TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER
SO MUCH MORE TOGETHER
Cleveland Public Library has always been a point of connection, bringing together diverse people and organizations within the community to do amazing things. In 2015, however, we reached new heights in collaboration, identifying more partners that share our vision of wanting to make a difference in the community. Together, we strengthened existing services to make a greater impact; created new, more engaging programming; and inspired more people to accomplish things they never thought they could. This 2015 Report to the Community is dedicated to telling the story of how collaboration helped us to do so much more.

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.
PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE

English poet John Donne wrote, “No man is an island,” suggesting everyone is part of a greater whole. As people, we cannot succeed on our own, but rather can become so much more when we depend on others. The same can be said of organizations. The truly great ones are those that do not plan in a silo, recognizing they play a role in bigger things taking place around them.

At Cleveland Public Library, we are proud of our many programs and services designed to help fight our community’s deficits. Yet, we know that the successes reflected in this 2015 Report to the Community are only made possible because of the great partnerships we’ve formed with others in the community who share our passion for and commitment to change. Sometimes the ideas are ours
“As people, we cannot succeed on our own, but rather can become so much more when we depend on others.”

and we look to others to transform those ideas into real solutions. Other times, the great ideas come from outside our organization, and the Library is used as a facilitator or a hub to enable new initiatives.

This past year we continued our work on a community engagement plan that began in 2014. We formed advisory committees and focus groups consisting of key neighborhood stakeholders. We wanted to know how others envisioned the future of the Library and how we could best meet the changing needs of the neighborhoods we serve. Our first conversations focused on our Fleet, South, Sterling and Woodland branches. We listened carefully and acted accordingly. One of the outcomes of these dialogues was the
decision to reopen our South Branch at its original site. By late 2015, we started our second set of conversations focused around our Mt. Pleasant, East 131st, Brooklyn and South Brooklyn branches. Although we will continue to listen, our next phase will be one of more action as we develop new and exciting programs in 2016. We are constantly evolving, mindful that we can only make an impact if we remain relevant. No longer simply a place to check out books, the Library proved again in 2015 that we are a place where lives are enriched as a result of collaboration.

Felton Thomas, Jr.
Executive Director, CEO
CREATING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Albert Einstein is credited with saying, “The measure of intelligence is the ability to change,” inferring that change is the key to survival. Here at Cleveland Public Library, we have learned to embrace change. We recognize that our ability to adapt to changing community needs is key to remaining relevant. Through a year-long series of dialogues, we asked the community what they wanted to see in their library going forward.

As a result of those dialogues, the Board undertook a number of initiatives designed to firmly position the Library as a critical community resource for many years to come. Although the initiatives were approved in 2014, they took shape in 2015 and will continue into 2016 to ensure our branches function as the

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Maritza Rodriguez
President,
Board of Trustees
“We recognize that our ability to adapt to changing community needs is key to remaining relevant.”

community envisions them. Funding for new programs remains a challenge, as population losses within the city reduce tax revenues and threaten public funding. But the Board remains committed to making the necessary investments in critical programs.

As part of our Safe, Warm and Dry Initiative, for example, the Board has allocated $5 million to the renovation of 10 branches (Addison, Collinwood, Glenville, Harvard-Lee, Langston Hughes, Carnegie West, Fulton, Jefferson, Lorain and Rockport) that were identified as priorities based on usage, how they interacted with the community and the critical nature of their necessary repairs. Improvements will focus on updating security and heating systems and ensuring compliance with various ordinances.

As part of our effort to make the Main Library a downtown destination, we allocated another $5 million to the Main Library Renovation, which includes the creation of large
meeting spaces to facilitate ongoing collaboration and private areas to inspire reading. Special exhibits commemorating Louis Stokes and showcasing the Library’s rich history are also scheduled for completion prior to the Republican National Convention (RNC) being hosted in Cleveland in July 2016.

Still early in the planning stages are our Opportunity Libraries. The Board is in discussions to completely overhaul three branches (South, Sterling and Martin Luther King, Jr.) in order to create an entirely new Library experience for patrons. These are just a few of the exciting changes taking place at the Library as we continue to ensure our future in Cleveland’s future.

Maritza Rodriguez  
President, Board of Trustees

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Alan Seifullah  
Vice President

Thomas Corrigan  
Secretary

Alice G. Butts

John M. Hairston

Anthony T. Parker

Alesha Washington
“No longer simply a place to check out books, the Library proved again in 2015 that we are a place where lives are enriched as a result of collaboration.”

– Felton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director, CEO
EDUCATING THROUGH COLLABORATION

Today Cleveland Public Library is about so much more than books. Yet, a key focus of our programming remains on education and encouraging more kids to read. In 2015 we worked with a large number of community partners to provide programs and services that not only educated, but also inspired.

This year’s Summer Reading Program was bigger than ever as we collaborated with seven other area libraries to create a “Make Your Summer Count” themed curriculum that focused on skills and activities beyond basic reading, such as math and volunteerism.

Students completing the program were rewarded with free tickets from some of our community partners to visit Cleveland’s most popular cultural and entertainment destinations, including the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland Museum of Art and Great Lakes Science Center. We are proud that Cleveland Public Library had one of the highest completion rates in the county. Baldwin Wallace University also partnered with us this past year to provide, for the first time, a research component documenting the impact of the reading program.
Given the success of our Learning Centers which provide, among other things, after-school tutoring and snacks, we expanded the number of branches with Learning Centers—up from 11 in 2014 to 14 by the end of 2015.

Community partners that helped with staffing, programming and snacks included Cleveland State University, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and College Now Greater Cleveland.

Recognizing that, for many children, a passion for reading begins at a young age, we opened two Early Literacy Centers in 2015. At our Carnegie West Branch, we bought interactive equipment and reconfigured space to recreate a Farmer’s Market to acquaint young children with literacy concepts in a creative way. At our Woodland Branch, we bought specialized equipment to create Woodland Wonderland Stay and Play, which teaches guided play. Key community partners included New York Community Bank, Saint Luke’s Foundation, Family Connections, and Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood.
Late in the year we also launched our **Family Literacy Program** in partnership with Northeast Ohio Neighborhood (NEON) Health Services to focus on the importance of incorporating literacy into the healthy upbringing of children up to the age of five.

Also new was the Library’s **Financial and Career Literacy** program designed to teach teens how to responsibly handle money. The program, which was launched at two branch locations—Martin Luther King, Jr. and East 131st Street—was hosted in collaboration with The Phe’be Foundation and Career Transition Center.

We continued to see results from **ImpACT the 216**, an innovative program that enhances math and reading proficiency through ACT prep as well as video and recording arts training. It is hosted in collaboration with College Now Greater Cleveland.

Children and teens aren’t the only ones who can benefit from educational programming. That’s why we also continued to develop programs designed to enrich adult lives.
TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Kevin Ray
Branch Manager, Memorial-Nottingham Branch, Cleveland Public Library

Margaret Bernstein
Director of Advocacy & Community Initiatives, WKYC-TV

Dr. Evalyn Gates
Executive Director and CEO, Cleveland Museum of Natural History

Kristin Warzocha
President and CEO, Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Samantha Joseph
Senior Vice President and Counsel to the Litigation Group, Office of the ACOO New York Community Bancorp, Inc.

Obasi
Teen Patron, Cleveland Public Library
Through these educational programs, our adult patrons gained valuable information relative to basic computer and job search training, as well as support for starting a business. Free legal advice was provided through the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, and the Cuyahoga County Department of Senior and Adult Services performed a benefits checkup.

ADVANCING THROUGH COLLABORATION

We live in a technology-driven world. Some of the best paying jobs are based on a person’s ability to understand and adapt to technology. Yet, not everyone has equal access to technology, limiting their opportunities for advancement. That’s why we opened TechCentral at our Main Library back in 2012. Now also located at our Fleet and Lorain branches, TechCentral serves as a one-of-a-kind technology and learning center that offers a variety of computer and technology-related services. Since its opening, we have continued to expand
the services and opportunities for hands-on experience with a wide array of advanced equipment. In 2015, for example, we launched **3D print services** at our Fleet and Lorain branches. At our Main Library we added a **heat press** that can be used in conjunction with our vinyl cutter for a variety of applications such as t-shirts and wall graphics.

Although we still offer basic computer classes at TechCentral, we are finding greater demand for our labs where people are actually learning to create things. A coding class at our Fleet Branch taught teens and adults web design basics.
By far the most successful new technology-based event, however, was our **summer robotics camp**. Six camps in total were held at our Main Library, as well as five other branches (Fleet, Martin Luther King, Jr., Glenville, Lorain and Carnegie West). More than 300 students participated in the STEM-based training camps that, among other things, taught the students to build and program LEGO® MINDSTORMS Kits as a means to introduce them to the basics of robotics programming.

This was the third year that we hosted the **Mini Maker Faire**, an educational and entertaining event that allows local people of various skill levels to share their knowledge and projects. It garnered the largest attendance to date both in terms of the number of exhibitors and visitors. More than 1,000 people attended. High-visibility exhibits from the Great Lakes Science Center and NASA added to the excitement and appeal of the event. This was also the first time we offered a hands-on Fab Lab at the Faire that allowed visitors to use our 3D printers and cutters.
Other key community partners that contributed to our overall success included Ingenuity Cleveland, Time Warner Cable and Maker Media. In addition, the Etsy Foundation hosted an onsite craft entrepreneurship program.

**PROTECTING THROUGH COLLABORATION**

As a public institution, we recognize our responsibility to protect our patrons, as well as the assets of the organizations that seek out our services. For many of our patrons, especially our teens, the Library serves as a place where they feel the safest. In late 2015, all of Cleveland Public Library’s branches were designated as official **Safe Place** destinations, which means we have the resources and contact information to provide referrals to patrons who need shelter, counseling or other crisis intervention. The national Safe Place program is coordinated locally by community partner Bellefaire JCB.

In response to the positive feedback we received about our two new teen centers that opened in 2014, we opened a new **teen center** at our Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch in 2015.
The dedicated space provides a combination of educational and entertainment activities that are accessible to teens after school.

Recognizing that some of our younger patrons don’t receive the standard nutritional requirements, we also partnered with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank again in 2015 to provide nearly 20,000 lunches over the summer. In addition, more than 60,000 after-school snacks were served throughout the year at most of our branches.

In an effort to make patrons of all ages feel safe while on our premises, the Library also hired 15 more security officers in 2015 to patrol our branches and Main Library.

But protection doesn’t simply refer to safety, as the Library also has a large preservation role, serving to preserve not only our own valuable collections, but also those of others in the community. In February 2015, with federal LSTA (Library Services Technology Act) funds from the State Library of Ohio and OPLIN (Ohio Public Information Network), we opened Cleveland Digital Public Library (CDPL) together with four other Ohio libraries, forming a network of coordinated digitization hubs.
Demand for CDPL’s services has skyrocketed as word has spread of our capabilities, attracting families, nonprofits and individual companies. Our oversized scanner has proven especially popular, allowing patrons to preserve a wide array of important artifacts such as photos, maps, blueprints and manuscripts. Later in the year we acquired a high-speed microfilm scanner for preserving the Library’s extensive microfilm collection. By digitizing some of our most valuable assets, we are effectively making them accessible to the world.

We have also added a touch-wall that allows patrons to virtually tour our extensive photo collections. Beyond the equipment is the training the Library is offering so patrons can better preserve their own histories and collections. Popular classes in 2015 focused on image manipulation, paper making, book binding and letter press. We are also working directly with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to help administrators and teachers identify materials that can be digitized for use in the classrooms.
More than 969,000 reference questions answered

Nearly 5.8 million items borrowed

More than 249,000 items added to the Library collection

More than 3 million people visited the Library

BOOKS - MAIN COLLECTION: 2,772,079

BOOKS - BRANCHES: 458,888

TOTAL BOOKS: 3,230,967

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS: 569,667

BOUND PERIODICALS: 269,256

COMPUTER MEDIA: 1,649

MICROFORMS: 4,662,501

BOUND PERIODICALS: 203,168

TITLES: 2,517,294

569,667

269,256

1,649

4,662,501

1,390,974

136,933

18,000

55,312

18,000

1,390,974
INSPIRING THROUGH COLLABORATION

People find inspiration in many different ways. Some discover it through art. Others are inspired through conversation. At Cleveland Public Library we work hard to create meaningful programs that resonate with people and prompt engaging dialogues.

One of the Library’s most enduring programs is our Writers & Readers Series through which we bring in noteworthy, award-winning authors to share their stories. This year’s program took on a more emotional appeal. Our “Series of Hope” featured mostly survivors who documented their life struggles to overcome adversity. It drew some of the largest crowds that we have seen in our 16 years of hosting the Writers & Readers Series and included a partnership with the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center.

Our Lockwood Thompson Artist Series, hosted this year in collaboration with the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and The Cleveland School of the Arts, brought in world-renowned artists who worked with local students to critique their artwork.
We also took a new approach to our hallmark Lockwood Thompson Dialogues program. Instead of hosting a single event, we hosted a “Talk Talk Talk” live series and podcast focused on the theme of storytelling through performance as told by noteworthy fiction writers and standup comedians. Community partners included Keep Talking and LAND Studio.

In partnership with the Cleveland Institute of Music, we hosted CIM Saturdays, through which area music students were invited to perform at our Main Library and Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch.

Check It Out, a collaboration with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, is now in its second year. It is designed as a means to provide access to one of Cleveland’s most popular cultural destinations for families who might not otherwise be able to attend. Based on its success in 2014, we expanded the program to all of our branches this past year.
A new initiative in 2015 was our **Writer-in-Residence** program, designed to support local authors and artists. Our first author, Jonathan Sawyer, worked on his book *Noodle Kids* on Library premises and hosted a lecture and book-signing after it was published.

Friends of the Cleveland Public Library hosted an Executive Speaker Series, which featured local executives talking about their ventures and managerial insights and provided valuable networking opportunities.

**CELEBRATING THROUGH COLLABORATION**

Cleveland has a fascinating history, rich in cultural diversity, artistic innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. Throughout 2015, we focused on celebrating that diversity and spirit through a number of inspiring and engaging events and exhibits.

Our **African American History Month** celebrations took on a more serious tone this year as we featured the mother of Trayvon Martin, the young African American boy who was fatally shot and killed during a controversial incident.
involving a neighborhood watch volunteer. Sybrina Fulton spoke about violence and racial profiling but with a focus on healing.

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, we collaborated with the Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center to create an entertaining program featuring poetry and music primarily from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. A special Lunar New Year celebration and Russian children’s programming were also hosted at our Main Library.

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and President Lincoln’s funeral procession coming to Cleveland, the Library created a special two-floor exhibit honoring the life of Abraham Lincoln. Numerous community partners came together to help create the large collection of artifacts and memorabilia, including the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument, Old Stone Church and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS).

We partnered with NASA to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hubble space telescope being sent into orbit by hosting an interactive exhibit. We also worked with Cleveland Play House to celebrate its 100th anniversary through a special exhibit that highlighted the history, people and
theatrical productions of Cleveland Play House over the past century.

Our annual See Also exhibit, which is yet another program funded through an endowment created by Lockwood Thompson and done in collaboration with LAND Studio, interpreted the magical experience of reading through art. Through the temporary artwork installation entitled “Migration” in our Eastman Garden, artist Andréa Keys Connell invited patrons to embark on a personal journey while immersed in reading.

REACHING FARTHER THROUGH COLLABORATION

In order to be a truly integral part of the community, we recognize that we must be out in the community. On an ongoing basis, we look for new ways to bring our programs and services outside of our walls in an effort to reach deeper into the neighborhoods we serve and impact more people. We accomplished this through a number of initiatives throughout 2015:
• Our new **Book Bike** has WiFi access and houses a small number of books. It visited daycare centers near downtown and was seen at numerous downtown events including Walnut Wednesdays.

• We relocated our **Book Box** from the West Side Market to Wade Oval near University Circle in order to leverage increased traffic from Wade Oval Wednesdays. Usage at the retail-style mobile library unit is up significantly since we have been in our new location.

• Our Main Library served as an official stop for **Zagster Bike Sharing Systems** where people picked up and dropped off rental bikes when cycling throughout downtown.

• The Library again partnered with the Downtown Cleveland Alliance to support **Winterfest** by hosting a number of musical performances and children’s activities at our Main Library.
### 2015 GENERAL OPERATING FUND

#### EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES

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### DONORS

#### $1,000 - $5,000
- Friends of Cleveland Public Library
- PPG Industries Foundation
- Estate of Richard Szorady
- Magdalene A. Westrick Estate

#### $500 - $999
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
- Anonymous Donor
- Advised Fund of The Cleveland Foundation
- Library of Congress
- The Harley C. Lee and Elizabeth Keedick Lee Fund of The Cleveland Foundation

#### $100 - $499
- Baldwin Wallace University Honors Program
- David Hovis
- KBI Engineering
- John & Jacqueline Ksiazek
- Agnes Olson
- Lauretta S. Owens
- Michael A. Paller
- Betty S. Patch
- James & Victoria Rowe
- David & Peggy Ruth
- Aaron Saltzman
- Patricia Schraff
- Maurice Snavely
- Solon Dept of Senior Services
- The Federated Church
- Susan van den Berg
- Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc
- Westfield High Alumni Association

#### Up to $99
- Anne Batzell
- Robert & Marcia Benson
- Michael Borsich
- Patricia Briar
- Lynne Charney & Family
- Keegan Conry
- Ronald A. Cudnik
- W.C. Cox and Company
- Agnes Hanson
- Mary Herpy
- Marie Holscher
- Jacqueline S. Huff
- Betty Jaskulek
- Gabe & Lee Kezdi
- Karen King
- Joseph McGuire
- Lisa M Schnall
- Sara Shaner
- Edward R. Snively
- Patricia & Brendan Southam
- Bruce & Jennette Stephens
- Philip & Reta Vanhooks
- Evelyn Ward
- Steven Wheelock

### 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.

- Cleveland Thermal - $100,000 to engage an engineering consultant to analyze the cooling requirements for the Library, develop specifications for an on-site system, and develop an estimate of the acquisition and operating costs of an on-site system.

- Saint Luke’s Foundation through The Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - $60,000 to use the Woodland
Family Playroom space to provide programming to prepare children for kindergarten and offer their parents integrated services to address the needs of the whole family.

LSTA KnowItNow - $88,007 for providing reference services 24x7.

Childcare Resource Center of Cuyahoga County Inc. d.b.a. Starting Point - $65,520 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.

Eleanor Dolores Santos Trust - $40,000 as a restricted gift to the Main Library.

From New York Community Bank through The Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - $40,000 to create early literacy spaces and interactive learning spaces for children and parents at the Woodland and Carnegie West branches.

Cleveland Public Digital Library - LSTA Federal Aid of $34,993 to help with costs associated with the purchase of equipment to enhance the digitization program initiated in the Digitization Hub project.

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled - LSTA Federal Aid of $24,995 to help with costs associated with support for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.

Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled - LSTA Federal Aid of $24,995 to help with costs associated with support for the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.

Other Funds Received

Frederick W. and Henryett Slocum Judd Fund - $216,515 for the Library’s Homebound Service.

Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund - $170,216 for the purchase of fine arts materials, lectures, staff recognition and travel expenses.

Estate of Anna M. Schweinfurth - $79,030 for the purchase of architectural materials.

Winifred Beech Young Testamentary Trust - $51,073 for the services to blind persons of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

Friends of the Cleveland Public Library - $23,000 for program support.
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“Our Journey Forward

“Collaboration will continue to be a hallmark of our Library’s transformation. We are so thankful for the many community partners that joined us in 2015 to help build a network of learning. Together we opened doors for our patrons to experience things they could not have previously, and we opened their eyes to the fact that they could be more and do more than they ever thought possible. We are focused on providing our patrons with ways to create their own paths. We all learn differently. The Library will continue to be open to exploring new ideas and opportunities for self-guided learning. With the help of our partners, there is no limit to the difference we can make in our community in the years ahead.” – Felton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director, CEO

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325 Superior Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44114
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