

WE'RE LISTENING



2017 Report to the Community



CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



In 2017, Cleveland Public Library embarked on a successful levy campaign, won national awards, showcased an original Superman exhibit, and offered hundreds of programs, classes, and services. We attribute much of our success this year to the feedback we received from our community members. Soliciting and listening to this input helped us grow, prepare, and reimagine our role as a public library in the future. To the patrons, partners, neighbors, and staff who shared their vision for our Library—thank you. We are indebted to your enthusiasm, your candor, and, most of all, the trust you placed in us to listen.

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.

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

Cover photo by Bob Perkosi, courtesy of LAND studio.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Felton Thomas, Jr.
Executive Director, CEO

Stepping Boldly into the Future

When I reflect on Cleveland Public Library's accomplishments in 2017, a Latin proverb comes to mind: *audentes Fortuna iuvat*. Translated as "fortune favors the bold," this proverb encapsulates how the work we began in 2017 will serve the Library and our communities into the future. We acted boldly this year by securing support for a levy, embarking on an ambitious capital project, and reaching out to our patrons and partners to absorb and implement their feedback.

The successful passage of our levy in November was a watershed moment for the Library. To ask for funds from the public is a humbling proposition, and it's not one we took lightly. We are grateful that the people of Cleveland responded positively at the polls and showed they believe the Library is a worthwhile recipient of their tax dollars. The levy will help secure the Library's future for

years to come, and it also paves the way for a major capital project that will revitalize most of our neighborhood branch libraries.

This was a year rich in other recognition, as well. First, the *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service once again granted Cleveland Public Library its highest 5-star rating. Next, our clean audit reports were rewarded with an Auditor of State Award with Distinction, and the Government Finance Officers Association awarded our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Finally, in May, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress bestowed the Library with the 2017 Vibrant City Impact Award to celebrate our work in improving the lives of city residents.

“We spent 2017 listening to our patrons, community members, partners, and employees—and we’re not about to stop listening anytime soon.”

With these accolades in hand, we're now considering new ways to excel as our 150th anniversary approaches in 2019. To prepare for that future, we spent 2017 listening to our patrons, community members, partners, and employees—and we're not about to stop listening anytime soon. We want to know what we're doing well, what we can do better, and how we can help. We want to know what our communities need and how we can best provide it. Through it all, we strive to create an inclusive, welcoming environment to ensure all Clevelanders benefit from our offerings.

We're here. We're listening. And we're ready for the future.

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

A Global Reach

Last July, Director Thomas and I traveled to Beit Shean, Cleveland's sister city in Israel, as part of a delegation endowed by the Thomas and Joann Adler Civic Leaders Israel Mission. During this trip, we met with leadership at the Beit Shean Library, where we gained a better understanding of how their patrons help guide the organization's mission and focus—a lesson in engagement we strived to apply throughout 2017. On the whole, our trip to Israel demonstrates how Cleveland Public Library reaches out globally in efforts to serve our patrons here at home.

During the past year, the Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees spent some time contemplating what libraries of the future might look like. In the process, we had to consider the Library's aging infrastructure. Our long history means some of our historical branch libraries need repairs and updates. A portion of

“I’d like to thank the community for supporting our levy and trusting us to use those tax dollars wisely.”

funds from our levy campaign this year will help improve those aging libraries and ensure that our reach into local Cleveland neighborhoods remains strong. I’d like to thank the community for supporting our levy and trusting us to use those tax dollars wisely.

In 2017, we also succeeded in securing new grants to ensure that public funds are supplemented by outside sources. We received significant grants from the Bruening Foundation to develop an early literacy training initiative; from Starting Point, for reading-intensive tutoring for young children; from the Cleveland Foundation to fund Learning Centers; and from Best Buy to fund a Teen Tech Center at the Rockport Branch in 2018.

The Cleveland Public Library Foundation, which was renamed in 2017 to replace the former Friends of the Cleveland Public Library branding, will also carry on its good work to find additional

opportunities. In the meantime, we'll continue doing what we do best: serving our community and providing Clevelanders with the library materials, services, and programs they need. Because even after traveling halfway around the world to learn from others, I'm confident that what we have here at home—and our potential for the future—is exceptional.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maritza Rodriguez'.

Maritza Rodriguez

President, Board of Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Maritza Rodriguez

President

Alesha Washington

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Thomas Corrigan

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Alice G. Butts

John M. Hairston

Anthony T. Parker

Alan Seifullah



Voting “Yes” for the Library

As Election Day approached in 2017, we were tasked with asking Cleveland residents to vote in favor of renewing and increasing Cleveland Public Library’s existing levy. Without a renewal, the Library stood to lose 58% of its revenue, a critical cutback that would have greatly impacted our mission.

Prior to Election Day, we sought input from Cleveland residents to determine what they need in a public library and how we can benefit their communities. We learned that patrons and residents value our work and want the Library

to maintain its services, materials, and operating hours. We learned that our presence matters in their neighborhoods, and that our offerings—from early literacy programs to employment resources, computer classes, tutoring, cultural events, books of all types, and much more—make a real difference in their lives.

As a result, we heard the same four words again and again from our patrons and community members: “You’ve got my vote.” This was how we knew the levy was about more than numbers. Instead, it represented community support for our work. It showed that Clevelanders care

about their libraries and believe in the ideals that say everyone should have equal access to information, books, literacy programming, technology education, electronic resources, and so much more.

Based on this feedback, we entered the election season confident that not only maintaining but increasing the levy amount would best serve the city and its residents. We therefore requested an additional 2 mills beyond the 5.8-mill renewal to ensure a comprehensive capital project to revitalize our neighborhood branches could go forward as planned.

On November 7, Clevelanders registered their support at the polls by voting in favor of the levy, thus cementing a reliable source of funding for the future. We can't thank voters enough for sending a clear message that libraries matter and that our work makes a positive impact on their lives.

Man of Steel, City of Inspiration

In order to serve Cleveland residents to the best of our abilities, we need to know our city inside and out, including its roots, its imagination, and its creative legacy. In 2017, we showed that Cleveland is a lot more than the birthplace of rock and roll—Superman was born here, too.

In 1933, when friends and Glenville residents **Jerry Siegel** and **Joe Shuster** dreamed up a caped superhero named Superman, they couldn't have known they were creating an iconic character destined to thrive in the American imagination for decades to come. In 2017, Cleveland Public Library honored the Man of Steel's roots through *Superman: From Cleveland to Krypton*, an original exhibit showcasing Superman's journey from his creation in Cleveland to his evolution over the decades. The exhibit covered three floors in the Main Library and featured more than 500 visual elements, with themes surrounding social

justice, diversity, antiwar efforts, immigration, and more.

The majority of items on display came from the *Mike Curtis Collection of Superman Memorabilia*, which collector and comic writer **Mike Curtis** donated to the Ohio Center for the Book and Cleveland Public Library in 2016. Additional pieces were loaned or provided by outside donors. The exhibit, which was designed by **Barrie Projects** with assistance from Library staff, displayed toys, costumes clothing, artwork, collectibles, and more. Exhibit highlights included Jerry Siegel's desk, an antique telephone

booth, and a children's Superman-themed bedroom. More than 4,000 people attended the exhibit's opening day on May 6 to enjoy a ribbon-



cutting ceremony, a panel discussion, a musical performance, carnival games, a Superman-themed photo booth, a movie screening, a comic giveaway, and Superman and Supergirl character appearances.

Throughout 2017, the exhibit and related events attracted scores of visitors, including Clevelanders and out-of-towners alike. These events culminated in December with a panel discussion featuring comic experts and icons, followed by an interview with **Laura Siegel Larson**, the daughter of Jerry Siegel and real-life Lois Lane inspiration **Jolan Kovacs** (Joanne



A Kids' Superman Bedroom

The golden hour Superman, but more iconic than the silver suit — the look of a hero. His iconic red and blue suit, his yellow cape, and his iconic "S" shield. He's the only superhero who's been around since the beginning of time. He's the only superhero who's been around since the beginning of time. He's the only superhero who's been around since the beginning of time.



A Television Hero



“We’re not just a place to check out a book and then leave. Instead, people are staying and building communities.”

– Sarah Flinn, Manager, Popular Library



Siegel). Ms. Siegel Larson was also the guest of honor for a special Lois Lane birthday party we hosted to honor the memory of her mother, who would have turned 100 in December.

Finally, the Superman exhibit marked the first time Cleveland Public Library arranged to fund bus transportation for local schools. This initiative afforded hundreds of children the opportunity to experience the exhibit—and it also represents another community need we were able to meet because of our willingness to listen.

We're Listening

In 2017, our dedication to communication came to life in the form of public art on display in our Eastman Reading Garden. *Dialogue*, an installation created by Canadian artists **Julia Jamrozik** and **Coryn Kempster**, invited visitors to step up and start a conversation.

The installation featured a series of sound tubes that allowed visitors to interact with each other in a new, playful way. While most installations of this ilk are color-coded to show how the tubes are linked, *Dialogue* remained unmarked to prompt listeners to discover connections on their own



Photo by Bob Perkosi, courtesy of LAND studio.

and to encourage conversation between strangers. Popular with adults and children alike, this installation stood as a physical manifestation of our belief that talking to each other can help foster understanding.

Dialogue was made possible by the Library's partnership with LAND Studio to bring public art to the Library through the See Also program. See Also is funded by the Lockwood Thompson endowment with additional support from the Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation.

Conversations and Connections

Our focus on communication isn't just lip service—we made a concerted effort to initiate conversations within

our community in 2017. First, we partnered with **The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio** to launch Diversity Dialogues, a series of facilitated conversations held at five branch libraries to engage local residents in conversation. These events allowed us to extend our reach into neighborhoods, to solicit ideas and suggestions from patrons surrounding their communities, and to spark important discussions.

Next, we partnered with **Books@Work**, a national organization that uses book discussions to build connections. In our first Books@Work event, held in late 2017 at Rice Branch, local residents

and off-duty police officers gathered to hear a facilitator read **Chinua Achebe's** short story "Dead Men's Path." After the reading, participants engaged in a discussion of the story's themes—namely, the conflict between respecting tradition and embracing the new. In the process, the discussion broke down barriers and encouraged attendees to come to new understandings.

But not all conversations are easy. This year, we worked to confront a taboo topic that impacts our community: addiction. Through our partnership with the **Cleveland Clinic** to offer programs at branch libraries focusing on opioid



abuse, we acknowledged a health crisis impacting Cleveland and the nation at large. In October, author **Sam Quinones** discussed his book *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opioid Epidemic* in a special event held at the Main Library. Prior to his presentation, Quinones met with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner, Cleveland Clinic educators, and representatives from the Cuyahoga County Opioid Task Force and the Library to consider the opioid epidemic, its implications for local communities, and efforts related to prevention and treatment.

Our mission as a public library is to serve all residents, no matter their age. This year, we took steps to connect with seniors who are unable to visit a library branch. Through our new senior outreach program, Library staff travel to nursing homes and senior resident facilities throughout the city to provide activities, crafts, musical performances, and more. This outreach helps keep seniors connected to the larger world.

Finally, we launched a series of **eSports** events in 2017 to bring together gamers and give them the opportunity to compete, network, play, and consider new entrepreneurial and career

opportunities. Gamers flocked to these events to explore virtual reality, participate in LAN gaming, and play console games. Our staff created an inclusive environment to encourage gamers of all ages, genders, and experience levels to meet one another in person and build new relationships.

Embracing Diversity

Celebrating diversity has always been a core focus here at Cleveland Public Library, and 2017 was no exception. In January, our annual **Martin Luther King, Jr.** commemoration honored the great civil rights leader through speeches and

musical performances. We also hosted a special program in January with the **NASA Glenn Research Center**, which centered on the book *Hidden Figures* and featured discussions with female leaders in the STEM field.

In February, our annual Lunar New Year celebration, which was organized by the **International Languages Department** along with **Youth Services** and the **Ohio Library for the Blind and Physical Disabled**, celebrated the Year of the Rooster. And to mark African American History Month in February, we offered a variety of events, including a lecture from *New York Times*

op-ed columnist **Charles M. Blow**; a performance from the Cleveland reggae band **Jah Messengers**; and theater workshops at Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch led by the **Ohio City Theater Project**, whose actors performed part of the play *Incendiaries*, which is based on the Hough uprising.

Our efforts to highlight diversity also promoted community conversation. In August, **Special Collections** hosted an event honoring **Dr. Zelma George**, a sociologist and musicologist who broke the color barrier on Broadway in 1950. In a lively reenactment, renowned radio host **Dee Perry** interviewed Dr. George, who was portrayed by actress **Sherrie Tolliver**. The audience interacted with



“Dr. George” directly by asking her questions and thus engaged with history in an active, imaginative setting. And in September, during Hispanic Heritage Month, we again partnered in the collaborative **Pleibol** event to celebrate diversity in baseball.

Our **International Languages Department** helped bring a prestigious Russian book award for children’s literature to the United States for the first time in 2017. **Kniguru in America**, which tasks children and teens with composing reviews of Russian books, helps young readers develop their reading and writing skills, calls

attention to books that might otherwise be overlooked, and encourages students to stay in touch with their Russian roots. Cleveland Public Library patrons accounted for three of the winning entries selected from a nationwide pool for the inaugural U.S. contest.

The Library embraced diversity in myriad other ways this year, as well. Once again, the **Bangla Cultural Celebration** showcased Bangladeshi culture through traditional cuisine, music, dance, and fashion. We hosted our fourth **Girl Power** event in April, a half-day teen summit that sets out to empower girls. **Ilyasah Shabazz**, daughter


of the late el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz (Malcom X) and author of *X: A Novel*, served as the keynote speaker. More than 300 girls attended this event, which featured breakout sessions focusing on the arts, personal safety, wellness, and college preparedness. The Library also provided meeting space and programming for the **Refugee Women's Support Group**, which is supported by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Serving a diverse community includes assisting patrons of all abilities, which we are able to accomplish on a statewide level through our **Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically**

Disabled (OLBPD). This year, OLBPD was featured in an *American Libraries* magazine article focusing on adaptive technology for library patrons. OLBPD also participated in a National Library Service (NLS) trial for wireless delivery of talking books, which will help NLS gather information regarding how to best offer wireless delivery options in the future.

For the Love of Literature

As much as Cleveland Public Library embraces technology and innovation, one thing will never change: our advocacy and programming related to literature, reading, and writing.

A man with short brown hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, is sitting at a desk in a library. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background shows bookshelves filled with books and a warm, ambient light from a lamp above him.

**“The Library is always
there to help community
partners implement
good ideas.”**

– Lee Chilcote, Director, Literary Cleveland

This year, our Literature Department partnered with Literary Cleveland to create **Read Ohio**, a quarterly reading and discussion series held at locations throughout the city to promote Ohio authors and invite conversation between those authors and their readers. We also partnered with the **Center for Arts-Inspired Learning** to host more than a dozen events for the **Big Read**, an NEA-funded program that promotes reading through book discussions, writing workshops for adults and teens, and more.

For the first time this year, the **Ohio Center for the Book (OCFB)** was able to bring our selected

Ohio author to the Library of Congress National Book Festival. **Tricia Springstubb**, author of numerous acclaimed children's books, traveled from Cleveland to Washington, D.C. with OCFB to represent Ohio at the festival and connect with young readers. OCFB also continued its work with other national initiatives by hosting student competitions, including the regional **Poetry Out Loud** and the state **Letters About Literature** competitions. Ohio became a self-managing state for Letters About Literature in 2017, which means OCFB now receives applications directly and can better communicate with schools and students.

The Library also continued to be a haven for writers. In July, **Literary Cleveland** hosted its third annual Inkubator writing conference at the downtown Main Library campus, attracting hundreds of writers eager to network, take workshops, and attend readings. And in a partnership with **Lake Erie Ink**, we launched **Club Create**, a creative writing program for teens held at the Harvard-Lee and Martin Luther King, Jr. branches. Based on an enthusiastic response from participants, as well as additional funding from the **Cleveland Foundation**, we are expanding this program to five sites in 2018.

Finally, in November, a series of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) workshops helped patrons jumpstart their creativity.

Puppet Power

While our legacy literacy programs like the **Summer Reading Club**—which featured a theme of “Read Up, Rise Up By Design” and received generous support from the **Believe in Reading Foundation**—will always be an important part of our work, we also took new steps this year engage young people. From puppets to trolleys and more, we stood ready to open new worlds for our young patrons.

Our **Youth Services Department** partnered with the **Puppetry Guild of Northeastern Ohio** to bring the magic of puppetry to the Library in 2017. Puppets encourage kids to use their imaginations, connect with stories, and take a break from technology to enjoy a tactile experience. Youth Services staff received a daylong training session in multicultural puppetry and storytime techniques to prepare for future programming.

Speaking of storytelling, the **Jolly Storytime Trolley** presented another unique way to get kids excited about reading. In partnership with **Lolly the Trolley**, this program took kids and their families on a special trolley



**“I homeschool my boys,
so the Library is a big
part of my curriculum.”**

– Katherine, Cleveland Public Library Patron



tour throughout the city. During the ride, kids enjoyed singing carols, reading *The Polar Express*, and seeing the sights. Tours departed from five branch library locations in December, and the program proved so popular that registration quickly reached capacity.

This year also provided a prime opportunity for science education when a total solar eclipse crossed the country in August. While Clevelanders only glimpsed a partial eclipse, we were ready to educate and protect our patrons. **The National Center for Interactive Learning's STAR_Net program** provided the Library

with eclipse glasses to distribute to the public. Additionally, our **TechCentral Department** produced over 500 laser-cut and 3D-printed eclipse pinhole viewers for public use.

The science fun didn't end there. In November, our fourth annual **Cleveland Mini Maker Faire** celebrated the maker spirit and provided hands-on, interactive fun for visitors of all ages. Highlights at this year's event included Heavy Meta, a fire-breathing mobile metal dragon; the Tesla Orchestra, a quartet of musical Tesla coils that convert music into lightning bolts; a traveling NASA Glenn Research Center space

exhibit; and a host of drones, robots, games, crafts, and demonstrations.

Feeding the Community

While puppets, trolley tours, and fire-breathing dragons are no doubt fun, some of our most important work here at Cleveland Public Library is of a humbler nature. Our partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank ensures that children across the city have access to summer lunches and afterschool meals at many of our branch locations. By distributing meals to children, our staff also has the chance connect with these young patrons and get to know them and their needs.

Other programs offered throughout our system, such as tutoring, legal aid services, and employment assistance, contribute to our local neighborhoods by fighting community deficits and forming communities of learning. Our **Ohio Means Jobs** partnership brought employment specialists to the Addison and Fleet branches to help patrons search for jobs, learn more about the employment process, identify training opportunities, and more. And TechCentral extended its reach within our neighborhoods by launching an initiative to visit every branch library to conduct a Mobile MakerSpace series;

introducing 3D printers to the Carnegie West and Memorial-Nottingham branches; and offering video game coding camps at six branch libraries.

Caring about our local communities also means preserving them. The **Cleveland Digital Public Library (ClevDPL)** is doing just that by recording oral histories and partnering with local institutions—including **The Cleveland Orchestra**, **Karamu House**, the **Ukrainian Museum-Archives**, the **City of Cleveland**, and others—to provide digitization assistance. ClevDPL also hosts scan days, where staff travel into the community and invite the members

of the public to scan personal items. As a result, ClevDPL created the “Cleveland Family Album” within the Digital Gallery to showcase personal photographs that were digitized during community scan days. Finally, ClevDPL continues to work with the State Library of Ohio to serve as one of the largest contributors of records for the **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) Ohio**.

Other Main Library departments also had a busy year. The **Business, Economics, and Labor Department** partnered with the **Business Advisers of Cleveland** to host a five-part Small

Business Seminar Series. The **Sports Research Center** continued its Sports Icon Interview series by adding interviews with more than a half-dozen subjects, including former Cleveland Indians player and manager **Mike Hargrove**. The **Center for Local and Global History's** genealogy clinics continued to prove popular, and **Science and Technology** celebrated the second annual Dog Days of Summer event by creating displays of dog-related books, patents, and trademarks. Finally, the **Popular Library** helped facilitate an Urban Otaku event for anime lovers that attracted upwards of 100 attendees.

Whether it's through technology, history, or programs designed to keep kids fed and healthy, we're here to help the Cleveland community. To continue making a difference as we approach our first 150 years serving the city, we need to be strategic and plan ahead—and that preparation starts right here at home with our branch libraries.

Building for the Future

Cleveland Public Library's 27 neighborhood branch libraries are the beating heart of this organization, and they provide vital library

“At Cleveland Public Library, we get nothing but respect. Being able to use the Library’s space turned Urban Otaku from ordinary to extraordinary.”

– Curtis O’Neal, Cofounder, Urban Otaku



services throughout the city. Many of these buildings, however, are showing their age. More than three decades have passed since the Library embarked on a system-wide campaign to update its branches, but we are prepared to step boldly into the future by updating our facilities.

As part of the Library's **Community Vision Plan**—a plan that is now ensured to move forward, thanks to the successful levy campaign—we intend to improve and update 13 of these aging branches. Listening was again an important part of our process when we held a series of collaborative public meetings that helped identify

key recommendations surrounding the branches' architectural, interior design, and technology-related renovations.

South Branch, a historic Carnegie building currently being transformed through this capital project, will receive updates to reflect improved accessibility and space for new technologies, all while retaining the original building's character and history. And in 2017, the Library initiated a nationwide design competition for a new, state-of-the-art **Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch** in University Circle. We are grateful to the **Cleveland Foundation** for funding this competition, which will ensure the new facility

will both honor Dr. King's legacy and serve a thriving Cleveland neighborhood.

South Branch, Martin Luther King, Jr., and additional branches in the Community Vision Plan will undergo renovations in the years to come. Another ten branches will receive important repairs and updates in 2018. All told, these system-wide improvements will change the face of our library system and help us move confidently into our next 150 years.

That focus on what lies ahead has served us well throughout the year. By the time 2017 drew to a

close, we were prepared to mark a new beginning for Cleveland Public Library. This is a time for us to continue improving, innovating, and moving forward—and to keep listening in the process.



JEAN Z. PIETY'S GIFT TO THE LIBRARY

In 2017, Cleveland Public Library received an unrestricted \$100,000 donation from the **Jean Z. Piety Trust**. This gift is particularly meaningful considering Mrs. Piety's long history as a beloved employee.

After earning her library science degree in 1957, Mrs. Piety accepted a job with Cleveland Public Library—and she stayed here for more than 50 years. She served as the head of the **Science and Technology Department** from 1980 until her retirement at in 2008, and throughout her long tenure, she continually adapted to technological advances and an evolving librarian profession.

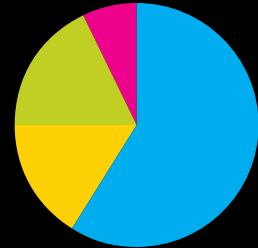
“My whole life I wanted to be a librarian,” Mrs. Piety told *Information Outlook*, the magazine of the Special Libraries Association, in 2008. “I got in and I started the same year as Sputnik went up. My entire professional career has been based on the space age.”

Mrs. Piety passed away on February 19, 2015. We are honored not only that she spent her career here at Cleveland Public Library, but that she has continued giving back to this institution she so loved.

2017 GENERAL OPERATING FUND

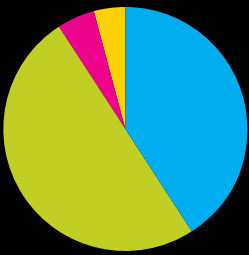
Expenditures and Encumbrances

Salaries and Benefits	\$35,841,473
Library Materials	\$9,895,536
Utilities and Purchased Services	\$11,107,483
Other Expenditures	\$3,849,710
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Total Expenditures and Encumbrances	\$60,694,202
Carried Forward for the Next Year's First	
Quarter Operations	\$18,948,254
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Total	\$79,642,456



Revenues

Public Library Fund (State General Revenues)	\$21,506,144
Property Taxes (City of Cleveland)	\$26,415,992
Intergovernmental Aid	\$2,442,749
Other Revenue	\$2,263,703
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Total Revenue	\$52,628,587
Fund Balance January 1	\$27,013,869
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Available for General Operations	\$79,642,456



2017 COLLECTION STATISTICS

Titles		2,561,867
Books	Main Collection	2,796,747
	Branch Collection	398,962
	TOTAL	3,195,709
Bound Periodicals		266,661
Computer Media		1,237
Government Documents		569,114
Maps		55,976
Microforms		4,689,721
Photographs, Pictures		1,391,955
Sheet Music		18,000
Sound Recordings		131,067
Videos		223,995



Nearly **5 million** items borrowed

Nearly **1 million** reference questions answered

More than **250,000** items added to the library collection

More than **2.5 million** people visited the library

Nearly **18,000** programs hosted with more
than **337,000** guests in attendance

RECOGNITION

DONORS

\$1,000 – \$5,000

Stacy Coons
Friends of Cleveland Public
Library/PPG Industries
Foundation
Kathleen Griffin
Internet Archive
Ohio Arts Council
Pysht Fund
Carol J. Tusick

\$500 – \$999

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

\$100 – \$499

American Council of the Blind
Stark County Chapter

Geraldine Bodnar
Betty Jaskulek
Western Reserve Kennel Club
Lisa Schnall

UP TO \$99

Anonymous
Ken & Millie Barnhardt
Abbie Baughman
Virginia Bonsecour
Edward A. Boose
Arthur L. Charni Trust
Joshua Wayne Davis
Dorcas Frasher
John Grove
Larry & Joyce Heisey
Mary Herpy
Howland Middle School
Theodore J. Hyle Jr. & Joanne Hyle
The InfoHio Providers
Marjean Keller
Ashley Kotik

Daniel Lamb
Daryl Marshall
John and Maureen McCaulley
Vincent Melograno & Patricia Ott
Antoinette Miller
Geoff & Peggy Mitchell
Catherine & Dan Moulas
Joyce & Clarence Newman
Northeast Ohio Computer-Aided
Genealogy Society
Jackie & Cleo Orlando
Sarah Owsiak
Thanasis & Anna Papadorotheou
Franklin Redden
Margaret Russo
Gloria Sargent
Daniel & Deborah Weik
Kevin Whalen
Mary Jo Wheeler
Patricia Wike
William Lee Zuber

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.

The Bruening Foundation -
\$150,000 to train 200 Cleveland
Public Library public services
staff to provide them with tools
to engage parents with babies
aged 0-3 years around the Every
Child Ready to Read strategies
developed by the Public Library
Association.

The Cleveland Foundation
- \$93,000 to host a design
competition that will culminate

in the selection of a qualified architectural firm/design team to implement designs for the future new Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch.

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 of Ohio Department of Education - \$49,822 to help reach more families who need exposure to early learning opportunities and other community support systems with the ultimate goal being healthy children who are ready for kindergarten.

Childcare Resource Center of Cuyahoga County Inc. d.b.a. Starting Point - \$35,063 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.

The Public Library Association - \$10,500 to host two 2017 Summer Interns; a high school sophomore, junior, or senior from diverse backgrounds.

From the Believe in Reading Foundation through Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - \$10,000

to be used to purchase books for 2017 Summer Reading Club.

Mozilla Foundation - \$10,000 as a restricted gift for web literacy training for staff.

Grace Brody Trust - \$7,334 as an unrestricted gift.

China Hanban - \$6,000 as a restricted gift to host a Chinese Corner.

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.

Estate of Anna M. Schweinfurth - \$70,508 for the purchase of architectural materials.

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 ADMINISTRATION

Felton Thomas, Jr.

Executive Director, CEO

Tena Wilson

Deputy Director, COO

Timothy R. Diamond

Chief Knowledge Officer

Carrie Krenicky

Chief Financial Officer

Joyce M. Dodrill

Chief Legal Officer

Madeline Corchado

Chief Human Resources
& Inclusion Officer

Shenise Johnson Thomas

Director of Community and
Government Relations

Denise A. Crudup

Director of Education
and Learning

John Skrtic

Director of Public Services

Sandra Jelar-Elwell

Director of Technical Services

Timothy Murdock

Director of Property
Management

Larry Finnegan

Director of IT

Hilary Prisbylla

Director of CLEVNET

Aaron Mason

Assistant Director, Outreach
and Programming Services

Harriette Parks

Assistant Public Services
Director, Branches

Robin Wood

Assistant Public Services
Director, Main Library

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

Aaron O'Brien

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Vice President

Paul Cox

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Linda Feagler

Robyn Gordon

Tracey McGurk

Kevin Poor

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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 152nd St.
623-6934

EAST 131ST STREET

3830 East 131st 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 140th St.
623-7053

SOUTH

2704 Clark Ave.
623-7060

SOUTH BROOKLYN

4303 Pearl Rd.
623-7067

STERLING

2200 East 30th St.
623-7074

UNION

3463 East 93rd St.
623-7088

WALZ

7910 Detroit Ave.
623-7095

WEST PARK

3805 West 157th St.
623-7102

WOODLAND

5806 Woodland Ave.
623-7109

A Turning Point

“In the years to come, when we recall the moments leading up to Cleveland Public Library’s 150th anniversary in 2019, I believe 2017 will stand as a turning point. We sought community input, passed a levy, planned capital improvements, and formulated a vision that will help position the Library for its next 150 years. Most of all, we listened to our patrons and partners and used their feedback to ensure Clevelanders have the libraries, the service, and the bold approach to new ideas they deserve today, tomorrow, and beyond.”

–Felton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director, CEO

Cleveland Public Library

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Cleveland, OH 44114

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