



CONNECTING COMMUNITY & CURIOSITY

The People's University 2030 Plan



A VISION FOR OUR CITY

The People's University 2030 Plan: CONNECTING COMMUNITY & CURIOSITY is a bold vision for Cleveland and its library. It's a vision for a city that puts opportunity within reach of every Clevelander and a library that empowers its people.

Cleveland is a town of determination. Despite the challenges, the rust belt reputation, and even the highs and lows on the scoreboard, we believe in Cleveland. We choose to look forward, not back. We want to build a future that is more equitably distributed, not just for a moment but for a lifetime.

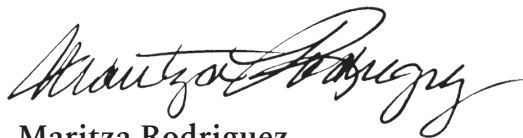
Over the next decade, we are reimagining what an urban public library system can be. We will become THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY, the center of learning for a diverse and inclusive community. By 2030, we will complete the revitalization of all our CAMPUSES, inside and out, igniting possibility for all. We will realize THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY, a place that nurtures citizen-to-citizen learning on a large scale. We will create lasting impact by helping to CLOSE THE GAPS facing our community. And, as always, we will operate responsibly to earn and maintain public trust.

Our twenty-seven branches are beloved, safe spaces in our neighborhoods and complement our downtown campus, the third largest public research library in the country. While our collection of books and materials is at our core, we have a long history of connecting people to the world around them and to each other.

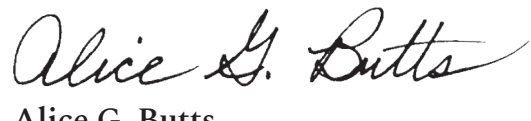
The People's University 2030 Plan sets our organization on an ambitious course, connecting people to what's possible - one book, one hot spot, one idea, one story time at a time.



Felton Thomas, Jr.
Executive Director & CEO



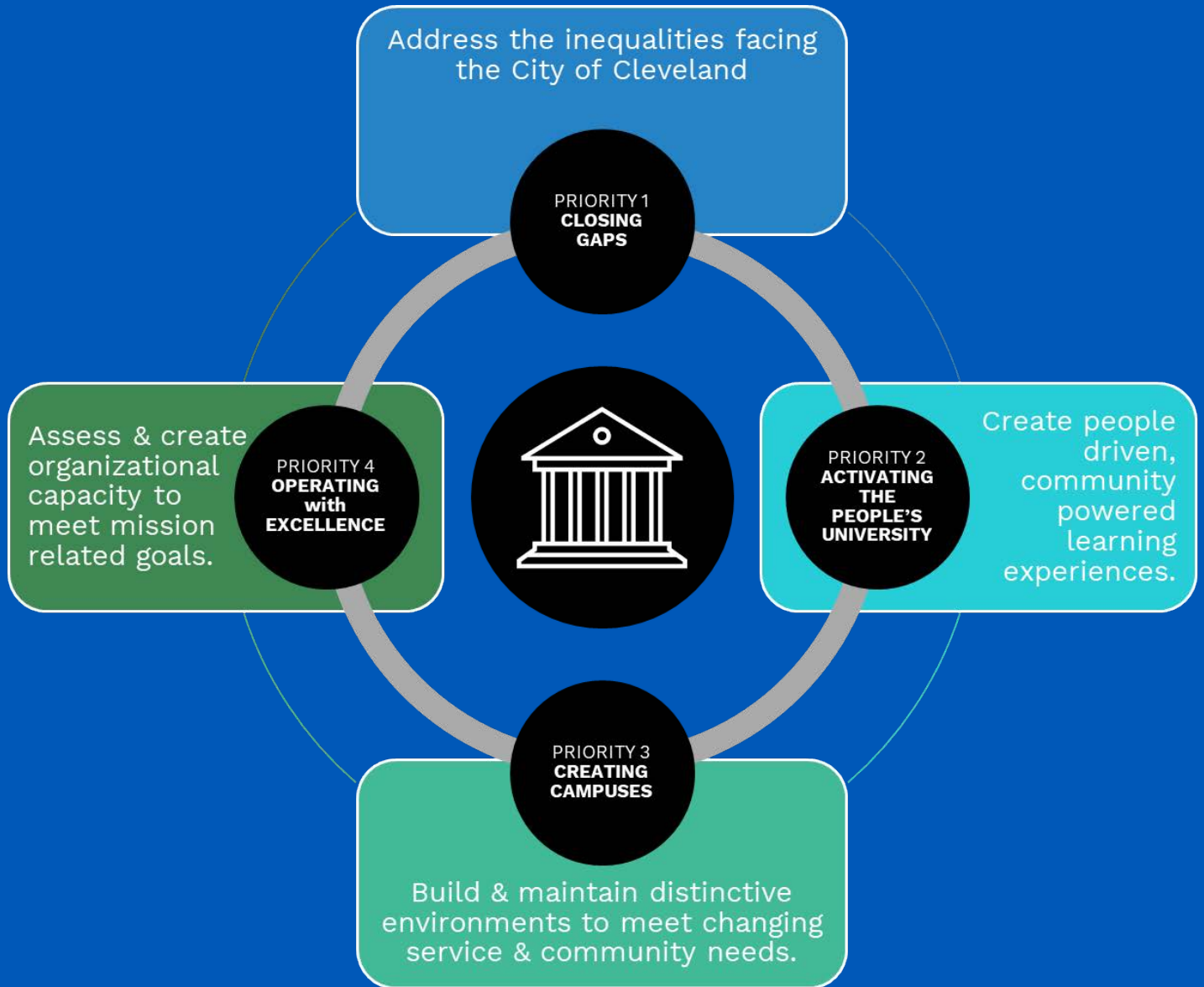
Maritza Rodriguez
President, Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees
Strategic Planning Committee



Alice G. Butts
Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees
Strategic Planning Committee



OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



OUR PRIORITIES

Closing Gaps: Addressing the inequalities facing the City of Cleveland.

Our greatest impact will begin with our youngest Clevelanders. We will ensure families of children ages 0-5 have the LITERACY skills to be READY FOR KINDERGARTEN.

Cleveland is fourth in the United States for the worst internet-connected cities. We need DIGITAL EQUITY. We will work to build skills and increase comfort with an increasingly digital world among Cleveland strivers and seniors.

Finding and keeping a job is the starting point in a journey to financial stability. We will connect Cleveland's strivers to JOBS and develop skills that are integral to finding, keeping, and progressing in a career.



Activating The People's University 2030: Creating people-driven, community-powered learning experiences.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY isn't just any university. You can start (and stop) your learning journey at any age, when, and where you like. We are a barrier-breaking university that removes obstacles to opportunity. We do not care about your Grade Point Average (GPA), we do not require standardized tests or letters of recommendation and no tuition is required. You define your success.

We will build a university of the people, accessible to all. Our patrons will be our partners in teaching and learning. We will facilitate peer-to-peer learning with classes and services based on real-world experience and the interests of our patrons by our patrons.

The People's University will become a model of service that puts the "people" at the forefront of learning.



Creating Campuses: Building & maintaining distinctive environments to meet changing service & community needs.

Spread throughout the city of Cleveland, we will REIMAGINE each of our campuses to be safe and welcoming state-of-the-art, creative learning labs by 2030.

We will create a consistent, seamless technology experience and partner on pathways to access broadband for our community by 2025.

We will complement our facilities master plan by raising funds to activate our outdoor spaces to extend our reimagined campuses beyond four walls.

We will find creative solutions to closing gaps in service within the Cleveland community.



Operating with Excellence: Assessing & creating organizational capacity to meet mission-related goals.

We will work to be known and recognized as a model of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIAB) culture.

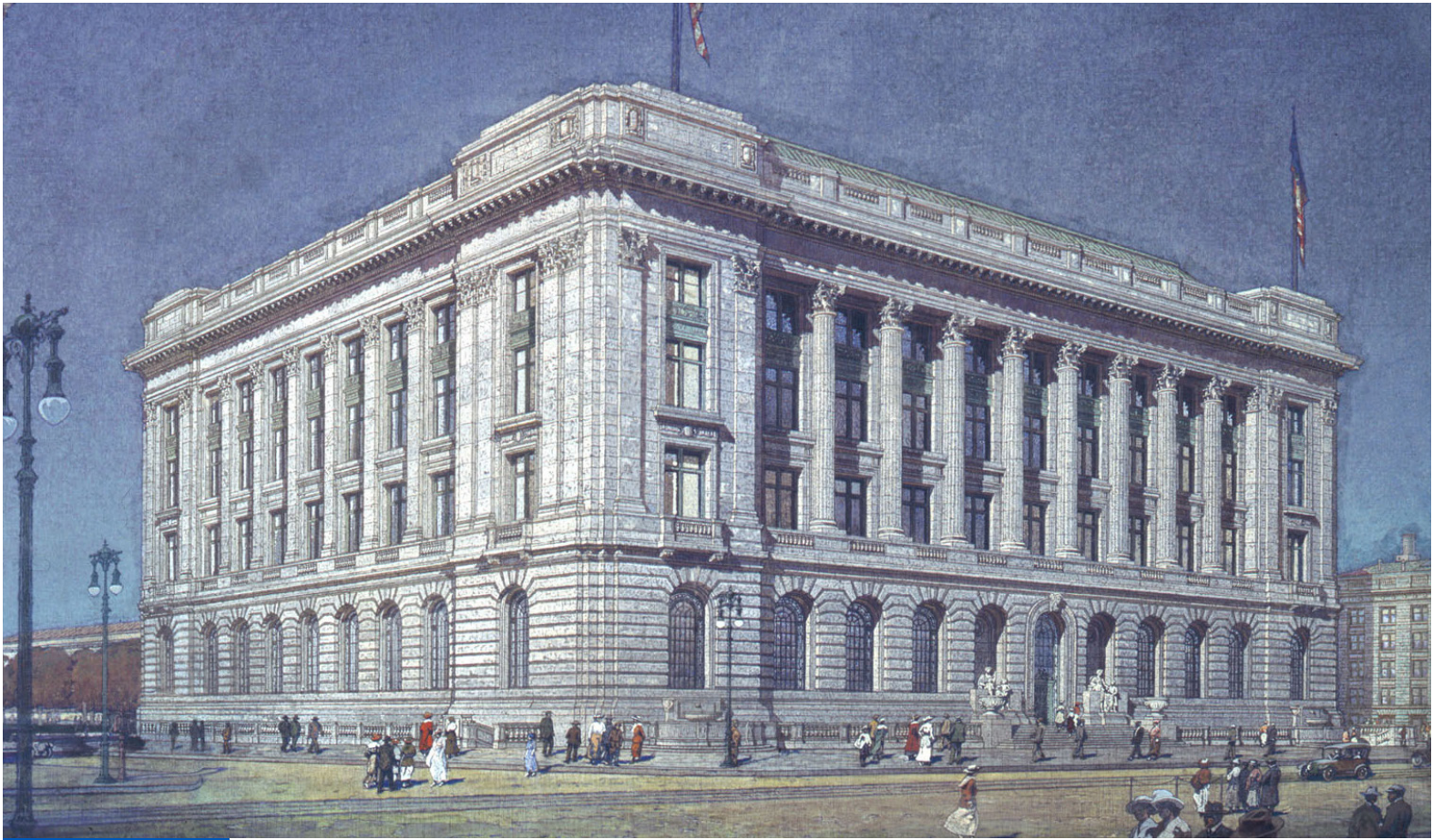
Align available financial resources and systems with strategic priorities and keep promises made to voters and funders.

Create and nurture an engaged workplace, putting people with the right skills and knowledge in the right places.

Build and foster a culture of continuous improvement, measuring our impact and evaluating and evolving our systems and processes equitably.

We will increase financial resources to extend the reach of the Library's strategic priorities.





OUR HISTORY

Cleveland Public Library opened its doors on February 17, 1869 on the third floor of the Northrup & Harrington Block, on West Superior Avenue adjacent to the Board of Education.



1853 Ohio funds libraries in schools

1869 Public School Library becomes Cleveland Public Library

1890 First library of its size to offer open shelving

1892 CPL's first branch opens near the West Side Market

1898 The first space dedicated to children opens at the Main Library

1903 CPL is one of the first libraries to lend Braille books to the blind

1925 Construction of Main Library completed





1957 Friends of Cleveland Public Library founded

1975 CPL begins transferring 5 million catalog cards to computer records

1982 CLEVNET consortium of libraries launches

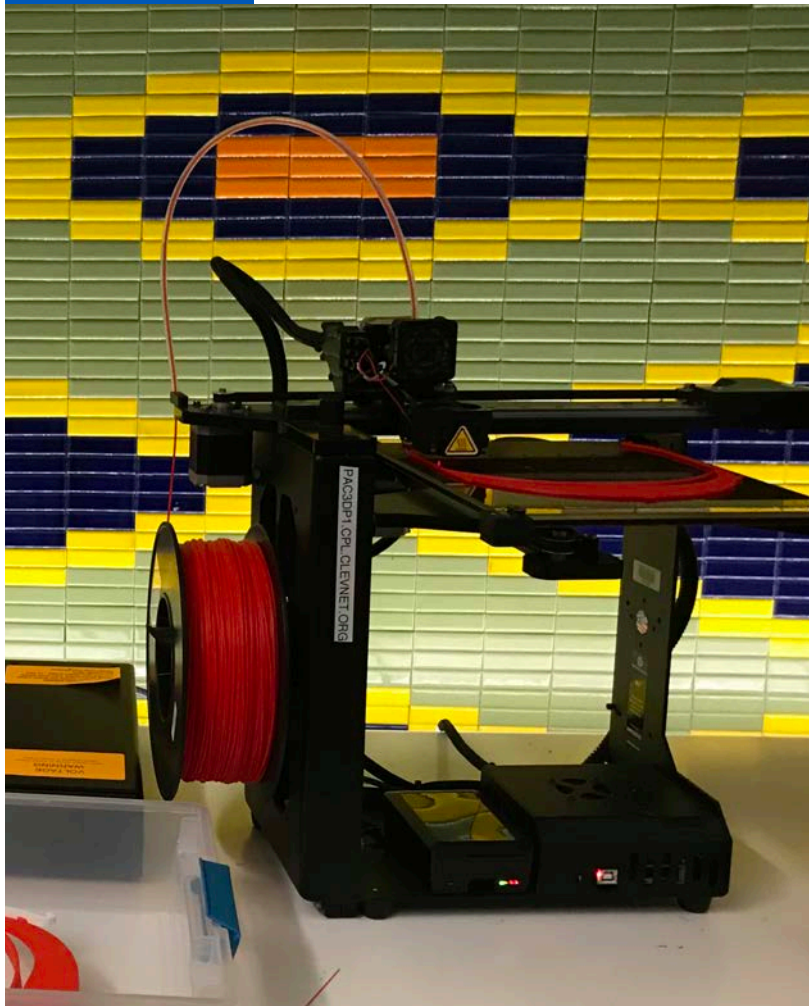
1997 Louis Stokes Wing is dedicated



2003 CPL is the first library to offer e-books

2012 TechCentral opens with computers, tablets, and 3D printers

2019 Cleveland Public Library celebrates its 150th Anniversary
Friends group transitions to the Cleveland Public Library Foundation
Facilities Master Plan kicks off the reimagining of all 27 branches



CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY serves the residents of Cleveland through its network of:

3

Anchor
Campuses

10

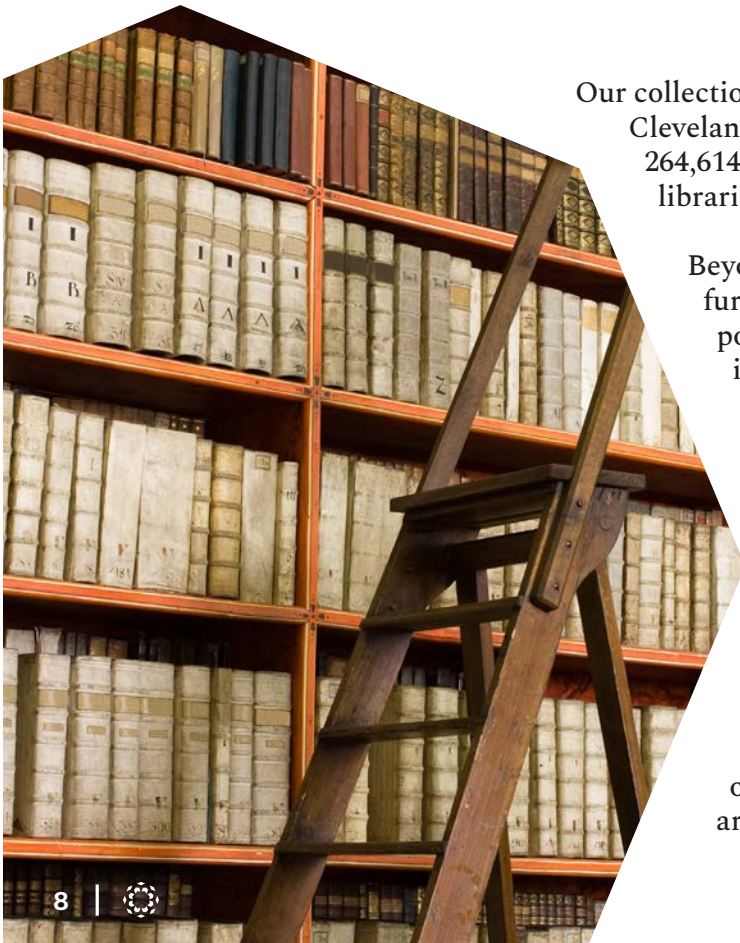
Community
Hubs

15

Neighborhood
Campuses

4

Learning
Satellites



Our collections of 10.2 million items are our most treasured possessions. Cleveland Public Library lends nearly 6 million items a year to its 264,614 registered borrowers and to 47 other CLEVNET-member libraries in 12 counties across Northeast Ohio.

Beyond our own walls, we have found creative ways to reach further in to our community and provide services for special populations. The Library services a grab-and-go book locker in Newburgh Heights, provides homebound delivery and mail services, along with satellite locations at Case Western Reserve University, Tri-C, and Cleveland State University. Our Public Administration Library (PAL) at City Hall serves the reference and informational needs of city government officials and the public.

We are the home of the Ohio Center for the Book featuring works and programs by and for Ohio authors. On behalf of the State Library of Ohio, Cleveland Public Library administers the Ohio Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (OLBPD), serving all 88 counties in the state of Ohio with materials, tools, and assistance for those who are sight challenged.

OUR VALUES

C Curious

We are open-minded. We use our collective knowledge to create the greatest opportunity.

E Equitable

We meet people, partners, and employees where they are. We empower all with opportunities.

N Nurturing

We nurture our relationships, acting in an open and straightforward way. We strive to continuously exceed community needs and anticipate their wishes.

T Transformational

We take a nontraditional approach to achieving transformation.

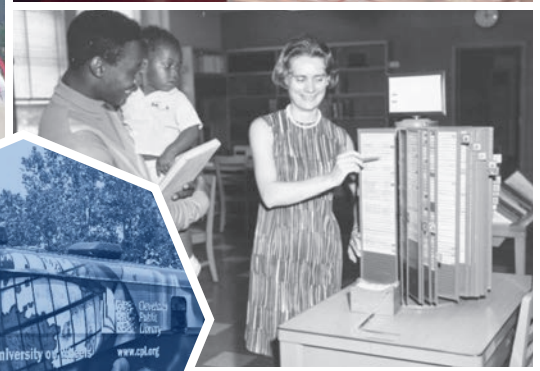
E Excellence

We pursue community-focused goals with excellence, intention and determination.

R Responsible

We are responsible and respectful caretakers of the public's investment.





BY THE NUMBERS (from annual report), 2021



Cleveland Population:
383,331



Registered Borrowers:
264,614



Program Attendance,
In-person & Virtual:
124,271



Total Circulation:
3,358,554 (-3% v. YAG)



Total Attendance
for System:
949,832 (+22 v. YAG)



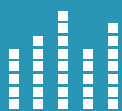
Loans to
Other Library Systems:
706,516 (+43% v. YAG)



Computer Usage (hours):
141,628 (+18% v. YAG)



Reference Transactions:
305,292 (+42% v. YAG)



Recorded Program Views:
5,336



COVID Tests Distributed:
19,674

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Teleangé Thomas

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