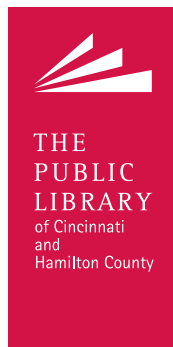




HIGHLIGHTS 2018



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May 2018*



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Trauth
*Term expired
Sept. 30, 2018*

In 2018, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Loaned 19,953,082 items.

Welcomed 438,558 people to events and programs.

Drew 5,552,424 visits to locations across the county:

Provided 3,114,423 computer and Wi-Fi sessions.

Had 63,072 check-ins in the Summer Adventure Program.

A year of success and change



Paula Brehm-Heeger

The Eva Jane Romaine
Coombe Director



The year 2018 was full of successes and changes for our Library! On June 30, Kimber L. Fender retired from her post as the Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Library after more than 30 years of service to our system. On Oct. 11, following a national search, the Library Board of Trustees officially named me as the next Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Library Director for our Library. I can't express how honored I am by this opportunity!

My first six months in the job have been both exciting and challenging. For the sixth consecutive year we were recognized as a Five-Star Library by *Library Journal*. We were one of only five libraries nationwide in the \$30+ million expenditure category to receive this rating. The Public Library Data Service (PLDS) Statistical Report shows our Library was third in total circulation in the United States, behind only New York Public and King County libraries. And last spring, our community voted to approve a new 1-mill levy to pay for improvements to our buildings.

That new funding comes none too soon. A portion of the ceiling fell in this past summer at our Price Hill Branch Library and that building remains closed in the interest of safety. We are offering Library service out of the Cincinnati Recreation Commission site in Price Hill. We held a staff meeting, two public open houses, and two public forums to gather community input to plan for improved Library space, services, and resources at Price Hill. More than 100 people took part in those events.

We also began gathering feedback as we re-envision space at the Main Library to serve customers better. We renovated floors and restrooms at the Main Library. Then we held community engagement sessions to gather feedback. 536 participants came to the Main Library community event, and there were just over 100 attendees at the staff meeting.

We closed the Walnut Hills Branch Library for several weeks in August due to the discovery of mold in the basement. The problem was remediated and the branch was reopened in September. We purchased a new distribution center in the West End. This building will improve the Library's efficiency and safety.

Our Library is nationally recognized for our innovative and excellent services. I intend to work with and lead our staff and community to ensure we remain an essential piece of our community's success and an invaluable asset for each individual we serve.

Major facilities and equipment upgrades



The Library hired Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc. to help establish guiding planning principles, which will be used to create a framework for our facilities planning needs. Community engagement meetings with Library leadership were held for staff and the public to comment and ask questions.



The Library contracted with the Cincinnati-based firm FTC&H to complete a preliminary design comparing the option to renovate the current Price Hill facility with an addition or to replace the building.



The Walnut Hills Branch Library was closed temporarily in August as a result of the discovery of mold in one section of the basement level of the branch. The remediation work was completed and the branch reopened in September.

The Atrium floor and public bathrooms in the Main Library south building were renovated. The tiles that replaced the brick are easier to maintain and quieter. The restrooms were reconfigured to implement Cincinnati Police Department safety recommendations and to rework the plumbing.

The Library closed on the purchase of the new distribution center at 1130 Findlay St. in the West End.

We partnered with the Carnegie Center of Columbia Tusculum to purchase a laptop kiosk for the Carnegie Center. This purchase was made possible by a Library Services and Technology Act grant.

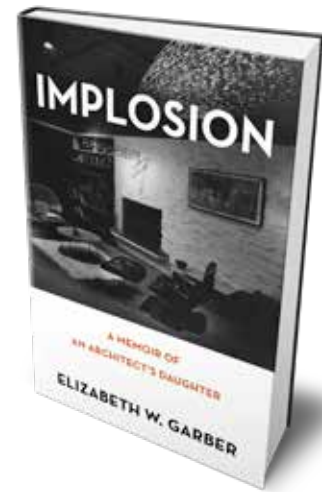


Three laptop dispensers were installed in the TechCenter at the Main Library, Pleasant Ridge, and North Central branch libraries.

The Children's Library created a Children's Technology Center complete with 10 public PCs. A second Krayon Kiosk housing iPads was added, as well as a new storytime theater and a baby zone.

A 24-bay locker for Library holds from Bibliotheca was installed near the Vine Street entrance at the Main Library.

Events and Services



Author Visits

The Library Author Series, made possible by the Friends of the Public Library, presented an evening with international best-selling author Neil Gaiman in March and Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning historian Ron Chernow in October. Both events were held at the Aronoff Center.

Author-illustrator Gene Luen Yang visited the Main Library during Children's Book Week in May.

Elizabeth Garber, daughter of the Main Library South Building architect Woodie Garber, spoke about her memoir in June at the Main Library.

Original *Pete the Cat* author Eric Litwin visited the Groesbeck and Symmes Township branches in October.

Aisha Saheed, author of *Written in the Stars*, visited during Teen Read Week in October.

Seymour Stein, a legend in the music business with ties to King Records, came to the Main Library in December.

New Services

A 16-session Pop-Up Preschool was provided by the Library in collaboration with the YMCA at the Deer Park Branch Library in April. It was so successful that a second session was offered in October, and the program was expanded to the St. Bernard Branch Library.

The Library participated in the first statewide celebration of In-Demand Jobs Week in May by offering a series of events and promotions, including a Higher Education Fair at the Delhi Township Branch Library and career development workshops in Norwood, Monfort Heights, and Mt. Washington.



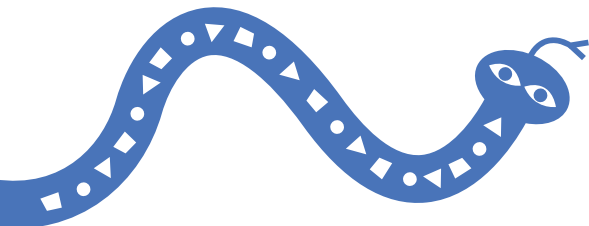
A monthly Memory Café began in June at the Harrison Branch Library to provide a welcoming space for individuals with Alzheimer’s or dementia and their care partners. It was presented in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association. Memory Café expanded to the Blue Ash and Greenhills branch libraries in October and gained an additional partner, the Episcopal Retirement Services.

The Library partnered with Great Parks of Hamilton County to loan motor vehicle permits to Hamilton County’s 21 parks and nature preserves free of charge. The pilot program, called Discovery Pass, then expanded to allow cardholders to reserve free passes to the American Sign Museum, the Betts House, the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, and the Taft Museum of Art.

The Library began to offer the ability to automatically renew eligible items up to eight additional times. This new feature was in addition to the courtesy renewal to customers for the first loan period.



Discovery Pass



Staff Walking in The Opening Day Parade



Summer Adventure

Summer Adventure had 34,731 customers register from June 1–July 31, a 12 percent increase over 2017. In addition, 63,072 people checked in every week, an increase of 97 percent over 2017.

Through partnerships with United Methodist Church Food Ministry and Mt. Healthy City Schools, the Library served 18,248 summer meals and snacks in June and July.

Ninety mini-Brain Camps were attended by 1,401 children and 2,165 children and teens participated in 29 weeklong Brain Camps at the Main Library and the Library's branches.

Summer Reading Tutoring provided the opportunity for children at 10 branches to receive weekly one-on-one tutoring sessions with an educator.

Library Day at the Cincinnati Reds was held in August. The first 10,000 people through the gates received a pair of sunglasses branded for the Library and the Reds. Staff from the Main Library MakerSpace had a booth in the fan zone.



Government Relations

The Library hosted a lunch for the Hamilton County delegation of the Ohio General Assembly in April in conjunction with the Ohio Library Council (OLC) Legislative Day in Columbus. Each of the 10 legislators were given a wood cutout of Ohio made using equipment in the Main Library's MakerSpace.

Government Relations Coordinator Elaine Fay and Chief Development Officer Staci Dennison attended the American Library Association's National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. in May.

Many legislators visited the Library during 2018. Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted visited the Main Library. Rep. Catherine Ingram visited College Hill, West End, Westwood, and the Children's Learning Center at the Main Library. Rep. Brigid Kelly joined Brain Camp at Norwood and Rep. Bill Seitz visited Covedale's Summer Meals program. Rep. Louis Blessing, III, Rep. Jonathan Dever, and Sen. Steve Wilson attended Storytime programs at the Groesbeck, Blue Ash, and Symmes Township branch libraries.



A donation of \$10,000 from former Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Library Kimber L. Fender led to the purchase of five sets of 31 Sprout Backpacks for early childhood literacy. They are available at the Avondale, Forest Park, Groesbeck, and Walnut Hills branch libraries, and at the Children's Learning Center at the Main Library.

Mary S. Stern gave \$1 million to the Library Foundation to create an annual lecture series.



The Library Foundation advocated for the passage of the Library's levy Issue 3 by donating \$35,980 to Citizens for Your Library's Future.

The 2018 Writer-in-Residence, Emma Carlson Berne, held a series of workshops on writing and publishing this year. She also authored a blog, hosted a podcast, and held open office hours to offer free advice to aspiring writers. The Writer-in-Residence program is funded through the generous sponsorship of the Library Foundation and Naomi Tucker Gerwin.

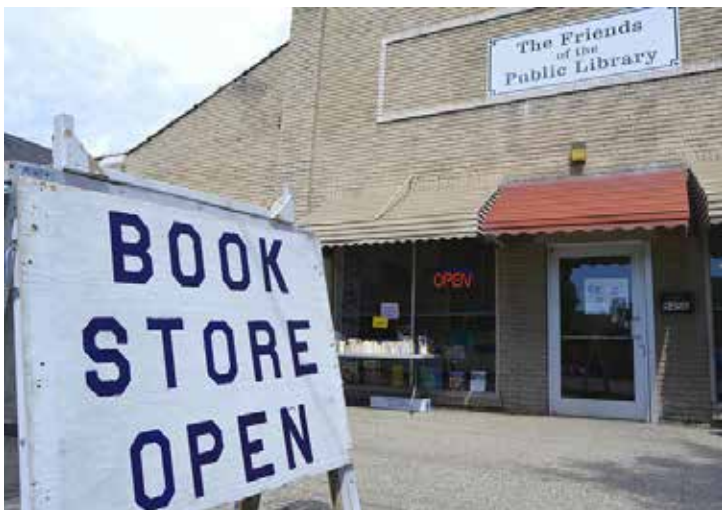
The Library Foundation

The Library Foundation received a \$25,000 early childhood literacy grant from Duke Energy.

The Library Foundation contributed \$40,000 to the Library to fund the highly successful Summer Adventure program. The money is one of the first significant distributions from the Foundation's unrestricted endowment.



Friends & ATLA



Friends of the Public Library

With extensive planning, the annual June Book Sale was moved to the Friends' Used Book Store at the warehouse in Hartwell. More than 4,300 people shopped and sales improved over 2017. Friends' book sale revenue in 2018 exceeded \$327,100.

Membership topped out at 2,267 people during 2018.

The Friends of the Public Library were proud to underwrite the appearances of authors Neil Gaiman and Ron Chernow.

During 2018, the Friends of the Library advocated for the passage of the Library's levy Issue 3 by donating \$35,000 to Citizens for Your Library's Future.



The Anderson Township Library

Association (ATLA)

ATLA began a partnership with a Columbus firm to help sell books online.

ATLA provided many unsold books to an elementary school in North Carolina that was impacted by Hurricane Florence.

ATLA's Annual Sale held in June grossed \$32,786, approximately \$3,000 more than 2017.

ATLA'S Holiday Nearly New and Used Book Sale grossed \$9,148.





Staff

Staff Development Days were held at the Community Action Agency in May.

Writer-director Emilio Estevez held a special screening of his movie *the public* at the Esquire Theatre in Clifton for staff.

The new Rufus internal blog debuted. This blog is used to share Library news stories, board updates, training class reminders, and more.

Robin LaRue, a Library Services Assistant at the Loveland Branch, won the Bunny Dehner Impact Award at the annual Staff Recognition Event. Eric Noble, a security guard at the Main Library, won the Rookie of the Year award.

Results from the 2018-19 United in Sharing Campaign for The Library Foundation were \$9,548 for United Way and \$3,961 for Community Shares. The Library increased staff participation by 29 percent and 21.3 percent, respectively.

There were several major changes in alignment of divisions:

- Programming and Exhibits, Education and Homework Support, and Customer Experience will join the Strategy Division.
- Technical and technology-based services will align under a new Chief Technology and Logistics Officer.
- Four Regional Managers will report to a new Chief Operating Officer.
- The Chief Library Experience Officer position will be eliminated under the new structure.
- The Children's Learning Center and the TeenSpot at the Main Library merged into one Youth Service Department with one manager. Likewise, the Circulation Department and the Popular Library also merged into one department with one manager.

Rufus Award Winners

Cooperation & Teamwork

Cathy Etterling | LSA, Wyoming Branch Library
Joe Hauer | Maintenance Mechanic, Maintenance Services
Ned Heeger-Brehm | Branch Manager, Groesbeck Branch Library
Maggi Jackson | Teen Librarian, Reading Branch Library
William McAfee | Senior LSA TechCenter/MakerSpace.

Customer Service

Natalie Fields | Branch Manager, Deer Park Branch Library
Michael Callahan | LSA, Corryville Branch Library
Benjamin Wienburg | Senior LSA, Corryville Branch Library
Nat Kutcher | Senior LSA, Corryville Branch Library

Stewardship

Elisa Gallon | Children's Librarian,
Price Hill Branch Library.

Job Knowledge

Corinne Napier | Senior LSA, Harrison Branch Library
Cara Williams | Teen Librarian, Cheviot Branch Library.

Leadership

Elaine Fay | Community and Government Relations
Coordinator, Strategy Department.

Growth and Innovation

Mary Jo Berry | LSA, Wyoming Branch Library
Robin LaRue | LSA, Loveland Branch Library
Johanna Poortman | LSA, Symmes Township Branch Library
Lisa Soper | Youth Services and Programming Coordinator,
Programming Department
Chris Voynovich | Conservation Assistant, Conservation
Services.

Team Awards

Delhi Township Branch Library
Northside Branch Library

Staff retirements

Elizabeth Cline | Information & Reference Department
Arlie Connaughton | Madeira Branch Library
Ted Ellington | Custodial Services Department
Kim Fender | Director's Office
Beth Finn | Pleasant Ridge Branch Library
Lynn Goose | Pleasant Ridge Branch Library
Victoria Norman | Information & Reference Department
Sharon Sentney | Loveland Branch Library
Angela Smith | Avondale Branch Library
Gary Stiemetz | West End Branch Library
Bethany Thomas | TechCenter/MakerSpace
Karen Williams | Forest Park Branch Library





THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

Main Library
800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2009
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

ON THE COVER



Photographer Michael Wilson

They Knew Not My Name, and I Knew Not Their Faces

These pictures were taken between July 2016 and June 2018 in various locations throughout Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The photographs were made in a portable studio. With the exception of the earliest pictures in the series, the studio was set up outside of various branch locations of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

The portrait encounters were unannounced and unscheduled. This exhibit was on display at the Main Library Sept. 7 through Dec.31, 2018.