for lovers of anime and manga; genealogy research continued to be a draw for the **Center for Local and Global History**; **Fine Arts** brought jazz, classical, and folk music performances to the Library through Music at Main; the **International Languages Department** hosted a Chinese immersion summer camp and offered Chinese language lessons; the

**Business, Economics, and Labor Department**

hosted a small business seminar series; and

**Photograph Collection** staff helped teach classes

in the Library's new Learning Paths: Digital

Photography series.

On a statewide level, our **Ohio Library for**

**the Blind and Physically Disabled (OLBPD)**

circulated more than half a million items to

nearly 14,000 active readers in 2018. OLBPD

devoted time this year to assess and prepare for

the future of library services, especially as the

National Library Service embarks on new projects,

including studying the feasibility of using modified

smartphones as the next-generation talking-book

player. And in July, OLBPD hosted its annual

**Family Fun and Learning Day** in Cleveland,

which featured keynote speaker Romona

Robinson, WOIO-TV evening news anchor and

author of *A Dirt Road to Somewhere*.

Last but not least, we welcomed **Morley Library**

in Painesville, Ohio, into CLEVNET this year.

Morley is the 45<sup>th</sup> library system to enter into

the CLEVNET library consortium, which serves

a million cardholders across 12 counties in

Northeast Ohio to connect patrons to a wider

pool of resources.




CLEVELAND  
METROPOLITAN  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT ALL-CITY  
DRUM LINE PERFORMS AT THE MLK JR. DAY PROGRAM



The image shows the front entrance of a brick building with a classical pediment. The pediment contains the text 'PUBLIC LIBRARY' and 'CARNEGIE LORAIN BRANCH'. Below the pediment are two large columns flanking a central glass double door. A set of wide stone steps leads up to the door, with black metal handrails on both sides. The building is surrounded by green trees and a clear blue sky.

PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CARNEGIE LORAIN BRANCH

KEEPING BRANCHES SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE

## Branching Out

This year, our Lorain Branch won Detroit Shoreway's **2018 Community Spirit Award**, recognition that highlights the good work of our neighborhood libraries. Branches across our system offered valuable programs, including free lunches for children from the **Greater Cleveland Food Bank**; America Reads tutoring provided by **Cleveland State University**; Kindergarten Clubs to support a child's first year in school; workforce development for teens and young adults through **Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)**; voting registration services; art therapy and creative writing programs for teens; and much more.

A joint effort from **NEOMED: The Northeast Ohio Medical University** and the **MetroHealth Medical System** offered patrons free wellness screenings and advice from medical students and physicians. Four branches hosted these wellness screenings in 2018, and the program will expand to offer additional services and locations in 2019. In other wellness news, Walz Branch hosted a mobile monthly food pantry this year in partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. The branch handed out 6,000 pounds of produce every month.

Glenville and Langston Hughes Branches became a bit greener in 2018 after new raingardens were installed in partnership with the **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD)**. Additionally, Rice Branch received a new rain garden and an updated raised-bed garden through a separate program supported by **Dominion**, and a new native plant garden was installed at Carnegie West.

Inside and out, our branch libraries make Cleveland stronger in so many ways: Rockport partnered with the **Rainey Institute** to provide programming in visual and performing arts;

Sterling presented multi-week arts residencies; Lorain offered Storytime with a Ballerina with the **Cleveland Inner City Ballet**; Collinwood partnered with the **National Congress of Black Women-Greater Cleveland Chapter** to create a STEAM summer camp for girls; Union hosted the **Gizmo's Gadgetnasium** creative space for kids; Jefferson hosted the Think and Drink book club; E. 131<sup>st</sup> Street partnered with **Sharp Shooters** to offer youth photography classes; Memorial-Nottingham hosted the **Annual Congressional Art Competition**; West Park offered virtual reality experiences; and five branches participated in the popular Jolly



Storytime Trolley rides, where families read *The Polar Express* and enjoyed a festive Lolly the Trolley through Cleveland.

All in all, our branch libraries made a priceless impact on our communities, illuminating opportunities for education, personal growth, and new cultural understanding in every corner of the city.



VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCES



BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

## A Light for the Future

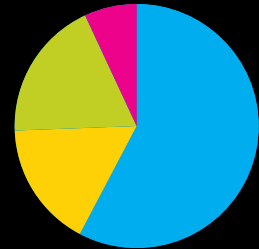
In 2018, we looked ahead with great anticipation to our rapidly approaching 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This milestone encouraged us to carefully evaluate at all we do and consider how we can continue evolving in the future.

And evolve we will. As proud as we are of our outstanding collections and our literacy efforts, Cleveland Public Library is far more than a place to check out a book. We're a community center, a partner, and a place for innovation, creativity, and growth—and we're going to hold the Lamp of Knowledge higher than ever in the years to come.

## 2018 GENERAL OPERATING FUND

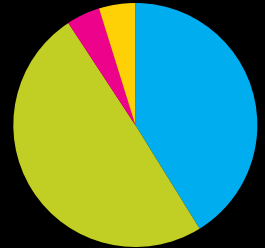
### Expenditures and Encumbrances

Salaries and Benefits	\$36,250,120
Library Materials	\$10,488,253
Utilities and Purchased Services	\$11,716,677
Other Expenditures	\$ 4,358,566
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Total Expenditures and Encumbrances	\$62,813,616
Carried Forward for the Next Year's First Quarter Operations	16,499,147
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Total	\$79,312,762



## Revenues

Public Library Fund (State General Revenues)	\$22,369,957
Property Taxes (City of Cleveland)	\$26,947,794
Intergovernmental Aid	\$2,411,588
Other Revenue	\$2,611,824
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Total Revenue	\$54,341,164
Fund Balance January 1	\$24,971,598
<hr/>	
Available for General Operations	\$79,312,762



## 2018 COLLECTION STATISTICS

Titles		2,587,138
Books	Main Collection	2,820,750
	Branch Collection	379,937
	TOTAL	3,200,687
Bound Periodicals		267,221
Government Documents		569,388
Maps		56,759
Microforms		4,702,368
Photographs, Pictures		1,393,505
Sheet Music		18,000
Sound Recordings		121,545
Videos		230,178



More than **5 million** items borrowed



Nearly **1 million** reference questions answered



More than **220,000** items added to the library collection



More than **2 million** people visited the library



Over **19,000** programs hosted with more than **285,000** guests in attendance



## RECOGNITION

### DONORS

#### \$1,000 – \$5,000

Mozilla Foundation/Paulo Balboa  
Case Western Reserve University  
The Cleveland Foundation  
Internet Archive  
Kansas City Public Library  
Library of Congress  
Carole M. Null  
State of Ohio/Ohio Arts Council  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Weller

#### \$500 – \$999

The Harley C. Lee and Elizabeth  
Keedick Lee Fund of The  
Cleveland Foundation  
Sisters of Charity of Cleveland  
Foundation

#### \$100 – \$499

Anonymous  
Chester & Suzanne Harris

Mary Herpy & Darlene Dunham  
Jewish Federation of Cleveland  
Miller Financial Services  
University of Pittsburgh  
Janet Stocco & Colleagues  
Staff of the Offices of Legal  
Affairs and Faculty Affairs at  
The University of Toledo  
Constance Wolski

#### UP TO \$99

Mark S. Andrew  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Judy A. Burok  
Kevin Butler  
Neil Conrad  
John & Julie Cunningham  
Maria Loya & John Desrosiers  
Danielle Focareto  
Nicole Hartman  
Thomas and Ann Healey

Stephen & Joyce Herwat  
Gloria Horne  
Patricia E. Kelley  
Kathleen Mahoney  
Jean Merchant  
C. Price  
Richard & Michele Smith  
Rita H. Stroempl, Ph.D.  
Jack W. and Arlene R. Tolson  
Jay & Carol Virshbo  
Christine Wolgast

### ADDITIONAL GRANTS AND OTHER LARGE GIFTS

Ohio Library for the Blind &  
Physically Disabled - LSTA  
Federal Aid of \$234,000 and  
State Aid of \$1,274,194 for  
providing services for the blind  
and physically disabled.

Best Buy, in partnership with the  
international Clubhouse Network  
- \$160,000 to open a Best Buy  
Teen Tech Center at the Rockport  
Branch in 2018.

Jean Z. Piety Trust - \$100,000 as  
an unrestricted gift.

Childcare Resource Center of  
Cuyahoga County Inc. d.b.a.  
Starting Point - \$87,938 for  
MyCom out of school time  
transitions programs, including  
Kindergarten Clubs to help  
prepare parents and children  
to start school in the fall and  
after-school tutoring services,  
specifically focused on preparing  
students in grades K-3 for the  
Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

Patrick O'Connor Trust - \$87,017 as an unrestricted gift.

The Cleveland Foundation - \$82,500 to continue After School Homework Help (tutoring), to pilot a new math tutoring program, to implement a Creative Writing Club and to expand art therapy programming.

The State Library of Ohio - LSTA Federal Aid of \$50,000 to create a new Book Box to increase the outreach and visibility of the Cleveland Public Library in the community (Edgewater LIVE).

From Huntington Bank through Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - \$50,000 to establish an internet hotspot lending program.

The Cleveland Foundation - \$35,000 to establish an internet hotspot lending program allowing patrons to check out mobile internet hotspot devices at all branches, including Main.

The Cleveland Foundation - \$25,000 to provide funding for a fellowship position with the Office of Community and Government Relations.

From PNC through Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - \$25,000 to be used to for Kindergarten Clubs.

The State Library of Ohio - LSTA Federal Aid of \$15,809 to assist with costs associated with the purchase of a Braille Embosser

and local duplication media and supplies for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.

Gracy Brody Trust - \$6,731 as an unrestricted gift.

#### **OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED**

Frederick W. and Henryett Slocum Judd Fund - \$234,733 for the Library's Homebound Service.

Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund - \$183,536 for the purchase of fine arts materials, lectures, staff recognition, and travel expenses.

Winifred Beech Young Testamentary Trust - \$48,622 for the services to blind persons of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - \$26,500 for program support.

## **LIBRARY LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### **Felton Thomas, Jr.**

Executive Director, CEO

### **Tena Wilson**

Deputy Director, Chief of Staff

### **Timothy R. Diamond**

Chief Knowledge Officer

### **Joyce M. Dodrill**

Chief Legal Officer

### **Shenise Johnson Thomas**

Chief of External Relations  
& Development

### **Carrie Krenicky**

Chief Financial Officer

### **Tana Peckham**

Chief Marketing &  
Communications Officer

### **Lynn Sargi**

Chief Talent Officer

### **Jeremiah Swetel**

Chief Operations Officer

### **Jean Duncan McFarren**

Director of Collection Services

### **Larry Finnegan**

Director of IT

### **Cedric Johns**

Director of Employee & Labor  
Relations

### **Tracy Martin**

Director of Development

### **Aaron Mason**

Director of Outreach &  
Programming Services

### **Harriette Parks**

Director of Branch Libraries

### **Hilary Prisbylla**

Director of CLEVNET

### **John Skrtic**

Director of Main Library  
& Research

### **Sadie M. Winlock**

Director of Equity & Inclusion  
Initiatives

### **Robin Wood**

Director of Talent Acquisition

### **Sandy Jelar Elwell**

Assistant Director of Technical  
Services

### **Lindsey Duncan**

Safety & Protective Services  
Manager

## **CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION Board of Directors**

### **Aaron O'Brien**

President

### **Samantha Joseph**

Vice President

### **Paul Cox**

Secretary

### **Thomas D. Corrigan**

Thomas Dewey

### **Linda Feagler**

Robyn Gordon

### **Tracey McGurk**

Kevin Poor

John Rowland

Felton Thomas, Jr.

Teleange' Thomas

Margaret Wong

Robert Pincus

Director Emeritus

## LOCATIONS

### **ADDISON**

6901 Superior Ave.  
623-6906

### **BROOKLYN**

3706 Pearl Rd.  
623-6920

### **CARNEGIE WEST**

1900 Fulton Rd.  
623-6927

### **COLLINWOOD**

856 East 152<sup>nd</sup> St.  
623-6934

### **EAST 131ST STREET**

3830 East 131<sup>st</sup> St.  
623-6941

### **EASTMAN**

11602 Lorain Ave.  
623-6955

### **FLEET**

7224 Broadway Ave.  
623-6962

### **FULTON**

3545 Fulton Rd.  
623-6969

### **GARDEN VALLEY**

7201 Kinsman Rd.,  
Suite 101  
623-6976

### **GLENVILLE**

1900 St. Clair Ave.  
623-6983

### **HARVARD-LEE**

16918 Harvard Ave.  
623-6990

### **HOUGH**

1566 Crawford Rd.  
623-6997

### **JEFFERSON**

850 Jefferson Ave.  
623-7004

### **LANGSTON HUGHES**

10200 Superior Ave.  
623-6975

### **LORAIN**

8216 Lorain Ave.  
623-7011

### **MAIN LIBRARY**

325 Superior Ave.  
623-2800

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

1962 Stokes Blvd.  
623-7018

### **MEMORIAL- NOTTINGHAM**

17109 Lake Shore Blvd.  
623-7039

### **MOBILE SERVICES**

5806 Woodland Ave.  
623-7114

### **MT. PLEASANT**

4000 Kinsman Rd.  
623-7032

### **OHIO LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED**

17121 Lake Shore Blvd.  
623-2911

### **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LIBRARY (in City Hall)**

601 Lakeside Avenue,  
Room 100 623-2919

### **RICE**

11535 Shaker Blvd.  
623-7046

### **ROCKPORT**

4421 West 140<sup>th</sup> St.  
623-7053

### **SOUTH**

3096 Scranton Rd.  
623-7060

### **SOUTH BROOKLYN**

4303 Pearl Rd.  
623-7067

### **STERLING**

2200 East 30<sup>th</sup> St.  
623-7074

### **UNION**

3463 East 93<sup>rd</sup> St.  
623-7088

### **WALZ**

7910 Detroit Ave.  
623-7095

### **WEST PARK**

3805 West 157<sup>th</sup> St.  
623-7102

### **WOODLAND**

5806 Woodland Ave.  
623-7109

## Lighting the Way

“The Lamp of Knowledge represents Cleveland Public Library’s commitment to providing the space, freedom, and resources to help Clevelanders from all walks of life expand their educational, vocational, and personal horizons. The Library’s light has illuminated our city for nearly 150 years, and we’re prepared to keep it blazing well into the future.”

–**Felton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director, CEO**

### Cleveland Public Library

325 Superior Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44114

**Phone:** 216.623.2800  
**Email:** [information@cpl.org](mailto:information@cpl.org)  
**Web:** [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org)