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**FIVE YEARS  
OF IMPACT,  
DISCOVERY,  
AND CARE.**



CHICAGO  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY





## Expanding our collections

Historic private funding for archival programs, development of community-responsive collections, and investment in branch-specific support underscore our commitment to offer diverse, impactful resources that inspire and serve all Chicagoans.

# \$2 million

## Honoring the largest collection of African American history in the Midwest

CPL and the Library Foundation received a historic \$2 million Mellon grant to digitize portions of the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, allowing us to make Black history more accessible by processing over 500 linear feet of materials.



## Innovative collections for every stage of life

We revised our annual Best of the Best event, providing readers across the city with librarian-approved favorites—the only booklist for Chicagoans, by Chicagoans.

# 25%

## Broadening access to rich, inspiring materials

Our collections budget has increased 25%, including a \$2.5 million boost in 2022.







CPL's Most Popular Books, 2020-2024





# Enriching community through creative programming

Our initiatives blend CPL's rich programmatic services with responsive engagement, igniting cultural vibrancy and community connection.

## 150 years

### Crossing historic thresholds

In 2023, CPL celebrated its 150th birthday with citywide, year-long celebrations across 81 branches serving every neighborhood.



### Fueling local innovation and community impact

We launched the Community Connections fund, empowering branches to provide innovative library programming and collections in direct response to community need, like the Library of Things at Uptown.



### Creative partnerships

We launched CPL's first Artist-in-Residence program at Legler Regional Library, a two-year program that provides studio space, supports the artist's unique talents, and promotes greater connectivity between the Library and community.







## Innovation in Programs



# 20 years

One Book, One Chicago, CPL's citywide reading program, celebrated its 20th anniversary and continues to reach tens of thousands of readers each year



# 107.5%

increase in Summer Reading participation from 2020-2024

# 500+

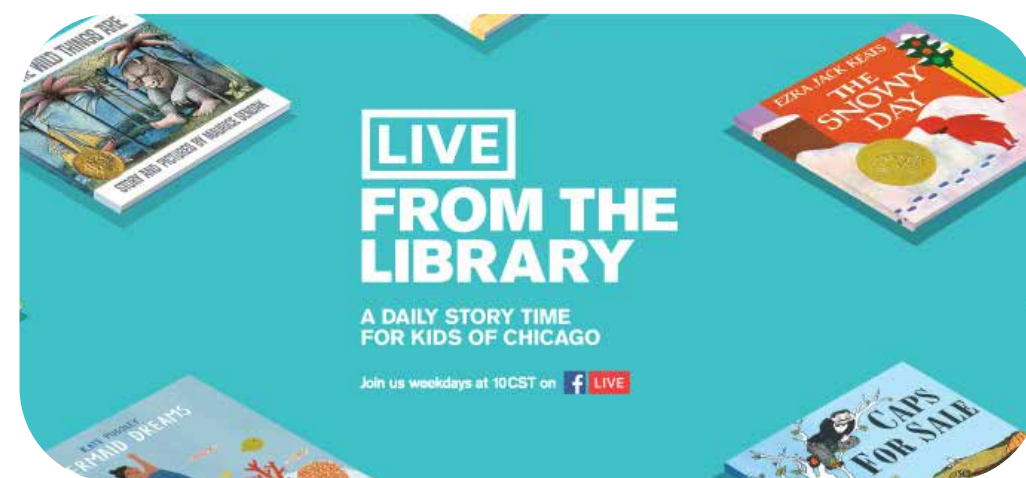
Chicago teens provided with paid internship opportunities since 2022

# 150

years of CPL's story told in the six-episode Library for the People podcast

# 22 million

views of Live from the Library, which was awarded the John Cotton Dana Award for library public relations, and was supported by the Library Foundation







## Deepening community ties

By pioneering inclusive access, expanding service hours, and integrating vital public health services, our branches ensure every resident feels welcomed and cared for.

# 16,000

**A welcoming experience for every patron**

Introduced Sunday hours, adding 16,000+ hours of library access annually.



**Community care and essential services**

A dynamic partnership with CDPH now brings Narcan, vending machines stocked with essentials, and on-site mental health clinicians to key locations.



# 50,000

**Removing barriers to access**

Launched the 81 Club, registering 50,000 cards to Chicago students—reaching communities of highest promise and English language learners.



# Building Welcoming Spaces

## Legler Regional

**\$11 million** invested in the renovation of **Legler Regional**, including a more extensive collection and **state-of-the-art technology**, STEM-focused children's facilities, and a **YOUmedia sound studio** for teens.

## Libraries + Housing

Little Italy, Northtown, and Independence branches were opened as **new libraries paired with affordable housing** across the city. These branches have become **international examples** of successful co-location of mixed-use, public benefit buildings.

## Harold Washington Library

More than **400 VOIP phones** and **85.5 miles of cable** in the central library were updated to **fully modernize telecommunications infrastructure**, the first building-wide renovation project touching every HWLC staff member in three decades.

## Altgeld Branch

Opened the **new Altgeld Branch**. The 14,000 sf branch is **co-located with a childcare center** and **community meeting space** in the Altgeld Gardens public housing development on Chicago's Far South Side.

## CARE Initiative

In addition to **10 other branch renovations**, the CARE initiative resulted in **33 branch refresh projects** of new lighting, painting, furniture, and carpet.

## Capital Improvements

Embarking on a **\$500k capital strategy** with the Department of Planning and Development alongside **significant investments** in the Coleman, Back of the Yards, and Galewood branches.



# CPL Equity Statement

Chicago Public Library **explicitly and formally commits itself to being a more racially equitable system** through the adoption of our Equity Policy and the establishment of our Equity Office.

Our Equity Policy is to uphold our mission by **advancing equity as an outcome and a process** that results in fair and just access to opportunity and resources that provide everyone the ability to thrive.



We acknowledge and affirm the lived experiences of Chicago residents and CPL staff who have been marginalized, exploited, and otherwise oppressed.

CPL commits to the work necessary to advance racial and social equity in our library and city.

Through our commitment to equity, Chicago Public Library affirms our commitment to intellectual freedom and the freedom to read.







THANK YOU