

New York City Council: Committee on Cultural Affairs and Libraries

"FY2014 Preliminary Budget"

Friday, March 8, 2013, 10AM – 250 Broadway, 14th Floor

Testimony by Kate D. Levin, Commissioner

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

Good morning. I am Kate Levin, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA), and I am here today to testify with regard to the Mayor's FY 2014 Preliminary Budget. With me today are...

First, let me discuss our expense budget outlook. DCLA's FY 2013 Adopted budget was \$155.6 million, which included a \$46 million restoration, \$3.9 million in one time member items and \$5.1 million for the Cultural After School Adventures program (CASA). At the time of FY 2013 Adoption, our baseline budget for FY 2014 was \$100.2 million.

While the City's economy continues to show signs of recovery, budget gaps remain in the out years, due to projected increases in non-controllable expenditures and the City's increasing share of non-Federal education costs. In order to address these gaps, in September, the Mayor asked agencies to forecast 5.4% reductions to their current year budgets.

For DCLA, this equals an \$8.45 million reduction, which decreases the FY13 budget to \$147.2 million. However, as part of the January Plan, \$2.4 million of this cut was restored, and with the addition of Member Items and other adjustments, DCLA's FY13 budget currently stands at \$150.1 million.

Looking ahead to FY14, the Mayor's Preliminary Budget forecasts an 8% reduction to agency baseline budgets. For DCA, this is an \$8.1 million reduction that brings our FY14 baseline from \$100.2 million to \$92.1 million. Remember that these are baseline figures, exclusive of any restorations, initiatives or City Council member items.

- According to the forecast for FY14, Program groups would receive \$14.1 million in FY14. This is a reduction of \$1.3 million from the previous FY14 base of \$15.4 million.
- According to the forecast for FY14, CIGs would receive \$73.0 million. This is a reduction of \$6.8 million from the previous FY14 base of \$79.8 million.

We have structured the reductions for the field in a way that we believe is most responsible and consistent with past practice. For Program groups we considered several options but have proposed an across-the-board reduction. We believe this is the most responsible approach given the number of organizations that receive funding, the variety of their programs, the varying size of CDF allocations, and the wide range in our constituents' overall operating budgets.

For the CIGs, after reviewing a variety of scenarios we have made the decision to apply the reductions across-the-board for FY14. As you will recall, the FY14 budget contains baseline reductions from previous years, including the FY10 cuts, which were implemented across two tiers. The tiers provided relief to the smaller institutions, whose sources of funding tend to be less diversified, by reducing the operating subsidies of the 8 largest

institutions by a higher percentage cut. Implementing the current reductions across-the-board ensures that we preserve the two tiers that are built into the out year budget.

There is a significant difference between the FY13 Adopted budget and the FY14 baseline. This is a result of the budgeting process for DCA and a number of other agencies. While reductions are implemented against the agency baseline budget, and therefore affect all out years, money that is restored as part of the Adoption process is registered for the current fiscal year only. We are engaged in an ongoing dialogue around this issue and continue to seek a viable solution to addressing the severe disparity between baseline and adopted budget.

City support is one part of the larger funding mix for non-profit cultural organizations that includes other government sources as well as corporate, foundation and individual giving. These funding sources have been unstable over the past few years due to global economic uncertainties. Looking at Cultural Data Project information as well as the most recent quarterly reports from the Cultural Institution Groups, we can report very broadly on key trends. Board and individual giving are generally higher, as is earned income. Foundation funding is mixed. In many cases this is due to the effect of multi-year smoothing rules that provided higher support during the worst of the recession that began in 2008, but have since adjusted spending downward even as the financial markets have started to recover. Corporate funding remains down, but does seem to be inching up in some cases. For those organizations with endowments, their value has increased, although we don't yet have clarity about whether values have generally equaled pre-2008 levels.

Despite these fluctuations, non-profit managers have continued to demonstrate creative and resilient leadership. One benchmark of the appeal of cultural programming is in NYC & Company's tourism statistics. In 2012, this City once again achieved a new record, attracting 52 million visitors, almost half of whom said that culture was a key reason for their decision to come to New York.

I'd now like to turn to DCA's capital budget. Thanks to our partnership with you and the Borough Presidents, the Agency is advancing essential infrastructure improvements, facility upgrades and capital equipment purchases at numerous organizations throughout the five boroughs. At this time no cuts have been proposed for the agency's capital budget. Over the next four years DCA will provide \$685 million for more than 400 projects at 198 organizations, including design, construction and equipment purchases.

Last fall, we were pleased to open the new BAM Fisher Theater and the renovated Public Theater. Early next month, we will join Chairman Van Bramer at a groundbreaking for SculptureCenter and later this year we will cut the ribbon on an expanded Queens Museum of Art. We will also continue construction on several projects including a new leopard exhibit at the Staten Island Zoo, a renovated facility for Mind-Builders in the Bronx, and, in Downtown Brooklyn, renovated homes for BRIC and UrbanGlass, and a new building for Theatre for a New Audience. Recent equipment projects include a new performance tent, lighting and sound systems for Big Apple Circus and a new piano for Pregones Theater.

In addition, I am pleased to report that the agency is continuing its successful track-record of implementing "green" capital projects on City-owned property in conjunction with PlaNYC, the City's roadmap to reducing carbon emissions by 30% by 2017. To date, \$43 million of PlaNYC Energy Efficiency Retrofit funding has been allocated

for projects including HVAC upgrades, lighting retrofits, occupancy sensors, and cooling towers at 22 members of the CIG. The agency also continues to lead in Local Law 86/green building efforts ensuring that applicable capital projects follow the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and reduce energy and water use beyond that required by the New York City Building Code. Approximately 30% of the City's LL86 projects and 14% of the total costs have been attributed to DCA projects.

The agency will continue to support thousands of core programs, operations and capital projects at hundreds of cultural organizations across the five boroughs. Through our regrant program, administered by local arts councils in every borough, we continue to provide support at the grassroots level to hundreds more organizations and artists. Despite the economic challenges, we are committed to working in every way that we can to support the field during these difficult times. For example:

- The FY14 Cultural Development Fund process is underway. This year, we held 12 applications seminars throughout the five boroughs, which were attended by 382 representatives from cultural organizations. Between the announcement of the application timetable in December and the February deadline, we also fielded 480 calls from applicants on our Application Help Line. The panels we convene to review applications will begin later this month, and from now through June we anticipate conducting 21 panel sessions. In addition to the 702 organizations that submitted an FY14 application online, another 351 groups have commitments for FY14 as a result of their multi-year grant cycle. Together, the total number of organizations participating is on par with last year.
- Materials for the Arts continues to support cultural organizations and public schools by providing free materials for their programming needs. For example, since July 1st, MFTA has distributed donated materials to 938 nonprofit organizations and 528 public schools including furniture, filing cabinets, fabric and frames, poster board, pens, and props, and 8,000 pounds of brand new crayons. Over the past year, MFTA has expanded the variety of classes, workshops and public events available to teachers, school groups and member organizations. This includes a newly developed teacher training program to support the DOE's implementation of New York State Common Core learning standards. We are also working in partnership with the Department of Sanitation to update the *Reduce Reuse Recycle* curriculum manual, which is distributed to all 1,700 of the City's public schools. To compliment the updated manual, the Sanitation Department has sponsored teacher workshops at the MFTA warehouse. Since the partnership began in September, 14 schools have visited the warehouse and educators from more than 20 schools have received training during six teacher workshops.
- This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Percent for Art program, which allocates one percent of the budget of eligible City capital projects for the commission and installation of a permanent work of public art. Nearly 300 projects have been completed since 1983, and we have increased the entire portfolio by 30% over the past 10 years. To commemorate this milestone, the agency is launching several online resources to help the public engage with the City's collection. These include a Percent for Art Tumblr blog (percentforartnyc.tumblr.com); a new mobile-friendly Percent for Art website, accessible on all Smartphones; and incorporating Percent projects on the social media platform Foursquare.

I would now like to bring your attention to several other ways the agency is working to support the field.

- As you may recall, Seniors Partnering with Artists Citywide (SPARC) is an initiative developed by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Department for the Aging that places artists in senior centers across the five boroughs. The program began in 2009 as a pilot with 12 artists and 9 centers, expanded last year to 50 artist residencies at 45 senior centers citywide through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and continues this year with 50 artist residencies at 48 senior centers thanks to funding from the Department for the Aging. In addition to providing seniors with interactive arts activities, resident artists produce public programs at their centers that are open to all New Yorkers in the spring. Feedback has been extraordinarily positive thus far. We have encouraged the artists to inform the Council of public events taking place in districts throughout the five boroughs and look forward to working with you to find ways to continue the program next year.
- DCA continues its partnership with NYC & Company in which events featured on the NYCulture Calendar are also posted on NYC & Company's Culture Calendar on nycgo.com. Events submitted to the NYCulture Calendar are also shared with NYC.gov and the City's 311 call centers. The DCA calendar has featured more than 25,000 events from across the five boroughs and is searchable by categories including artistic discipline, "kid-friendly" and "free". Our goal remains to help visitors and residents understand the breadth and depth of New York City's cultural offerings, and to offer another resource to cultural organizations seeking to build audiences. We urge all of your cultural constituents to submit their events to the Calendar at nyc.gov/nyculture.

Finally, I'd like to remind you that April is National Poetry Month, and April 18th is Poem In Your Pocket day, a citywide celebration of literacy and poetry. As always, the day will feature numerous spoken word and poetry programs across the five boroughs. Mayor Bloomberg will host the 4th annual "poetweet" contest from April 1-8, and winning tweets will be published in *Metro* on Poem in Your Pocket day. I encourage all of you to carry a poem and share it with your colleagues, friends, families and Twitter followers. Visit nyc.gov/poem for poetry events and more information about this annual celebration.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Van Bramer, Committee members, and all your colleagues on the City Council for your continued support. As we work through challenging fiscal times, your partnership has never been more crucial. I'd be happy to answer any questions that you have.

FTR

**TESTIMONY
to the New York City Council
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup
Relations**

By

**Virginia Louloudes
Executive Director, the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York
(A.R.T./New York)**

March 8, 2013

Good afternoon. My name is Ginny Louloudes, and I am the Executive Director of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York (A.R.T. /New York), the leadership and advocacy organization for New York City's 340 non-profit theatres. I want to thank Chairman Van Bramer and the members and staff of this Committee, for today's hearing on funding for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA).

First of all, I want to thank Chairman Van Bramer for your remarks on the City Council Hearing on the Mayor's proposed FY 14 budget. As someone who has spoken before this group for two decades, I appreciate your request that the administration baseline DCLA funding to include the City Council's previous restorations. Your request is truly significant, because as you well know, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs is the largest funder of the arts in the United States. Their budget is larger than the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The strength of the DCLA budget is directly related to the success of A.R.T./New York members, particularly our small and mid-sized companies. These companies are the R & D of our industry, and nurtured artists such as Tony Award-winner John Lloyd Young (Jersey Boys) who worked at *Target Margin Theatre* – a tenant in our Brooklyn offices!

As we discussed at your hearing on Hurricane Sandy and its impact on New York City's cultural organizations, I come to you knowing that this budget season promises a unique sets of challenges and hard choices. Sandy devastated so much of the City, and neighborhoods like the Rockaways, Breezy Point, Belle Harbor, Coney Island, and Staten Island are still feeling the impacts acutely. In addition to the added costs of rebuilding, New York City is struggling with upcoming budget deficits in Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016. I'd like to start off by saying that I do not envy the difficult path that lies ahead, and thank you for your careful consideration each year.

But for Fiscal Year 2014, I'm here to ask that you consider a full restoration to the adopted budget from FY13: \$156.3 million. This year has been particularly difficult for our member theatres:

- **A.R.T./New York's survey regarding losses due to Hurricane Sandy indicated that the field lost at least \$818,000. As I testified to you on**

February 29th, several theatres were without power when we surveyed our members, so it is safe to say that losses to New York City's nonprofit theatres exceeded \$1 million.

- The confluence of Hurricane Sandy, the Presidential and Congressional elections, and concerns about the fiscal cliff caused drops in donors from individuals (the one potential growth area for most of our theatres given the economy).**
- The New York State Council on the Arts has re-appropriated its entire \$34 million grants budget into FY 14. This has yet to be communicated fully to the field; and members are patiently awaiting their contracts and checks. A.R.T./New York has learned that this money will take 6-8 weeks to process once the State's FY 14 budget is negotiated.**
- Corporate contributions to the field, particularly to small and mid-sized companies have not returned to pre-2008 levels, while fixed costs (rent, utilities and health insurance) continue to rise.**
- The federal sequester will mean cuts of about \$7 million each for the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities, \$12 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and \$22 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.**

As budgets are cut nationally, there is a dangerous trickle-down effect at the State and City levels. Social programs, the arts, and health care are being hit especially hard, with the justification that the support and services from the non-profit sector will fill in the gaps where the government funding leaves off. As demand for the services of non-profits grows, our capacities remain the same. So, we look to the for-profit sector for help and find ourselves discouraged. We know all too well that the private sector will not be able to fill the gaps. And so theatres may be forced to close. And sadly, some of the ones most "at risk" are deeply involved with their communities and provide services to students and seniors.

I know I am “preaching to the choir,” but our members are in schools, senior centers, and mentoring at-risk youth. Studies have shown that children with an arts education are at least three times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, elected to class office within their schools, participate in a math and science fair, win an award for school attendance and win an award for writing an essay or poem. The education programs that exist at our members theatres – like **Waterwell, vibe, and the 52nd Street Project** - are crucial to the complete education of today’s New York City students, as many schools now go without.

The arts are job creators and fuel for the economic engine of New York City. Right now, non-profit arts and culture organizations employ 5.7 million people nationwide, and jobs in the arts are expected to rise 16% through 2016, which is faster than most fields. In New York City alone, we employ custodians, administrators, directors, actors, technicians, engineers, visual artists, public relations specialists, fund raisers, and accountants. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Go to the Fourth Street Arts Block, and you will see several theatres: from **Downtown Art to New York Theatre Workshop**; from **LaMama** to **Teatro Ciruclo**, and **I.A.T.I.** You will also see several restaurants, a Food-Co-op, jewelry and clothing shops, and apartments housing residents of all ages and races. The moment Ellen Stewart planted **LaMama** like a tree on East Fourth Street in the 1970’s, she ensured that the street would become a vital hub for artists and their audiences. Bring the arts, and commerce follows.

This week, as I prepared my testimony, I found myself reading ***Creative Placemaking***, which was written for The Mayor’s Institute on City Design, a leadership initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the United States Conference on Mayors and American Architectural Foundation. I stumbled on a passage, and it resonated with me so deeply that I must share it with you now:

Few economic sectors are as large, diverse, entrepreneurial, and export-generating as the American arts and cultural enterprise writ large. Whether approached as industries (what cultural forms make), occupations (what cultural workers do), or a set of organizations

(producing arms, non-profit, public agencies and community groups), the arts and cultural sector is the nation's most competitive sector. Many nations are challenging American science and engineering prowess, but few successfully do so in visual arts, a diverse music portfolio, digital media, design, and writing, from literature to screenplays and news. In addition to its impressive export earnings, it is the creative sector that most cultivates and disseminates what it is to be American to the rest of the world¹

Take that in: we are entrepreneurial. We are export generating. We are job creators, business owners, innovators, and forward thinking. We disseminate what it means to be American. It's funny how such simple knowledge – an indisputable fact– can at once be so huge, and make you feel so very small. Thank goodness we can do this. Thank goodness we have the support of a Council that understands our intrinsic, economic, and global value. I urge you to continue to show your support, now, in the coming months, and in the upcoming challenging years. The City will do doubt be better for it; we will no doubt be better for it.

Thank you.

¹ *Creative Placemaking*, which was written for The Mayor's Institute on City Design, a leadership initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the United States Conference on Mayors and American Architectural Foundation, in 2010. (1)Creative Placemaking, by Ann Markusen and Anne Gadwa, National Endowment for the Arts. Copyright Markusen Economic Research Services and Metris Arts Consulting, 2010.



New York
Public
Library



**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL
INTERGROUP RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES
HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET
MARCH 8, 2013
JOINT TESTIMONY OF BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY,
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY AND QUEENS LIBRARY**

Introduction

Good morning. I am Linda E. Johnson, President & CEO of Brooklyn Public Library (BPL). Joining me are the Presidents of New York Public Library (NYPL) and Queens Library (QL), Anthony Marx and Tom Galante, respectively. Thank you to Speaker Christine Quinn, Council Members Domenic Recchia, Jimmy Van Bramer and Vincent Gentile, as well as the entire City Council for their strong support for New York City libraries. Today we will talk about the collective impacts of budget cuts on all three New York City library systems and also about how much more we could all accomplish if our libraries were fully funded.

As many of you are aware, in January, the Center for an Urban Future (CUF) released a report titled *Branches of Opportunity*, describing the crucial and growing role that New York City libraries play in the communities they serve. While there has been speculation that with the rise of the internet, eBooks, and search engines, the relevancy of libraries would decrease, the increase in usage of our libraries shows that the exact opposite is true. As stated in the report, "In FY 2011, the city's [212] public library branches greeted over 40.5 million visitors, or more than all of the city's professional sports teams and major cultural institutions combined." The report shows that over the past decade, our libraries have experienced a 24% increase in program

sessions, a 40% increase in program attendance and an incredible 59% increase in circulation. These gains occurred even though our systems suffered a decrease in City funding over the same period.

Unfortunately, City funding is not living up to New Yorkers' clear need for more library service. Despite impressively increasing usage, across the entire City of New York only eight libraries currently offer Sunday service and nearly 30% of our libraries are closed on Saturdays. In fact, New York City's libraries already rank well behind Columbus, Ohio; San Antonio, Texas; Toronto; Chicago; and Detroit in average hours per week.

Every day our doors are closed is a day New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds miss out: children are deprived of story time, students can't borrow books, jobseekers lose access to computers and the internet, and immigrants can't attend English classes. Our libraries should be accessible for everyone. The rising demand shows our amazing potential to reach even more New Yorkers if we had the necessary funding to offer additional hours every week. As the CUF report states, "No other institution in New York serves so many different people in so many different ways."

Workforce Development & Business Support

Today, each library system will detail some of the important services we provide to New Yorkers and discuss how much more we could be doing if the City were to adequately fund public libraries. One of the most important ways we help New Yorkers is through workforce development and business support programs. During the recent recession, many New Yorkers visited their local library to search for jobs online, access career assessment and exploration software, learn the computer skills needed to compete in the modern workforce and receive help

editing resumes. Our libraries encouraged the creation of many new jobs by helping entrepreneurs learn how to open and manage small businesses. Though our libraries offer countless services to assist jobseekers and entrepreneurs, today I will focus on two of our most popular initiatives: our Workforce1 Career Centers and Business Plan Competitions.

To help address rising unemployment during the recession, the three library systems collaborated with the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) to open Workforce1 Career Centers in libraries in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. At the Centers, qualified jobseekers are prepared and matched with companies looking to expand their workforces. In calendar year 2012, the four Workforce1 Career Centers referred more than 9,000 jobseekers to interviews and made nearly 2,000 job placements. In a wonderful example of how our library programs can complement each other, just this week, two students from BPL's Young Adult Pre-GED program attended a Workforce1 recruitment event and were hired by Nathan's Famous in Coney Island. In recognition of the Workforce1 Expansion Center initiative, the three libraries received a "2012 Top Innovator" award from the Urban Libraries Council.

Through Brooklyn Public Library's PowerUP! Business Plan Competition and New York Public Library's and Queens Library's StartUP! Business Plan Competitions, our libraries promote local job creation and entrepreneurship. As part of the contest, participants attend classes and are introduced to resources to help them write a business plan then start and actually run a small business. Sponsored by Citi Foundation, top contestants win thousands of dollars in startup capital to help launch their businesses. Since their inception, the three competitions have received applications from more than 6,600 individuals, awarded over \$585,000 in prize money and helped launch dozens of businesses that are still in operation and contributing to their local economies.

One of the latest ways we are supporting the City's workforce is through the new Shelby White and Leon Levy Information Commons at BPL's Central Library. The Info Commons offers 25 computer workstations, including 10 iMacs running advanced creative software; a large co-working space with seating and electrical outlets for 70 people; seven meeting rooms that can be reserved for use by the public; and a 36-seat training lab offering free programs such as resume writing help, internet basics, digital storytelling and podcasting, computer topics for seniors, and community workshops with the New York Writers Coalition. The Info Commons is an incredible resource for freelancers, creative professionals, students and anyone who wants to learn more about computers and the internet, but our capacity to deliver more spaces like the Info Commons is constrained by our limited funding.

Now, to speak about the potential impacts of the proposed budget is the President and CEO of Queens Library, Tom Galante.

Budget Impacts Citywide

Good afternoon. Thank you, Linda and thank you to the City Council and this committee for inviting us to testify today. This year's City Budget proposal is as grim as it has ever been. Each year for the last four years we have faced enormous proposed cuts. Thanks to the diligent leadership of the New York City Council we have preserved the minimal 5-day service in every one of the 212 communities served by a public library. This is a victory. But despite these efforts, every library across the city has sustained annual and mid-year cuts that have added up. We are currently funded at minus 18%, or over \$57 million below our 2008 funding levels.

You all are no doubt familiar with the term "Doing More with Less." We are, too. As a result of year after year of funding reductions, the library workforce in this city is down 19% or

over 900 talented staff. We could surely use their talent now. We have also slashed book budgets, leveraged private and grant dollars, sacrificed weekend hours, found efficiencies in back-end operations and stretched our staff thin in order to keep library service strong.

Despite our record of resourcefulness, this year's City budget proposal is the largest reduction NYC libraries have ever faced: A 35% reduction below current funding, or \$106.7 million. This is a staggering 51% below 2008, when every city library was funded to be open at least 6 days a week. This comes at a critical time when library usage and demand is clearly on the rise. We cannot sustain another funding reduction. There is nowhere else to cut. In short, the effects on library hours and workforce will be drastic. Citywide:

- 1,445 staff members will be laid off and another 124 lost to attrition.
- At least 66 libraries will be closed altogether and dozens of others will have their hours drastically slashed.
- Today, the average library in New York City is open about 44 hours per week. This proposal would bring that average down to a dismal 22 hours per week. This is certainly not sufficient to serve working families and students.

Student Support

Public libraries are a critical component of the City's education infrastructure — offering after school care, homework assistance, recreational programs, support to parents and youth development, all rolled into one. Because we already have a trusted presence in every community — in walking distance for many students — we are able to provide these services reliably and cost-effectively.

In Queens, our attendance for young adult programs doubled between 2002 and 2011,

and the story is similar across all systems. In FY 2012, attendance at all after-school and out-of-school programming at public libraries exceeded 1.1 million. These students got homework help, participated in summer reading and more.

All our library systems place special emphasis on the teen population: offering special “teen rooms” and other programs that engage young people with books and homework help, as well as comics, web surfing and video games. In Far Rockaway, the Queens Library for Teens provides a separate space tailored to the interests and needs of teens who live in a neighborhood challenged by violence and who especially need help improving their academics and finding opportunities to improve their lives. Libraries also provide robust programs for at-risk youth and for students of all ages who need to prepare to get their GED. According to the CUF report an alarming 30% of New York City residents don’t even have a high school diploma. In a world that increasingly requires a bachelor’s degree for entry-level work, this is a looming crisis.

This year, in collaboration with the Department of Education, all three libraries are rolling out the MyLibraryNYC Initiative, in which 250,000 students across 400 public schools will be able to search the catalogs of all three libraries and have those materials delivered to them at their schools. This should greatly expand students’ access to the kind of quality information that will enable them to develop the key skills for the Common Core curriculum.

Older students aren’t the only ones who benefit from free library services. Emerging literacy is, and always will be, a primary goal of public libraries. Many of us can trace our earliest love of reading to library story times. Libraries across the City hold early childhood programs, and many have early-childhood computers to teach important skills when they are most easily cultivated. Little ones from non-English-speaking families come to the library to learn English and get a head start in their academic careers.

Libraries also offer Early Literacy, Numeracy, and STEM Literacy Programs, and supplemental education services for students with autism. Our libraries served 600,000 young learners in this service category last year. Imagine the impact on families if those services were no longer available.

Immigrant Services

Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library and Queens Library are also primary destinations for immigrants who need help to navigate this vast city. About 37% of the city's population is foreign-born. In Queens, nearly half the population was born in another country. One-fourth of New York City is less than fluent in English.

Of the ten public library locations in New York City with the highest circulation, six are in immigrant-dominated neighborhoods, including Flushing, the Queens Central Library in Jamaica, Kings Highway in Brooklyn, Elmhurst in Queens, McKinley Park in Brooklyn and Fresh Meadows, Queens. Our Flushing library serves New York's largest Chinese community and boasts an annual circulation of over 3 million, which puts it in the top five branches in the entire U.S.

So many immigrants turn to the library to gain information and skills that many people now hear about the library before they even leave their home countries. With that track record in mind, there's no wonder that New York City's libraries pride themselves on offering free citizenship, naturalization and educational services tailored for that community. Last year, Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library and Queens Library offered thousands of hours of programs that support the newest New Yorkers.

At Queens Library, we've been providing free citizenship, naturalization and bridge

educational services to new immigrants for over 35 years. We're the borough's leading provider of free ESOL instruction and we're recognized internationally as one of the world's leading informal education providers for new residents.

Libraries offer programming such as Citizenship Eligibility and Naturalization Preparation, Civic Engagement and Access Courses. Queens Library's Family Literacy Program gets parents and school-age children learning English together so they can better navigate the city's public education system, improve their career options, and better understand the public services available to them. Last year, 75% of parents who took part in that program reported improvement in their reading levels, 8% obtained jobs, others earned their citizenship, and all reported an increased ability to get involved in their children's reading activities.

Now, I would like to turn it over to New York Public Library President Tony Marx to discuss technology, adult education, and the road ahead.

Access to Technology

Thank you. As you've heard from Linda and Tom, libraries provide many different services in one trusted place, serving as a one-stop shop for many New Yorkers. Technology access and training are among those essential services that New Yorkers need and depend on libraries to deliver. Together, the City's library systems provide access to nearly 7,000 public computers and 26 dedicated computer labs that are used for both everyday technology access and formal computer training. Last year we provided over 9.3 million computer sessions on our library computers and patrons using their own devices logged another 2.2 million sessions through our free Wi-Fi.

The important role that libraries play in technology cannot be overstated, since over one-

third of the City's residents and three-quarters of NYCHA residents lack access to broadband at home. Libraries are helping New Yorkers "bridge the digital divide" – not only by providing computers and Wi-Fi, but also by providing vital technology training that teaches them new skills. Our students typically come from the most disadvantaged backgrounds: in NYPL's most recent technology training survey, 53% of students reported household incomes of under \$25,000; 83% were below \$50,000.

Adult Literacy

Public libraries also provide vital adult literacy services. Our programs serve the most disadvantaged New Yorkers, and the need for our services far exceeds our current capacity to provide them. Libraries disproportionately serve adults with reading skills below 6th grade level – New Yorkers who don't have basic literacy skills that allow them to read the bus schedule and who cannot help their children with schoolwork. With our help, graduates from our programs move on to pre-GED and GED classes at the Library or elsewhere in the City. Patrons that come to us barely speaking a word of English, with no formal schooling, learn how to speak, read and write English. Our programs are an essential building block for their future.

Libraries are already the third-largest provider of adult literacy services, but we need to do more. We hate turning people away, but our funding limitations leave us no choice. At NYPL, during recent registration events for the spring English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class cycle, for every one student who secured a seat, two could not be accommodated. That's almost 3,000 applicants.

A Way Forward

Today, you've heard about all of the essential services that libraries are offering. You've heard about the devastating impacts if library funding is cut further. You've also heard how more New Yorkers than ever need and demand the free services that libraries provide. No institution in this City is better poised to meet the rising demand than libraries. We are embedded in just about every neighborhood in the City and our infrastructure is already in place. We are eager to have a conversation about how NYC libraries can improve this City if funding is increased, not just restored.

Together we can develop a stronger workforce and small-business community by adding seats in job search, small business and entrepreneurship programs. We can bridge that threatening digital divide by providing more technology training and by expanding our free internet access and Wi-Fi. We can help build a more informed, engaged population by expanding our ESOL programs to help more New Yorkers learn English; by adding adult literacy classes to accommodate more students; and by providing citizenship and naturalization support for more immigrants.

With additional funding, we can increase after-school programming and offer more early childhood programs to help young New Yorkers realize the promise of higher education. We can help more people prepare for the GED and other continuing education programs that will elevate them toward the degrees and careers they dream of. By building up our job-skills training programs, we can keep the unemployment ranks from swelling. And by increasing our hours of operation, we can reach more of those underserved New Yorkers who are just scraping by, but could do so much more with a little help.

We fully appreciate the difficult funding decisions that you need to make and the importance of all of the City's municipal services, but the time for libraries is now.

As the City's only free provider of education for all, NYC's libraries are essentially and uniquely positioned to offer people the solutions they need in the information age. To succeed in this era, we must all be not only literate, but digitally literate, and business literate. That's not going to be easy for almost 30% of NYC children who live in poverty— or the 20% of the adults living in poverty, including a record 1.8 million relying on food stamps¹. If libraries are not funded, these people will fall even farther behind.

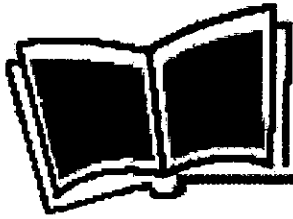
Conclusion

In years past, Speaker Quinn and the City Council have championed funding of the City's libraries. We are truly grateful for your support. But the reality is this: Over the last five years, libraries have nonetheless seen a steep decline in funding. This year's budget does it again, proposing the most drastic cut yet.

While the CUF study concluded that “New York policymakers, social service leaders and economic officials have largely failed to see the public libraries as the critical 21st century resource they are,” we know that this City Council appreciates the importance of libraries. We again seek your support in ensuring that New Yorkers receive the library service they need and deserve. Now is the time to position our City for success by educating our students, updating our workforce and supporting our entrepreneurs and small businesses. Now is the moment to invest more, not less, in our City's libraries.

¹ <http://www.cccnewyork.org/data-and-reports/publications/keeping-track-of-new-york-citys-children-2013-overview/> and <http://www.cccnewyork.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/CCCKeepingTrack2013Overview.Feb-12-20132.pdf>

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to testify. We remain available to answer any questions you may have.



Queens Library Guild Local 1321

Affiliated with District Council 37, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
125 Barclay Street, New York, NY 10007-2179 • (212) 815-1188 • e-mail: local1321@verizon.net
Website: www.local1321.org • Queens Office: 54-22 Skillman Avenue, Woodside, NY 11377, (718) 779-0787

President

John Hyslop

Executive

Vice President

Magaret Gibson

Vice President

(Librarians)

Kacper Jarecki

Vice President

(Clerical)

Roma Randham

Vice President

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Barbara Halloway

Librarian Representative

Michael Wong

DC 37 Delegates

Cathy Cox

Dorrett Hextall

Chin Yu Lin

Deborah Wynn

Trustees

Linda Bannerman-Martin

Roslyn Lesser

Kerline Piedra

Hearing on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget for FY 2014

Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Inter-group Relations and Sub-Committee on Libraries

Testimony by John Hyslop, President Queens Library Guild, Local 1321, DC 37, AFSCME

March 8, 2013

I want to thank the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Inter-group Relations and the Select Committee on Libraries in hearing my testimony on the Mayor's Preliminary Budget.

"I wish that at one of your preliminary budget hearings, I could tell you how invigorating the coming year's budget will be to library services, the staff and public. Unfortunately, I cannot. Once again the Mayor proposes a preliminary budget that drastically cuts the Libraries' budgets, leaving the libraries scrambling to figure out how they are going to operate and adds more anxiety and anger to an already demoralized staff."

You probably do not remember, but I said this last year and unfortunately, I am saying it again because the Mayor's Preliminary Budget follows his four year financial plan and proposes a \$29.5 million cut to the Queens Library and \$102 million cut to all three Library systems. We know that the City Council cares about libraries and will restore most of the proposed cut, as they have done every year. I am confident that the next mayor will different financial priorities. Maybe not next year and maybe not in the next four years, but I guarantee that I or my successors will be back in front of the City Council begging for budget restorations because this budget process for Libraries is broken.

I make this prediction based on very real experience. Almost every winter for the past ten years, the Mayor has proposed a budget that is drastically less than

what the Libraries actually received in the prior fiscal year. Every spring, Library staff waste extremely limited resources advocating and planning for an unknown future, worrying about library services and our careers. Finally, the budget is passed and, thanks to the City Council, much of the proposed cut is restored. However, not all of the budget is restored and in the end, the Mayor gets what he wants - a cut to the Libraries' budgets.

I want to say, Local 1321 members are angry, angry that we are stuck in the middle of this budget process of proposed budget cuts, threats of layoffs and eventually budget restorations. We are fortunate to have City Council members who understand our value and support us. However, we are still angry.

Therefore, District Council 37 and Locals 374, 1321, 1482 and 1930 are compelled to take the bold action of proposing legislation that guarantees consistent and adequate funding of libraries year to year. This legislation will allow the three systems' staff to provide all the services our customers expect; to plan for new and innovative library services; to ensure our customers have a vast array of materials, programs and services; to feel secure in their profession.

In the FY 2008 budget and four year Financial Plan, everyone was told Library funding was baselined and Libraries would have the necessary funding to provide a minimum of six day service. All three Library systems hired hundreds of librarians, clerks and custodians to meet this goal.

The very next year, the Mayor's four year Financial Plan cut our budgets and every year since then he has proposed budget cuts. Granted, this country had just begun the Great Recession, but in all the years since 2008, the Mayor's proposed cut never materialized because the City Council provided the restorations.

The Center for an Urban Future's recent report, "Branches of Opportunity," is a must read for every New York City resident. It documents the positive impact Libraries have on all of us, and reinforces what Library workers have



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been saying for years - Library workers provide more and more essential services to every New York City resident. However, Library budgets continue to be inconsistent and underfunded. I quote from the report:

"Despite record attendance and circulation numbers, and a dramatically expanded list of programs and resources, New York City libraries face a number of serious challenges to their continued success - and number one, without a doubt, is funding. All three library systems have experienced funding cuts totaling tens of millions of dollars in recent years, but cuts aren't their only financial obstacle. In many ways, the lack of security afforded by the city's budget process has been at least as big a problem.

Futhermore:

...the revenue sources both parties agree upon in order to provide library funding are guaranteed for only one year. The discrepancy between the libraries' ostensible budget as seen in the Financial Plan and their actual budget has tended to not only continue from year to year but widen even further.

Let us stop this seesaw budget dance. Every Library supporter, every Library staff member, every politician that cares about their libraries must stand up and say we need our libraries fully funded with a consistent budget every year. It is time for a budget that consistently allows every Local 374, 1321, 1482 and 1930 member to provide the excellent services our customers demand. It is time for real budget reform that protects all library services and staff. It is time for baseline funding legislation!



THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CITY

Testimony for the Preliminary Budget Hearing Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations City Council, March 8, 2013

The Society for the Architecture of the City is an all-volunteer historic preservation advocacy group, and we have a two-fold concern about the libraries.

First, our major mission is to provide in depth research and comment on historic preservation issues, and for this we are users of both branch libraries and the central reference library at 42nd Street.

Inadequate funding for libraries in New York has a rich history going back to at least 1896, when the founders of New York Public pointed out to Mayor William L. Strong that New York spent less on library service per capita than 19 other major American cities, to the detriment public education, which should not stop with graduation from the public schools. Unfortunately more than a century later, the city is still under-funding, and proposing inadequate budgets, and while we are grateful to the Council for restoring funds, and hope you will do so again, we strongly advocate the adoption of an adequate baseline budget for libraries.

Second, we are appalled at proposals to sell library properties, the Mid-Manhattan, SIBL, Brooklyn Heights and Brooklyn Pacific Branches. We reject the lame explanations of need, published by out-of-touch elite library trustees, and we are working with Citizens Defending Libraries, and the Committee to Save the New York Public Library.

Regarding the 42nd Street Central Library Plan, denounced by Ada Louise Huxtable in the *Wall Street Journal* and Michael Kimmelman in the *New York Times*, in our letter to the *Times*, published last February 7th, we wrote, "It is unbelievable that the people of New York City not only seem to have no power to prevent the partial demolition of our great library, but also are actually being forced to pay half the cost of its destruction, since \$150 million of city funds has been allotted to the project so correctly described by Michael Kimmelman as "trashing" a landmark. The library plans to demolish the stacks, with a fraction of the book collection to be housed under Bryant Park, the rest in a warehouse in New Jersey, and the space repurposed. The original design, fabric, structure and purpose of a major part of the building will be destroyed, rendering the landmark a dysfunctional shell and a shadow of its former self."

Submitted by Christabel Gough, Secretary

Exploring the Metropolis, Inc.

Workspace Solutions for NYC's Performing Arts Communities

March 8, 2013

Testimony before City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations

Good afternoon, I am David Johnston, Executive Director of Exploring the Metropolis. We're a nonprofit service organization dedicated to finding workspace solutions for the performing arts community of New York City. I would like to thank the Committee today for the opportunity to testify, and thank the Chairman, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer for his steadfast support of the arts in New York City.

The City's Preliminary FY 2014 Budget allocates DCA \$92.8 million, a 1.3% reduction from last year's preliminary figures. We and other grantees have been notified that our FY13 final payment has been subject to an across the board cut. We urge this Committee and the City Council to work with the Mayor's Office to increase *not decrease* DCA funding for FY2014.

At Exploring the Metropolis, we bring live composers and new music to NYC residents of all ages. Currently, we administer the Con Edison Composers Residency, now in its fifth year, which pairs composers in need of workspace with cultural and community facilities with underutilized space. We provide stipends to the competitively-chosen composers and host facilities, and each composer presents one free public program in coordination with the host facility.

Last year, we administered residencies at Flushing Town Hall – our longtime partner in this program – as well as Turtle Bay Music School, Bloomingdale School for Music, and Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy. Hundreds of New Yorkers of all ages enjoy these free programs, and alumni of our residency have gone to win WNYC's Battle of the Boroughs, ASCAP awards, and grants from the Jonathan Larson Foundation. Helen Sung, a recent resident composer at Flushing Town Hall, played for the NEA Jazz Masters Awards at Dizzy's Coca-Cola this year. Our partners at Bloomingdale School of Music commissioned the composers to write new pieces for their students, which were performed last month at Carnegie Hall. The DCA funds this residency, and their support is crucial in attracting other corporate and foundation dollars.

This year, we are embarking on a major workspace research initiative in Queens, assessing space needs for performing artists, proposing policy recommendations and crafting pilot programs for these vibrant and growing communities. We will be releasing our data findings in a series

of town hall meetings throughout the borough in 2013 and 2014. We have asked the DCA to support this effort.

Again, we urge the Council and the Mayor to increase *not decrease* DCA funding for FY2014. Thank you.

**New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
International Intergroup Relations and Select Committee on Libraries**

**Preliminary Budget Hearing,
Friday, March 8, 2013
Testimony by Veronika Conant**

I am Veronika Conant, a member of the Committee to Save the New York Public Library. Several of us are here today.

We love libraries, want long opening hours, good library budgets. The operating budget of the New York Public Library System has suffered many cuts since 1901 when Andrew Carnegie funded the erection of 60+ libraries all over the City on the condition that the city will provide space and maintain them. We are against the cuts and for stronger, more dependable operating commitment from the City.

I want to address the capital budget for the NYPL system, and oppose its use for the Central Library Plan (sale of three public libraries, demolition of the book stacks at 42nd Street, removal of several million books into remote storage, and the construction of a circulating library in their place at the incredible high cost of \$300 - \$350 million, with \$150 million in capital funds from the City). Our Truth document, with others testifying, explains why CLP is bad for everyone except for developers.

Many of the NYPL system's 87 neighborhood circulating branch libraries and four research libraries are in bad physical condition with long standing problems, needing attention. At the New York State Library's website there is a list of the New York Public Library System's Estimated Construction Needs for 2012 – 2017. <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/construc/needs.htm#NYPL>

There are 64 libraries listed with construction needs for partial or full interior/exterior renovations, A/C, windows, fire protection, etc. The total cost is close to \$337 million, comparable to cost estimates for the CLP.

According to NYPL's 2011 Annual Report, the Research Libraries had almost 2,5 million users, the 87 branches over 15 million. During the present economic times more library users than ever have been turning to libraries and library resources. Neighborhood libraries are very important.

According to Branches of Opportunity by the Center for Urban Future, just published, renovated libraries have significant increase in their use, e.g. attendance tripled to over 600,000 at the new Bronx Central library, (opened in 2006 with 200,000 volumes, 78,000 sq ft) making it the second most heavily used library in the NYPL system, only topped by Mid-Manhattan, the most popular branch library. The Donnell library, already sold, had over 700,000

visitors during its last year of operation when it was claimed its a/c repair would have cost \$50 million. I personally still badly miss the Donnell, my popular neighborhood library with a great collection and services, closed since 2008. It was not on the 5 yr list.

Can you please exercise your oversight function and have a careful look at the needs of the branches. A balanced approach is needed, looking at the entire NYPL System.

As for the Donnell, I would like to ask you and NYPL to make sure it will be rebuilt at the same location at the same size as before, since the new building in its place will be 46 stories high, not 11 as announced at the time of the sale. Please protect our branch libraries, prevent their sale not only in Manhattan but in Brooklyn and in all five boroughs. Vote against the CLP. A budget modification could redirect the funds towards the branches, also renovating/rebuilding the Mid-Manhattan instead.

One last recommendation: could the City Council have a Library Committee with strong representation from every borough. Thank you.

Veronika A Conant, M.L.S. retired from Hunter College Libraries
45 W 54 St, 7C, New York, NY 10019
212 581-1895 vaconant@yahoo.com

March 7, 2013

Committee to Save the NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

232 East 11th Street. New York, NY 10003

@saveNYPL on twitter

The Truth About the Central Library Plan

Executive Summary

The Central Library Plan (CLP) would close and sell two major public libraries – the Mid-Manhattan branch and the Science, Industry, and Business Library (SIBL) – and consolidate their functions within the 42nd Street Research Library building. To accomplish this, the Research Library's seven-story book stacks would be demolished, at least 1.5 million books displaced to remote storage in New Jersey, and a new circulating library built in their place.

The plan is highly controversial:

- It will be hugely expensive, costing a minimum of \$300 million (probably much more), of which \$150 million will come from New York City taxpayers. There is great concern that the Library's focus on a highly-complex construction project will absorb desperately-needed funds which might otherwise pay for renovations of branch libraries, and replenish slashed curatorial and acquisitions budgets.
- It will radically reduce the space available for the Mid-Manhattan and SIBL.
- It will threaten the 42nd Street Library's status as one of the world's great research libraries.
- It will threaten the architectural integrity of the landmarked 42nd Street building.
- It does not take into consideration more efficient and less destructive alternatives, such as combining SIBL and the Mid-Manhattan into a rehabilitated and expanded building on the Mid-Manhattan site.

Underlying our concern is the extraordinarily closed process through which the Library administration has made its decisions. Despite the fact that the 42nd Street building is owned by the City and is one of our most iconic structures – a designated New York City Landmark,¹ and a State and National Historic Landmark inside and out – the plan was formulated with minimal public notification and no public input. The \$150 million which the City has earmarked towards the project was awarded without any oversight by the City Council and with no public hearings. If alternatives have been considered they have never been disclosed, and no cost-benefit analysis or detailed budget has ever been presented to the public. Though the Library's leaders continue to call their plans preliminary, they are pressing to start demolition in the summer of 2013, just months from now.

Given the circumstances, the Committee to Save the New York Public Library believes the Central Library Plan must not proceed until there has been an independent study of its costs, the costs of feasible alternatives, and the impacts which the plan will have on the branch libraries, the Research Library, and on the iconic 42nd Street building itself.

Here are some facts about the project:

Funding Issues

Costs Are Escalating

When the Central Library Plan was initially proposed in 2008, the Library estimated it would cost \$250 million.² Following the plan's reintroduction in early 2012, the Library repeatedly insisted that the plan would cost \$300 million. Then, in its press release for the December 19, 2012 presentation of architect Norman Foster's design, the NYPL conceded that "we expect the actual budget to be somewhat higher" than \$300 million.³ NYPL President Anthony Marx subsequently stated that the costs may go as high as \$350 million.⁴ Most recently, a February 8, 2013 *New York Times* article reports that NYPL Board Chair Neil Rudenstine wrote to the trustees that "Our own budget estimates are reasonable, but even they *cannot be refined with any precision at this stage.*"⁵ [italics added]

How can the NYPL justify committing to a massive construction project which will irrevocably alter its central building before reliable cost estimates are available? What will happen if and when the costs of the CLP continue to escalate? Norman Foster's reputation for cost over-runs⁶ and the extremely complex engineering involved should provoke caution, not haste.

Sources of Funding Are Unclear

The Library has not been consistent about how the plan will be funded. Prior to December 2012, the NYPL repeatedly stated that the plan would be paid for with \$150 million of New York City taxpayers' money, plus proceeds from the sale of the Mid-Manhattan and SIBL libraries, and some additional money raised from private donors. However, in a December 19, 2012 article the *New York Times* reported a very different funding plan: \$150 million is still coming from the City, but \$50 million is coming from the controversial 2008 sale of the Donnell Library, and \$100 million is coming from the 2011 sale of the Research Annex and the 2012 sale of five floors of office space above SIBL.⁷ Note that this represents a clear acknowledgement that the plan (or an alternative) could be funded without selling the Mid-Manhattan Library.

The Library Has Chosen the Most Expensive Option

A primary stated reason for the huge cost of the CLP is the complex and expensive engineering necessary to demolish the 42nd Street stacks. The network of iron and steel stacks are the structural support for the floor of the Rose Reading Room above them. Joe Tortorella of Robert Silman Associates, the lead structural engineer, has likened the project to "cutting the legs off a table while dinner is being served."⁸ By contrast, a 2003 design by Gwathmey Siegel Associates to rehabilitate the Mid-Manhattan building and add eight floors on top of it was estimated to cost \$120 million;⁹ even allowing for a decade's worth of inflation, the difference between this and the \$300-350 million estimated for the CLP is radically disproportionate.

The Library Has Over-Estimated Operating Savings

Finally, a major benefit which the NYPL originally claimed for the plan is that by consolidating the Mid-Manhattan and SIBL into the 42nd Street building, it could realize \$15 million of annual savings in operating costs. However, the Library has more recently acknowledged that this figure also includes money anticipated from additional fundraising. David Offensend, the NYPL's Chief Operating Officer, has stated that the Library was "conservatively" counting on realizing only \$7 million in annual operating savings.¹⁰ The additional money from fundraising is clearly independent of the combination of Mid-Manhattan and SIBL into the 42nd Street building.

Negative Impacts on Library Patrons of Mid-Manhattan and SIBL

The NYPL administration has consistently maintained that the users of Mid-Manhattan and SIBL will be better served when these facilities are consolidated in the 42nd Street Library.

However, the two existing libraries comprise approximately 300,000 square feet of public and service space,¹¹ while the proposed new facility will contain only 80,000 square feet.¹²

SIBL and Mid-Manhattan attract 2 million patrons annually; if they are combined into the 42nd Street facility (which currently is visited by 1.5 million people annually), this means *an additional 2 million people* will be trying to use a building whose entrances are already crowded. These 2 million patrons will then be squeezed into a circulating library that is *one third* the size of its predecessors.

Furthermore, how will the book collections held by the Mid-Manhattan and SIBL be shoe-horned into the new, far smaller space? The Mid-Manhattan alone must contain close to 700,000 books, and there are also a significant number of books in SIBL's circulating collection.¹³ What is the book capacity of Foster's design? How many books will the Library have to discard when the circulating collections are moved into this smaller space? The Library has not provided the public with answers to these questions.

Negative Impacts on the Research Collections

The 42nd Street Library was built to rival the Library of Congress in Washington, the British Library in London, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris. The Research Library's acquisition budget has been slashed, and curatorial staff has already been greatly reduced. If in addition a significant percentage of the Library's holdings is shipped off site, the 42nd Street Research Library's status as one of the world's leading research facilities will be endangered, reducing the building to an elaborate marble shell. Without books and the librarians to care for them, how will the Research Library continue to serve New Yorkers as it has in the past? If the CLP exceeds its budget and the envisioned operating savings fail to materialize, will library services face further cuts?

The 42nd Street Library currently holds at least 4.5 million books on site.¹⁴ Of these, 3 to 3.5 million volumes are in the stacks; 1.2 million books are in compact storage under Bryant Park; and the rest are stored in other locations throughout the 42nd Street building.

The original plan was to transfer all of the millions of books from the soon-to-be-demolished 42nd Street stacks to remote storage in New Jersey. But in response to considerable pressure, the NYPL agreed in 2012 to complete a second layer of compact storage under Bryant Park to hold an additional 1.5 million books.

Nevertheless, at least 1.5 million books will be moved to New Jersey; this represents at least a one-third reduction in the number of books held on site. The Library already stores 3.51 million books off site;¹⁵ if the CLP is completed, approximately 60 percent of the Research Library's books will be stored off site.

Where does this leave the patrons who depend upon the massive holdings at 42nd Street for their research? What about researchers from all over the world who make expensive trips to New York expressly to use these collections? It is in the nature of research that one work unexpectedly leads to another; the 42nd Street Library's research mission is called into question if the waiting time for many materials is increased from 20 minutes to what the Library claims will be 24 hours, a wait that experience shows is more likely to stretch to several days.

Lastly, the ReCAP facility in New Jersey, where offsite books are stored, is now 99% full.¹⁶ Have the costs of building additional storage space for the 1.5 - 2 million additional books which will be sent there been factored into the plan?

Banal and Historically-Destructive Design

Architectural and Historical Significance of the 42nd Street Building Ignored

The existing 42nd Street building has been a model for functional library design. The stacks are among the most important early examples of a highly innovative book storage system that simultaneously serve as a structural skeleton. The book stacks support the Rose Reading Room built immediately above them while simultaneously allowing for the fast, efficient delivery of books to readers waiting there. Hence the stacks are both the literal and metaphorical heart of the building.

Demolishing the stacks makes a mockery of the essential concept underlying the building's form. In the words of the late Ada Louise Huxtable, the dean of New York architecture critics, the CLP "is a plan devised out of a profound ignorance of or willful disregard for not only the library's original concept and design, but also the folly of altering its meaning and mission and compromising its historical and architectural integrity. You don't 'update' a masterpiece."¹⁷

A Flawed New Design

Architect Norman Foster's design for the new circulating library to be built within the 42nd Street building has been widely criticized as mediocre and banal: *New York Times* architecture critic Michael Kimmelman dismissed it as having “all the elegance and distinction of a suburban mall,”¹⁸ and Bloomberg News critic James Russell described it as “thin architectural gruel.”¹⁹ No doubt much of the problem is inherent in the assignment Foster was given: design an exemplary new library for the digital age with perhaps 750,000 to one million circulating books; fit this library into a space far smaller than optimal; work within a building designed for other purposes; maintain all existing operations during construction; create the illusion that a dark vault built for books has adequate natural light; and assume that there is a fine view from this vault onto a public park when in fact little can be seen through its deeply-inset, slit-like windows.

The truth is that Foster's design is simply not good enough – not good enough to replace an architectural and engineering masterpiece, and not even adequate to fulfill its functional requirements. And the expense is staggering: thousands of dollars per square foot for renovation; tens of millions required simply to demolish the existing stacks; huge sums for engineers, architects and construction firms.

An Alternative Solution Exists: Retain the Stacks and Upgrade the Mid-Manhattan Library

Freed of the compromises imposed by working within the ill-suited 42nd Street space, a skillful architect would have an extraordinary opportunity to design a beautiful and efficient state-of-the-art circulating library on the existing Mid-Manhattan site. Since this would avoid the immense costs of demolishing the 42nd Street stacks while protecting the historic structure they currently support, the expense would be considerably lower than if a new circulating library were forced into the 42nd Street building. Furthermore, the Library would still be able to realize significant operating savings by combining SIBL and the Mid-Manhattan into a single structure.

This alternative was suggested by both Michael Kimmelman and Ada Louise Huxtable in their critical essays about the Central Library Plan. This alternative was also advanced by the Library itself, when it hired Gwathmey Siegel Associates in 2003 to design a renovation and eight-story expansion of the Mid-Manhattan. The \$120 million cost was minimal by comparison to the CLP. Moreover, an addition to the Mid-Manhattan building might well create multiple floors of rentable space which could generate additional income for the Library.

In response, the NYPL now claims that rehabilitating the Mid-Manhattan is impractical because it would require the library to be closed during construction. This argument is spurious; there are many examples of libraries remaining open through the course of extensive rebuilding.²⁰ And if it truly proved necessary to close the Mid-Manhattan during renovation, its holdings could be temporarily moved to the SIBL space; SIBL could then be sold after reconstruction of the Mid-Manhattan is complete.

The Library claims that the 42nd Street stacks do not currently provide state-of-the-art control over environmental conditions. However, the technical challenge of installing advanced fire suppression and climate control in the stacks is no more daunting than that of demolishing the stacks and installing an entirely new structural system, and it would almost certainly cost a fraction of what is proposed in the CLP. Preservation architects often meet such challenges to save historic structures from needless destruction.

Rehabilitating and expanding the Mid-Manhattan on its current site, perhaps in partnership with a developer, would:

- give Mid-Manhattan and SIBL patrons the uncompromised library they deserve
- avoid the huge expense of demolishing the 42nd Street stacks
- preserve the architectural integrity and functionality of the 42nd Street building
- avoid shipping over 1.5 million additional books off site
- generate additional funds for the Library through the sale of the SIBL space
- generate operating savings by combining Mid-Manhattan and SIBL
- potentially generate rental income from commercial office and retail space in an enlarged Mid-Manhattan building.

An Independent Review Is Necessary

The Committee to Save the New York Public Library continues to question the process by which the Library developed the Central Library Plan. The people of New York deserve to see other alternatives before signing on to a plan that is so expensive and leaves so much destruction in its wake. Better and less expensive ways of achieving the goals in the Central Library Plan have been suggested. Why haven't alternative approaches been seriously considered and publicly explored by the current Library administration?

Furthermore, a decision with such profound impacts on library users and on one of New York's most important cultural landmarks should not be made by a small group of trustees with no public input or oversight. The same insular decision-making process which created the CLP was responsible for the failed design of SIBL; built at a cost of \$100 million in 1996, it was heralded as the library of the future but is now to be closed a mere 17 years later.

We believe there must be a full and independent review of the Central Library Plan.²¹ In the words of the *New York Times*' Michael Kimmelman, "the library owes New Yorkers a clear and open accounting of both its plan and some alternatives. It should make public a detailed cost analysis by at least one independent party – not one of the firms the library has already hired."²²

It is time to stop and reconsider the merits of the Central Library Plan under a more transparent process. The citizens of New York City deserve no less.

¹ The library was designated a New York City individual landmark in 1967. Subsequently, the local landmarks law was amended to permit designation of interiors customarily open to the public, and in 1974, Astor Hall, the North and South Staircases 1st to 3rd Floor, and the McGraw Rotunda on the 3rd Floor were designated an interior landmark. Because our local landmarks law allows the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to exercise police powers, forbidding inappropriate demolitions and alterations, the LPC generally cannot regulate private spaces, as such control is deemed unconstitutional. The LPC believes it does not have jurisdiction over the stacks and has not approved their demolition; the approval they gave (1/22/13, calendar item #17) was of an “application to install rooftop mechanical equipment, replace windows, modify window openings and modify the loading dock.” In no way did this action constitute approval of the Central Library Plan, as the Library has suggested.

² Robin Pogrebin, “British Architect to Redesign City Library.” *New York Times*, October 22, 2008
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/23/arts/design/23libr.html?_r=0&adxnnl=1&pagewanted=all&adxnnlx=1361292719-kS+2GZ74ByVLAKdPIWStIw

³ NYPL Press release December 19, 2012, downloaded from
<http://www.nypl.org/press/press-release/2012/12/19/new-york-public-librarys-central-library-plan-takes-next-step-release>

⁴ Michael Kimmelman, “In Renderings for a Library Landmark, Stacks of Questions.” *New York Times*, January 29, 2013
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/arts/design/norman-fosters-public-library-will-need-structural-magic.html?pagewanted=2&ref=michaelkimmelman>

⁵ Robin Pogrebin, “Library Chairman: Renovation Budget Still A Work in Progress.” *New York Times*, February 8, 2013 <http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/08/new-york-public-library-chairman-says-renovation-costs-are-preliminary/?ref=arts>

⁶ See, for example, the Hong Kong Bank building and Wembley Stadium.

⁷ Robin Pogrebin, “After Criticism, Public Library Offers Peek at Renovation Plans.” *New York Times*, December 19, 2012
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/19/arts/design/new-york-public-library-offers-peek-at-renovation.html?pagewanted=all>

The Donnell Library actually sold for \$67.4 million when the sale was finally closed in 2011, though some of this money was earmarked for furnishing a new library in a space contractually provided by the developer of the new building on this site. Sales price reported in “Partnership closes on Donnell Library site, plans development” in *Real Estate Weekly*, July 27, 2011 <http://www.rew-online.com/2011/07/27/partnership-closes-on-donnell-library-site-plans-development/>

⁸ Jennifer Maloney, “Engineer Unpacks Plan for the Stacks.” *Wall Street Journal*, January 15, 2013 <http://stream.wsj.com/story/latest-headlines/SS-2-63399/SS-2-145226/>

⁹ see http://www.gwathmey-siegel.com/portfolio/proj_detail.php?job_id=200001

¹⁰ Interview with Charles Petersen, "Lions in Winter" part 1. N+1 Magazine, May 9, 2012 <http://nplusonemag.com/lions-in-winter>

¹¹ SIBL contains roughly 160,000 sq/ft (Paul Goldberger, "Grandeur and Modernity in New Library." *New York Times*, April 24, 1996 <http://www.nytimes.com/1996/04/24/nyregion/grandeur-and-modernity-in-new-library.html>) and the Mid-Manhattan contains 139,000 sq/ft (this is the figure given for the size of the existing Mid-Manhattan library in the Gwathmey-Siegel plans for the proposed 2003 redesign at http://www.gwathmeysiegel.com/portfolio/proj_detail.php?job_id=200001)

¹² NYPL President Anthony Marx has used the 80,000 sq/ft figure at several hearings, including the January 8, 2012 Joint Meeting of the Landmarks and the Education, Housing and Human Services Committees of Community Board 5. This figure is also referenced in Jennifer Maloney, "Set to Turn the Page at Bryant Park." *Wall Street Journal*, December 19, 2012 <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324407504578187752061130238.html> The December 19 NYPL press release references "100,000 sq/ft," but this apparently includes 20,000 sq/ft of newly-opened space elsewhere in the building, not part of Foster's proposed circulating library in the stacks area.

¹³ The Mid-Manhattan was designed with a capacity of 700,000 books (Barbara Campbell, "Dream of a New Library Is Realized." *New York Times*, October 21 1971). It contained 550,000 volumes (including music albums) in 1981 (William G Blair, "Plans that Could Change Fifth Avenue... While Renewal Proceeds." *New York Times* June 27, 1981 <http://www.nytimes.com/1981/06/27/realestate/plans-that-could-change-fifth-avenuewhile-renewal-proceeds.html>). In addition to the natural increase in holdings which might be expected between 1981 and the present, the Mid-Manhattan's collection was also enlarged by the addition of the approximately 175,000 volumes in the World Language Collection transferred from the Donnell when it closed in 2008. SIBL contained 1.2 million books and publications in 1996 (Paul Goldberger, "Grandeur and Modernity in New Library." *New York Times*, April 24, 1996 <http://www.nytimes.com/1996/04/24/nyregion/grandeur-and-modernity-in-new-library.html>) though much of SIBL's research collection is expected to be moved off site.

¹⁴ Robin Pogrebin, "New York Public Library Shifts Plan for 5th Ave. Building." *New York Times*, September 19, 2012 http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/20/books/main-library-revises-storage-plan-for-research-books.html?_r=0&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1361160966-uhdeAyej/UFrIhmdMpNJQ

¹⁵ See the statistics page of the ReCAP website: <http://recap.princeton.edu/statistics/>

¹⁶ ReCAP is a storage facility serving Princeton and Columbia Universities, in addition to the NYPL. According to the ReCAP website, total current storage capacity is 10 million volumes, and as of 12/31/12 nearly 9.9 million volumes were actually in storage. New

storage areas are under construction, but they are not expected to open until June 2013. No information appears to be available on the cost of constructing this additional storage. Incidentally, all this begs the question of what is happening to the millions of volumes currently being removed from the 42nd Street Library as the stacks are emptied. ReCAP is practically full, and construction has not yet started on the second level of stacks under Bryant Park. Where are the books being stored? Are books being deaccessioned?

¹⁷ Ada Louise Huxtable, "Undertaking its Destruction." *Wall Street Journal*, December 3, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323751104578151653883688578.html>

¹⁸ Kimmelman goes on to describe Foster's design as an "awkward, cramped, banal pastiche of tiers facing claustrophobia-inducing windows, built around a space-wasting atrium with a curved staircase more suited to a Las Vegas hotel." Michael Kimmelman, "In Renderings for a Library Landmark, Stacks of Questions." *New York Times*, January 29, 2013, <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/arts/design/norman-fosters-public-library-will-need-structural-magic.html?pagewanted=2&ref=michaelkimmelman>

¹⁹ James Russell, "N.Y. Public Library, Norman Foster Evict a Million Books." *Bloomberg News*, December 19, 2012 <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-19/n-y-public-library-norman-foster-evict-a-million-books.html>

²⁰ For example, Columbia's Butler Library just completed a multimillion-dollar top-to-bottom renovation while maintaining full services and access to all collections. Princeton's Firestone Library is likewise in the midst of a comprehensive renovation while maintaining normal operating hours and access to its collections.

²¹ The questions examined by such an independent review should include:
 What is the likely cost of demolishing the stacks in the 42nd Street building?
 What is the likely cost of building Foster's design for a new circulating library within the 42nd Street building?
 What would be the real savings in operating costs of combining the Mid-Manhattan and SIBL into the 42nd Street building?
 What would be the real savings in operating costs of combining just the Mid-Manhattan and SIBL?
 What is the likely cost of rehabilitating the Mid-Manhattan, and what additional income might be realized by partnering with a developer on the site?
 What is the likely cost of installing additional HVAC and fire suppression in the existing stacks?

²² Michael Kimmelman, "In Renderings for a Library Landmark, Stacks of Questions." *New York Times*, January 29, 2013
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/30/arts/design/norman-fosters-public-library-will-need-structural-magic.html?pagewanted=2&ref=michaelkimmelman>

**Committee to Save the
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

232 East 11th Street, New York, NY 10003

@saveNYPL on twitter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 7, 2013

The Committee to Save the New York Public Library, until now an informal coalition of New Yorkers and other users of the New York Public Library at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue, has just established itself as a formal organization. The group is calling for a halt to the Central Library Plan (CLP), which, at enormous cost to the city and its taxpayers, would install a circulating library in the 42nd Street building where the historic central book stacks now stand, displacing 1.5 million books to New Jersey. Last spring, the Committee circulated a letter opposing the CLP that drew over 1,000 signatures, among them those of Mario Vargas Llosa, Salman Rushdie, Lorin Stein, Jonathan Galassi, Jonathan Lethem, Art Spiegelman and Francine Prose.

Today, the Committee is issuing **"The Truth About the Central Library Plan."** This detailed analysis questions many of the Library's assumptions and calls for public debate about the CLP's impact on the Research Library and its users, on branch libraries throughout the city, and on the financial well-being of the library itself.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW: "The Truth About the Central Library Plan."](#)

The Central Library Plan (CLP) will consolidate two midtown libraries—the Mid-Manhattan and the Science, Industry and Business Library—into the 42nd Street building at an estimated cost of over \$300 million (including \$150 million to be paid by New York City). There has been widespread skepticism among library patrons, preservationists and architecture critics about the wisdom, financial feasibility, and aesthetic quality of the plan. The Committee to Save the NYPL believes these criticisms must be reviewed and discussed publicly before the CLP is put into operation.

Specifically, the Committee to Save the NYPL is asking that the CLP be halted until:

1. An independent agency makes public a detailed cost analysis of the CLP, including potential cost overruns—which have been a regular feature of projects of this kind at other cultural institutions. Even as the library insists it will stay within budget, the chairman of its board admits that "Our own budget estimates are reasonable, but even they cannot be refined with any precision at this stage."
2. The NYPL seriously considers the suggestions of critics Ada Louise Huxtable and Michael Kimmelman that the 42nd Street building be left intact and attention directed instead to a renovation and expansion of the Mid-Manhattan building. Kimmelman points out that "the Mid-Manhattan site...has the potential to be redeveloped as a 20-story building. The library could also sell some 100,000 square feet of unused space.... A new Mid-Manhattan branch should cost a fraction of gutting the stacks and could produce much better architecture."
3. The NYPL administration provides more than improvised figures about the impact of spending \$150 million of city money on the 42nd Street building, money that could otherwise be used for the many branch libraries in desperate need of support and for replenishing Research Library staff positions (1/3 of the staff has been laid off since 2008).
4. The New York State Historic Preservation Office conducts a full assessment of the plan's impact on the iconic 42nd Street building (a State and National Historic Landmark).

The Committee will continue to monitor the NYPL and reveal the truth about its proposals. We urge others to join our efforts to **stop the Central Library Plan**.

Contact - Charles Warren
212-689-0907
CWarren@CharlesWarren.com

- Theodore Grunewald
212-685-0751
TheodoreGrunewald@architectureNYC.com

Estimated New York State Public Library Construction Needs, 2012-2017

			bathroom; asbestos abatement; conversion to gas heat	
Seaford Public Library	5	13	Renovate 2 restrooms (\$40,000); video surveillance system for interior & exterior of building (\$15,000)	\$55,000.00
Syosset Public Library	5	15	Window replacement (\$50,000); interior renovations & repurposing of renovated space	\$50,000.00
Uniondale Public Library	7	16	Renovation and repurposing of the main floor interior building spaces to create a new teen area, adult learning center, media area, & library café (\$319,529); renovation of 4 restrooms (\$70,000)	\$389,529.00
Valley Stream Public Library	6	17	Install fencing for patio outdoor reading area (\$10,000); install exterior security camera system at entrances, patio area, and parking lots (\$10,000); install interior security camera system at entrances and mezzanine (\$10,000); install additional Wi-Fi access points & wiring for router (\$8,000)	\$48,000.00
Wantagh Public Library	6	19	Electrical panel upgrades (\$11,000); hot water heater (\$1,000); renovate staff bathrooms (\$87,000); replace interior doors (\$19,000); replace exterior doors (\$48,000); replace clearstory windows (\$220,000); extend EPDM roof warranty (\$20,000); insulate roof drain piping (\$21,000); security video surveillance system (\$11,000)	\$438,000.00
West Hempstead Public Library	6	18	Additional lighting (\$20,000); finish the south basement and turn it into a computer lab and an additional program room (\$250,000)	\$270,000.00
Westbury Public Library	7	15	Renovation of four bathrooms (\$240,000); solar panels (\$80,000); new HVAC system for adult library (\$340,000); painting interior & exterior (\$70,000); new carpeting (\$60,000)	\$790,000.00

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

System	Library Name	County	Sen. Dist.	Asy. Dist.	Project Description	Amount	System Total
The New York Public Library							\$336,776,090.00
	Allerton Branch	Bronx	34	80	Partial renovation	\$5,584,500.00	
	Belmont Branch		34	78	Partial renovation	\$5,980,100.00	
	Bronx - various		Various	Various	Phone systems (Bronx Branch) (\$620,000); electrical power upgrades (\$2,000,000); PCs and related infrastructure (\$448,000); security systems (Borough wide) (\$315,000)	\$3,383,000.00	
	Castle Hill Branch		32	76	Supplemental budget request (existing project)	\$550,000.00	
	City Island Branch		34	82	HVAC	\$500,000.00	

Cost of 67 entries at libraries including 42nd St. library last entry N.Y.P.L. system - w/

Clason's Point Branch	32	85	HVAC replacement	\$655,000.00	
Eastchester Branch	34	83	Full interior renovation	\$4,725,000.00	
Edenwald Branch	36	83	Partial renovation	\$3,375,000.00	
Francis Martin Branch	33	86	Partial renovation	\$3,774,000.00	
Grand Concourse Branch	33	86	Partial renovation; supplemental budget request (existing project) (\$500,000)	\$8,901,500.00	
Hunt's Point Branch	32	82	Full interior renovation; partial exterior renovation	\$8,640,450.00	
Melrose Branch	36	79	Full interior renovation	\$6,254,010.00	
Moshulu Branch	33	80	Partial renovation	\$3,085,500.00	
Mott Haven Branch	28	84	Window replacement	\$1,300,000.00	
Pelham Bay Branch	34	82	Full interior renovation	\$5,988,150.00	
Riverdale Branch	34	81	Partial renovation	\$3,375,000.00	
Soundview Branch	32	85	Full renovation	\$7,000,000.00	
Spuyten Duyvil Branch	31	81	Full interior renovation; new roof; branch expansion (\$7,312,500)	\$11,912,500.00	
Throg's Neck Branch	34	82	Full interior renovation	\$5,216,400.00	
Tremont Branch	33	79	New roof; boiler; windows; emergency lighting	\$2,060,000.00	
Van Cortlandt Branch	33	80	Full interior renovation (\$1,710,450); acquisition (\$1,000,000)	\$2,710,450.00	
Van Nest Branch	32	80	Full interior renovation	\$6,228,900.00	
Wakefield Branch	36	83	Full interior renovation	\$6,468,000.00	
Westchester Square Branch	34	82	Required appropriation (re-buy)	\$4,000,000.00	
Woodstock Branch	32	79	Supplemental budget request (existing project)	\$1,000,000.00	
125th Street	New York	30	68	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$11,350,530.00

58th Street	26	73	Partial renovation	\$1,500,000.00
67th Street	26	65	Remaining HVAC; boiler; rear façade; exterior lighting	\$2,080,000.00
96th Street	28	68	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$8,377,450.00
Aguilar Branch	48	122	Window restoration	\$1,200,000.00
Andrew McKell Braille & Talking Book Library	26	75	Replace HVAC & boiler	\$1,700,000.00
Bloomingtondale Branch	30	69	Full renovation	\$6,000,000.00
Chatham Square Branch	25	64	Full renovation	\$6,000,000.00
Countee Cullen Branch	30	70	Supplemental budget request (existing project)	\$1,000,000.00
Epiphany Branch	26	74	Partial interior renovation; supplemental budget request (existing project) (\$200,000)	\$5,700,000.00
Fort Washington Branch	31	72	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$12,077,980.00
George Bruce Branch	30	69	Exterior rehabilitation; roof; boiler; window rehabilitation	\$2,500,000.00
Hamilton Fish Park Branch	25	64	Partial renovation; systems rehabilitation	\$3,228,000.00
Hamilton Grange Branch	30	70	Partial renovation	\$6,120,900.00
Hudson Park Branch	29	66	Full interior & exterior renovation; supplemental budget request (existing project) (\$2,000,000)	\$12,000,000.00
Inwood Branch	31	72	HVAC replacement; elevator rehabilitation; new roof; parapet restoration	\$2,450,000.00
Jefferson Market Branch	29	66	Replace MEP systems	\$7,192,000.00
Kips Bay Branch	26	75	Full interior renovation; supplemental budget request (existing project) (\$300,000)	\$6,222,000.00
Macomb's Bridge Branch	30	71	Acquire site; new branch construction; fire alarm (\$60,000)	\$10,060,000.00
Manhattan - various	Various	Various	Next generation desktop (\$2,318,690); phone systems (Manhattan Branch) (\$700,000); electrical power upgrades (\$2,000,000);	\$6,068,690.00

				technology reliability upgrades (\$510,000); security systems (Borough wide) (\$540,000)	
Muhlenberg Branch		29	75	Partial renovation	\$8,500,000.00
New Amsterdam Branch		25	66	Partial renovation	\$4,575,000.00
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts		29	67	Sidewalk replacement; foundation waterproofing & drainage; safety & security (\$2,850,000); replace building systems (\$1,565,000)	\$5,015,000.00
Ottendorfer Branch		29	66	Rehabilitate front façade; replace all windows	\$1,967,000.00
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture		30	70	Sound system replacement (\$750,000); new roof (Langston Hughes Building) (\$265,000); complete renovation of American Negro Theater (\$1,100,000)	\$2,115,000.00
Science, Industry, and Business Library (SIBL)		26	75	Audio/visual equipment	\$65,000.00
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building		26	75	Life, Health and Safety (Outside of Central Library Project) (\$2,200,000); building systems replacement (\$16,965,000); audio/visual equipment (\$50,000)	\$19,215,000.00
Tompkins Square Branch		25	74	Exterior & interior renovation	\$6,616,350.00
Washington Heights Branch		30	71	Partial interior renovation (phase III)	\$4,250,000.00
Webster Branch		26	65	HVAC replacement	\$500,000.00
Yorkville Branch		26	73	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$8,260,560.00
Dongan Hills Branch	Richmond	24	62	New ADA compliant doors	\$300,000.00
Great Kills Branch		24	62	Re-point façade; new windows	\$1,000,000.00
Huguenot Park Branch		24	62	Fire alarm (\$150,000); full interior & exterior renovation	\$3,650,000.00
Port Richmond Branch		23	61	Full interior renovation	\$4,243,050.00
Richmond Town Branch		24	62	Partial renovation	\$4,200,000.00
St. George Library		23	61	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$15,768,270.00

Staten Island - various	Various	Various	Electrical power upgrades (\$1,200,000); PCs and related infrastructure (\$154,800); technology reliability upgrades (\$255,000); phone systems (Staten Island Branch Libraries) (\$200,000); Security systems (Borough wide) (\$180,000)	\$1989,800.00
Todt Hill-Westerleigh Branch	24	63	Partial renovation	\$6,264,700.00
Tottenville Branch	24	62	New roof; HVAC; plaza rehabilitation; lighting; fence	\$1,300,000.00
West New Brighton Branch	23	61	Full interior renovation	\$4,186,350.00
NYPL System-wide	Various	Various	Enterprise SAN (\$400,000); end management infrastructure & application visualization (\$500,000); digital repository system expansion (\$6,400,000)	\$7,300,000

System	Library Name	County	Sen. Dist.	Asy. Dist.	Project Description	Amount	System Total
Nioga Library System							\$5,022,072.00
	Corfu Free Library	Genesee	61	139	Interior renovation	\$25,000.00	
	Haxton Memorial Library		61	139	Window replacement for greater energy efficiency (this project is currently being undertaken in different phases due to lack of funds)	\$78,000.00	
	Pavilion Public Library		61	147	Building expansion for new children's room	\$105,000.00	
	Richmond Memorial Library		61	139	New ground floor ext from the children's room, including outside site work	\$45,000.00	
	LeRoy-Woodward Memorial Library		61	139	Interior renovations (workroom and office)	\$45,000.00	
	Barker Free Library	Niagara	62	139	Interior and exterior rehabilitation	\$19,550.00	
	Lewiston Public Library		62	138	Energy efficient doors and window films; motion sensor lighting	\$19,400.00	
	Lockport Public Library		62	142	Lighting; replacement of HVAC units (based on recommendations made by NYSERDA)	\$40,000.00	
	Middleport Public Library		62	142	Interior renovations	\$28,000.00	
	Newfane Free Library		62	138	Interior renovations	\$10,000.00	
	Niagara Falls Public		62	138	Renovating bathroom for handicap accessibility;	\$1,440,000.00	

Estimated New York State Public Library Construction Needs

Library Development

New York State Library

NYSED / OCE / NYSL / DLD / Public Library Construction Grant Program / Est. NYS Public Library Construction Needs 2012-2017

Estimated New York State Public Library Construction Needs 2012-2017

Go to:

- Brooklyn
- Buffalo-Erie
- Chautauqua-Cattaraugus
- Clinton-Essex-Franklin
- Finger Lakes
- Four County
- Mid-Hudson
- Mid-York
- Mohawk Valley
- Monroe
- Nassau
- New York
- Nioga
- North Country
- Onondaga
- Pioneer
- Queens
- Ramapo Catskill
- Southern Adirondack
- Southern Tier
- Suffolk
- Upper Hudson
- Westchester
- TOTAL ALL SYSTEMS

New York, NYPL

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/construc/needs.htm#NYPL>

Stephen A. Schwarzman Building	26	75	Life, Health and Safety (Outside of Central Library Project) (\$2,200,000); building systems replacement (\$16,965,000); audio/visual equipment (\$50,000)	\$19,215,000.00
Science, Industry, and Business Library (SIBL)	26	75	Audio/visual equipment	\$65,000.00
Manhattan - various	Various	Various	Next generation desktop (\$2,318,690); phone systems (Manhattan Branch) (\$700,000); electrical power upgrades (\$2,000,000); technology reliability	\$6,068,690.00

upgrades (\$510,000); security systems
(Borough wide) (\$540,000)

Mid-Manhattan not found, No mention of Donnell

Total \$25,348,690.00
All NYPL lib \$336,776,090.00

Estimated New York State Public Library Construction Needs 2010-2014

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/construc/needs1014.htm>

Go to:

- Brooklyn
- Buffalo-Erie
- Chautauqua-Cattaraugus
- Clinton-Essex-Franklin
- Finger Lakes
- Four County
- Mid-Hudson
- Mid-York
- Mohawk Valley
- Monroe
- Nassau
- New York
- Nioga
- North Country
- Onondaga
- Pioneer
- Queens
- Ramapo
- Catskill
- Southern Adirondack
- Southern Tier
- Suffolk
- Upper Hudson
- Westchester
- TOTAL ALL SYSTEMS

Mid-Manhattan Library	26	75	Interior and Exterior Renovation	\$47,962,800.
Science, Industry, and Business Library (SIBL)	26	75	Renovate Select Spaces/Systems	\$1,800,000.00
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building	26	75	Renovation of interior spaces	\$20,250,000.00
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building	26	75	Technology replacement and technology infrastructure improvements	\$1,250,000.00
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building	26	75	Systems replacement, freight elevator, sidewalk vault	\$29,242,000.00

No mention of Donnell

Total: \$100,504,800.00
All NYPL lib. \$ 432,031,320.00

FOR THE RECORD

I am Marilynn Donini, representing St. Ann's Warehouse. And, I am here to tell you how important the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs is to a mid size arts organization from Brooklyn.

St. Ann's Warehouse is a 33 years old performing arts organization. Our mission is to present the work of American emerging and established avant-garde artists as well as international theater companies who bring unique artistic experiences to NYC. The work of many of the artists that we present would most likely not be seen elsewhere in New York City without St. Ann's large open flexible warehouse theater.

For the past 12 years we've been located in DUMBO where we have been the cultural anchor and have had a major impact on building the neighborhood. We attract some 50,000 people to our space each year. 90% are from NYC's five boroughs. Our audience is an economic catalyst for the neighborhood's vendors. We also work with local peer groups, providing space and resources for community events. And, we employ 14 full time employees and some 50 part time employees a year.

NYC Department of Cultural Affairs has been one of St. Ann's most important funders since its earliest days. For many years we were a line item in the City budget. Now our allocation comes through the peer panel review process. We have been fortunate that the level of support from the City has remained strong over the years. Despite the solid private funding St. Ann's receives, the DCA is one of our major sources of support. We are extremely grateful to the DCA and the City of New York for understanding the value of the arts and St. Ann's value to the City of New York. Cuts in the DCA budget would have an immense effect on St. Ann's. We are in the midst of a period of tremendous growth with ambitious programming planned for the next few years, the challenge of paying rent in a new space, where we moved last July, and plans to build a permanent home on the Brooklyn Waterfront. We look to DCA to help us meet the many challenges that we face each year and they always have come through. Our story is a good one but it has been a good one because of the long and strong support that we have received from New York City and the Department of Cultural Affairs. We hope that it can remain so. *with your help!*

Thank you.

Testimony of Maurice Dickenson, President, Local 374, DC 37,
AFSCME, AFL-CIO

I am Maurice Dickenson, President of Local 374, DC 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO.

The proposed Preliminary Budget 2014 includes cuts of approximately 5.5 million dollars of city tax levy funds for the botanical gardens and an overall cut of approximately 60.2 million dollars to all the cultural institutions which DC 37 represents.

Local 374 members work in the NY Botanical Garden, Queens and Brooklyn Botanic Gardens and Wave Hill in the Bronx as well as in our largest library system the NY Public Library.

As I indicated above, the approximate 60.2 million dollars cut in city funds to the cultural are drastic and unproductive. Some of these cultural are so small that the cuts are having a disproportionate effect on their overall budget. These institutions are available to tourists and residents alike for the incredible beauty and education opportunities they provide. These institutions are highly respected by professionals in the field of horticultural research and rely on their resources.

These tax levy funds pay for the modest salaries and health insurance for hundreds of workers. We are the custodians who clean, the gardeners who cultivate, the secretaries who keep us organized and the maintainers who fix the plumbing, the machinery and keep the buildings together, sometimes with duct tape and prayers. Service is all we do, all day long.

We know that you as City Council representatives are not responsible for the magnitude of the cuts, but we come here to humbly ask you to do your best to restore the funding, and avoid the drastic impact that could result.

We urge the Budget Negotiating Team to make the cultural institutions a priority in the restoration discussions.

On behalf of my members and the citizens of NYC, thank you.

**Testimony of Marcy Brown
Treasurer of Local 1501
New York Zoological Society Employees
FY 2014 Executive Budget
March 8, 2013**

Good afternoon Chair Van Bramer and fellow members of the City Council. My name is Marcy Brown and I am the Treasurer of Local 1501, New York Zoological Society Employees. My local represents all of the unionized workers employed by the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium and all three city zoos in addition to the New York Hall of Science, Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, Staten Island Zoological Society, Staten Island Historical Society, Museum of the City of New York and El Museo del Barrio.

As a result of the most recent budget cuts, Local 1501 lost over 50 members who were laid off as a direct result of those budget cuts. Our membership has been reduced and it has resulted in the closure of a number of buildings and exhibits that the public can no longer enjoy. The services provided by our members have been stretched to their breaking point. The proposed cuts of approximately 6.8 million dollars for FY-2014 will most likely lead to additional layoffs of our members resulting in the additional closure of more buildings and exhibits. In addition, these cuts will most likely restrict the ability of the many institutions to hire seasonal workers for the summer months. These seasonal workers are usually residents from the 5 boroughs of the City of New York. The inability to hire these New York City residents will have a negative impact on the families which depend on this income.

A large percentage of these workers, along with their families, reside within the city and its five boroughs. The members of Local 1501 are hardworking men and women who send their children to city schools, pay city taxes, spend their hard earned dollars at both city and private owned businesses.

The Mayor's preliminary budget for fiscal year 2014 calls for an approximate 6.8 million dollar reduction in city support to Institutions which Local 1501 represents.

Clearly you can see if these reductions in support are allowed to go forth, the results will be devastating to both the members of Local 1501 and the institutions in which they are employed. The reduction hours of service, staff and additional closure of exhibits are all a real possibility.

We represent world renowned institutions known for having diverse exhibits and unique creatures. Like the city of New York, these institutions represent a collective group of diverse beings. These reductions in support would clearly negatively affect that diversity and provide a less attractive option to surrounding communities and international tourists.

These are the things we must address. We must find a way to not only stop these proposed reductions, but to increase funding to the city's cultural institutions. I am sure you are all aware that New York City is not only the financial capital of the world, but also the cultural capital.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I will answer any questions you may have.

Testimony of Eric O'Brien
Vice President of Local 1559

FTR

Museum of Natural History Employees
District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Before the City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Library and International,
Intergroup Relations
FY 2014 Executive Budget
March 8, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Van Bramer and fellow Council members.

My name is Eric O'Brien and I am the Vice President of Local 1559 representing workers at the American Museum of Natural History. I represent approximately 96 members in the titles of maintainers, preparators, photographers, clerical, museum instructors, scientific assistants, artists and technicians at the Museum. These are the people who create and maintain the museum.

I am here today to inform the City Council that if the FY 2014 preliminary budget of approximately 5.6 million in reductions without restorations is allowed to pass, the effect on my members and the institution will be devastating.

My members play an integral role in the education component since some of them work in the professional development programs which help train science teachers by allowing them to use the Museum as a teaching resource.

The other members of Local 1559 are trained on how to handle special specimens and documents. They handle special skins, furs, textiles, as well as irreplaceable cultural artifacts and photographs. They take great care of these items so many future generations may enjoy these treasures for years to come.

Since the Museum's founding in 1869, it has not only become a major tourist destination, attracting more than 4 million visitors a year, it also provides a crucial science and educational component to the many school children who visit.

What many people do not realize is that for every dollar the city provides in funding to the Museum, it returns more than \$7 back to the city. The Museum of Natural History is a financial engine of the city economy. Tourists and visitors to the Museum also contribute to the economic vitality of the surrounding community by patronizing the hotels, restaurants and shops in the city.

The Museum's objective continues to be to encourage and develop the study of the natural world, world cultures and the universe. But how can they continue to fulfill its mission when facing an approximate 5.6 million dollar cut to its FY 2014 budget? This is a staggering proposed cut and will have catastrophic effects on the Local 1559 members and The American Museum of Natural History. If the city goes forward with this cut, the Museum might have to reduce hours, shut down the number of exhibits they currently offer and limit the number of educational

programs provided to school children. As a result, my members will not be able to provide the same level of exemplary service that the millions of visitors have come to expect from a world-renowned institution such as the American Museum of Natural History. My local continues to suffer losses as a result of each reduction in NYC funding.

Local 1559 is urging the City Council to restore the approximate 5.6 million dollar cut in FY 2014 to the Museum's budget. If these proposed cuts were to become permanent in the budget, it may result in dozens of layoffs further reducing the number of members we represent. Please keep in mind that I represent the people who create and maintain this prestigious institution. These cuts would decimate the services my members provide.

I am urging the City Council to continue its funding support of the partnership between the city's cultural institutions and the Department of Education (DOE). This educational program supports scientific discovery and learning in life science, earth science, space science and physical science.

We understand the city is in troubled economic times, but I cannot stress enough how important the services my members supply is to the many school children who participate in all the vital programs. We are urging the City Council not only to maintain funding, but to also increase funding to this all the extraordinary programs that provides children the opportunity for scientific discovery.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

TESTIMONY of EILEEN MULLER – March 8, 2013
PRESIDENT - LOCAL 1482, BROOKLYN LIBRARY GUILD
BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Good afternoon.

My name is Eileen Muller, and as President of District Council 37 Local 1482 I represent over 900 members working in the 60 branches of the Brooklyn Public Library system. Today, I'm here to deliver a simple message on behalf of our members and the hundreds of thousands of Brooklynites they serve every day.

Simply put, our City's public library systems have reached the breaking point. We can't cut any further without doing irreparable harm to the services our members provide. We've already cut all the way through the muscle – now we risk cutting through the bone. Before the financial crisis hit in 2008, City funding for BPL reached a historic high-water mark. The library was able to expand its hours and services, and to hire scores of new employees. We thought that after years of chronic underfunding, things were finally heading in the right direction.

But then the economy crashed and the bottom fell out.

Since Fiscal Year 2009, overall library funding across the three systems is down \$67 million, or 22.1 percent, falling from \$366 million to \$299 million. Over that period, BPL's City funding has fallen off dramatically. In 2009, BPL received \$100 million. Last year, it received only \$83 million. That's a decrease of \$17 million, or 17%, in just a few years.

All this comes at a time when the demand for public library services has exploded.

A recent report by CUNY's Center for an Urban Future found that since 2002, circulation across the three library systems increased by 59%, program attendance 40%, and program sessions 27%.

The largest increases in both circulation and programming came from BPL, where our members are doing more than they ever have before. In the last decade, circulation at BPL has increased by 77% while program attendance has gone up by 41%.

Want to put a face on the numbers? Just walk into any neighborhood branch library in Brooklyn. You'll see computer terminals packed with job seekers and seniors looking to boost their technology skills. You'll see children and teens flocking to after-school programs and tutoring sessions. And you'll see ever-growing numbers of new Americans coming in for free English language and citizenship courses.

These things don't happen on their own. The libraries need people – our members -- to do the work that makes all those wonderful things possible.

But over the last few years, the number of front-line library staff has gone down by approximately 8%. Members who have retired or otherwise separated from BPL are just not being replaced. All of the neighborhood library branches are severely understaffed, and as a result employee morale has gone down the tubes. My members are constantly telling me how difficult it is for them to do the job they love. You have no idea how hard it is for me to hear that.

Many of them are working in libraries that are in dire need of upgrades and repairs. This summer, hours at the Brooklyn Heights branch will have to be severely curtailed because the air conditioning system is beyond repair. The Pacific branch is so dilapidated that the library is planning to sell off that historic Carnegie building so it can build a newer (and much smaller) one nearby. All told, the system faces a total of \$230 million in needed repairs that it simply can't finance under current budgetary circumstances.

For the last few years, the mantra we keep hearing from City Hall is that we've all got to "do more with less."

Well, I don't think that anyone can say that our members have not done their part. As a matter of fact, considering the situation our members confront every day, they're all doing more than they probably should be.

The simple fact is that things don't have to be this way.

It's time for the City to stop the cuts and to dramatically increase funding for this increasingly important public service.

It's time to end the annual budget dance by establishing a reasonable level of baseline funding for each of the three library systems.

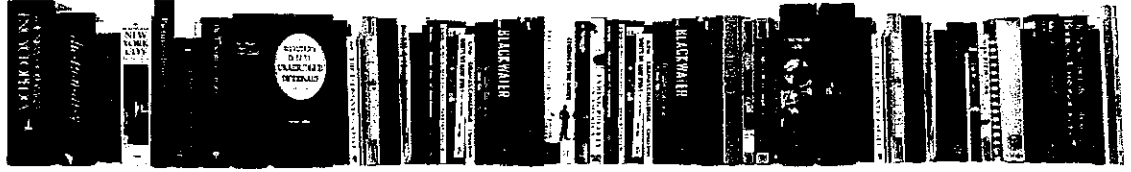
In the end, it's not a matter of money – it's a matter of priorities. The money is there for New York City to build the best public library systems in the world. The question is whether there is enough willpower to do what needs to be done.

Thank you,

Eileen M. Muller



The New York Public Library Guild Local 1930



Affiliated with District Council 37, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
125 Barclay Street New York, NY 10007-2179 • (212) 815-1930 • www.local1930.org

Testimony of Valentin Colon, President – The New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930
March 8, 2013

Good morning. My name is Valentin Colon and I represent the members of DC37's The New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930. Allow me to also thank you for this opportunity to address you this day on a matter that is of the utmost importance. "Libraries" and the financial attack that has plagued the three New York City Library systems for way too many years.

It's been said many times before and in many different ways; City's workers are a vital entity to the survival and prosperity that has made this City, "GREAT!" And I am not here to reiterate that comment but to assure you that it is a reality. But continual budget slashing has taken its toll on diminishing resources.

If we look at the statistics that have been reported within the pages of the study *1* "Branches of Opportunity" written by the "Center for an Urban Future" one will find that despite years of budget abuse and assault, Library frontline workers have really done a tremendous job. They have worked under "Do More with Less" for too many years now and it is really taking its toll on the workforce. While for the most part library workers are all very professional and do a phenomenon job at leaving their own personal problems at home; the joyful gait that they had is starting to wane. Library workers not only have to deal with the personal situations of trying to make ends meet they also fear not being able to have the needed financial support to properly and adequately supply the ever increasing demands from their communities and the multitude of individuals who seek them out.

2 **LIBRARY** "a place in which literary, musical, artistic, or reference materials (as books, manuscripts,

recordings, or films) are kept for use but not for sale” is no longer what it used to be. The days of quiet reading or borrowing of material has now become much, much more. Library is your home away from home, it is a vacation spot for many who wish to escape the day to day burdens and hustle and bustle of the City and life, it has become a place of relaxation and enjoyment. A Library is much more than just information, it is a place to meet, to learn, to educate, to explore and a whole lot more. A Library caters to one and all and we work to make our home open to all, without exception. The Library workforce does whatever it takes to make our workplace inviting, safe and fun.

If Library's are to continue doing what they do best; serving the ever increasing needs and wants from our communities, adequate funding must be a major priority. The Mayor can no longer expect Library's to continue meeting the challenges of today's society and our communities without the vital resources needed to make this all happen. A reality check is in order. An adequately funded budget not only allows Library's to continue providing top notch service but it allows us some wiggle room to not only enhance our services but to expand on our services. Rich soil is needed so that seeds of knowledge can grow.


I strongly urge you to please make Library's a top priority during this year's budget negotiations and to strongly oppose any attempts to further erode the mission of Library's.

Allow me to apologize for my emotional plead but I sit here before you to plead for the jobs of my members and for the right to allow them to do what they do best, to serve every individual who seeks their help.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

**1* "Branches of Opportunity" written by the Center for an Urban Future
January 2013
www.nycfuture.org*

**2* LIBRARY – Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary and Thesaurus
www.merriam-webster.com*



Carolyn E. McIntyre
Organizer in Chief

62 Montague Street, Apt. 3E
Brooklyn, New York 11201
W: (718) 797-5207
E-mail Backpack362@aol.com

March 8, 2013

James G. Van Bramer, Chair
Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries and International Relations
250 Broadway, Committee Rm 14th Fl
New York, NY 10017

Re: New York City Council Fiscal Year 2014
Preliminary Budget, Mayor's FY '13
Preliminary Management Report and
Agency Oversight Hearings

Dear Committee:

Do we want a shrinking library system for a growing, wealthier city? That's what we are getting as the principal purpose of the library system becomes the generation of real estate opportunities for developers. This new city-wide policy has, in a very harmful way, turned into a perverse incentive for the city to defund libraries and drive them into the ground.

That libraries are underfunded is without doubt: *"More people visited public libraries in New York than every major sports team and every major cultural institution combined."* The funding of libraries is one of the highest priorities of the city's community boards. And yet libraries do not receive funding anything like, for instance, the massive subsidies we channel to Yankee Stadium or the so-called "Barclays" Bruce Ratner/Mikhail Prokhorov arena.

With all due respect, and I will leave it to you to decide how much respect is due, the process of the annual funding dance for libraries in this city is a farce that cannot be allowed to go on for even one more year. In Noticing New York I have lifted the veil: We know that insiders are referring to it as *"dwarf tossing."* . . .

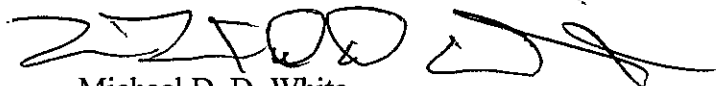
. . . Libraries are the little guys. They are a pittance that should be easy to include in the city budget, especially given that the money goes far since libraries are so well used. Everybody will care about libraries as their funding fate is cruelly tossed around in an annual battle that serves as political distraction. The political theater is that the big bad mayor cuts libraries and in the end the City Council and Borough Presidents ride in like heroes with discretionary funds to make up *some* , but only *some* of the cuts. In the end we are funding our well-used libraries at such a low

a level we keep them open even less than Detroit, a city on the verge of bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, the Mayor is getting what he wants: The low funding is being used as an excuse to push the system's valuable assets out the door to real estate developers in cony capitalization abuse. You are funding this asset stripping by the mayor.

The greatest shame of underfunding the libraries in order to create real estate deals ~~such a plan~~ is that it, even if it shakes loose a few real estate deals, maybe a few every year, it is an utter travesty to continually drive all libraries and the entire system into the ground financially.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. D. White", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael D. D. White

FTR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 5, 2013

CONTACT:

Carolyn E. McIntyre, Michael D. D. White
Citizens Defending Libraries

(718) 797-5207

Backpack362@aol.com

@DefendLibraries on twitter

CITIZENS DEFENDING LIBRARIES RALLIES TO OPPOSE THE DEFUNDING, SHRINKAGE AND SELL-OFF OF NEW YORK CITY'S LIBRARIES, INCLUDING VITAL MANHATTAN LIBRARIES (42nd STREET'S TILDEN ASTOR RESEARCH LIBRARY AMONGST THEM) AND EMERGING HIT LIST OF LIBRARIES IN BROOKLYN JUST IDENTIFIED

New York, March 5, 2013--New York's public libraries—a precious public resource, endowment and wellspring of opportunity and economic dynamism—are being underfunded in a city-wide plan to shrink the libraries and the library system, selling libraries with the goal of benefitting private developers, *not* the public. Citizens Defending Libraries is composed of concerned citizens mobilizing to save all the city's libraries, including the world-renowned 42nd Street New York City Public Central Reference Library, from defunding, shrinkage and sell-off.

City and Library officials are rushing to complete this fire sale of the city's libraries before the end of Mayor Bloomberg's term. Join us for a rally as City Hall meets on these city library budget issues.

We aim to stop the intentional "*demolition by neglect*" and sell-off of these public resources that are part of a top-down plan being imposed without accountability or transparency by city officials working with library officials who do not represent the community and often have conflicts of interest such as heavy involvement in the real estate industry.

Usage of our libraries are way up (40% programmatically and 60% in circulation) even while they are starved for funding and open far fewer hours than the libraries of bankrupt Detroit. More people visited public libraries in New York City than every major sports team and every major cultural institution combined.

We believe preserving the historic integrity of superior and irreplaceable architecture and fully functioning library system is a public responsibility: We must urgently move to protect these irreplaceable assets on behalf of posterity. \$350 million is to be spent to incentivize the destructive "redesign" of the 42nd Street New York Public Library by Norman Foster. Ultimately, that estimated \$350 million is almost certain to be a much more bottomless amount.

Since this involves very significant city funding it is something the City Council cannot fail to examine immediately. These enormous wrongly-prioritized expenditures make clear that, instead of selling off the irreplaceable and crown jewel assets of the system, the city certainly has the money to fund the rest of the libraries in the system if it genuinely wants to.

Throughout the Bloomberg administration the funding of libraries, requiring a relative pittance as a percentage of other city spending, has been increasingly turned into as a circus, political theater designed as a distraction with last-minute partial funding restorations delivered by political “heroes” from the City Council fighting the mayor but only diminishing the ongoing subtraction of funds to the system by very slight amounts. In the most recent chapter in the story of the subtraction of funding during the Bloomberg years, the funding for libraries has dropped precipitously after a brief bump at the time Bloomberg sought reinstatement to a third term via amendment of the City Charter. That precipitous drop in funding coincides with the emergence of the plan to sell-off libraries, shrinking the system in order to hand real estate deals to developers.

Many of the facts about the city libraries systems’ secretive plans are emerging only just now. The Brooklyn Public Library just identified the first two properties it wants to sell, one in Brooklyn Heights, the other next to the Barclays Center (the name subsidizing a bank currently under investigation). The long list of libraries to be affected has yet to be released although the Brooklyn Public Library strategic plan envisions that all of its real estate is in play for deals to conform to the prototypes we now witness being rushed forward which propose partnerships with developers (such as Forest City Ratner) picked out prior to required public reviews.

We support, are coordinating with and seek to unite in action with those around the city organizing and fighting to save the city’s libraries, those seeking to restore the disastrously withheld funding, and those seeking to protect individual libraries such as the Tilden Astor Central Reference Library at 42nd Street, the Mid-Manhattan Library, The 34th Street Science library (SIBL), the Brooklyn Heights branch with its Business and Career library, the Pacific branch library, the city’s historic Carnegie Libraries, those who are attempting to identify when their libraries will be slated as the next to be sold and the Donnell library (closed for shrinkage in 2008, and not reopened, after an expensive city-paid-for renovation). We are coordinating with Moveon.org and our numbers are more than 8000 strong and growing with more than 8,000 signatures in a few weeks, with people signing both online and physical copies of our petition.

Real estate deals designed for handpicked political favorites impoverish the city. Defunding and shrinkage of the New York City library system at a time of increasing public use, population growth and increased city wealth is an unjust and shortsighted plan that will ultimately hurt New York City’s economy and competitiveness.

Where: 250 Broadway, New York, New York (Outside before going in for testimony)
When: Friday, March 8th. Rally starts at 10:30 AM. Public testimony will follow upstairs, New York City Council Committee Room, 14th floor, currently scheduled for 1:00 PM, but might start a little earlier.

10.8.13

TESTIMONY: Judi Francis
on
LIBRARY
FUNDING

140 Pacific St.
Brooklyn NY 11201

In 1973 when my husband was contemplating his career, he spent every night + many days at the Business Library on Cadman Plaza in Brooklyn. He read every book + periodical in his field. Forty years later his successful ad agency is responsible for launching such iconic brands as Hagen Daz and Snapple, and countless other companies, too. ^{are the pebbles} ~~are the pebbles~~ ^{that create the waves that} ~~that create the waves that~~ ^{don't become} ~~don't become~~ Libraries ~~are the pebbles~~ ~~that create the waves that~~ ~~don't become~~ that start the engines of commerce.

Closing Cadman Plaza's branch will close forever ~~close~~ those boot-strap companies - and the pluck of entrepreneurs like my husband - from ever getting started in the first place.

Let me propose a funding source: Abolish the EDC. The ~~mayor's~~ EDC gave \$100 million to one company this year - to Fresh Direct - ~~that is~~ the amt. he now wishes to take away from ^{all our} libraries.

I assure you the tax revenues generated by entrepreneurs like my husband far outweigh what ^{one company contributes} ~~any contribution to the EDC~~. There is no need for an EDC if you build + strengthen

Carolyn E. McIntyre
Organizer in Chief

62 Montague Street, Apt. 3E
Brooklyn, New York 11201
W: (718) 797-5207
E-mail Backpack362@aol.com

March 8, 2013

James G. Van Bramer, Chair
Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries and International Relations
250 Broadway, Committee Rm 14th Fl
New York, NY 10017

Re: New York City Council Fiscal Year 2014
Preliminary Budget, Mayor's FY '13
Preliminary Management Report and
Agency Oversight Hearings

Dear Committee:

We need a "*cooling off*" period.

... We need a moratorium on the selling off of the library system's best and most valuable assets until more is known about the questionable reasons being given for why the best real estate needs to be sold off to developers.

We need a "*cooling off*" period because every time they want to sell library's, often recently renovated ones, they seem to find an insurmountable problem with the library's air conditioning system. It's highly suspicious!

Whenever the libraries want to push a library out the door as a real estate deal they find air conditioning problems a handy complaint.

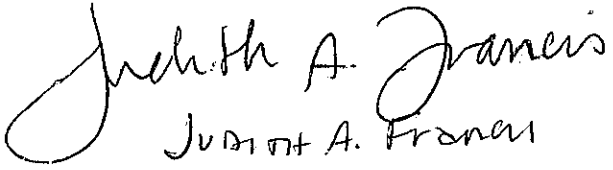
- The reason Donnell Library needed to be closed, sold and shrunk? An air conditioning problem!
- Why demolish the historic research book stack system at the Tilden Astor Central Reference Library at 42nd Street? An air conditioning problem!
- Need to sell off and shrink the Brooklyn Heights branch and Business and Career library? An air conditioning problem!

- Sell the historic Pacific Branch? An air conditioning problem! Want to sell off a lot of libraries in Brooklyn? Announce that a lot of them have air conditioning problems and start closing them in the summer! See: More libraries fall as heat nears 100 degrees, By Mary Frost, Brooklyn Daily Eagle, September 1, 2012 .

Highly suspicious. We need an audit! The BPL hasn't released any of its bid documents respecting the Brooklyn Heights air conditioning problems, is stonewalling on the release of minutes pertaining to public meetings that relate to the issue and there is every reason to believe that the cost and difficulty of fixing the air conditioning in the Brooklyn Heights branch is being grossly overstated.

We need an audit and we need a "*cooling off*" period until that audit is completed and the mind set of library and city officials is no longer one that prioritizes creating real estate deals for developers!

Sincerely,


Judith A. Francis

Statement in Support of The
Admon Plaza Library - 3/8/13


This library is the lifeblood of our community - It is where kids go to read Clifford and the Big Red Dog, seniors learn the use of computers, students do their homework after school. The community at large gathers for book clubs, concerts, lectures. Without the library focus on community, we become a soulless lump of concrete. That is NOT Brooklyn.

Not everyone has a Kindle, a computer or can go to Barnes + Noble to buy a book. This library is our access to all that our country is supposed to offer - freedom of opportunity - to learn, to grow, to become effective citizens.

Don't shut it down or squeeze it into a condominium - ~~to~~ 51,000 people in Brooklyn Heights won't fit in - our 8000 seniors won't fit in and our 3000 kids under 5 won't fit in. The Library can now let us all in.

Gwen Fischman

129 Columbia Heights St
B'klyn 11201



Carolyn E. McIntyre
Organizer in Chief

62 Montague Street, Apt. 3E
Brooklyn, New York 11201
W: (718) 797-5207
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March 8, 2013

James G. Van Bramer, Chair
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250 Broadway, Committee Rm 14th Fl
New York, NY 10017

Re: New York City Council Fiscal Year 2014
Preliminary Budget, Mayor's FY '13
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Agency Oversight Hearings

Dear Committee:

I became aware of the attempts to close and sell my library branch, the Brooklyn Heights branch, a month ago at a community meeting at the Brooklyn Heights library. Our branch is a very well used and loved branch.

At the meeting BPL spokesman Josh Nachowitz, said they were going to sell the building to a private developer, let him tear it down and build a high rise that would house a much smaller library, about 1/4 the size. He also said they would remove the Business and Career services. We were stunned and told him it was a bad idea.

A study, by the Center For an Urban Future, out this January, tells us usage over of our libraries has gone up 40%, circulations 59%. More people want to learn than ever. The report says the users are teens, seniors, immigrants, freelancers, job seekers, nannies and parents with young kids.

This report says that funding has gone down about 30% since Bloomberg started his third term. I heard from library staff that they have had to cut over 1,000 positions. They have provided an increasingly used service with decreasing staff! We owe them our gratitude.

I began asking people coming into the Brooklyn Heights library why they use it. Just like in the report: Teens find it's safe, they can be with friends while their parents are at work, nannies congregate with kids, parents come for the art programs and story time, business owners get help growing their business, job seekers get help with their resumes, now people are coming to get

help with doing taxes.

I met a woman named Celeste who started a baking business using the Business and Career Services library. She came to research on different ways of baking and she entered a contest for small businesses which offers cash prizes. Her two sons were with her and I asked them why they come. They said to check out books and DVDs and it's a quiet place to do homework. I talked with lots of seniors and retirees who come almost everyday.

There is a line a block long outside this branch when it opens at 10:00 AM. Inside the library there is a giant sign that says "the line starts here." It's to use the computers. They want to close, shrink this branch? It makes no sense.

Carolyn McMillian, "She said she mainly used the library to use the computer. She said when her son was deployed to Iraq the use of the computer at the library was the only way to keep in touch with him. It was their lifeline.

I started a petition after the meeting to stop the public policy of defunding libraries in order to sell the real estate to private developers. We have over 8,000 signatures and you can easily find Citizens Defending Libraries on the web.

At a another meeting a week ago run by Josh Nacowitz Mr. Nacowitz told me:

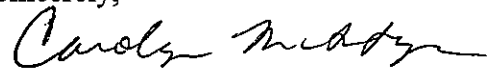
What's in your petition really speaks to what we are trying to do here. It's actually hugely helpful and it's part of the message we've been trying to deliver to the city for years and years and years. [except that during most of those years he was still working for the mayor defunding the libraries at the city's real estate development agency] We face huge budget cuts every year. . . . We would all love that your petition would be hugely successful and we'll get the mayor and the administration to seek changes to the way they look at funding libraries. It would solve a lot of this.

In other words, if the libraries were properly funded they wouldn't have to be sold to real estate developers who are friends with the mayor.

These libraries are loved, used and cherished more than ever. The numbers back that up.

We are either moving towards a more caring society or away from a caring society. Citizens Defending Libraries is watching you. Are you listening to us?

Sincerely,



Carolyn E. McIntyre

Cultural Institutions Group

Testimony to the Committee on Cultural Affairs

March 8, 2013

Good morning, Chairman Van Bramer and members of the Committee. I am Margaret Honey, President of the New York Hall of Science and Chair of the Cultural Institutions Group. Thank you for this opportunity to testify—and thank you as always for your unwavering support of Culture in New York City. Yet again, last year you restored cuts to the Department of Cultural Affairs and made sure that there would be no loss of education programs, community engagement initiatives, or world-class exhibitions, performances and events at our institutions. Speaker Quinn, Chairman Van Bramer, Chairman Recchia, the Boro Delegations, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to each of you for advocating on our behalf. Unfortunately, we are here at the start of another budget season and yet again having to ask your help in restoring what would be devastating cuts to our institutions.

As of today, the CIGs face a loss \$40 million in operating support. This represents as much as a 65% cut since last year for some CIG institutions. A 65% cut! Cultural institutions are no less essential to the economic and social vitality of our City than they were last year, yet the cuts we face are even more extreme and would be severely devastating, not just to our institutions, but to the New Yorkers we serve—the children, families, seniors, and teachers who participate in our programs.

Not only do our institutions provide educational programs for schoolchildren and families, we also employ more than 9,000 people—residents of every Council district in all five boroughs. Some CIGs are among the largest employers in their communities and we spend more than \$500 million annually on purchased goods and services. These are the jobs, programs, services and purchasing power that are jeopardized by these cuts. In addition, with year after year of record-breaking tourism, our sector has proven itself as core to New York's economic vitality.

These are just the statistics for the CIG institutions that I represent here today. The economic, social, and educational impact of culture in New York can be multiplied

exponentially when you consider the work of the hundreds of cultural organizations throughout the City. Their funding is also in jeopardy and is just as crucial to their ability to operate and serve New Yorkers.

Investing in culture is an investment in children, teachers, seniors and families. CIGs provided services to more than 2 million schoolchildren citywide. We provide free hours, programs for seniors, outreach programs in shelters, hospitals and in the juvenile justice system.

Investing in CIGs returns funds back to the City. The \$500 million spent by CIGs last year helped support nearly 13,000 vendors. We generate millions of dollars in indirect spending on top of that. This is money spent at restaurants, shops and other services that wouldn't occur if our institutions were diminished.

And finally, investing in CIGs means investing in City assets. In the unique public-private partnership that makes this City a capital of culture, it is City investment that enables our institutions to act as stewards of City-owned facilities and lands.

When we talk about cuts having a destabilizing effect on cultural organizations, these are the types of programs, services and economic activity that are in jeopardy unless the Council acts to restore funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs. I am here today as Chair of the Cultural Institutions Group and my testimony centers on the work of our coalition. But the entire cultural sector in this City deserves to have a rational, long-range funding plan put in place to assure that this City remains pre-eminent.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today and for your great generosity to our institutions. We have already met with many of you, and we will hopefully get to see all of you before long. We appreciate the Council's unwavering support, and ask you to once again assure that Culture remains viable in New York City.

Center *for an* Urban Future

www.nycfuture.org
@nycfuture

Branches of Opportunity

New York City's public libraries are serving more people in more ways than ever before; but they have been undervalued by policymakers and face growing threats in today's digital age

Funded by the
Charles H. Revson Foundation

OUT OF 25 URBAN LIBRARIES NATIONWIDE

In program sessions
per 1,000 residents:

Brooklyn ranked
2nd

NYPL ranked
6th

Queens ranked
5th

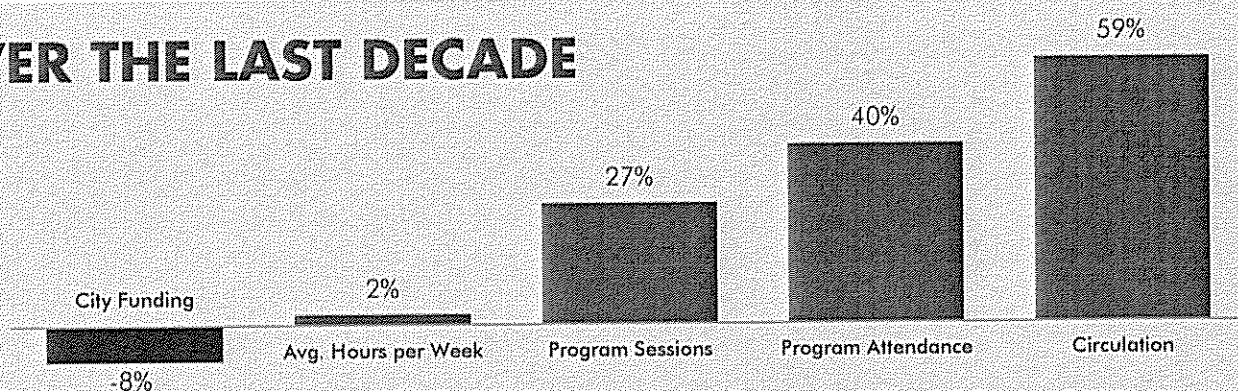
In average hours
per week:

NYPL ranked
12th

Brooklyn ranked
15th

Queens ranked
20th

OVER THE LAST DECADE



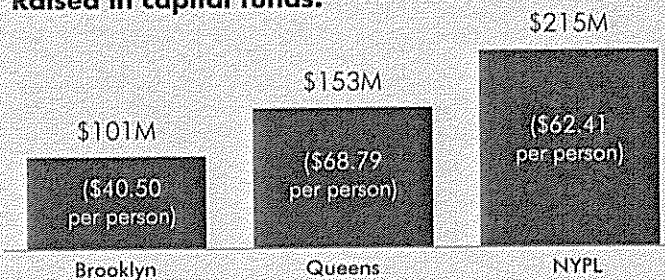
48

different branches
citywide have at least
doubled annual
attendance at programs

18

different branches
citywide have more
than doubled their
circulation

Raised in capital funds:



Since 2008, the libraries
have seen city operating
funds reduced by

\$68M

Because of the cuts, full
time equivalent employ-
ment has dropped

24%

WITH ADDITIONAL \$50M IN FUNDS

Hours per week would
increase from 43 to

50

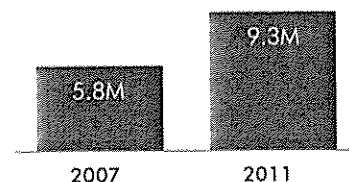
Program attendance
would increase by

500K

Circulation
would rise by

10M

Computer sessions at public libraries



In 2011, e-book
checkouts across all
three libraries rose

179%

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liz Gaglio

Address: ~~100 E 12th St~~

I represent: Public + (School) Libraries

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARGARET HUGHES BROWN

Address: 9 E 57 ST

I represent: NYC Council Rep. 15th Dist

Address: 100 E 57th St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tony Mark

Address: President + CEO

I represent: MTPL

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Linda Johnson

Address: _____

I represent: BPL

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tony Galante

Address: 82-11 Munnich St. Flushing, NY

I represent: Queens Library

Address: 21-11 41st St. Flushing, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Charles Mora

Address: 15 W 4th St NYC

I represent: Myself

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. May 1967 Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Annalyn Swan

Address: 131 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C.

I represent: Committee to Save the New York Public Library

Address: E 11th St.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/67

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KATE LEVIN

Address: 31 CHAMBERS

I represent: DCA

Address: 31 CHAMBERS

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NORMA P. Munn

Address: NY City Arts Coalition

I represent: 246 W 38 St. 4 Fl. NYC 10018

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)
D Margaret Honey

Address: _____

I represent: Cultural Institutions Group

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)
Eileen Muller

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L. 1482, DC 37

Address: (Brooklyn Public Library)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

Name: (PLEASE PRINT)
John Hyslop

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, 1321, DC 37

Address: (Qns Public Library)

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Valentin Colon

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L1930, DC37

Address: (NYPL)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cuthbert Dickenson

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L374, DC37

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eric O'Brien

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: VP, L1559, DC37

Address: (Museum of Natural History workers)

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nancy Wontell-Brown

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY, NY 10007

I represent: Local 1501, DC37

Address: (Treasurer)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MONICA STRAUSS

Address: 9 E. 82nd ST.

I represent: Committee to Save the NYPL

Address: 62 Montague, Bridge E. 11th St.,
2132 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☒ in opposition by Capital budget
Operating budget

Date: 31 8/2013/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Veronika Constant

Address: 45 W 54 St, 7E, New York, NY 10019

I represent: Committee to Save the New York Public Library

Address: 232 E 11th Street, New York, NY 10003

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/08/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Judi Francis

Address: 140 Pacific St Bklyn

I represent: Citizens Defending Liberties

Address: 62 Men

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/08/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Duffi Hagan

Address: 1177 St Marks Avenue Bklyn 11217

I represent: Citizens Defending Liberties

Address: 622 Montague St Bklyn

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/08/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Robert F. Johnson

Address: 1172 95 Columbia Hgts Bklyn 11201

I represent: Citizens Defending Liberties

Address: 62 Montague St Bklyn

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/04/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dennis Sirelman

Address: 40 Horison St. NY, NY 11201

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague St. Brooklyn

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LIBRARY BUDGET Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition MORE FUNDING

Date: MARCH 8 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHRISTABEL GOUGH

Address: 45 CHRISTOPHER ST NEW YORK

I represent: VOICE FOR THE ARCHITECTURE

Address: 45 CHRISTOPHER ST NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MICHAEL LESLIE

Address: 127 E. 61 ST NY 10065

I represent: CITIZENS Defending Libraries

Address: 622 Montague St Brooklyn

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/08/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bruce Rosen
Address: 600 West End Ave NY 10024
I represent: Citizens Defending Liberties
Address: 62 Montague St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/08/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sonia Collins
Address: 140 Carver Place Lx
I represent: Citizens Defending Liberties
Address: 62 Montague St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/08/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael D.D. White
Address: 62 Montague St Bklyn
I represent: Citizens Defending Liberties
Address: 62 Montague St Bklyn

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 03/08/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carolyn E. McIntyre

Address: 62 Montague St. Bklyn

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague St.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor of the public ☒ in opposition to the speculators
Date: 03/08/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sonia Collins

Address: 140 Cadman Pl W -20J Brooklyn 11201

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RITA BOTT

Address: 1657 E. 34th St., Bklyn

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/7/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANTHONY BUSH

Address: 2360 1st Ave

I represent: organizing for action, mae on org

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition

Date: 3/8/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANTHONY DONOVAN

Address: 120 E 4TH ST

I represent: M/SLC

Address: NEED TO LEAVE EARLY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARILYN DOWNI

Address: 59 Pierrepont St Bklyn

I represent: St. Ann's Warehouse

Address: 55 Washington St, Bklyn

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID JOHNSTON

Address: 230 W 117 St

I represent: Belmont The Arts Center

Address: 230 W 117 St

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms