A History of Leadership, Community-Building & Learning

Many people, young and old go to school in our libraries every day.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free...it expects what was and never will be.

LIBRARY STAFF, CIRCA 1920s

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I may be in an ugly mood when I come, but the peace and serenity of this place have a magic effect. Before I know it I feel right with the world and myself.

LIBRARY PATRON, 1930

My library card, which costs nothing, has been a sort of meal ticket of the spirit. I would rather give up my overcoat than lose the use of that card....

AUTHOR, CIRCA 1930s
2008 was a busy year for Cleveland Public Library! We witnessed a thrilling level of volunteer participation by staff, trustees, Friends, and many other community supporters who worked tirelessly making phone calls and canvassing neighborhoods to successfully pass Issue 2 on March 4. Sixty-five percent of the voters supported the tax renewal.

After Andrew A. Venable, Jr. announced his end-of-June retirement, we reached an agreement with Deputy Director Holly Carroll to serve as Interim Director, and began a national search for a new director. Happily, we successfully recruited Felton Thomas, a star graduate of the Urban Libraries Council Executive Leadership Institute and a nationally highly regarded innovator with more than 20 years experience and a Ph.D. candidate in the Management in the Information Professions program at Simmons University. Director Thomas received a Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of Hawaii and he, with his wife Linda, came to us from the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, where they have been rearing two daughters, Marissa and Kayla. Like Patrick Losinski, chair of the Executive Board of the Urban Libraries Council, who spoke of his “pride and delight to see someone from the emerging generation of library innovators take the stage,” I welcome Director Thomas’ fresh perspective. I look forward to his leadership in shaping Library policy and direction as we think strategically in the face of the newest challenges of our 21st Century.

What a privilege and joy to serve you in 2008! On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I salute our talented and dedicated staff who achieve excellence in customer service every day at our “People’s University.”

Alice G. Butts
President, Board of Trustees
Message from the Deputy Director
Holly Carroll

My goal as Interim Director of Cleveland Public Library was to ensure a smooth transition to a new administration. While Board members conducted a national search for the top executive, and staff awaited the announcement of a new Director, the Library moved forward.

It was a phenomenal year in a number of ways—especially as the Library expanded and upgraded several of its facilities. The new Garden Valley Branch was dedicated on February 23—more than 600 people visited the new Library to commemorate the grand opening! We also celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Rice Branch in late October, and in late autumn we began the bidding process for Woodland Branch enhancements and the new offices for the Mobile Services Department.

Internally, the Library completed negotiations for a new payroll and human resources management system and drafted a succession planning document. New career development activities for staff were planned and implemented and we took on the important task of reviewing internal work processes to test for efficiency and effectiveness.

It was an honor to serve this community as Interim Director in 2008. On behalf of Library staff and administrators, I welcome Felton Thomas as Library Director, and thank Andrew A. Venable, Jr. for his 24 years of service to Cleveland Public Library.

Holly Carroll
Interim Director
July-December 2008

The vision of “The People’s University” is to be the learning place for a diverse community, inspiring people of all ages with the love of books and reading, advancing the pursuit of knowledge, and enhancing the quality of life for all who use the Library.

Interim Director Holly Carroll at the Library’s annual Book Bee, Parade the Circle, with Frank Rich at the Spectrum Dialogues, and at the October groundbreaking ceremony for the new Rice Branch.

The passage of Issue 2 in 2008 by an overwhelming majority of Cleveland voters—a phenomenal 65 percent, and the fact that it passed in every precinct in the city demonstrates the respect and confidence the people have for Cleveland Public Library. Our Library is this city’s greatest asset, and in difficult economic times people look to their neighborhood Branch as a haven of stability and resources, which both sustains and intellectually engages them.”

—Arnold R. Pinkney, betpin & associates, inc., COO & Senior Consultant

“We might as well expect to have good citizens without good books... as to make bricks without straw.”

—President, Library Board of Cleveland, late nineteenth century

This year we secured your most significant vote of confidence; on March 4, Issue 2, a five-year, 5.8 mill replacement property tax levy to continue and maintain our services to you passed by a sixty-five percent margin in all voting precincts! Cleveland Public Library is an integral part of our community and has been for nearly 140 years.

During the last century and a half, your Library has consistently been at the center of Cleveland’s neighborhoods; innovators such as William Howard Brett, who was Library’s chief librarian from 1884 to 1918, dedicated his career to making books and information accessible to all people. At the time of his death in 1918, there were 25 branches, 17 libraries in high and grade schools, one library in a normal school, 487 classroom libraries, 42 deposit stations, 66 delivery stations, seven children’s stations, one municipal reference library, and one library for the blind. Brett increased the number of volumes in the Library from less than 40,000 in 1884 to 50,000 in 1918. In circulation per capita, Cleveland had an impressive lead over every other metropolitan library in the nation.

Library programs and collections are an integral part of our community and contribute to your quality of life. In challenging economic times, people look to us for help with computer training, job searches and resume writing, and for diversions—such as popular fiction, CDs, and DVDs—from the stresses of daily life. Your Cleveland Public Library has been a bastion of stability throughout its history, and we continue that legacy. Thank you for your continued confidence and for giving us the opportunity to serve you in times of economic paucity and prosperity.

Victory at the Polls
This year we salute Andrew A. Venable, Jr., who retired his post as Library Director on June 30. During his 24-year tenure at the Library, Mr. Venable focused on using the Library as a tool for improving the quality of life of our city’s diverse citizens. He framed the Library as “The People’s University”—an institution of higher learning that is free and open to all people. He connected readers with the creative people who weave words together on the page, establishing the Sunday Afternoon for Writers and Readers series. Under his leadership we invented and implemented the Internet-based reference service KnowItNow 24x7; the Ohio Center for the Book was transferred from the State Library to Cleveland Public Library; Mobile Library Services were reinstated; and plans for a new Garden Valley Branch were secured. Mr. Venable also worked to ensure that Cleveland Public Library was a leader on the national level by co-hosting the Urban Libraries Council Conference in 2007. The Mobile Library was featured on Capitol Hill that same year during the American Library Association’s annual conference. Mr. Venable was committed to Cleveland and its residents; during his term as Director he oversaw the passage of two operating tax levies, and, after receiving Clevelanders’ vote of confidence, he involved them in an ambitious strategic planning process, which resulted in Saturday Library hours, more computers and computer training classes, increased services for seniors, children and young adults, and our city’s new Americans. Thank you Andrew A. Venable, Jr. for nearly a quarter of a century of service in Cleveland and in the national realm of public libraries!

The Andrew A. Venable, Jr. Oral History Project was established as a tribute to Andrew A. Venable, Jr.’s twenty-four years of service to CPL and our community, and in recognition of his retirement on June 30, 2008. In collaboration with Cleveland State University and the Western Reserve Historical Society, the oral history project documents the lives of Clevelanders and their families. These personal histories reveal the personal and collective challenges and accomplishments of the people of Cleveland in the twentieth century. The oral histories provide perspectives for historians, educators, and researchers of all ages now and for future generations.
Your newly located Garden Valley Branch is a testament to our commitment to serving Cleveland’s unique communities. The Branch moved from 7100 Kinsman Road to the Bridgeport Place Plaza, across the street from its former location. The new facility opened to great fanfare on February 23, as 660 enthusiastic people celebrated and explored their new Library. Garden Valley is one of our smallest facilities, yet it serves an area that includes the largest concentration of children in Cleveland. Youth Services is a major focus; Garden Valley added a new Children’s Librarian and Library assistant devoted solely to young patrons. Garden Valley’s programs are multigenerational and people of all ages use the Branch’s 22 computers and meeting room.

We continue to be a leader in adaptive technology and services to seniors and people with disabilities. Staff from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) led a national committee of librarians to develop a toolkit of “15 Quick Tips” for working with people with disabilities or special needs. LBPH staff also developed a checklist for librarians so that they can easily determine if their

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Community Outreach

33% Garden Valley neighborhood residents are children age 10 and under.
72% Families in the Garden Valley community live below the poverty level.

The Pajama Storytime at West Park Branch for children two to five years old and their families with Children’s Librarian Lisa Kowalczyk. Visually impaired patrons work on computers using adaptive technologies like the one shown here at the Walz Branch. The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides statewide training and support on this equipment.

Mobile Services serves people close to home. This year the department filled 17,540 holds, a six percent increase from 2007.

The new Garden Valley Branch (page 7 background photo) opened February 23, more than 600 patrons attending the grand opening.

The new Garden Valley Branch

“We love our neighborhood Library and go every week to get new books. We truly appreciate the quality and attentiveness of the staff at our Branch!”
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“I truly value access to the extended collection of all libraries in the CLEVNET system and appreciate the online catalog and hold services.”
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Young patrons at their new Garden Valley Branch (front, left to right) Jermaine Culbreath, Jarius Crozier, (back, left to right) Akeshah Mobley, Michael Green Crozier, Jeffrey Cleveland, William McCullough, and Malik Crutchfield.

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Planning & Research Department staff track how and when patrons use Neighborhood Branches. When planning started for a new Rice Branch, the Administration asked Planning & Research for usage data on the existing Rice Branch. They learned that patrons under the age of 18 checked out 40 percent of the books in 2008. They also learned that the Buckeye community is a community of learners, as 31 percent of the population (age 3 and over) is enrolled in school.

Products are accessible to people using adaptive technologies. Both the toolkit and the checklist are available to librarians nationwide on the American Library Association’s website.

This year Homebound Services distributed 21,000 items to nearly 390 Cleveland residents—a 15 percent increase since 2007. Participation in Mobile Services Department’s “On the Road to Reading” project increased by 36 percent in 2008; staff presented story times to 574 classes at early childhood facilities, reaching 6,088 children and educators, and 10,775 items were loaned to participating child care centers and providers.

In October we broke ground on the construction of a new Rice Branch. The project is a model in partnering with community organizations—in this case, Neighborhood Progress, Inc. and Buckeye Area Development Corporation. The design for the new, cutting-edge facility is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, as an environmentally responsible building. This means that it was designed using strategies aimed at improving performance in areas such as energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LIBRARY (PAL)

The Public Administration Library (PAL) is located in City Hall and was established in 1912, making it one of the oldest municipal libraries in the U.S. This year Cleveland City Councilman Joe Cimperman identified the need for a report on the origin of the names of Cleveland Metropolitan School District buildings. PAL and History Department staff conducted extensive research and created a reference guide, which was presented to Councilman Cimperman and his colleagues on the City Planning Commission.

“‘The new Rice Library Branch is a great example of a shared vision becoming a reality. Together, the visions of Buckeye residents, the institutional knowledge of the Buckeye Area Development Corporation and Neighborhood Progress, Incorporated, and the leadership of the Cleveland Public Library created an iconic Rice Branch Library for the Buckeye community.’”

—John G. Hopkins, Executive Director, Buckeye Area Development Corporation
Library programs and resources are key to building community and improving your quality of life. In challenging economic times, you rely on us to provide computer access and training, skill-building courses, and entertainment.

This year the Business, Economics, and Labor Department was particularly busy, as patrons sought resources to help them better understand the recession and related economic issues. In light of the financial crisis, department staff partnered with the Business Advisors of Cleveland on the “Exploring Entrepreneurship” series, and collaborated with Cool Cleveland on “Blogging For Business.”

The Computer Learning Center created fourteen classes in 2008 to meet the growing demand for software, Internet, and general computer training courses. Staff overhauled offerings such as Microsoft PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access, and added sessions on enhancing digital photographs; courses on computer and Internet basics remained popular.

New Americans continue to look to their neighborhood Library for computer lessons, materials on learning English, and DVDs in their native languages. This year the Walz Branch welcomed new immigrants from a variety of African countries, as well as Nepal and Laos, and continued to serve Vietnamese and Hispanic patrons. Several staff members at Walz Branch speak Spanish, which helps them to better serve their Hispanic neighbors.

“In having access to the latest films and entertainment is important to people’s quality of life. We strive to create an atmosphere that is similar to a neighborhood video store, and we work with our colleagues in Technical Services to ensure that multiple copies of new films are available the day that they are released on DVD.”

—Carlos Latimer, AV Department Manager, Main Library

“Increasing in circulation in the Audio Video Department from 2007 to 2008 +20%”

“The Computer Learning Connection is truly an asset to the community and to me. I’m impressed with the quality of the instruction, the supplemental materials, and the patience of the staff. My new computer skills have boosted my confidence level as I continue my job search.”

—Linda Love, Library Patron

“Many of our patrons have repeatedly asked the Social Sciences Department for Internet resources providing legal information. Department staff developed a computer class on basic online legal information to help patrons understand the complexities of the law.”

—John Skrtic, Social Sciences Department Manager

“‘It is amazing to see how much our computer training courses empower our patrons, preparing them for job interviews in these difficult economic times.’”

—Anastasia Diamond-Orts, Computer Learning Connection Librarian

“Increase in computer class public attendance from 2007 to 2008 +37%”
Your Library presents ongoing programs and exhibits that reflect your interests and experiences. This year we organized a multi-faceted project, The Urban Experience Summit, which explored the diversity and culture of life in urban America. The popularity of urban fiction—or “urban lit,” as it is also described—inspired the Summit, which included a panel on the impact of urban fiction, a “Writer’s Boot Camp” designed to assist aspiring local writers, a spoken word event, a men’s issues panel, and an exhibit on the second floor gallery of the Main Library. The Summit culminated in the September Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers event featuring author Omar Tyree.

Urban fiction is controversial because writers often create gritty, realistic narratives that include vivid scenes containing crime, sex, and violence. Contemporary authors such as Vickie Stringer and Johnnie Dent, Jr. are part of a history of urban fiction writers, which includes pioneers Iceberg Slim and Donald Goines. Chester Himes is credited as the “father” of the contemporary literary form; he wrote A Rage in Harlem in 1957 after a string of petty criminal convictions and the inability to find work as a paid writer in the U.S. led him to leave for Paris, where he became inspired by writers Richard Wright and James Baldwin.

Exploring Together
The Urban Experience Summit, Year-long Programs and Events

2008 Highlights

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES (1949-2008)
Clevelanders mourned the loss of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, who died unexpectedly in August. She was committed to the people of our city and served as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which deals with a variety of issues, including securing support of the Library, serving on the Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1990.

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Planning & Research Department assists librarians with their program planning by providing reports on the communities that the Neighborhood Branches serve. The reports include information on what languages patrons speak at home, statistics on the number of people in each age group, and the characteristics of the households in each community.

Throughout the year, your Library consistently provides you with numerous opportunities to engage with writers through time-honored programs like the Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers series and in exclusive events at your neighborhood Branch Library. For ‘Teen Read Week’s “Books with Bite @ Your Library,” Ellen Schreiber, popular author of the Vampire Kisses series, spoke and posed for pictures with fans at the West Park Branch.

Our Summer and Winter Reading Clubs for children and teens are always popular, as they connect kids with the printed word. We also offer an Adult Reading Club; this summer those age 18 and older who read or listened to three books between June and August submitted ballots for the opportunity to tour a variety of Cleveland landmarks. Landmarks included Browns Stadium, Progressive Field, The Cleveland Play House, Playhouse Square, the FBI Building, the Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office, and the Cleveland Public Library. Hundreds of ballots were submitted and winners got an inside look at some of our city’s most celebrated and intriguing attractions.

Im a longtime fan of the Library’s Writers and Readers series. Its programs have been among the most magical Sunday afternoons I’ve spent in Cleveland. Junot Díaz, Diane Ackerman, Michael Cunningham, Sherman Alexie and Margaret Atwood were all memorable and moving. And in this economy, it is impressive and important that they are still free.” —Karen R. Long, The Plain Dealer Book Editor

More than 1,333 patrons attended the Sunday Afternoons for Writers and Readers series.

FEB 17 Charlayne Hunter-Gault
MAR 2 Tom Ricks
MAR 9 Anne Fadiman
SEP 20 Omar Tyree
OCT 19 Junot Díaz
NOV 16 Sarah Vowell
SPECIAL EVENTS
OCT 19 John Leland

More than 4.1 million people visited a Cleveland Public Library.
And more than 1 million reference questions were answered.

Patrons borrowed more than 6.5 million items.

More than 411,000 items were added to the collection.

34% Fulton Branch patrons speak a language other than English at home
22% Harvard-Lee Branch patrons are 65 years and older
83% Woodland Branch households are renters

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Cleveland Public Library Image Collection

Main Library's History Department commemorated the March 4 centennial anniversary of the Collinwood School Fire—the worst school fire in U.S. history—with a major exhibit that opened at the Memorial-Nottingham Branch on February 25. Opening night featured what was probably the first public showing in 100 years of motion picture footage of the smoldering fire scene. A third of the exhibit was devoted to the early history of the Collinwood neighborhood, focusing on the development of the Collinwood Railroad Yards, local manufacturing concerns, and Euclid Beach Park. The popular but somber exhibit traveled the city for nine months, making stops at Cuyahoga, West Park, and South Brooklyn Branches and Main Library. Related materials were digitized and made available on the Library’s website. By exhibit’s end, nearly 4,000 copies of the 24-page commemorative exhibit booklet had been given away, as well as thousands of fire safety brochures.

Planning & Research Department analyzes borrowing trends and creates reports for the librarians who select materials for the Main Library and the Branches. In a three-year period, the circulation of audiobooks increased 66 percent. To meet the demand, the Library more than doubled the number of audiobooks in its collections from 15,000 to 35,000.

Library staff members are experts on the collections that are unique to their departments. They put their knowledge to work in so many ways; they assist students, researchers, and the general public on a variety of projects, and they also create exhibits on topics like Constructed Languages and historic events such as the Collinwood School Fire of 1908. People use the vast collections in so many ways; this year researchers selected photographs of the Cuyahoga River for the PBS program The Return of the Cuyahoga, which premiered in April of 2008 and provided viewers with a fascinating look at the life, death, and rebirth of one of the country’s most notoriously polluted rivers. The Library's Image Collection is an Internet tool that gives you easy access to high-resolution files such as maps and atlases, chess images, our collection of African-American family photos, and baseball history materials. Patrons view materials on the Library's Image Collection at the rate of nearly 100,000 times each month. The Library’s Image Collection also hosts the entire contents of C.H. Cramer’s history of the Cleveland Public Library, Open Minded, which is currently out of print.

In Living Remembrance was researched using our extensive collections. In addition to rare archival photographs, the exhibit featured a continuous loop of 1908 footage of the fire’s aftermath. This footage was discovered when research for the exhibit turned up a small, 1908 advertisement for the film and further research led to its discovery in the Library of Congress’ film archive. The Library subsequently acquired a digital copy of this footage and placed it on YouTube. The film was broadcast on WKYC-TV’s evening news on March 4 and was subsequently viewed more than 20,000 times on YouTube.

Photo: Cleveland Public Library Photograph Collection

+22% Increase in “long-term” circulation to CLENET and non-CLENET agencies

Map Collection's Aerial Photos of Cuyahoga County

Cleveland Public Library and the Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District partnered on a project which involved the scanning of over 1,000,000 images of maps, photographs, and atlases. These images were added to the Library’s Image Collection.

2008 COLLECTION STATISTICS

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This year Mary and Bill Kubat donated a collection of more than 1,500 photographic prints and negatives to the Photograph Collection. Lawrence Schreiber documented commerce and activity on the Cuyahoga River, as well as sites and activities around Greater Cleveland and outside of Ohio between 1930 and 1960. Schreiber considered himself a hobbyist during his lifetime; however, his work has garnered attention were featured in an exhibit at Main Library in 1989-90.

The following individuals and organizations made generous donations to the Library in 2008. Some gifts were made in honor of loved ones, while others were made to enhance specific Library services, programs, or collections. All gifts to the Library are greatly appreciated, as they help to improve our ability to deliver high quality service and to build outstanding collections. Donors over $5,000

A Gift of the Cleveland Orchestra
Donors of $1,000 to $4,999

Alps Phi Alpha Faternity, Inc.
John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
Ohio Center for the Book – Book Awards 2008
Anderson Venable
Western Reserve Jewish Community

Donors of $500 to $999

Dr. and Mrs. John A. Eyler
The Harschardt Foundation
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Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Murray
Dale T. Nelson
Rachel Newman
Karen Perry
Allison & Victor Phillips
Mary Rose Pickard

Grants and Other Large Gifts

• LSTA Know It Now—$72,647 for providing reference services

• LSTA Library For The Blind—$217,252 for providing services for the blind and physically disabled

• For Life—$12,500 for providing health and wellness programming

• Edgar Olshansky Estate—$10,045 for nutritional purposes

• The Cleveland Foundation—$12,500 to explore the feasibility of a minority program for Cuyahoga County

• Gould Hoffman Irrevocable Trust Agreement—$25,000 for accumulating or acquiring music-related items and funding concerts or performances

Other Funds Received Regularly

• Friends of the Cleveland Public Library—$18,000 for program support

• Estate of Anna M. Schweinfurth—$48,100 for the purchase of archival materials

• Frederick W. and Hennepin Masonic Fund—$218,952 for the Library’s Cleveland Service

• Cleveland Thompson Memorial Fund—$168,064 for the purchase of fine art materials, lectures, staff recognition and roof repairs

• Wilfred Bich East Testamentary Trust—$66,131 for services to blind persons of the Connecticut Western Reserve

How Library Dollars Were Spent

A Cash Basis Report of the General Operating Fund

General Operating Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>$2,433,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes (City of Cleveland)</td>
<td>27,930,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental Aid</td>
<td>6,644,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for Services (CLEVENET)</td>
<td>3,159,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>2,567,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>66,736,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance January 1</td>
<td>29,389,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available for General Operations</td>
<td>96,126,296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expenditures and Encumbrances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>$43,350,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Materials</td>
<td>14,307,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities and Purchased Services</td>
<td>11,628,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenditures</td>
<td>1,944,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures and Encumbrances</td>
<td>$71,231,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carried Forward for the Next Year’s First Quarter Operations</td>
<td>24,895,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available for General Operations</td>
<td>96,126,296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“...the care the Library gives to preserving fragile, rare materials, we knew that Lawrence’s photographs and negatives would be in good hands with the capable, dedicated staff of the Cleveland Public Library.”

—Mary and Bill Kubat (daughter and son-in-law of Lawrence Schreiber)

The Lawrence Schreiber Photograph Collection

Schreiber photographs from four museums, as it has been exhibited at both the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Akron Art Museum. Forty-seven of Schreiber’s photographs were featured in an exhibit at Main Library in 1989-90.

The Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund continues to successfully develop your Library’s collection of research books emphasizing modern art (work made in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century), and to provide programs such as the highly popular Spectrum Dialogues. The fund also allows staff training so that librarians can better serve you.

Judge Lockwood Thompson was an art collector with a keen eye for modern art, a dedicated reader, and staunch Library patron who served on the Board of your Library from 1955 to 1959 and 1990 to 1995 in his Big Band, his passion for art, literature, and intellectual discourse continues, benefiting future generations of Clevelanders.

“...you can’t improve the things which will engage the interest of future generations—that is what calls for the rarest perspicacity.” This quote seems to best encapsulate Judge Thompson’s philosophy.”

——Rebecca J. Ball, Retired Cleveland Public Library Fine Arts Librarian

The Cleveland Public Library Trustee Lockwood Thompson speaking at West Side Branch opening in 2007

This year, the Spectrum Dialogues series brought political strategist Sarena Blain and New York Times op-ed contributor and author Frank Rich together for an evening of inter-branch discussion and celebration.

New acquisitions from the Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund include: “The City” published in 1907 in a series of chromolithographic lithochrome landscapes signed by the printer/engraver (Glen Carrell Miller 1872-1907) and another Howard Miller’s “Rippling” includes 20 holographic plates in a highly decorative, embossed leather portfolio, sourced from the life of Emperor Franz Josef in a forest of the 10th anniversary of Empor.”

Cleveland Public Library Trustee Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund Located at 12401 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4498.
Because we know what materials you use most, we are able to purchase and deliver those unique items to your Branch.

Knowing statistics about your unique neighborhood.

Research team used topographical maps of members to collect and manage data and statistics about your unique neighborhood.

"The Library has long understood that we cannot serve Cleveland well if we don't know the city's neighborhoods and how they relate to each other. Each neighborhood is like a small town with its own cultural, historical, political, and social contexts."

— Timothy Diamond, Administrator, Planning & Research

Americanist, Administrator, Planning & Research

M. Main Library
325 Superior Avenue
(216) 623-2800

Public Administration Library
(in City Hall)
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 100
(216) 623-2919

1. Addison | E
6901 Superior Avenue
(216) 623-6906

2. Broadway | C
5417 Broadway Avenue
(216) 623-6913

3. Brooklyn | W
3706 Pearl Road
(216) 623-6920

4. Carnegie West | W
1903 Fulton Road
(216) 623-6927

5. Collinwood | E
856 East 153rd Street
(216) 623-6934

6. East 131st Street | E
3830 East 131st Street
(216) 623-6941

7. Eastman | W
11602 Lorain Avenue
(216) 623-6956

8. Fleet | C
7224 Broadway Avenue
(216) 623-6960

9. Fulton | W
3545 Fulton Road
(216) 623-6969

10. Garden Valley | C
7201 Kinsman Road, Ste. 101
(216) 623-6978

11. Glenville | E
11900 St. Clair Avenue
(216) 623-6982

12. Harvard-Lee | E
16918 Harvard Avenue
(216) 623-6990

13. Hough | E
1566 Crawford Road
(216) 623-6997

14. Jefferson | C
850 Jefferson Avenue
(216) 623-7004

15. Langston Hughes | E
10200 Superior Avenue
(216) 623-6975

16. Lorain | W
8216 Lorain Avenue
(216) 623-7011

17. Martin Luther King, Jr. | E
1962 Stokes Boulevard
(216) 623-7018

18. Memorial-Northbridge | E
17209 Lake Shore Boulevard
(216) 623-7039

19. Mt. Pleasant | E
14000 Kinsman Road
(216) 623-7032

20. Rice | E
2820 East 116th Street
(216) 623-7046

21. Rockport | W
4421 West 140th Street
(216) 623-7053

22. South | C
3096 Scranton Road
(216) 623-7060

23. South Brooklyn | W
4303 Pearl Road
(216) 623-7067

24. Sterling | C
2200 East 30th Street
(216) 623-7074

25. Union | C
3463 East 93rd Street
(216) 623-7088

26. Waldo | W
7910 Detroit Avenue
(216) 623-7095

27. West Park | W
3805 West 157th Street
(216) 623-7102

28. Woodland | W
5806 Woodland Avenue
(216) 623-7109

A safe walk for patrons to the nearest Branch was considered when discussing the location for the new Garden Valley Branch.

The Cleveland Public Library's vast system includes more than 800 staff members and is spread out over 77 square miles, operating as part of a 31-member consortium. The Planning & Research Department keeps the Library running efficiently, creating system-wide policies, procedures, forms, lists and directories so that work is coordinated and Library staff can effectively serve our city’s diverse neighborhoods.

Everyone CPL! That describes the Cleveland Public Library Archives, a repository of documents, photographs, architectural plans, letters, reports, newsletters, scrapbooks, board minutes, blueprints, and bookmarks. Library staff and researchers alike consult this treasure house of information on a daily basis. In shaping new policies, librarians and trustees typically review the historic background of an issue. Writers and students also consult the wealth of primary sources. Popular topics are Cleveland’s Carnegie libraries, library services to children, famous librarians, and the Cleveland Group plan. This year, graduate students utilized the archives for studies of library service to the foreign born and early library collaboration with the film industry.

The work conducted by our staff in the Planning and Research Department shapes virtually every aspect of our business and decision-making processes. Department staff members collect and manage data and statistics on your Branch, as well as demographic statistics about your unique neighborhood. As we investigated the need for a new Garden Valley Branch, the Planning and Research team used topographical maps of the surrounding area and determined that the environmental terrain of the neighborhood, with its railroad tracks and busy city streets, made the nearby Woodland Branch inaccessible to children and seniors, who often walk or rely on public transportation. Knowing statistics on the way you use your Library helps us better serve your neighborhood, circulation statistics, for instance, differ depending upon the age, race, gender, and socio-economic makeup of a community. Because we know what materials you use most, we are able to purchase and deliver those unique items to your Branch.

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