



CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

2022 annual report

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Newly renovated Altgeld Branch.

*“The library says come here.
Come learn and sit.
Rest, come read.*

*Thank you for making a home
for so many souls that need it.”*

DR. EVE L. EWING,
WRITER, SCHOLAR + CULTURAL ORGANIZER



**CHICAGO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

OUR MISSION

We welcome and support all people in their enjoyment of reading and pursuit of lifelong learning. Working together, we strive to provide equal access to information, ideas and knowledge through books, programs and other resources. **We believe in the freedom to read, to learn, to discover.**

FREEDOM TO READ

With challenged and banned books on the rise, our mission became more relevant than ever in 2022. It's why the **Chicago Tribune** celebrated library workers as [Chicagoans of the Year](#). It's also why CPL has invested in our [Book Sanctuary initiative](#), as well as programming that fosters this freedom.

OUR VISION

A city where people are equipped,
engaged and inspired to learn and explore,
and rely on Chicago Public Library as a
**trusted source of information,
enrichment and opportunity.**

2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

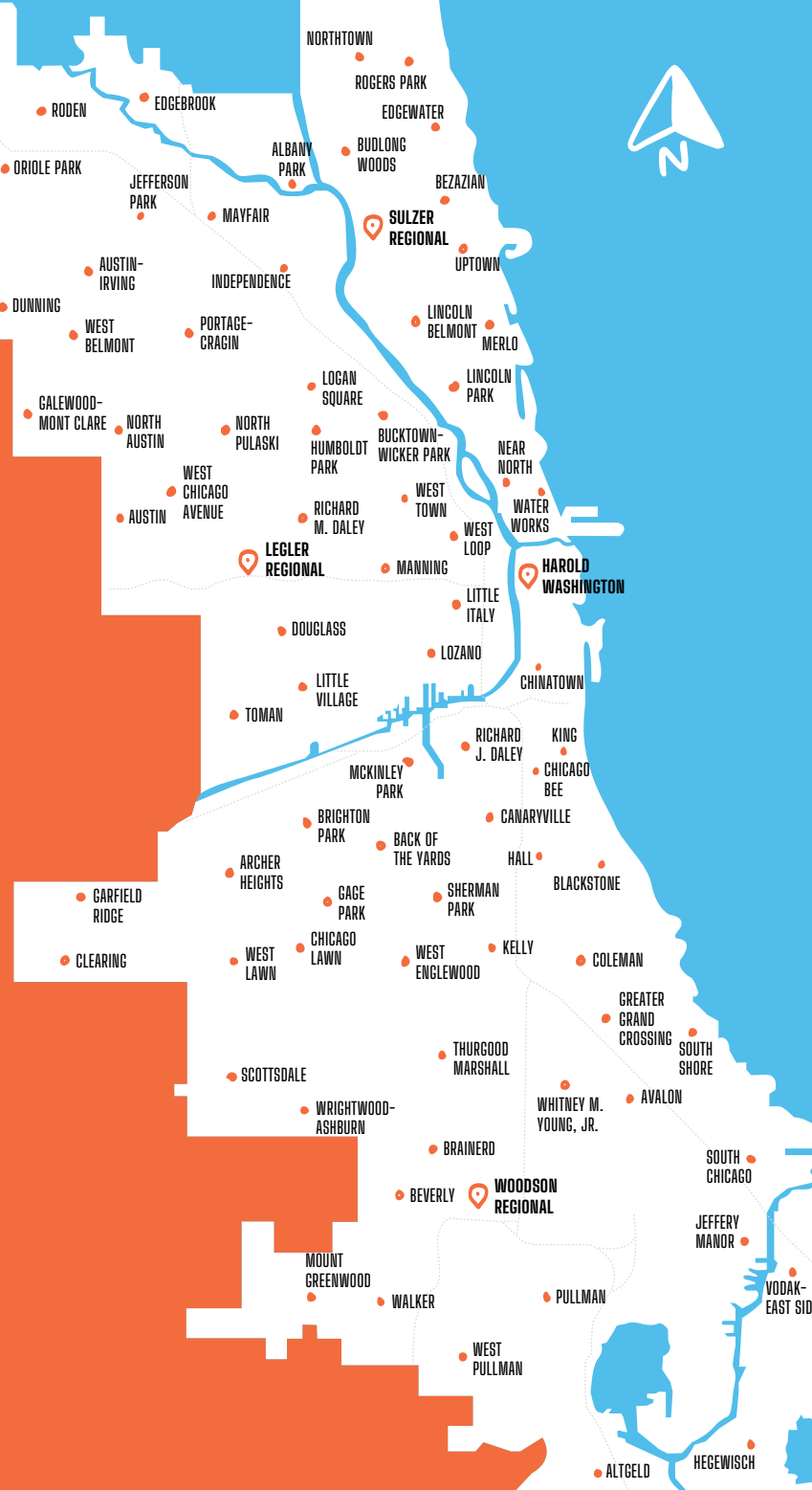
Chicago Public Library is living and breathing its Strategic Plan, which established critical priorities for our next chapter, continuing to engage staff and other stakeholders to get further insights, hone language and build enthusiasm about the library's future. The final strategy articulates a clear direction and a shared vision built upon Chicago Public Library's commitment to service and excellence, including its six objectives:

1. **PROVIDE FREE AND OPEN ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCES THAT REFLECT AND ENGAGE CHICAGO'S DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS AND PEOPLE EQUITABLY AND INCLUSIVELY.**
2. **DEVELOP COLLECTIONS, DESIGN PROGRAMS AND ENABLE STAFF TO ENCOURAGE EXPLORATION AND NURTURE LEARNING.**
3. **CREATE RESPECTFUL, SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACES THAT INVITE PERSONAL GROWTH AND CREATE STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES.**
4. **SHARE PRIDE AND PURPOSE TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHICAGOANS AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES.**
5. **VALUE CREATIVITY AND RESOURCEFULNESS IN SERVING PATRONS EFFECTIVELY AND RESPONSIVELY.**
6. **BROADEN THE PERCEPTION OF WHAT A LIBRARY CAN BE.**

[VIEW THE PLAN >](#)

81
LOCATIONS

77
NEIGHBORHOODS



Henry Eduard Legler, the library's leader in the early 20th century, created the first comprehensive branch library system in the nation. With 81 locations in 77 distinct neighborhoods, Legler's vision to "build branches within walking distance of every Chicagoan's home" is realized today.

CHICAGOANS,

For the last 150 years, Chicago has been leading from the library as a trusted resource. With facilities in each of the city's 77 neighborhoods, Chicago Public Library (CPL) serves as a connector—offering trusted and needed resources that are free and accessible to all. Everyone deserves that access. That's why I made it a priority to become the largest city library to go fine free and to keep our libraries open every day of the week.

So many of the Library's programs empower our next generation, especially those that are most vulnerable, like our youngest, oldest and most recent immigrants. The City of Chicago and my office are committed to eliminating poverty by increasing access to opportunities and actively removing barriers to revitalize under-resourced communities. There is no doubt that the Library is one of the most essential components to this strategy.

As a core part of our neighborhoods, the Library is also an essential partner in revitalizing our city and connecting residents to needed services like broadband. That's why the Library is serving on the City's Digital Equity Council, and why I've brought back regional library service to the West Side.

I look forward to Commissioner Brown and his incredibly talented staff continuing to transform our neighborhoods by leading from the library.



Mayor Lori Lightfoot

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot". The signature is fluid and cursive.



DEAR FRIENDS,

We are honored to lead Chicago Public Library, an institution with a remarkable 150-year legacy. At CPL, we advocate for the growth of all Chicagoans by providing opportunities to improve lives through resources and learning. We lead through connections, empowerment, inspiration and imagination.

During a time when diverse voices are under attack, we're reminded why public libraries are our most democratic institutions and why our mission is more important than ever. The American Library Association reported more than 729 attempted bans of 1,597

individual books in 2021 alone. Books celebrating voices that reflect the diversity of our own city, especially BIPOC and LGBTQ+ voices, have been targeted for removal from library collections all around the country. In Chicago, our diversity makes us great. That's why over the past year, CPL has doubled down on our mission around our freedom to read.

As you'll see in the following pages, CPL is proud to be part of a city of exceptional partnership and civic pride. We are not only a city that works—that gets things done—but also a city that works together. CPL contributes to this spirit through our powerful network of library locations throughout the city.

As we approach our 150-year anniversary, we celebrate the contributions that the people of CPL make to Chicago to enrich the lives of every resident, especially our youngest. Generated by decades of civic investment, today, Chicago Public Library thrives as a world-class institution with extensive resources and an incredibly diverse collection. Powered by our committed library system, supported by a steadfast city agenda of equity and amplified by a civically engaged public—we can make remarkable things happen.

We invite you to join us in this year's celebration of our city's history and our commitment to re-imagine what a library can be.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Brown".

Chris Brown
Commissioner
Chicago Public Library

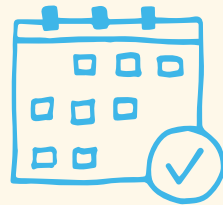
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Johnson Rice".

Linda Johnson Rice
President, Board of Directors
Chicago Public Library

CPL BY THE NUMBERS 2022

18.7k

PROGRAMS & EVENTS
SCHEDULED



218k

TOTAL PROGRAM &
EVENT ATTENDEES



1 mil
98k

TOTAL LIBRARY
CARDHOLDERS
NEW LIBRARY
CARDHOLDERS

12,699,254

MATERIALS
CHECKED OUT
IN 2022

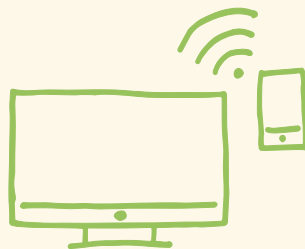


6,026,316

TOTAL SIZE OF
THE COLLECTION

908k

COMPUTER
SESSIONS



3 mil

WI-FI SESSIONS



7k
27k

CYBERNAVIGATOR
SESSIONS

HOMEWORK
HELP SESSIONS

30,000

SUMMER MEALS TO
CHICAGO YOUTH



4.5 mil

VISITS TO
CPL LIBRARIES



*A cozy reading nook at Thomas Hughes Children's Library
at Harold Washington Library Center.*

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Chicago Public Library provides free and equitable access to ideas and knowledge, books, materials, inspiring spaces and technology—things Chicagoans need and deserve everyday—seven days a week. The Library is uniquely positioned to create connections throughout our city, playing an essential role in providing free programming and services, especially to our most vulnerable communities.

FINE FREE

Chicago became the largest city library system in the country to go fine free. This was part of an ongoing effort by the Mayor's Office and CPL to remove barriers to City services, especially for youth and low-income communities. At the time, one in four children with library cards had a blocked library account, representing over 100,000 children who could not check out resources from their library. The elimination of fines has had transformational results, with circulation increasing 25% after going fine free.

100,000+

CHILDREN'S ACCOUNTS RESTORED

25%

INCREASE IN CIRCULATION
AFTER FINES WERE ELIMINATED



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CPL and the Chicago Public Library Foundation launched a new funding initiative called the Community Connections Fund, which will help branches respond more quickly to the needs and interests of their unique neighborhoods. Projects include purchasing bibliobikes for creative outreach, children's kinesthetic games with different learning modalities and career clothing to support job-seekers with interview attire. These are all resources that are driven by community needs, interests and participation.

51 NEIGHBORHOOD
BRANCHES
INVOLVED



Shilo Jefferson, Director of Legler Regional Library, organizing the library's Career Closet.

7 DAY ACCESS

The full effect of restoring Sunday Library hours took effect in 2022. With the support of the Mayor's Office, this delivers on the City and CPL's commitment to remove barriers and provide all Chicagoans access to critical library resources—safe and welcoming spaces, student resources, computers, Wi-Fi and academic resources—7 days a week. In fact, restoring Sunday hours led to a 35% increase in visitation.

35%

INCREASE IN VISITATION
FOLLOWING SUNDAY OPENINGS



57 million

TOUCHPOINTS IN 2022, INCLUDING VIRTUAL
VISITS, LIBRARY MATERIAL BORROWED, WI-FI
AND COMPUTER USE AND PROGRAMMING FOR

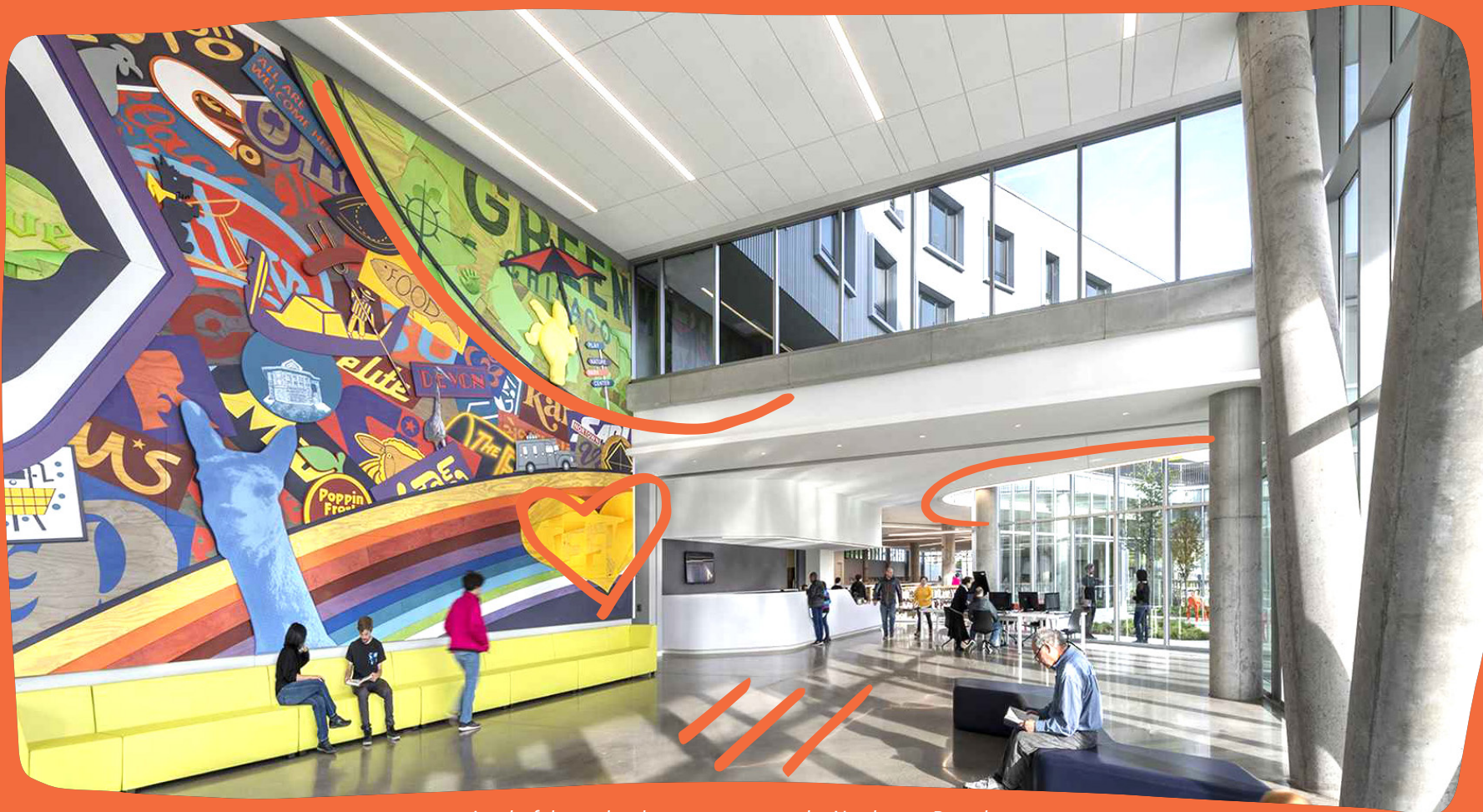
every age

CULTURE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

Culture in My Neighborhood, in partnership with Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, was fully launched at Chicago Public Library in September of 2022. CPL hosted 167 public activities at 73 library locations, celebrating the diversity that makes Chicago a destination for all people of all backgrounds through events, programs, workshops and more.



Taiko Korean Drum Performance at West Belmont Branch.



A colorful mural welcomes guests at the Northtown Branch.

REIMAGINING WHAT A LIBRARY CAN BE

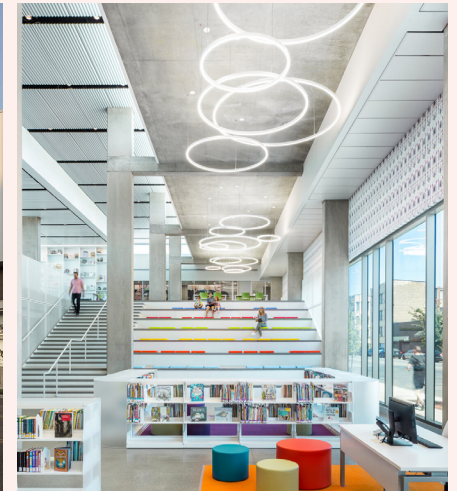
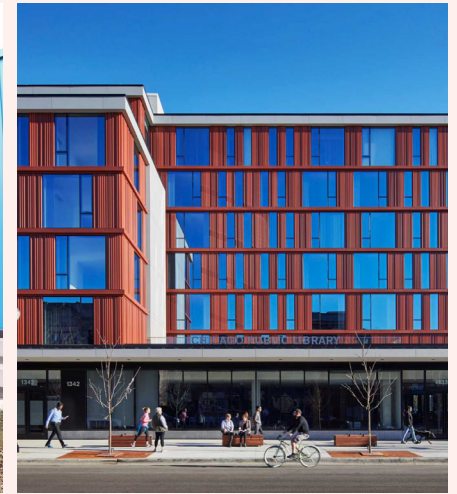
Chicago Public Library is reimagining what a library can be. Our branches are places of outstanding architecture and design, offering access to mental health and support services, and serving as sources for inspiration for building equity and representation throughout our city.

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENTS

As an international library leader, CPL continuously reimagines what a library can be. We are at the forefront—partnering with architecture firms to design award-winning community-centered spaces and services that meaningfully impact Chicagoans across the city. This investment in spaces and good design matters. In fact, studies have shown that library capital spending results in substantial increases in use, with over 20% increases in visitation, borrowing and attendance at children’s programming.

CPL is focusing these investments in neighborhoods that need them most. We have brought a regional library (Legler) back to the West Side and built a new Altgeld Branch on the South Side. Our branches deliver “whole family” support services, including four co-locations with the Chicago Housing Authority.

CPL continues to build on these successful revitalization efforts. This year, we are undertaking a capital planning strategy to create an aspirational framework for improvements, because our successes have shown that when the city and the community work together, we can reimagine the role of Chicago’s institutions to spur neighborhood revitalization.



Clockwise from top left: Altgeld Branch, Little Italy Branch, Northtown Branch, and Independence Branch

\$91 mil

INVESTED IN LIBRARY
CAPITAL IN LAST 5 YEARS

1.9 mil

SQUARE FEET OF LIBRARIES
ACROSS THE CITY

COMMUNITY WELLNESS

CPL plays a critical role providing health and wellness services, especially for our most vulnerable populations, including those struggling with housing, addiction and mental health. As part of the Mayor's Office whole government approach to safety, Chicago Public Library has established partnerships with the Community Safety Coordination Center, social workers, Greater Chicago Food Depository, the Department of Family and Support Services, as well as the Department of Public Health.

As a result of these partnerships, we've:

- **Added teen programming staff** to libraries in the 15 most challenged safety beats to provide outreach and programming for youth in our neighborhoods.
- **Established a Mental Health Clinical Liaison Program** to offer social services to the public through the CPL Cares initiative.
- **Delivered over 30,000 summer meals** through dozens of libraries.
- **Provided summer jobs** through One Summer Chicago.
- **Launched Narcan distribution in all of our libraries** to save the lives of those impacted by the opioid crisis and reduce the stigma surrounding addiction. Over 2,400 kits of this lifesaving overdose reversal medication have been distributed through this program.

2,400

NARCAN KITS DISTRIBUTED
TO THE COMMUNITY

300

STAFF TRAINED ON OVERDOSE
PREVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION



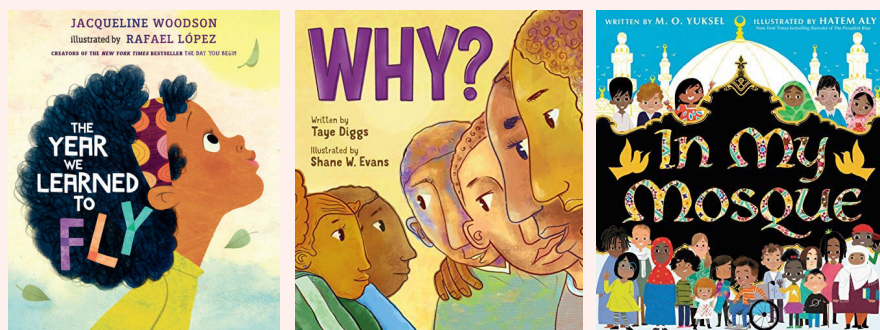
Narcan distribution is free and anonymous.



Michelle Carnes, Division Chief, sharing resources through the CPL Cares program.

“The opioid epidemic is a national crisis that has affected more Chicagoans in the last year than ever before. We must work together to lower barriers to life-saving resources like Narcan and access to effective treatment in all of our communities.”

ALLISON ARWADY, M.D.
CDPH COMMISSIONER



Some of the new books introduced through the Children's Collection refresh.

COLLECTION INVESTMENT

What can children become if they see diverse representation of themselves and their city reflected in their libraries? CPL asked itself that question and invested \$2,000,000 to refresh and update the children's collections in 20 South and West Side library locations.

The increased budget has also provided the opportunity to purchase more copies of high-demand material, reducing the wait-time for popular items by a full week. With Chicagoans submitting over half a million requests, this reduced wait time has real significance. The proposed 2023 budget has an additional \$500,000 collection increase to continue to bring CPL on par with library industry leaders. That's a total of \$2.5 million to ensure CPL has a collection everyone can see themselves in.

\$2.5 mil

BUDGET TO UPDATE
COLLECTIONS IN 2022

7 days

REDUCED WAIT TIME FOR
POPULAR ITEMS

FIRST EQUITY OFFICE

Mayor Lori Lightfoot established the Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice (OERJ) to advance institutional change that results in an equitable transformation of how the City does business. This includes service delivery, resource distribution, policy creation and decision-making. OERJ now does this by supporting City departments in normalizing concepts of racial equity; organizing staff to work together for transformational change; and operationalizing new practices, policies and procedures that result in more fair and just outcomes.

As a result, CPL established its first Equity Office in 2022 that will be conducting an Equity Assessment in 2023, informed by community engagement, to establish goals and identify access barriers needing to be addressed through an action plan.

“The Equity Office’s work moves beyond any single initiative, looking to the Library’s core work to consider what we do particularly well, how we can build on our strengths and what we can improve to be a more equitable library system.”

DESIREE ABU-ODEH, PHD
SENIOR EQUITY OFFICER



The success of Chicago Public Library delivering much needed services is dependent on communities seeing themselves represented in our spaces and programming so they feel empowered to participate. We create this connection through storytelling, programming and art.

ONE BOOK, ONE CHICAGO

An unprecedented rise in book banning is happening across the country. The American Library Association reported more than 729 attempted bans of 1,597 individual books in 2021 alone. Books celebrating BIPOC and LGBTQ+ voices have been targeted for removal from library collections all around the country.

To counteract this, CPL has been promoting books and authors facing censorship challenges. *Maus* by Art Spiegelman was the year's One Book, One Chicago selection—one of the most frequently challenged books of all time. This brutally moving work of art, widely hailed as the greatest graphic novel ever written, recounts the experiences of the author's father during the Holocaust. Spiegelman appeared in-person to a packed house on November 3 at the Harold Washington Library Center to discuss his career, his work and the importance of our freedom to read.

1,600

FINALE VIDEO STREAM VIEWS

400

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES
AT CPL'S SPIEGELMAN EVENT



CPL has partnered with artist Theaster Gates on a forthcoming installation at Harold Washington Library Center to underscore the role books play in preserving knowledge.

BOOK SANCTUARY

CPL partnered with the American Library Association and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) to increase access and programming around challenged materials. Our Book Sanctuary initiative designates our 81 library branches as book sanctuaries, calling on other libraries and the general public to stand to protect banned books through increased access to challenged literature. Chicago is the first city to declare itself a book sanctuary, and other cities are joining the initiative and learning from our model, including Toronto. This initiative has been recognized by *Chicago Tribune*, *WBEZ*, and *Teen Vogue*.

81

CPL BRANCHES DESIGNATED
AS BOOK SANCTUARIES

1,400

BOOK SANCTUARIES ESTABLISHED
ACROSS 50 STATES

VOICES FOR JUSTICE

The Voices for Justice series engages authors, artists, thought leaders and other experts who spark conversation around the topic of social justice and represent the diversity of Chicago's communities. This program is in support of the City's Together We Heal initiative, launched by the Mayor's Office and the Office of Equity and Racial Justice, a campaign aimed at building racial healing across Chicago. The goals of the series are to empower all Chicagoans to engage in activities fostering connection, restoration and learning at this time of racial reckoning for both the city and the nation.

To date the program has seen over 80,000 views with speakers including Justice Sonya Sotomayor, Candace Parker and Pulitzer Prize winning author Margo Jefferson. [Click here](#) to view recordings of past events.



Voices for Justice author Julissa Arce.



Artist-in-residence, Alexandra Antoine.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

This year, CPL partnered with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events on our first Artist-in-Residence Program in Legler Regional Library. Alexandra Antoine's work acknowledges the influences of her Haitian culture and interest in portraiture, food, farming, and physical labor in traditional artistic practices of the African diaspora. During a two-year residency, she will develop public art projects and art programs to promote greater connectivity between the Library, its services, and the needs of the local community.



Teens in our YOUmedia space at Harold Washington Library Center.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

Chicago Public Library serves our next generation by helping them find their voice through our youth programs.

YOU MEDIA

You've heard of Chance the Rapper. You've heard of Noname. But did you know they were both alums of CPL's incredibly successful YOUmedia program, which began as a collaboration with the MacArthur Foundation and Chicago Public Library Foundation? The revolutionary youth program was incubated in Chicago and prototyped downtown at Harold Washington Library Center in 2009. It then expanded to libraries and museums all over the country.

YOUmedia is essentially a network of learning labs at CPL locations that provide Chicago youth with access to cutting edge technologies, along with space for collaboration, production, performance and exhibition. Teens engage in projects across a variety of core content areas, including graphic design, photography, video, music, 2D/3D design, STEM and hands-on making—both in person and online.

29

YOU MEDIA SPACES IN LIBRARY
BRANCHES ACROSS THE CITY

341

CHITEEN LIT FEST
ATTENDEES IN 2022

517

GAMERS GUILD
ATTENDEES TO DATE

5,900

TEENS ATTENDED
PROGRAMS IN 2021-2022

YOU MEDIA ALUM ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Today, many of the YOUmedia generation are emerging in local and national arts scenes as chamber musicians, poets and artists. Noname, the nationally renowned rapper and Bronzeville native who wrote and performed slam poetry at YOUmedia, has launched her own Noname Book Club, which hosts book clubs at the CPL Woodson location. Noname has also established 12 national chapters in public libraries as "online and IRL" communities to lift up POC voices.

Chicago native Chance the Rapper, who still proudly claims the title of "Mr. YOUmedia," is another alum who embodies CPL's values of equitable learning. In 2017, he donated \$1 million to Chicago Public Schools to help empower youth through arts education.



Exploring the VR world at the YOUmedia space in Harold Washington Library Center.

PROGRAMMING

CPL has many other powerful programs that boost academic achievement and student advancement, including our “Summer at CPL,” designed to help younger kids combat the summer slide by engaging them in millions of minutes of reading across Chicago. Our Teacher in the Library provides free tutoring, and our ChiTeen Lit Fest and the Chicago Teen Gamer’s Guild are other programs that have been developed with and by Chicago youth.

~20 mil

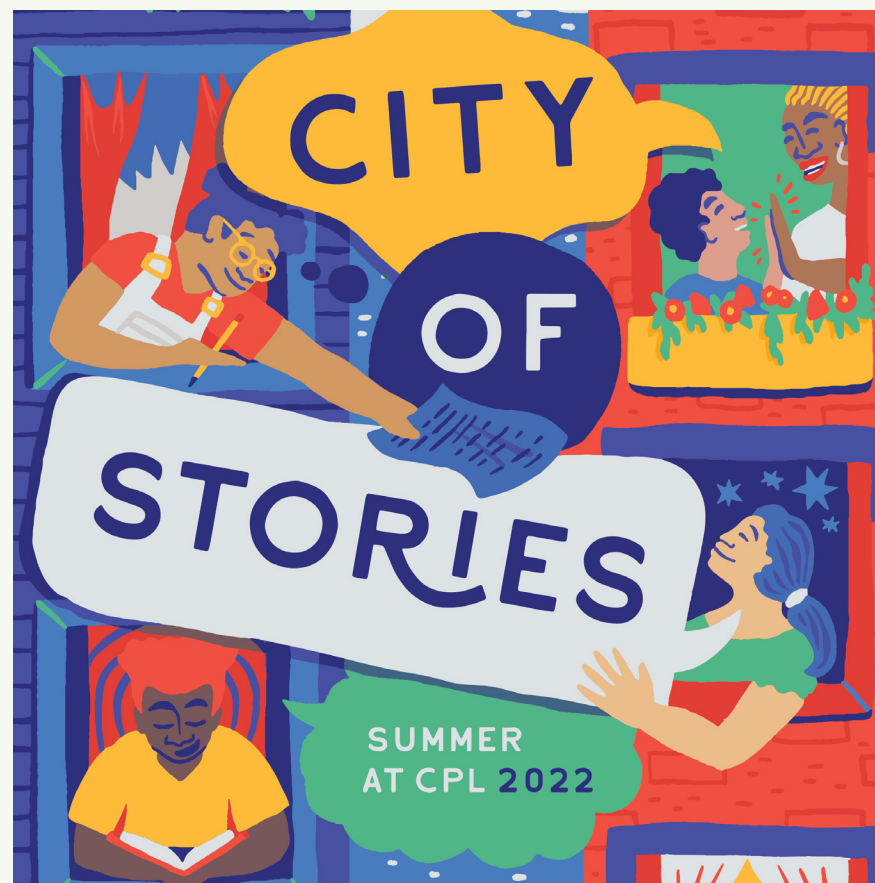
MINUTES OF READING THROUGH
SUMMER AT CPL PROGRAM

45%

INCREASE IN SUMMER
LEARNING CHALLENGE

14,500+

TEACHER IN THE LIBRARY
SESSIONS FROM 2021-2022



City of Stories Activity Guide cover.

“Storytime is the bread and butter of children’s librarianship and most kids’ first introduction to the library and its world of reading and exploration for the sheer joy of learning and hearing stories. Storytime kids grow up to become library kids, who become YOUmedia kids, who go to college and write their entrance essays about their time spent at the library.” CPL STAFF MEMBER

THE 81 CLUB

In October 2022, CPL launched a groundbreaking step forward in our commitment to bring unlimited digital resources and accessible after-school programming to the hands of 322,106 CPS students and 22,575 teachers in 635 schools. The 81 Club puts the power of CPL's 81 locations directly into the hands of students.

635

CPS SCHOOLS
INVOLVED

322,106

CPS STUDENTS WITH
OPENED UP ACCESS

22,575

CPS TEACHERS WITH IN-
CLASSROOM ACCESS



Technology tutors are available at CPL through the CyberNavigators program.

DIGITAL ACCESS + CYBERNAVIGATORS

As a member of the City's Digital Equity Council, CPL is playing a central role in providing digital access and skills that are essential for individuals to engage in the modern world. Today, every branch provides free public Wi-Fi and devices for all people of all ages. In fact, CPL is the largest free internet provider in the city. In partnership with the Foundation, CPL provides CyberNavigators who work one-on-one with Chicago populations of all ages to build skills that narrow the digital divide.

2,720

TOTAL COMPUTERS AT
CPL BRANCHES

3 mil

TOTAL WI-FI SESSIONS AT
CPL BRANCHES IN 2022

DEDICATED CHICAGOANS



CPL leads through its innovative, supportive and equity-driven staff. Many of these staffers were finalists of the Kathy Osterman Award, a program that honors Chicago metropolitan area public service employees for their superior performance and achievements.



JULIE KOSLOWSKY

Director of Teen Services

Julie started started CPL as a summer intern and CyberNavigator and grew into the role of Director of Teen Services where she received the Outstanding Innovator Kathy Osterman Award for her leadership on The 81 Club. She has also successfully opened 29 YOUmedia locations.



ERIC REYES

Equity Officer

Eric started at CPL as a YOUmedia mentor. His work on the forthcoming Equity Assessment is informed by significant community engagement and serves as the newly-established roadmap to guide CPL with clear direction and transparency.

“Teens will keep you on your toes. I’m constantly learning from them and trying to see the world through their eyes. It’s broadened my understanding and kept me grounded in what’s really important.”

“CPL has a great reputation in the community and a regular practice of listening to patrons to inform our programs and offerings. Because of this, we’re uniquely positioned to serve as a leader for equity work in Chicago.”



GREGORY DIAZ

District 4 Chief

Greg started as a library page and rose to District Chief where he inspires CPL staff through mentorship, onboarding and training. He supports new library staff as they join the library teams and leads district-wide, as well as neighborhood, library services.



EBONY JONES

Executive Assistant

Ebony supports the work of Library Board and Executive Team. She’s played a significant role in the launch of CPL’s strategy work and such programs as the Community Connections Fund.

“I was lucky to have engaged managers, peers and friends who guided and challenged me to grow. I want our CPL team to have that same opportunity, and to pass on their skills and perspectives to those that will inherit the system we build together.”

“In order to create connections and make an impact, we need to embrace any challenge, whether that is through supporting colleagues, being solution-oriented, or willing to learn new skills.”



LOOKING FORWARD

Celebrating Chicago Public Library's history
and planning for our future.

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS AT CPL

It is a rare moment in history when an organization is able to celebrate 150 years of providing learning, entertainment and opportunity to millions of people. We are thrilled to share that Chicago Public Library is spending all of 2023 commemorating this extraordinary milestone. The celebration, at its core, is a celebration of all of you—many of whom have been contributing to the library's success for years, even decades. See a few highlights below of the many ways we are celebrating CPL's 150th!

CPL 150 PODCAST WITH PRX

This 6 episode podcast with the award-winning producer of Ear Hustle launches in June.

CHICAGO POET LAUREATE

CPL, in collaboration with DCASE and the Poetry Foundation, is hosting the first Chicago Poet Laureate program. The poet laureate is announced in April 2023 at Poetry Fest.

CPL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY EXHIBITS

Utilizing CPL's archives and special collections, CPL provided grants for up to ten historically significant branches to research, curate and produce a special exhibit at their location to celebrate the history and legacy of their branch within their community.



LIBRARY LEGACY: VIVIAN HARSH

Chicago Public Library has long been at the forefront of lifting up the voices of those historically marginalized. In 1932, CPL opened the George Cleveland Hall Branch in a predominantly African American neighborhood. Its first Black branch director, Vivian G. Harsh, challenged CPL to be responsive to the range of racial, multicultural and socio-economic interests of its Bronzeville residents. Harsh and Charlemae Hill Rollins, the Hall Branch Children's Librarian, became national champions for acquiring and providing access to African American literature that was free of racial and ethnic distortion. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "The time is always right to do what is right."

This legacy lives on in the Vivian G. Harsh Archives, now located in the special collections of the Woodson Regional Library, housing the largest African American collection of literature, historical papers and correspondence in the Midwest.

TOP 150 BOOK LIST

CPL reveals the top picks for 150 books throughout our history with a series of specially-curated lists for children, teens and adults!

SECRETS OF CPL VIDEO SERIES

CPL's video series shows "behind the scenes" secrets from the Library that highlight how our drivers move books to the most interesting things in our archives.

CPL 150 EXHIBIT IN HWLC 9TH FLOOR GALLERY

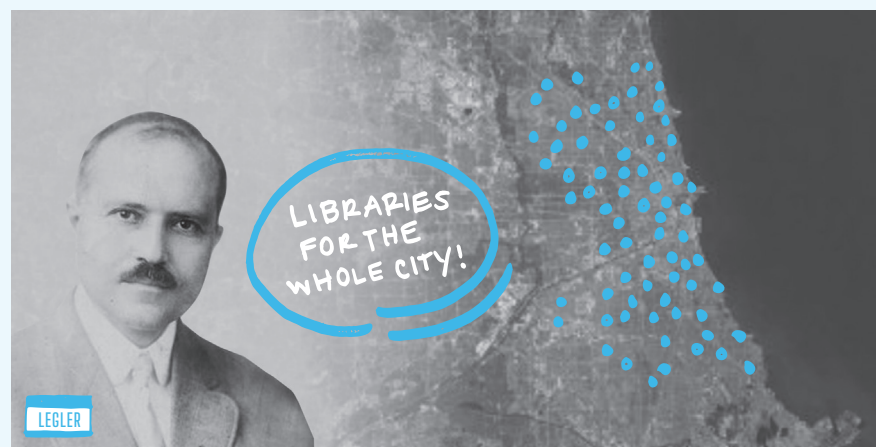
Drawing from CPL's archival collections, the exhibit presents 150 years of CPL history and celebrates the Library's service to Chicago through its extensive branch system.

CHITEEN STORIES

CPL's Teen Services Department presents a year-long celebration of storytelling with video and audio storytelling challenges. Drawing upon YOUmedia equipment such as cameras, audio recordings, and more, teens are training in storytelling. There are prizes for top submissions to challenges throughout the year—the project culminates at the end of Summer Reading.

PERMANENT ACCESS TO CHICAGO'S NEWSPAPERS

CPL acquires perpetual and complete access to two prominent Chicago newspapers, the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*, allowing Chicagoans access to two of the city's historically largest newspapers.



LIBRARY LEGACY: HENRY LEGLER

CPL's active role in advancing equitable opportunity for the city has historic roots. Henry Eduard Legler, the library's leader in the early 20th century, championed an aggressive expansion of library services with a "Library Plan for the Whole City." He created the first comprehensive branch library system in the nation, with the aim to bring "library service within the walking distance of home for every person in Chicago who can read or wants to use books."

CPL continues to build on Legler's walkable access model. Today, our far-reaching infrastructure gives every ward, neighborhood, business, worker, senior and family close access to critical resources for building their lives, exploring their potential and cultivating vital social connections.

CPL ON WINTRUST'S MURAL BUILDING

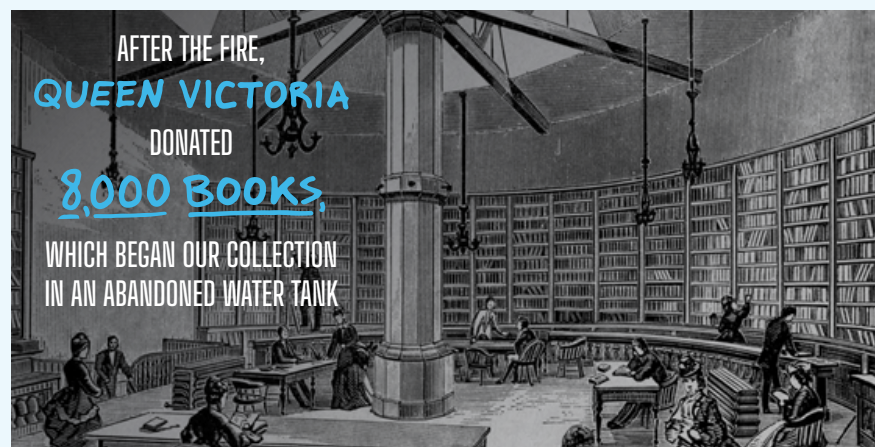
Local artist Nick Goettling designs the 150th Anniversary mural that is displayed on the Wintrust building from mid-May through the end of June. The unveiling includes the community, civic leaders and key Chicago Public Library Foundation donors.

AUTHORS IN THE LIBRARY SERIES

With support of the Chicago Public Library Foundation, CPL is using the popular mainstage author series to host and showcase some of the most impactful authors of today.

CITYWIDE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Join us for CPL's citywide birthday party at all 81 neighborhood locations. Each location will receive a cake, giveaways and the opportunity to host a performer such as a musician, band, storyteller and puppeteer. Every Chicagoan will be able to walk to the library in their neighborhood to take part in this celebration!



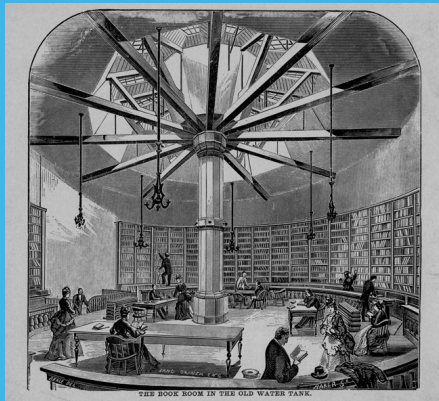
LIBRARY LEGACY: QUEEN VICTORIA

The library was born from the ashes of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Out of sympathy, distinguished British authors and Queen Victoria gathered 8,000 books from throughout Great Britain to donate them to Chicago. The gesture demonstrated a belief in the central role of books and learning to the civic community and subsequently for rebuilding our city. Given Chicago had few unscathed standing buildings, our first free library and reading room was housed in an abandoned water tank— also inaugurating CPL's legacy of innovation and resourcefulness. Opening just over a year after the fire—exactly 150 years ago—the library attracted so many Chicagoans that its doors remained open 13 hours a day, seven days a week.

Visit chipublib/150 to join the celebration!



CPL THROUGH THE YEARS



1873

The Water Tank housed the Library after the Great Fire.



1926

Young people's room at Legler Regional Library, opened in 1920.



1952

Charlemae Hill Rollins, Children's Librarian at Hall Branch.



1897

The Central Library, opened in 1897, is now the Cultural Center.



1944

The "Traveling Branch," CPL's Bookmobile.



1988

Groundbreaking for Harold Washington Library Center.

CHECK OUT THE
FULL VISUAL
TIMELINE >

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Powering Our Library Since 1986

As the Library's exclusive fundraising partner, the Chicago Public Library Foundation has worked with thousands of individuals, foundations and businesses to power above and beyond Library programming for nearly 40 years. Together, donors at every level have invested more than \$100 million to launch pioneering new programs and sustain community-responsive initiatives for Chicagoans of all ages, and in every neighborhood.

In 2022, our donor-powered community helped:

- **Close the Academic Opportunity Gap** with programs like Summer @ CPL; 1:1 Teacher in the Library homework help; and year-round hands-on learning activities for teens, tweens and the very youngest learners.
- **Activate Creativity and Connection** through workshops led by expert local makers and artists; safe and supportive YOUmedia teen learning labs; and intergenerational movie nights at Community Cinema screenings citywide.
- **Bridge the Digital Divide** with initiatives such as individualized technology tutoring through CyberNavigators and 24/7 online learning supports like LinkedIn Learning, Chicago DigitalLearn and Cell-Ed.
- **Celebrate the 22nd Library Foundation Awards**, which raises crucial support and awareness for our Library's work. In October 2022, we raised more than \$1.1 million in vital funding for Library programs. To enjoy the event broadcast and hear more from our honorees—playwright Tony Kushner, chef Rick Bayless and Chicago historian Sherman "Dilla" Thomas—and other special guests, tune in [here](#).



LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW DONORS POWER
OUR LIBRARY TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND >

LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

CPL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Johnson Rice | *President*

Christopher P. Valenti | *Vice President*

Lynn Lockwood | *Secretary*

Jodi Block

Michelle T. Boone

Barbara Bowman

Sandra Delgado

Dominique Jordan Turner

Ivy Walker



CPL leadership gathered at a staff retreat in September 2022.

CPL LEADERSHIP

Chris Brown | *Commissioner*

Mary Ellen Messner | *First Deputy Commissioner*

Teri Campbell | *Deputy Commissioner, Administration and Finance*

Maggie Clemons | *Deputy Commissioner, Library Operations and Patron Experience*

Desiree Abu-Odeh | *Senior Equity Officer*

Deanie Adams | *Director, Sulzer Regional*

Shannon Bourne | *Director of Library Programs and Events*

Michelle Carnes | *Division 1 Chief, Central Library, Specialized Services*

Shamil Clay | *Director of Marketing*

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Greg Diaz | *District 4 Chief, Central*

Shelley Hughes | *Director, Children's Services and Family Engagement*

Erema Jackson | *Director, Finance*

Shilo Jefferson | *Director, Legler Regional*

Julie Koslowsky | *Director of Teen Services*

Kate Lapinski | *Director of Adult Services*

Brent Lipinski | *District 5 Chief, Southwest*

Shenita Mack | *Division 2 Chief, Central Library | General Information Services*

Erin McKinnie | *Director, Central Library*

Patrick Molloy | *Director, Government and Public Affairs*

Renee Neumeier | *Director of Staff and Organization Development*

Mary Robinson | *Director, Human Resources*

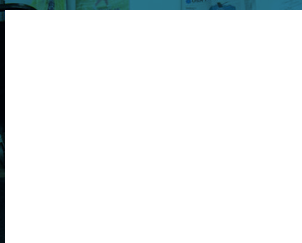
Greg Rodriguez | *District 1 Chief, North*

Nesha Saunders | *District 6 Chief, Southeast*

Veleda Simpson | *Director, Woodson Regional*

Nicole Steeves | *Director, Library Technology*

Stacie Williams | *Division Chief, Archives and Special Collections*



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