



Throughout 2014, Cleveland Public Library engaged in numerous community conversations to conduct a needs assessment and identify gaps that the Library could effectively address as part of its strategic plan. [Safety](#), [Technology](#), [Education](#) and [Preservation](#) are being targeted as part of our STEP promise to the community.

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Message from the Director



We are so thankful for the overwhelming support we received from the community in approving our 2013 levy. At that time we made a number of promises to the community and, as we transform into an even more valuable resource, we are fully committed to fulfilling those promises.

We have focused on the issues that our patrons told us mattered most—safety, technology, education and preservation. As part of our STEP promise, we are working to provide a safe environment and equal access to new technology. Our innovative educational programs are inspiring learning. We have begun to preserve Cleveland's legacy with the opening of the Cleveland Digital Public Library which will not only help preserve our own valuable resources, but also those of our community.

As promised, we continue to be a hub for community learning where patrons of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds can gather to share, learn and grow. In 2014, we strengthened our role in assisting with the transformation effort of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District with dedicated programs designed to instill a passion for learning. Additional Learning Centers were added, and the free tutoring program was expanded to focus on Reading in grades K-3 and on core subjects, such as Math and Science, in grades K-8.

Our branch managers have been empowered to become more involved in their communities, seeking out new opportunities and making recommendations for programs and services that meet the specific needs of their patrons. This responsive approach has resulted in more creative and engaging programs, exhibits and services.

We continue to see ourselves in terms of our mission. We are the "People's University", the center of learning for a diverse and inclusive community. We also see ourselves in terms of the promise of our future. There are so many wonderful things happening in our region, and we are proud to be a part of that excitement and energy.

Felton Thomas, Jr.
Director

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Message from the Board

Creating
the library of
the future



In 2014 we spent a lot of time listening. We reached out to residents and key stakeholders throughout the year to engage the community in a comprehensive needs assessment. While we have always been good listeners and receptive to new ideas, in the past year we reached even deeper into the local communities to understand their needs and determine the appropriate services that will be relevant and best serve our neighborhoods in the future.

Public meetings were held in the South Branch neighborhood this past year and in 2015 will include the neighborhoods of Central, Slavic Village, Mount Pleasant, Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre. These will become rolling conversations that will continue at all branches.

Our overall objective is to seriously evaluate our service model, keeping in mind the changing demographics of the city, our fiscal situation and the condition of our buildings by 2019—a goal set forth in our Strategic Plan as CPL150. This process is not just about our facilities; rather, it is about our programs and processes and how we approach the way we serve the community.

We are not the same Library we were 10 years ago; nor will we be the same Library a decade from now. What we do know is that, in spite of state budget cuts and a weakened property tax base, we are more passionate than ever about providing equal access to quality library services.

The Library will continue to find new ways to evolve while providing those services as we prepare for 2019 when the Library will turn 150 years old. We look to the Strategic Plan and continued feedback from the community to guide us as we embrace new ways to adapt to the ever-changing needs of the people we serve. We thank the community for its continued trust and support.

Thomas D. Corrigan

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Mission + Vision



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.

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Safety

We heard from the community how important it is for our youth to have a safe place to study and socialize. So we made the necessary investments to ensure the Library provided a safer environment.

Did you know the Library communicates directly by radio with local law enforcement?

For many teens, the Library is the safest place for them to go.

It's difficult to focus on learning when you're hungry.



Dedicated Teen Centers

In 2014 we opened two new teen centers—**Studio 470** located at the Main Library and **Teen Rock** located at our Rockport Branch. The converted spaces feature a combination of computers and iPads to assist with studying, along with TVs, video gaming systems and comfortable chairs for socializing.

Based on positive feedback, plans are in place for additional teen centers in 2015. A teen book club has also been started at the Carnegie West Branch.



After-School Snacks & Programming

Recognizing the need for our youth to have a safe environment for studying, the Library expanded its after-school programs, including additional Learning Centers and tutoring sessions.

We worked in conjunction with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to increase the number of branches that served after-school snacks—from eight in 2013 to 17 in 2014. At branches such as Rockport, 50+ students show up each day to eat, eliminating hunger as a possible barrier to learning.



Staff Safety Training

As a public institution, the Library routinely deals with a highly diverse population. For the safety of our patrons and staff, the Library hosted training programs designed to help our staff effectively communicate critical information during a crisis and help resolve conflicts.

Branch managers additionally attended mental health first aid training to help them manage volatile patrons and potentially dangerous situations, as well as identify signs that a patron might be in trouble.



Facility Safety Upgrades

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe environment, the Library invested in facility upgrades to enhance security throughout the branches including new surveillance cameras, access control systems and fire system upgrades.

In 2014, the Library also became the first non-law enforcement facility in Ohio to have direct radio communications with local law enforcement officials. The MARCS (Mutual Aid Radio Communications System) allows for faster response by emergency personnel, should an incident warrant it.



Technology

Many patrons don't have access to the latest technology or lack the training to leverage the technology. In order to help bridge the gap, the Library continues to invest heavily in technology.

Our kids need to understand technology to prevent future learning gaps.

Did you know you can check out an iPad or laptop at the Library?

Without proper computer training, I can't even apply for a job online.



SMARTer Tools for Kids

The Library continued working to become a hub where students can learn about technology. Major technology upgrades designed to help young children continued throughout our Library system in 2014.

AWE Early Literacy Stations were added at most of the branches for use by toddlers, pre-schoolers and school-age children through age eight. Additional SMART tables were introduced at the Main Library, Rockport and Woodland branches to serve as multi-touch interactive tools that engage young learners.



Automated TechToyBox

Cleveland Public Library became one of the first libraries in Northeast Ohio to have an Automated TechToyBox. The vending-type machines dispensing iPads and MyCloud laptops are located at the Main Library and at our Fleet and Lorain branches. Patrons can check out these devices for a three-hour period by swiping their library cards. Patrons without their own computers can conveniently store personalized information for future access thanks to the Library's enhanced MyCloud service.

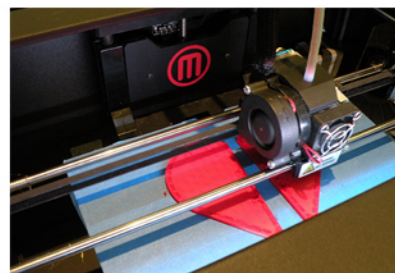
New phone charging stations at eight branches also allow patrons to charge their iPhones and android devices while they use other library services.



Opening a Maker Space

Our Maker Space officially opened at the Main Library in January 2014 to become one of only a handful in libraries across the country. Among other tools, the unique space offers a laser engraver, vinyl cutter, 3D printer and scanner, an audio/video recording and editing studio, and various musical instruments.

The nationally recognized Maker Space program is designed to encourage entrepreneurial spirit in a creative and collaborative space. Patron response has been overwhelming, creating almost constant demand for the printers, engravers and cutters. Knowledgeable Library staff members are available to provide training on all equipment.



More MakerLabs

The MakerLabs that were so popular in 2013 expanded significantly in 2014, reaching out to all 27 branches. Since the programs attracted more teens and children than originally envisioned, the Library adapted its programming, offering an array of hands-on workshops for creating 3D monsters, paper crafts, Lego robots, duct tape wallets and more.

Other programs taught basic computer skills. The MakerLabs strengthened critical thinking skills, which teachers have identified as necessary for career building.

Mini Maker Faire

The Library's successful Mini Maker Faire was also expanded in 2014. Hosted in the spring, it attracted more than 4,000 attendees and featured 100+ presenters and workshops in our Main Library.

The program, which was created in 2013 to provide a hands-on learning opportunity, brings together "makers" who are willing to share their knowledge and teach others.



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Education

Our community conversations revealed that people see the Library as their center of learning—a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can explore their interests and be passionate about learning.

Education shouldn't just focus on the kids. What's being done for working-age adults?

Did you know the Library has a new program to help students prepare for college?

Not everyone learns the same way.



Communities of Learning

A key objective in the Library's strategic plan is to form communities of learning. Through various events and programs, we seek to gather people together so they can share information, learn from one another, gain new insights and become sources of action.

"Girl Power" and "Man Up" were two examples of programs designed to educate teens on timely issues and challenges such as bullying and premature fatherhood. "Step Out Cleveland" (funded by the Lockwood Thompson endowment) was an interactive program that explored the culture of dance and its impact on our society.



Summer Reading Clubs

In 2014 the Library hosted its most successful summer reading clubs with 8,200 students completing the program.

The theme of 2014 was "Get a Clue: Read!" Students read books, solved mysteries and earned tickets to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Rainforest upon completion. Hosted in conjunction with our summer lunch program, it focused on engaging activities designed to strengthen children's critical thinking skills.



College Preparation

"ImpACT the 216", a collaboration with College Now Greater Cleveland, is an innovative program that enhances math and reading proficiency through ACT prep and video and recording arts training.

The eight-week program was hosted at our Harvard-Lee, Martin Luther King, Jr., South Brooklyn and Eastman branches because of their proximity to area high schools. The program was well received with an average of 30 students attending each session.



Programs for Adults

The Library offers a number of programs for working-age adults including computer classes that focus on teaching job skills and getting patrons comfortable with the online job application process. Other well-attended classes focused on resume writing skills, tips for searching the Internet and free legal clinics.

We also offered a career literacy workshop for adult job seekers at several branches and a job fair targeting working-age adults was hosted at our Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch.

A Global Perspective

Learning can take many forms. As part of the Library's strategic objective to acquaint people with different cultures, we orchestrated a number of programs designed to educate and celebrate our region's rich diversity.

Our signature **Writers and Readers** program adopted a multicultural theme for the year. In celebration of our partnership with the Gay Games in Cleveland, we hosted several gay activist authors, including Dan Savage, *The New York Times* columnist.



Asian-American Programs

Beyond our traditional Asian-American celebrations, we also hosted a Chinese Summer Camp that taught the Chinese language, as well as ethnic arts and culture. In addition, we offered a well-attended Business Chinese course providing tips on overcoming language barriers and the general way of doing business in China.



Hispanic Celebrations

Our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration included music, food, crafts and dance programs. It culminated with a special evening performance by Dr. Pablo Luis Riea and Grupo Restauracion Cultural.



African-American Events

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch again hosted our MLK celebration and the awarding of the first annual Drum Major for Change Award. We also brought in several award-winning African-American authors as part of our **Writers and Readers** program.

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Preservation

Maintaining an equal balance between the past and the future...Cleveland Public Library is as committed to preserving the region's rich legacy as it is on ensuring the long-term viability of the organization.

How do we preserve some of our region's most valuable historical assets?

Did you know the Library has a new card just for children?

With all the state budget cuts, how can our library continue to survive?



New Cleveland Digital Public Library

Our Library has another first—The Cleveland Digital Public Library (CDPL). Opened in February of 2015 on the third floor of the Main Library, CPL is one of four Ohio libraries to be awarded federal funds from the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio Public Information Network (OPLIN) to create a network of digitization hubs specializing in state-of-the-art technology to digitize and archive rare and culturally significant materials belonging to CPL, other libraries and museums.

Unique to Cleveland is the fact that residents and local organizations can bring in their historic photos and documents and digitize them, thereby organizing and preserving their resources.



Ensuring a Financial Future

The Friends of CPL, the nonprofit organization serving as the conduit between the Library and its philanthropic supporters, is re-inventing itself to become a true fundraising engine for the Library, thus multiplying the impact of the Library's various initiatives.

New Executive Director Jason Jaffery is having a profound effect on the vision and direction of the Friends group. Not only has Jason initiated a more aggressive, strategic approach to fund-raising, but he is positioning the group to serve as a strong advocate for the Library.



Ensuring the Next Generation

The Library remains committed to helping children discover a passion for learning. We have invested in professional development and training for our children's librarians to help them inspire more children to read.

In September, the Library also kicked off a new children's library card. Known as **"Three for Me"**, the card is specifically designed for children under the age of 18, allowing them to borrow up to three books, regardless of fines or previous restrictions.



Grass Roots Efforts

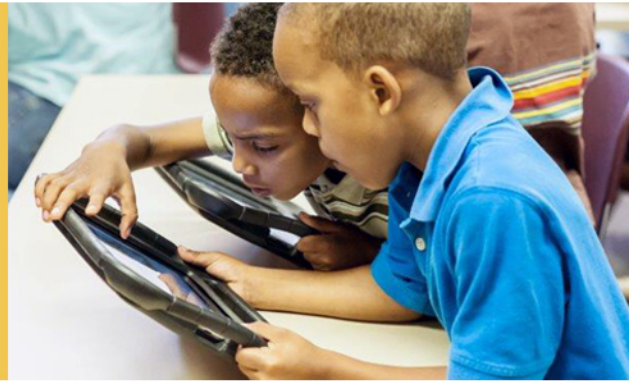
Little Free Libraries started springing up across Cleveland in 2014. With the addition of the Jefferson Branch parking lot, Cleveland Public Library now supports four of these make-shift libraries and frequently provides a fresh supply of books to the weather-proof boxes located on private and public properties.

The "take-a-book, leave-a-book" philosophy has proven successful in getting more books into the hands of readers.

Capital Improvement Planning

Library leadership spent much of the year reaching out to the community and engaging consultants to help determine the best use of the Library's facilities as part of our long-term capital improvement plan. Our branches are aging and we're committed to ensuring that dollars are spent wisely, focusing on those locations with the most critical needs.

Many of our initial conversations focused on our South Branch, which now operates at a temporary location as we continue to evaluate our options for renovating or relocating. As our community continues to evolve, we are evaluating the role the Library should play in that new reality.



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2014 Financial Report



2014 General Operating Fund

Expenditures and Encumbrances

Salaries and Benefits	\$36,373,089
Library Materials	\$11,224,700
Utilities and Purchased Services	\$11,150,491
Other Expenditures	\$5,396,109

Total Expenditures and Encumbrances	\$64,144,389
Carried Forward for the Next Year's First Quarter Operations	\$22,909,201

Total **\$87,053,590**

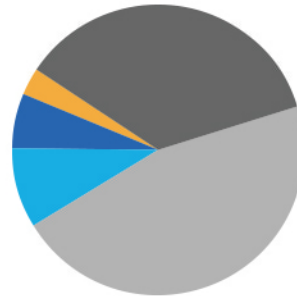


Revenues

Public Library Fund (State General Revenues)	\$19,896,671
Property Taxes (City of Cleveland)	\$25,132,257
Intergovernmental Aid	\$4,741,924
Charges for Services (CLEVNET)	\$3,467,756
Other Revenue	\$1,662,080

Total Revenue	\$54,900,688
Fund Balance January 1	\$32,152,902

Available for General Operations **\$87,053,590**



2014 Collection Statistics

Titles	2,493,627
Book Volumes — Main Collection	2,756,966
Book Volumes — Branch Collection	485,285
Bound Periodicals	269,203
Computer Media (CD-ROM, Software)	2,190
Government Documents	569,687
Maps	54,527
Microforms	4,642,800
Photographs, Pictures	1,384,274
Sheet Music	18,000
Sound Recordings (CDs, Cassettes)	143,297
Videos, DVDs	189,481



Recognition

Donors

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Pysht Fund
 The Nathan Wisneski Fund of The Cleveland Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
 William Christensen
 The Harley C. Lee and Elizabeth Keedick Lee Fund of
 The Cleveland Foundation
 Library of Congress

\$100 - \$499

Ron & Veiva Best
 Nancy Choquette
 Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association
 Sandra Collins
 Cookie Party Friends' of Rich and Karen Owoc
 Ann and Spencer Culbreth
 Richard A. Davis
 Joseph Haoui
 Robert Hassler
 Heartland Market Research LLC
 Lynne F. Jaskulek
 Pat Marie
 George Matsui
 Larry and Yvonne Naselroad
 Bob Ortmeyer
 Aaron Saltzman
 In Memory of Albert Smrekar
 Betty L. Vaughn-Aponte
 Western Reserve Kennel Club
 John Wolfe
 Sarah Wurm

Up to \$99

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 Mary Payner
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 Dolores Smrekar
 Millie & Russ Spetrino
 Ruth Ann Struglinski
 Shonn Thomas
 Jenifer & Scott Trautman
 Aliver Ignacio Villarreal
 William Waters
 Michele Wilson

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.

Grace Brody Trust - \$500,000 as an unrestricted gift.

Cleveland Foundation grant from the Helen C. Cole Charitable Trust Fund - \$228,500 to expand the Learning Centers in our branches that will provide after-school tutoring, college prep classes, and pre-school music literacy classes as well as new technology in each center.

LSTA KnowItNow - \$210,261 for providing reference services 24x7.

Northeast Ohio Media Group - \$50,000 digital literacy grant to purchase technology equipment.

Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC) - \$13,551 grant to host the Mini-Maker Faire.

Margaret Wong - \$6,667 as an unrestricted gift.

Other Funds Received Regularly

Frederick W. and Henryett Slocum Judd Fund - \$206,633 for the Library's Homebound Service.

Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund - \$163,712 for the purchase of fine arts materials, lectures, staff recognition and travel expenses.

Estate of Anna M. Schweinfurth - \$65,126 for the purchase of architectural materials.

Winifred Beech Young Testamentary Trust - \$48,263 for the services to blind persons of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - \$14,500 for program support.

Library Administration

Felton Thomas, Jr.	Executive Director, CEO
Cindy Lombardo	Deputy Director, COO
Timothy R. Diamond	Chief Knowledge Officer
Joyce M. Dodrill	Chief Legal Officer
Carrie Krenicky	Chief Financial Officer
Rod Houpe	Chief Technology Officer/CLEVNET
Madeline Corchado	Director of Human Resources
Patricia Lowrey	Director of Technical Services
Myron Scruggs	Director of Property Management
John Skrtic	Director of Public Services

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