

# **The Case of SIBL (Science, Industry & Technology Library of NYPL)**

## **February, 2015**

### **Background**

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In 1911, when the 42nd Street Library opened, NYPL's research collection was about 350,000 volumes. However, the plan for the building's unique book delivery system (an enormous Reading Room on top of seven floors of book stacks containing the collection and also supporting it), designed by John Shaw Billings, NYPL's first Director, was to hold over three million research items, with additional space for half a million items in other areas of the building. At that time a small circulating collection was also established. As both collections grew over the decades, the circulating collection quickly outgrew the available limited space.

In 1970 the Mid-Manhattan Library opened across the street at 40th St and 5th Avenue on three floors of the old Arnold Constable department store and the circulating collection was moved there from the 42nd Street library. Mid-Manhattan, with 300,000 volumes, was the largest circulating library of the NYPL system. In 1982, after NYPL took over and renovated the entire building, Mid-Manhattan Library, as we know it, opened with over half a million volumes.

In the 1980's, during Vartan Gregorian's Presidency, the research collection continued to grow, space became overcrowded. Part of the collection (about 1.5 million) was moved to the Annex at 43rd Street & 10/11 Aves. To alleviate the space problem, in 1987 the Bryant Park Stack Expansion (BPSE) project, planned during Vartan Gregorian's Presidency with the goal of almost doubling the stacks space to about 6.2 million items, was started. It was paid from City funds (\$16.6 million for BPSE, see Vartan Gregorian *The Road to Home*, 2004, p.290; Susan Heller Anderson, *Library Starts Road to 84-Mile Shelves Under Park* NYT, Oct 27, 1987). Two underground storage areas were excavated. Initially, one got fully completed with compact shelving, climate control and conveyor belt connecting it to the main building (BPSE 1), the second remained unfinished. The Park restoration was completed in 1991.

### **SIBL**

SIBL was created due to the lack of stacks space at the 42nd Street Library, as NYPL's research collection continued to grow, explained above. On the initiative of NYPL Pres. Timothy Healy and Board Chairman Marshall Rose, **in January 1993 NYPL bought for \$23 million 8 floors of a condominium, 213,000 square feet, in the old Altman department store's landmark designated building\* at 34 St & Madison Ave in order to construct there a new Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL).** (David W Dunlap, *Postings. Library Buys Piece of Altman's* NYT, Feb 23, 1993.)

**Architects: Gwathmey Siegel and Associates**, with a plan for 12,000 square feet street level public space, including a circulating library, a 48,000 square feet space below ground level for the research materials and the main public area, the stacks occupying 3 floors above ground, the rest being offices. Plans were to accommodate 3,000 users a day, the facility was to be wired for computers and workstations. **Financing: \$54.9 million in New York State Dormitory Authority bonds and \$24.5 million from government grants (\$13 million from the City,**

\* The B. Altman Building is an Italian palazzo, built by Trowbridge and Livingston, 1906 -1913, for Benjamin Altman for the first large department store on 5th Avenue, with 8 floors on the 5th Avenue side and 13 floors on the Madison Avenue side. In 1985 it was designated a landmark. The store closed in 1990.

7.5 million from NYS and \$4 million from Federal sources), with the library seeking \$50 million in private contributions "to retire the debt, create an endowment and pay operating costs".

Pres. Healy died 6 days before NYPL took title. Paul LeClerc became the next President.

**SIBL was dedicated on April 24, 1996, and opened to the public on May 2, 1996.**

(Paul Goldberger, Grandeur and Modernity in New Library, NYT Apr 24, 1996,)

**It stated creating SIBL cost \$100 million, 160,000 square feet, with a non-circulating collection of about 1.2 million research books and publications in science, technology, and business, about 250 computers and 500 workstations equipped for visitors with laptops, had a computerized card catalog, also a separate circulating library with 40,000 titles in open stacks. Architects: Charles Gwathmey, Robert Siegel and Associate Jacob Alspector.**

In an earlier article (Bruce Weber, Moving Bits, Bytes and Books to the Library of the Future, NYT, April 5, 1996) it was also mentioned that there would be "seating for 500, with each seat wired for laptop computer hookups; 100 outfitted work stations with access to electronic databases and on-line services and a training center... **...the 40,000 volume circulating library taken from Mid-Manhattan...**" There was an extensive business, science and technology reference collection.

SIBL shared the space at the B. Altman building with the CUNY Graduate Center and Oxford University Press.

**In 1997 SIBL was awarded the AIA/ALA Library Building Award.**

<http://www.ala.org/lama/awards/aiaalalibrarybuildings>

**"Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects, LLC, of New York, New York, for The Science, Industry and Business Library of the New York Public Library.** The architects were faced with the challenge of maintaining the integrity of the landmark B. Altman department store building while incorporating the most advanced computer technology into its infrastructure and providing flexibility for emerging new technologies. The final design, achieved through intensive work sessions and critiques with staff, users and special consultants, presents technology in an easy-to-use manner and helps both technologically advanced and neophyte users achieve their goals. Jurors praised the interior landscape created by the large two-story main hall, as well as the attention to detail manifested in the superior signage, lightning and visibility from the street."

SIBL quickly became very popular.

Nearing its 5 year anniversary, according to an article in the NYT (John Hol Usha, From Department Store to a Store of Knowledge, May 25, 1997), the library owned 1.3 million research items (both book and media), and about 2,000 people per day visited the library and 50,000 users attended programs there.

in 2006, nearing its ten year anniversary, an article in the NYT (Louise Kramer, Home Front: All You Need is a Good Idea and Good Connections, April 16, 2006) strongly praised SIBL's functioning and achievements. An inventor is quoted, "...one of more than 63,000 entrepreneurs, investors and small-business owners who have been trained at the business

library to search its thousands of print and electronic resources for real-life business applications."

Also in 2006, at ten years open, Kristen McDonough, Director of SIBL, and Madeleine Cohen of SIBL, published an article titled **Open for Business: The NYPL Science, Industry and Business Library Takes Stock** (Public Library Quarterly v.25 issue 1/2 p.75-90., 2006). The article claimed 1.4 million volume research collection, 50,000 volume circulating collection and 2000 users per day (about 600,000 users for 300 days open), also describing in detail much about services, resources and community involvement at SIBL

In 2007, SIBL was awarded a **Centers for Excellence Award by the Business and Finance Division of the Special Libraries Association**. This award was described by Leslie Reynolds in the Business and Finance Division Bulletin no. 137 13-15 Winter 2008.  
<http://bf.sla.org/awards/centers-of-excellence-recipients/>

Yet, by 2008 SIBL was on the chopping block, to be sold as part of the **Central Library Plan**. NYPL administrators could not call the elegant new library decrepit, its a/c was functioning well, and they could not object to all the computer wiring and technology. Instead, they claimed it underperformed and was little used - totally untrue (see 2006 article, above).

In 2012 NYPL suddenly announced the sale of 5 floors (floors 3 - 7 of condo ownership, about 140,000 square foot) of SIBL at 188 Madison Ave /E 40th Street for \$60.8 million to the Church Pension Group. See Lois Weiss, NYPL Office Condo is Sold for \$60.8 M (New York Post, Friday, June 22, 2012).

Yet, according to the NYPL Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2012 (July 1, 2011- June 30, 2012) attendance for SIBL was 423,079, a substantial number considering it was only open 51 hours a week, closed on Sundays vs. 88 hours per week of Mid-Manhattan (1.5 million users), 42nd Street ( 2.3 million) open 56 hrs, and 78 hours per week of the Bronx Library Center (679,979).

**SIBL now** is open 51 hours per week (closed on Sundays). Five floors storing the non-circulating collection have been sold and a large proportion of the research collection (we were quoted about 750,000 volumes) has been removed to off-site storage (to ReCAP, Princeton, NJ, or to The Center for Research Libraries in Chicago (CRL)), or to 42nd St. However, the two main floors of the library remain unchanged with both circulating and non-circulating collections on two levels, with the 33 feet high Healy Lobby connecting the two floors. Healy Hall has the Business Information Wall, featuring news and late-breaking business information. On the entry level is the open shelf circulating collection (about 50,000 titles) and reading room, well equipped with computers. The lower level has the remaining Research Collections and several service areas (Information center, Richard B. Salomon Reading Room, Job Search Central, Financial Literacy Central, Electronic Information Center (with 70 computers) and Electronic Training Center with several electronic instructional classrooms, and a Conference Center with larger conference rooms and small meeting rooms). We were unable to get exact figures for the number of seats and computers on the two floors of the library but there is Wi-Fi on the lower level, and the two floors house several hundred computer terminals, laptop docking stations, and hundreds of seats in a very comfortable, practical arrangement. Many programs are offered to the public every day. There are helping aids in print. The library is in excellent condition.

The volume of requests is much lower at SIBL than at the 42nd Street library, off-site requests get filled very fast. Researchers can arrange for requests to be sent to SIBL rather than to 42nd Street, with identical conditions for on-site use. Until the Rose Reading Room gets back to use, this less congested, more efficient and more comfortable set-up should be made known to researchers at 42nd Street.

Both the professional librarians and the support staff at SIBL were most helpful, competent and impressive.

I found less computers, furniture and users than at my prior visit to SIBL a couple of years ago. There are empty shelves, I do not see how the lower floor can hold hundreds of thousands of non-circulating volumes (under 500,000 volumes were mentioned).

### Comments

Since SIBL has been extensively wired, it is a major source of new technology, which few other NYPL or New York City public libraries have. Even if the computers need to be upgraded that expense is relatively small compared to the cost of major renovations, with wiring for the first time. The beautiful use of space in an old landmark building, the excellent layout of the facility, the technological advantage, location (surrounded by many university campuses and near the business district) and easy commute all recommend the choice to keep it as a functioning business library and computer center.

There is a strange happening which Michael White brought to my attention.

**As written above, in 2012 five floors of SIBL were sold for \$60.8 million to the Church Pension Fund. NYPL at the end of September, 2014, purchased eight condos, 74,000 square feet, at 445 Fifth Avenue, next door to the Mid-Manhattan Library, from the Church Pension Group for \$34.5 million. Why? Transparency?**

SIBL could serve the public well during the renovation of the Mid-Manhattan Library, repair of the Rose Reading Room and upgrade of humidity controls and the sprinklers in the book stacks.

I did look-up randomly science titles (I was Science Librarian at Hunter College for 6 years). I found many of them either off-site or checked out. Some of the titles kept off-site or non-circulating belong on open shelves. It was a very small sample. There were some items marked as missing as well, who knows why. A systematic study of the collection would be most useful.

An example: I am very much interested in biographies of scientists. Reading these can be an inspiration for adults, young adults, in some cases even for children.

But NYPL's new policy of buying very few copies for the branches and having floating collections is in my opinion a terrible idea. If someone requests a book at the E79th St Branch which E96th St owns, the book gets packed, trucked to Long Island City where after the Sorting Machine, is repacked and sent to 79th Street. I recently visited the 79th Street branch. I found out that after the user returns it, the book remains at that location. This is most confusing for both librarians and library users. The section on biographies would become very poor, and unreliable. The librarian needs to know what is and what is not in that branch.

I would be interested in paying a visit to the Service Center in Long Island City to see what is happening there. Is anyone interested?



**New York City Council - Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International  
Intergroup Relations, Subcommittee on Libraries and Committee on Finance  
Oversight - Supporting public Libraries in the City's Ten Year Capital Plan  
February 24, 2015, Council Chambers, City Hall  
Testimony by Veronika Conant**

I am Veronika Conant, a retired academic librarian and member of the Committee to Save the New York Public Library. I am also past President of the West 54 - 55 Street Block Association, a group active during the disastrous sale of the Donnell Library. I am speaking in my own name.

The City has already allocated \$151 million to NYPL for renovations. (\$125 million from the Mayor, \$25 million from the City Council and \$1 million from former Borough Pres. Scott Stringer).

According to The Independent Budget Office, NYPL spent by FY 2015 \$14.252 million dollars in taxpayer funds, leaving \$136.748 million. Not yet budgeted by the City Council are \$5 million additional funds for the next two years. We would like to know what it was used for before NYPL spends any more money on renovations at 42nd Street and at Mid-Manhattan. Why is an additional \$5 million being budgeted for a project which has not been publicly presented or described?

The land and building at 42nd Street belong to the public and the budget comes from taxpayer money. We have a right to know what the plans for these funds are before any additional allocations for future capital renovations are decided on. Transparency, accountability and oversight are essential.

**New York Public Library**

*Central Library Master Plan- Mid Manhattan Campus*  
Planned Commitments FY 2015-2017

<i>Funding Sources</i>	<i>FY 2015</i>	<i>FY 2016</i>	<i>FY 2017</i>	<i>Total</i>
Mayoral	\$116,248,000			\$116,248,000
Council	\$19,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$24,500,000
Manhattan Borough Pres.	\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136,748,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$141,748,000</b>

SOURCES: IBO, Financial Management System.

Thank you.

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I am very strongly in support of establishing a 10 year, \$1.1 billion capital funding program for libraries, recommended by the Center for an Urban Future.

At present, it is important to **set priorities for the \$151 million capital funds already awarded to NYPL.**

**Recommended priorities for the \$151 million capital funds already awarded:**

1. Upgrade the existing humidity control and sprinkler systems in the 42nd Street stacks asap and return the 3 million books, thus restoring the efficient book delivery system created and functional there since 1911. Cost according to Tony Marx: **\$46 million** for 3 million books, ensuring storage for the next 30 - 40 years. This a one time expense of \$15.33 per book. Once in the stacks, there are no off-site expenses for these materials. Books stored this way remain in a closed, safe environment, and are easily accessible to researchers.
2. Repair asap the Rose Reading Room, closed since May 2014. Provide the public with the engineer's report and give time and cost estimates.
3. Complete the second Bryant Park Stack Extension. The cost estimate is **\$22 million**, capacity about 1.8 million, \$12.2 per book one time investment.
4. Use the rest of the money for the renovation of the Mid-Manhattan Library, with an open process to discuss details of the renovation plans.
5. Request a cost-benefit analysis of 6.7 million books being kept on location vs stored off-site at ReCAP, Princeton, NJ, and at Clancy-Cullen in upstate NY. The life cost of a book is complex, the sum of the cost of storage and the cost of use over a long time. Each component has to be looked at carefully, in more details.
6. Please show the plans, cost estimates and time tables for other renovations at the 42nd Street Library. While it is appreciated that NYPL will reconfigure the space in other parts of the 42nd Street Library, we want to be assured no space will be taken away from what is needed to allow the book delivery function of the air conditioned book stacks.

During FY 2013 NYPL paid over \$10 million for construction of new off-site storage modules at ReCAP, Princeton, NJ. and almost \$1.6 million to Clancy Moving and Storage for temporary storage in Patterson, NY of the books from the stacks. They also gave over \$4 million in payment to Norman Foster for the unrealized Central Library Plans. During FY 2012 ReCAP got \$1.323 million and N. Foster 1.244 million. The sum of these alone is almost \$17 million. (Data comes from NYPL's Form 990 for FY 2013.)

**Recommendations for new capital funding:**

- Create a 10 year, \$1.1 billion capital fund for NY public libraries as recommended by the Center for an Urban Future. The City has been remiss about this, not fulfilling the agreement with Andrew Carnegie when he donated \$5.2 million for library buildings.
- Create a prioritized list of capital funding needs.
- Group by types: HVAC repairs/replacement, boiler repairs/replacement, roof repairs/replacement, etc. and go in order of highest priorities first.
- Get approval from the City to do each type jointly and try to lower the cost for the combined projects. Streamline these and do the same for each, wiring, etc.
- Use the Department of Design and Construction for the both the above and new construction as much as possible., and also to reconfigure the new Donnell Library's space.
- **Do not allow the sale of the remaining two floors of SIBL or public libraries in any library system at a time when more people than ever use libraries.** SIBL was created in 1996 for \$100 million, much of it financed from public funds, has been wired for technology, with hundreds of computers, and comfortable and expensive furniture. It functions extremely well as a technology center. New libraries need adequate space for seating, collection and equipment.



February 24, 2015

Urban Librarians Unite Testimony Before The New York City Council Committees on Finance and Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations, as well as the Subcommittee on Libraries

**Oversight: Supporting Public Libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan**

Thank you for your invitation to speak today. My name is Christian Zabriskie and I am the executive director of Urban Librarians Unite, a 501c3 that focuses on libraries and librarianship in urban centers. We have been involved in library education, networking, and advocacy in New York City since 2007.

I have had a chance to testify before some of you in the past. My organization is very focused on the profession of librarianship and the promotion of library science in urban centers. Typically when I testify I am trying to put a human face on things and promote librarianship.

Today I have some very real concerns about the state of support for libraries if they are not included in the Ten Year Capital Plan. We have been saying for years that the libraries are in disrepair. The libraries have put together extensive repairs budgets, budgets which combined are over \$1.1 Billion. The Center for an Urban Future, a highly respected think tank which is outside the library ecosystem, has produced studies which speak to the necessity of investment in libraries and in the public benefit they can produce, and do so cost effectively at that. You've heard eyewitness accounts of leaking roofs and broken HVAC systems for years.

Yet here we are. Many of you on all of these committees have worked very hard on this issue for a long time. We know that there are people out there working on this for us and we appreciate those efforts. We need a greater buy in from a larger portion of the City Council and we are very respectfully calling for their attention on this issue.

It is an immediate issue. There were four community libraries closed in New York City on Friday due to the cold. The heating systems couldn't keep up and these spaces which should be community warming stations were closed. We can discuss hardship of staff who are working in cold buildings but these are also public access spaces for our communities. Those of us who speak up for libraries are excited that the capital needs are starting to be discussed. We are very eager to see what solutions our leaders in City Government will be able to

provide. The current state of repairs for libraries in New York City is pervasive, it is corrosive, and it has been allowed to fester for far too long.

While I know we are not siren services I have to draw the connection, you don't send out firetrucks with half full tanks and hoses that leak, you don't send NYPD in broken down cruisers and hope for the best. These buildings are what we have to work with. They are where we do all that programming and education and public good you have been hearing more and more about. If they are dilapidated or broken down then we literally cannot provide the services that you and our public require of us.

This can keeps getting kicked down the line for the next set of leaders to deal with. It has left the libraries scrambling, looking for often controversial solutions at a handful of branches which then dominate the discussion while the real issues continue to be left unaddressed.

I am going to close with an anecdote, library stories make for great stories. I have had a family in my library at my real job for the last few months. Its a father son combination, the father looks like he has seen some rough times but his son is clearly the apple of his eye. The son is a young teen who wants to be a lawyer, even a politician one day. We've been doing all the classics, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, *The 48 Laws of Power*, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, all that good stuff. His posture was straighter, he was starting to speak up to be heard and speak up for himself. Things were going great. Well a couple of weeks ago I saw him getting picked up by the NYPD. He was shouting and pulling and then we made eye contact and he got very quiet and got in the car. I ran into his dad just a couple of days ago and he ducked out before I could find out very much.

OK you are thinking that this is just a sad library story but it's not. I get PAID to be resourceful and I have been doing book clubs in the juvenile justice system for years. There is a very good chance that I know the librarian at the facility that he is at so he will be seeing a friendly face in the library again. He will get out, and he will come back to the library and we will get him through school and he very well might sit up there where you are in the decades to come.

Libraries are not quiet places that people go to read romances and mysteries and check their email. We do this kind of thing on larger and smaller levels all the time all over the city. We can't do it if we are in broken down rotting buildings and we can't get on top of that damage if we just do piecemeal patchwork efforts. I implore you to find true solutions to the capital funding needs of the library in the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan.

Thank you for your time today.

Christian Zabriskie  
Founder/Executive Director  
Urban Librarians Unite

[www.savenyclibraries.org](http://www.savenyclibraries.org)  
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**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE JOINTLY WITH THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES  
AND INTERNATIONAL  
INTERGROUP RELATIONS AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES**

**Oversight: Supporting Public Libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan**

**February 24, 2015**

Good morning. I am Tony Marx, President and CEO of The New York Public Library (NYPL).

I'd like to start by thanking Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras, Majority Leader and Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer and Chair Costa Constantinides, as well as the entire City Council for your strong support of New York City libraries.

We are here today to discuss the City's Ten-Year Capital Strategy. For the first time in recent memory, New York's three public library systems were asked to submit a Ten-Year Capital Plan, providing libraries with the opportunity to think creatively about a long-term solution to our capital funding deficit. As a recent report by the independent Center for an Urban Future (CUF) points out, with at least \$1.1 billion in collective capital needs, "it's not surprising that the city's libraries are on the verge of a maintenance crisis."

More than a century ago, a pioneering partnership was formed between New York City, the City's libraries, and among the most generous philanthropists our nation has known, Andrew Carnegie. These partners had a simple yet ambitious dream—to build a public library within

walking distance of every New Yorker. The dream was realized, and generations of New Yorkers—including former Secretary of State Colin Powell and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor—credit their neighborhood library with improving their lives and making our city a beacon of opportunity.

Today, NYPL's 88 branches continue to offer access to books, but they have also become proactive forces in their communities, providing expanded opportunities for success—from free Wi-Fi and computer access to job search help, resume writing services, and other key educational programs. In addition, libraries continue to partner with the City in new and exciting ways, including the recent launch of the Library HotSpot program and the opening of IDNYC enrollment centers in five libraries across the city. New Yorkers also have the ability to use their IDNYC card as a library card. We've already welcomed thousands of new visitors into our libraries as a result of this partnership.

Yet, despite public libraries' ever more important role in keeping neighborhoods strong, funding for libraries has not kept up, particularly for capital needs. As CUF noted in their recent report: "New York City's public libraries are serving more people in more ways than ever before, and have become an increasingly critical part of the city's human capital system; but they have been undervalued by policymakers."

For our capital projects, there is no doubt that we have benefited from support from individual Council Members, Borough Presidents, the Speaker, and the Mayor across our system's 92

locations. Over the past 10 years, with your support, we have completed over 150 projects valued at \$253 million. Another \$354 million is currently invested in ongoing branch capital projects across the system. Thanks to your generosity, we have an array of important projects underway, including a major renovation of the Woodstock Library in the South Bronx, a second phase of renovations at the Schomburg Center in Harlem, and new library buildings at Westchester Square in the Bronx, Charleston on Staten Island, and Roosevelt Island. We are also looking forward to our Midtown Campus project, which will provide a much-needed renovation for our largest circulating branch, Mid-Manhattan Library, which serves over 1.4 million New Yorkers a year from all five boroughs.

In all this, we are engaging the public to ensure we create libraries that meet New Yorkers' needs. We are convening community meetings, conducting surveys, and displaying signage to educate the public on our plans and solicit input. We recognize it is more important than ever to work with our communities to design the spaces and develop the programs that serve them.

Despite this progress, far more must be done to ensure that our critical infrastructure needs are addressed. In addition to the projects just described, we still face nearly \$600 million in urgent capital needs across our system. This number comprises everything from ADA compliance to health and life safety projects, heating and cooling system upgrades to roof replacements, full branch renovations to façade restorations. These projects are necessary if we want our libraries to be able to provide the level of service New Yorkers deserve.

Contributing to this systematic problem is the lack of a dedicated capital funding stream that would allow us to long-term plan. At NYPL, the average age of our libraries is 67 years old, with many branches dating back more than 100 years. And each year we must go to our elected officials to ask for capital funding. Of course, you are great partners in this work, but since this process is based on the discretion and funding ability of individual elected officials, decisions are not based on an informed assessment of priorities. We do not have the opportunity to properly address critical and ongoing infrastructure needs or to plan ahead.

With a stable stream of funding, we can plan more effectively for our long-term needs, and at NYPL we can deliver these projects as pass-throughs more cheaply and expeditiously.

Supported by over a decade of data, we are confident in our ability to manage capital projects in a responsible, cost-effective, and timely manner, ultimately realizing the greatest possible benefit to New Yorkers. If we compare three DDC-managed projects over the past three years with three NYPL-managed projects during the same period of time, on average, the total cost per square foot for NYPL projects is half that of DDC-managed ones. Similarly, the duration for NYPL-managed projects is half that of DDC-managed projects. This demonstrates that there is a tremendous opportunity for us to think more creatively about how to manage and deliver on capital projects, and we're eager to work with our partners in city government to explore new solutions.

Part of developing a long-term solution is the inclusion of libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital Strategy. In the City's Preliminary Ten-Year Capital Strategy (Fiscal Years 2016-2025) libraries



are projected to receive a total of \$62.3 million over the next ten years. NYPL's portion of this allocation is \$19.2 million - \$17.7 for the essential reconstruction of facilities, \$1.3 million for the expansion and construction of facilities, and \$0.2 million for improvements to existing facilities. While this is an important first step, it would only allow for roughly 3% of our total capital needs to be met. We believe that now is the time for the City to make a momentous investment in the physical infrastructure of our libraries through a three-tiered approach that we proposed in our Ten-Year Capital Plan submission.

**Our Plan: Renovating Branches, Addressing Critical Needs, Updating Technology**

NYPL's branch libraries are uniquely positioned to enable the City to realize its four capital investment goals – equity, growth, resiliency and sustainability—through a three-tiered approach to investing in libraries totaling \$589 million: fully renovate branches in high-need neighborhoods (\$200 million), create a critical maintenance needs fund to catch up on decades of inadequate capital investment (\$300 million), and establish stable funding for targeted, system-wide technology upgrades in our libraries (\$89 million).

**Renovating Branches (\$200 million):** We are committed to fully renovating or replacing 10 branches over the next 10 years—five in the first five years of the plan, and five more in the second. Sites have been proposed based on an internal review of branches in the highest need areas and aligned with communities of interest for the City, including East Harlem, Hunts Point, and Western Staten Island. During the first five years, we aim to fully renovate the following libraries: 125<sup>th</sup> Street and Fort Washington in Manhattan, Hunts Point and Melrose in the Bronx, and Port Richmond on Staten Island. Four of these branches were identified by CUF as being

among the ten branches citywide most in need of repair and all five are Carnegie building (four are over 100-years-old).

The impact of capital investment on our communities is immediate and powerful. Following the recent major renovation of our Washington Heights branch – another 100-year-old, Carnegie building – we saw a 107 percent increase in program attendance, a 47 percent increase in visits, and a 45 percent increase in circulation. With similar investments, these five branch libraries can be revitalized and will undoubtedly experience increases in visits, circulation and attendance. These communities deserve the same opportunities.

**Critical Maintenance Needs (\$300 million):** To prioritize and plan for maintenance spending, NYPL is undertaking a new study of all needs across our 88-branch network, paid for through private funds. Following this nine-month review, we will be able to list by year the projects we plan to undertake, including: ADA Compliance upgrades such as ramps, accessible entrances, and upgraded elevators and bathrooms; exterior and structural work such as roof replacements and facade restorations; essential health and safety upgrades, including sprinklers and upgraded fire alarm and security systems; and lastly, HVAC upgrades, including new boilers and other upgraded heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems. Many of our branches are in desperate need of investment.

**Technology Upgrades (\$89 million):** Today, access to computers and the Internet is a basic necessity. For many of the over 2 million New Yorkers in the digital dark, libraries are the sole

source of light. As my colleagues here can tell you, before and after we close each day, our users rely on WiFi leaked from our buildings. When the branches open, there are lines for every computer. To continue with this critical support, libraries need a steady stream of funding to upgrade and increase our Wi-Fi capacity; refresh the technology we offer, both hardware and software; improve user experience through enhanced technology, such as self-service offerings; and to continue to refresh core networking infrastructure. These investments allow us to keep pace with such great demand.

For more than a century, NYPL's network of 88 neighborhood libraries across the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island have served as powerful engines of individual and community empowerment and development. But they require capital investment to ensure they can continue to provide all New Yorkers with the tools—and the essential public spaces—they need and deserve. The capital investment we have outlined today offers the City the opportunity to advance our city, its neighborhoods, and its citizens – for two overarching reasons – libraries foster strong communities by promoting equity and supporting growth, and NYPL's network of 88 neighborhood branches – though depleted of capital spending for decades – provide an important physical infrastructure to build the City's resiliency and increase sustainability. We hope that as the City continues to work towards a final Ten-Year Capital Strategy, a more substantial investment in libraries will be committed, one that will allow us to increase our ability to provide world class library services and programs to New Yorkers in safe, warm and accessible spaces. Once again, thank you for all your support on this very important issue, and for this opportunity to testify. We remain available to answer any questions you may have.

**Testimony to the Committee on Finance jointly with the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the Subcommittee on Libraries, February 24, 2015**

**Good Afternoon I want to thank Chairs James G. Van Bramer, Julissa Ferraras and the members of the Finance and Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Committees, and the Libraries Subcommittee for the opportunity to testify and advocate for the inclusion of public Libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan.**

**My name is Roxana Benavides. I began a rewarding career at the Brooklyn Public Library 21 years ago as a library trainee at the Williamsburg branch. For the past 10 years I have been working at the Sunset Park Library Branch where I am currently the Neighborhood Library Supervisor. I am a proud Brooklynite, who lives in Kensington and works in Sunset Park. I am also an immigrant and ESOL speaker, 2 characteristics that I have in common with a large segment of the diverse community in Sunset Park – our branch serves the zip codes with some of the largest percentage of ESOL speakers in Brooklyn.**

**In my testimony, I want to highlight the robust programming and library services offered at the Sunset Park Library from Early Literacy programs including those for children with special needs, multilingual technology /information literacy, bilingual story hours; English as Second Language classes and conversation groups including ESOL for Business, Knitting, RIF, Tween & Teen Time; Chess club, family movies, after school homework help, reading coach, etc.**

**The Sunset Park is one of the busiest branches in the Brooklyn Public Library system, located in one of the most densely populated and diverse neighborhoods in Brooklyn. Originally opened in 1905, and rebuilt as a one-story building in the earliest 1970's. Despite, ranking among the top 10 branches in both attendance and circulation in the system, 12,000 square feet, it is not adequate space to meet the needs of this active and growing community.**

**The branch has long been in need of expansion and renovation for the installation of a new boiler and roof, and of the self-check machines and the removal of the circulation desk. In addition, the air conditioning system stopped working last summer and 4 portable cooling units were installed. Although, they represented a temporary solution to combating the summer high temperatures, at the same time they have exacerbated other critical challenges we are facing in many fronts; the inadequate sitting as well as the already limited public area and shelving spaces. The branch layout is outdated and needs to be modernized – access and traffic patterns for wheel chairs and strollers to the downstairs program room and WF1 office are hindered by the inefficient operation of our outdated elevator.**

**As you already know, to address these challenges , the Brooklyn Public Library is considering partnering with the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC), a not-for-profit affordable housing developer, to build a new Sunset Park Library within a mixed-use building on the site of the existing library. The new 8 story building would include about 50 units of affordable housing above a new library facility of more than 20,000 square feet. This modern state-of-the-art new library would allow us to dramatically improve our service delivery and increase programs targeted to the Sunset Park community.**

**Inequity of access often results from inequities in the allocation of public funding. Please help us ensure physical and economic access to library buildings that are welcoming, safe and relevant to the communities we serve.**

**Roxana Benavides | Neighborhood Library Supervisor  
Brooklyn Public Library | Sunset Park Library Branch  
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**[rbenavides@bklynlibrary.org](mailto:rbenavides@bklynlibrary.org)**

**Testimony- Oversight: Supporting Public Libraries in the  
City's Ten-Year Capital Plan**

**February 24, 2015**

Maria Marcantonio, Program Officer, Charles H. Revson Foundation

Good Morning. My name is Maria Marcantonio and I am a Program Officer at the Charles H. Revson Foundation. I am here on behalf of Julie Sandorf and the Revson Foundation and I want to thank Chairwoman Ferreras, Chairman Van Bramer, and Chairman Constantinides for inviting me to speak to you today.

The Revson Foundation operates grant programs in the areas of Urban Affairs, Education, Biomedical Research, and Jewish Life, and some of the most successful projects that we have funded in New York City have centered on the public libraries.

Of the many critical organizations in this city, you may ask why the Foundation chooses to invest in libraries. The answer is simple—the public libraries are unlike any other institution in this City. Located in every neighborhood and free and open to all, the libraries provide every New Yorker with access to opportunities for growth and education.

From job-assistance programs and English language classes to early childhood education and literacy workshops—the fact remains that library usage in New York City has never been greater, with more than 40 million visits, 56 million items circulated, and 2.7 million people attending programs at the libraries' over 200 locations over the past year.

What makes this usage particularly extraordinary is that the City's public libraries are suffering from decades of neglect and underinvestment, which has resulted in \$1.1 billion in capital needs. The average branch library is 61 years old, and 59 of the over 200 branches each need \$5 million or more in basic repairs.

Rather than detailing these capital needs, I want to share with you what New Yorkers have written to tell us about their public libraries.

The following quotes are pulled from the over 13,000 submissions that we received from New Yorkers nominating their libraries to win one of this year's NYC Neighborhood Library Awards; this awards program honors the City's branch libraries with a monetary prize and is co-sponsored by the Revson and Stavros Niarchos Foundations.

A parent from the Marcy Library in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn wrote: "Children's programming has been amazing for my family and lots of neighborhood kids use the space for homework. The Library is in a neighborhood with high needs (for many things) and its HVAC system is a disaster. Having no AC meant less library service for us this summer."

Clare in the Bronx explained how her children go to the library every day after school to do their homework but, "Whenever it rains, the library gets flooded, especially in the children's section. Arriving families are turned away; it would be so nice to have funds to make the necessary upgrades for flood prevention."

Frances, a Queens parent and immigrant explained: "The library has so much to offer, yet its space and hardware are worn out. Money can help the library to increase space, upgrade the classroom, kids' room, and bathrooms. It will truly benefit the whole community!"

A patron in Flatbush, Brooklyn wrote, "Although there are dozens of people like me who come in daily to use their laptops, there is only one station, with three seats and a single, old power strip. The floors, the walls and the lighting are like books that haven't been returned: an overhaul is "long overdue." The physical plant is sagging, and updated resources are needed. The community deserves a better facility."

In nomination after nomination, New Yorkers from all over the city describe how critical their neighborhood libraries are, how they consider them to be second homes, and how much help the libraries need.

The philanthropic community has great interest in supporting the diverse range of library programs and services, but the basic infrastructure needs to be in place to accommodate the innovative new projects that will attract private investment.

The city must live up to its commitments to equal access to education and opportunity for all.

Miguel, a 20-year old student from the Bronx put it best, writing, "The library resources are imperative to me because they level up the playing field for most of us in the community. It provides us with study books for city exams, internet to fill out job applications, classes to navigate the Microsoft office, Health Care seminars, and more. If it wasn't for our local library, a lot of us would be stuck in a slump that we can't even begin to imagine. Calling this Library a second home is an understatement it is more like an inspiration gym to further ourselves. It gives us the chance to evolve and dream."

As the leaders and policymakers of this city, you have the ability to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the resources they need to make their own American dream come true by supporting the city's public libraries. Thank you.

**TESTIMONY OF DAVID GILES**  
**RESEARCH DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE**  
**HEARING BEFORE THE NYC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND THE**  
**COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL**  
**INTERGROUP RELATIONS**  
**REGARDING LIBRARIES AND THE CITY'S TEN-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

With branches in nearly every neighborhood across the five boroughs, public libraries are perfectly positioned to help City policymakers meet a number of high priority challenges. They serve residents of all ages on a nearly daily basis and provide a wide range of critical services, including language and technology classes, job placement advice, after-school programs and homework help. They offer programs and resources targeting immigrants, toddlers, teenagers, and seniors, and can shift these services around from neighborhood to neighborhood and ramp them up on relatively short notice.

For this reason, libraries often play a critical role in the implementation and delivery of City policies and programs. They serve as information resources during tax preparation season, as cooling and warming centers during extreme weather, official job placement sites in previously underserved neighborhoods, and, most recently, enrollment locations for the city's popular Municipal ID program. But though the City often comes to the libraries for help in meeting both short- and long-term policy goals, it has never really taken ownership of them and invested in their ability to serve in so many different capacities. Because the libraries' operating budgets are still well below what they were before the financial crisis of 2008, the vast majority aren't open on the weekends or evenings, when it is more convenient for many working families to use them. In Fiscal Year 2013, they were open an average of only 43 hours per week, which compares poorly to many other library systems across the state and country.

Just as importantly, public libraries have traditionally played almost no role in the City's long-term capital plan. As the Center for an Urban Future (CUF) documents in some detail in a recent report, the vast majority of capital investments come through a piecemeal funding process that makes it all but impossible for the libraries to plan for the future. Unlike most other agencies, libraries don't receive a guaranteed capital budget to make systematic repairs, but instead raise funds from individual elected officials on a year-by-year and project-by-project basis. Nearly 60% of the libraries' total capital budget comes from individual City Council members and borough presidents through the discretionary funding process. The average for city agencies is just 6%.



Because discretionary dollars are limited, the libraries have to piece together funds from a wide variety of different sources, and they often have to break up projects into smaller, more manageable parts in order to get the construction and repair process underway. As a result, more than three quarters of the branches that have received capital upgrades since 2010 still have major repair needs that have gone unaddressed. 64% of those branches have needs totaling \$1 million or more.

This broken funding system has brought on a maintenance crisis in the city's 207 branch libraries. Overall, we at the Center for an Urban Future estimate the libraries' capital needs to be around \$1.1 billion, the vast majority of which is for basic building repairs—things like leaky roofs, broken HVACs, and deteriorating facades—rather than for modern amenities and bigger and more dynamic spaces. But, as we document in our September report, expanding and modernizing facilities so that more people can use technology and participate in public programs is an important need as well. At a time when computers and smart phones are necessary for even basic tasks, 58% of branches have enough electrical outlets for just ten or fewer patrons at a time.

There would be enormous benefits to creating a true, long-term capital plan to help the libraries overcome these challenges. First and foremost, a firm financial commitment from the City—one the libraries could depend on over multiple years—would allow the libraries to raise additional funds from private donors. This has proven to be a successful model for many cultural groups in New York as well as for some libraries in other cities. For example, when the Seattle Public Library launched a capital campaign in the late 1990s to rebuild all 24 branches in its system, it drew on a \$200 million government bond to raise an additional 30% —or \$60 million—from private sources. I believe New York could do even better. Many New York City donors, including several prominent philanthropies, want to invest in library facilities, but only if their investments build on a well-thought-out and -funded plan. Many feel basic building repairs, in particular, are the responsibility of government.

Equally important, a long-term capital plan would allow the City to better align library investments with important policy priorities, including the de Blasio Administration's ambitious new housing, resilience and workforce development initiatives. Like schools, library investments should factor prominently in city upzonings and accompany major new housing developments that increase neighborhood density and put stress on vital community services.

They should also figure prominently in the City's resilience and storm preparedness plans: After Superstorm Sandy, libraries in Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island played important roles in the recovery, as residents came to the libraries to charge their phones, share information and retrieve blankets and food—and as Red Cross workers came to print out maps and plan their house-to-house checks. But the libraries in these communities were also severely damaged and their role in the recovery dramatically hampered.

Investments that were part of a long-term plan would better position these vital community assets to serve both residents and first responders in case of another storm. And given the sheer number of libraries in or near city evacuation zones, this should be a priority for officials at both the City and State level. According to a recent analysis, 74 branches are located within New York City evacuation zones, including 12 inside Zone 1. 75 additional branches are within a half-mile walk of the evacuation zones. Together, these 149 branches have over \$600 million in capital needs.

Now that the de Blasio Administration is breathing new life into the 10-year capital plan and thinking strategically (and rigorously) about how its investments can increase affordable housing and improve community development, libraries have an important role to play. Though they have experienced a sharp increase in users and uses over the last decade, this has happened more often than not *despite* budget cuts and neglect from the City. A bold new plan that not only tackled the libraries' extensive State of Good Repair needs but paved the way for an expansion and modernization of services would unleash their potential for community development and individual economic empowerment.

## FOR THE RECORD

Dear Council men,  
Dear friends,  
Dear Library Staff,

I'd like to thank the Finance, Cultural Affairs and Library committees for this opportunity to testify about the needs of my library.

My name is Anna Nemerovsky. I immigrated to NY in 1988. Since that time I enjoy Brooklyn public library.

The library renders assistance to me and those who take examinations for US citizenship. The library introduced me with the basics of computer work. I have a luxury to join the the Sheepshead Bay library " Russian Writers & Poets" club. The Library's Russian Literature Club welcomed doors to all Russian Literature enthusiasts. The Brooklyn Public Library gave me an opportunity to celebrate my Russian roots, my traditions, my literature and culture.

I have a luxury to participate in the library's free Sewing and knitting Clubs. I have a luxury to read books in my native language - Russian! The librarians are helping me to choose books and give professional advice about what to read next.

I love America! Here in America, I have the opportunity to read books in my own language which I dreamed to read back in Russia. These books were not available there because they were forbidden.

My library is the cultural, recreational and informational center uniting people of all ages and nationalities! Thanks to my library I met many intelligent, educated people and also, people in need.

MY Country USA, is the most democratic and civilized country in the world, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when all the nations look at us,... I am asking your help dear Counselors... Please help my library to accomplish necessary construction work, to fix the leaking roofs, broken AC's, drainage systems and replace old windows.

The Library builds the future of our young generation. The future of the young Americans are - in your hands! Dear counselors! I am asking you do not economise at the expense of my Library! Because my Library is an education, cultural, informational & fundamental center of my society!

I'd like to thank the Finance, Cultural Affairs and Library committees for giving me this opportunity to testify about the crucial needs of my library!

=====

В библиотеках оказывают помощь по подготовке к сдаче экзамена на гражданство. Обучают работе с компьютером. В библиотеке на Шибшеад Бей собирается клуб поэтов, клуб любителей литературы, Пушкинское общество Америки.

Волонтеры обучают шитью и вязанию. Работники библиотеки помогают читателям подобрать нужные книги по интересующей тематике, дадут грамотный совет.

Пожилые люди разных национальностей приходят в библиотеку и просят книги на своих родных языках. Они могут прочитать книги, о которых давно мечтали в своей стране, но не могли их достать, так как они были запрещены в их странах. Только сейчас

и здесь они могут расширить свой кругозор. В дискуссионном клубе научиться культурно спорить, аргументированно отстаивать свое мнение, с уважением к собеседнику. Библиотеки - это районные центры объединяющие умных, образованных, интеллигентных людей.

В библиотеках оказывают помощь по подготовке к сдаче экзамена на гражданство. Обучают работе с компьютером. В библиотеке на Шибшеад Бей собирается клуб поэтов, клуб любителей литературы, Пушкинское общество Америки.

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Как это возможно, чтобы в самой демократической стране мира в Соединенных Штатах Америки в XXI веке, когда на нас смотрит весь мир, будут урезаны фонды библиотек !!!

Наше будущее - это образованная молодежь. Нельзя экономить ни на образовании, ни на школах, ни на колледжах, ни на библиотеках!!!

Anna Nemerovsky  
President, Friends of Sheepshead Bay Library

**Statement by Emily Banks,  
Friends of the Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center**

**The Committee on Finance jointly with the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and  
International Intergroup Relations and the Subcommittee on Libraries**

**Oversight: Supporting Public Libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan**

**February 24, 2015**

I am Emily Banks of the Friends of the Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center. I have been teaching basic education to adults at the library for approximately 20 years. With me is Vivian Roberts, an ESOL teacher and also a member of the Friends. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

The Adult Learning Center is located in Rochdale Village in the south of Queens. It serves more than 250 adult students every year who come to the library to gain a basic education in literacy, math, English as a Second Language and some to prepare for the High School Equivalency Exam. It is very difficult for these learners to become motivated and stay with the program, but it is life-changing for them. The job market is so competitive under the best of circumstances. Imagine what it's like for someone who cannot read adequately and who has no computer skills. But let me tell you about Fabiola Ozier, a woman who came to us from Haiti. She started at Queens Library as an ESOL student. She earned her High School Equivalency diploma. She is now working as a home health aide while she attends college.

The demand for adult learning services at Queens Library was far beyond what we could provide because the space within the library that housed the Adult Learning Program was too small by half. In the afternoons or evenings, there wasn't a spare chair or a quiet corner for these adults to work or study. No one would try to educate a child under these conditions and expect him or her to achieve. There weren't enough computers. Students were literally sitting "cheek-by-jowl." We could have been teaching twice as many people if only we had more space.

In 2002, we began talking to our elected officials about an expansion onto property adjacent to the library. It took years to obtain funding, but thanks to the Queens Borough President, New York State Assembly Member Vivian Cook; the late Council member Thomas White and his successor, Council Member Ruben Wills; and the Queens Delegation to the Council, the funding was secured.

The project has been in active construction for the past three years --since March 5, 2012 -- and is scheduled to finally be completed later this spring. We've been limping along as best we can in the meantime. When the expanded Adult Learning Center re-opens, our learners can look forward to an adult learning environment that treats them with dignity. They will have more study space, more computers, more classroom space. And we will have the resources to teach twice as many more adults the basic skills they need to be successful in the 21st century.

We ask the Council to understand how important it is for libraries to have needed capital funds to build and maintain adequate facilities. And we ask the City Council to help the libraries streamline the process so it does not take such an extended time to build. In the three years since building began, we have helped 750 adults learn to read and write. But we have missed helping so many more. That is too high a price to pay.

Thank you for your attention.



Queens Library's Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center



Queens Library's Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center



**Brooklyn Public Library**  
**Committee on Finance jointly with the Committee on Cultural**  
**Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the**  
**Subcommittee on Libraries**  
**February 24, 2015**

Good morning. My name is Linda Johnson and I am the president and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the Library's capital needs and request the city's help in addressing them.

Earlier this month, Brooklyn Public Library's Arlington branch reopened after a 5-month closure for renovation. Arlington Library has served the residents of Cypress Hills for more than one hundred years, and this historic Carnegie library is now safer, brighter, and more inviting with its new roof, energy-efficient lighting, and other critical infrastructure improvements.

Yet in spite of our \$1.2 million investment in Arlington Library, the branch still requires more than \$5 million in upgrades to restore it to a state of good repair.

Arlington Library's condition is emblematic of the challenges we face throughout our entire system. Without City support for a comprehensive capital improvements plan, New York City's libraries

have been forced to apply piecemeal solutions to potentially crippling deficiencies. This approach has failed the more than one million Brooklynites who depend on the Library's programs, collections, and services.

Brooklyn Public Library's staff and board of trustees are grateful for the \$18 million in capital funding we received last year from the Council, the Administration, and the Borough President. We know that the City supports our libraries in principle, yet the current level of capital funding is not adequate given the enormous challenges we confront.

Consider that:

- Seventy percent of Brooklyn Public Library's branches are more than fifty years old;
- Nearly a third of our buildings are over 100 years old;
- Almost all of our 59 locations require more than \$1 million in capital repairs, and a quarter of them require more than \$5 million.

Last year Brooklyn neighborhoods lost more than 1,000 hours of Library service as a result of unplanned branch closures due to emergency building maintenance issues. In fact, just last week we were forced to close four branches—Park Slope, Saratoga,

Brownsville, and Rugby—because we could not keep them warm in the extreme cold weather.

Our physical plant is deteriorating. Our branches are, in many cases, crumbling. Our library system faces more than \$300 million in unfunded capital needs, including nearly \$80 million in emergency repairs.

Without your support, the day will soon come when we can no longer provide the level of service that you and your constituents expect and deserve, much less the excellence we strive to achieve.

This year we have submitted a ten-year capital plan to the Administration outlining the extent of our infrastructure needs and proposing a way forward. Brooklyn Public Library's \$400 million capital plan would modernize our libraries and ensure their continued service to the New Yorkers who value and depend on them.

Though we were disappointed that a long-term capital commitment to libraries was not included in the Mayor's preliminary budget proposal, we look forward to working with the Administration and City Council to develop a final budget that reflects New Yorkers' support for their libraries.

No single approach will solve this problem. We must think creatively, manage projects effectively, and enlist the support of public and private partners to meet our extensive capital challenges. Tomorrow we will send scores of advocates to Albany to ask the State Legislature and the Governor to do their part to support libraries. But we will not stop there.

### ***Doing Our Part: Creative Solutions***

We recognize that our sustainable, comprehensive capital plan requires more public investment than libraries have received in the past. As we ask for your support of the plan, we also commit to you that we will do our part to engineer solutions for our aging physical plant.

As I have testified to you in the past, Brooklyn Public Library is pursuing several partnerships to generate much-needed funds for our branches. Today we are joined by Neighborhood Library Specialist Roxana Benavides, who will testify about ongoing challenges at Sunset Park Library, one of our system's busiest branches. As you will hear from Roxana, Sunset Park is in desperate need of repair:

- The branch's HVAC system has failed.
- Its roof and boiler are in urgent need of replacement.

- At 12,200 square feet, the space is much too small to meet the neighborhood's demand for library services.

Sunset Park is a diverse, growing community. While our collections and programs have evolved to meet the needs of our patrons, Sunset Park Library's current facility is no longer able to serve the neighborhood.

We propose to build a new library for the community by partnering with the Department of Housing Preservation & Development and the Fifth Avenue Committee, a not-for-profit housing developer. We and our partners will redevelop the property with a new, multi-story, 20,000-square-foot library topped by 50 units of affordable housing. We will solicit input and feedback from neighborhood stakeholders throughout the design process.

In December, I testified that the Library was one of 13 finalists under consideration for grants from the Greenpoint Community Environmental Fund, a joint program of the New York State Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Environmental Conservation. We are very pleased to report that Brooklyn Public Library has been awarded \$5 million for a new 6,500-square-foot addition to Greenpoint Library that will complement planned capital repairs at the branch.

With more than 16,000 registered borrowers and many more visitors who attend programs and access technology at the branch, Greenpoint is quickly becoming one of the busiest libraries in our system. Treasured for its early childhood literacy programs and its Polish-language collections, Greenpoint Library has outgrown its current configuration. The branch's existing layout, which includes only one small meeting room, limits the range of programs it can offer. The renovation will create new community program and event spaces that will accommodate a much greater number of users.

The Greenpoint Environmental Education Center, scheduled to open in 2018, will add a second floor to the library, increasing public space by more than 80%. The library will become a neighborhood hub for free environmental programs and resources, including information about the history of the neighborhood and its ongoing environmental challenges. The center will offer a centrally located space where community groups dedicated to addressing environmental issues will be able to hold meetings and host public programs.

Another strategy we have employed is the pursuit of city dollars for energy efficiency projects at our branches, including most recently the lighting upgrades at Arlington Library. Projects like these reduce the City's carbon footprint and extend the useful lives of the upgraded systems. We intend to pursue this strategy during upcoming repairs at Brighton Beach and Ulmer Park. Additionally, we will be installing the

first green roof project in our system at Windsor Terrace Library with funds made available through participatory budgeting.

As I have previously testified, we have pursued several other partnerships that will generate funds for our branches, including the redevelopment of Brooklyn Heights Library and the Spaceworks project at Williamsburgh Library. However, solutions like these are not available for the vast majority of our branches, including those in most dire need of repair.

***Infrastructure Crisis: Need for Consistent Reliable Funding Source***

New Lots Library tallied nearly 13,000 branch visits in January. The library bustles with activity and hosts many well-attended programs for children and adults. New Lots boasts an adult literacy center and a large, active volunteer base.

Unfortunately, New Lots Library is plagued by \$5.35 million in outstanding repairs.

- The branch's adult literacy center was forced to close for nearly two weeks because of a failing boiler;
- The roof, elevator, and drainage systems must be replaced; and

- The interior of the library requires a full renovation and reconfiguration to provide more usable, flexible, and inspiring spaces for patrons.

Today we are joined by New Lots Library staff members Edwin Maxwell and Larissa Larrier. Their testimony will highlight their branch's challenges, which Brooklyn Public Library hopes to resolve with City support as outlined in our 10-year capital plan.

## ***Conclusion***

The time has come to fully fund Brooklyn Public Library.

We cannot continue to sustain the repair costs that inevitably result from the long-term neglect of our facilities.

And we must meet the expectations of our patrons as they seek more collaborative learning spaces and grow more reliant on our digital and technological resources.

Brooklyn Public Library's capital plan is built around two fundamental goals: bringing all facilities into good repair by addressing critical capital needs, and, where we need to, overhauling branches like New Lots Library to create comfortable, modern spaces for patrons to enjoy.



Other branches that we propose to revamp include Brownsville, Canarsie, New Utrecht, and Eastern Parkway.

We have requested \$400 million in capital support over a period of ten years, of which \$200 million would be utilized for 10 full library overhauls, \$175 million for systems-based renovations, and \$25 million for technology upgrades.

We urge the City to approach our libraries' needs as it does the infrastructure needs of other publicly-owned assets: with consistent, reliable funding around which long-term capital plans can be developed.

Your support of Brooklyn Public Library's 10-year capital plan will allow us to repair our aging branches, reconfigure back-office library space for public uses, and provide our patrons with inviting and inspiring facilities.

Our plan will prove far more cost-effective for the City over the long term as we break the current cycle of chronic neglect that culminates in expensive emergency repairs.

A reliable capital plan will reduce service disruption to the patrons and visitors who turn to our branches for help finding jobs, starting businesses, preparing for college, or earning United States citizenship.

No civic institution in our borough serves more people in more neighborhoods than Brooklyn Public Library. We ask the City's support of our 10-year capital plan so that we may provide the 2.5 million residents of Brooklyn with the safe, welcoming libraries they deserve.

Thank you for your support of Brooklyn Public Library. We look forward to continuing our work together.

# Brooklyn Public Library's Capital Construction Needs and Notable Capital Projects

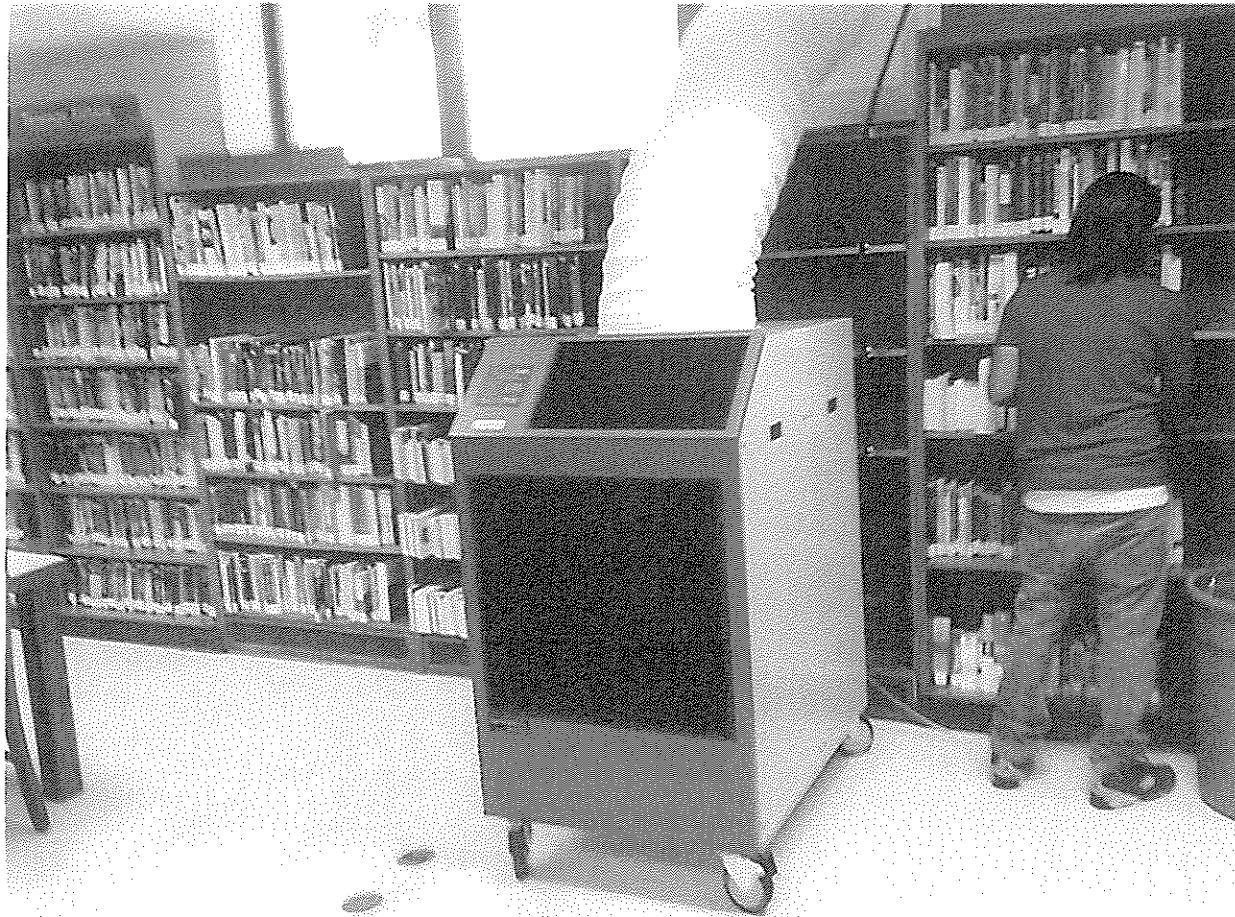
February 24, 2015

# Arlington Library



After 5 months, the **Arlington Library** re-opened with a new roof and energy-efficient lighting, among other improvements.

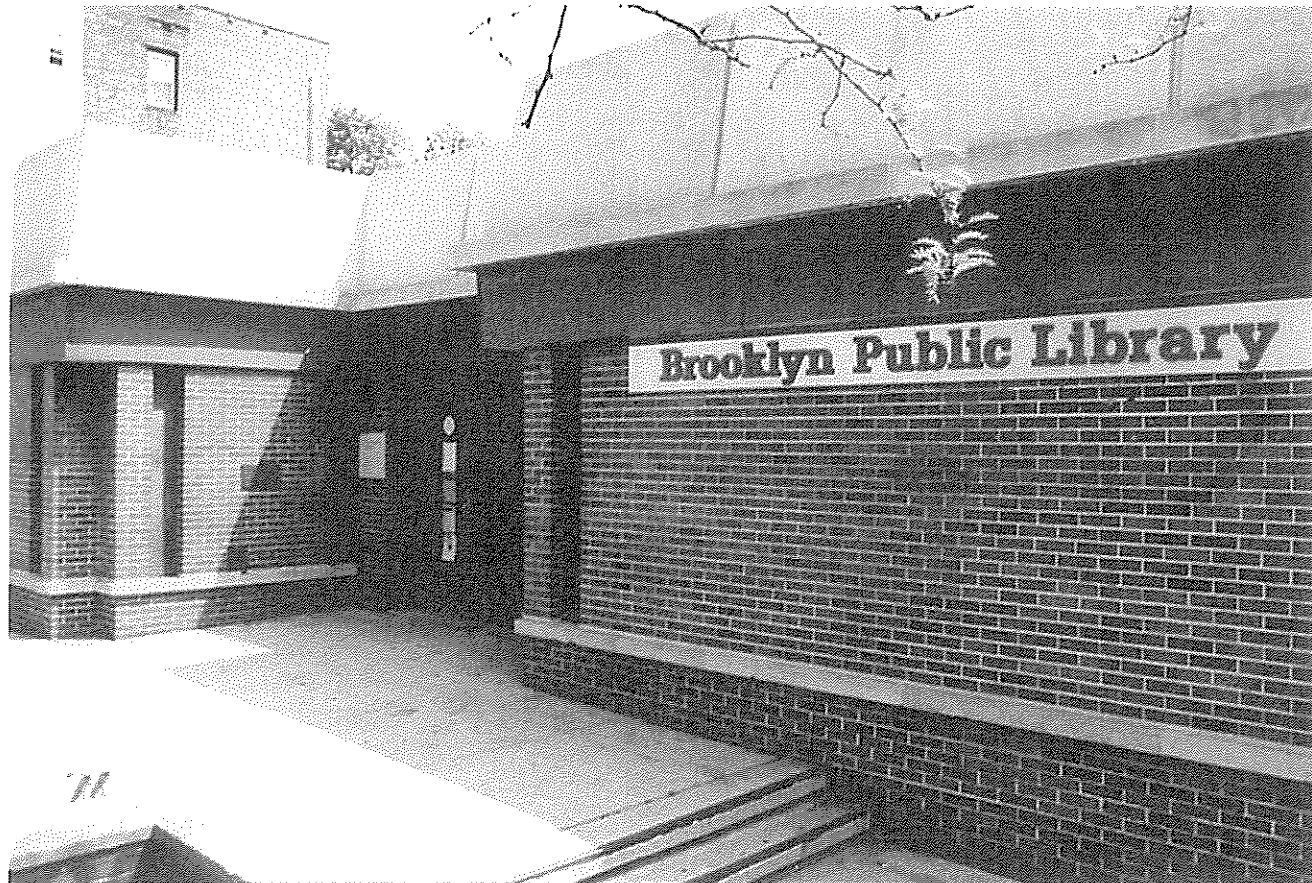
# Sunset Park Library



The portable cooler at **Sunset Park Library**. BPL is proposing an affordable housing partnership which would almost double the library's size at approximately half the cost.

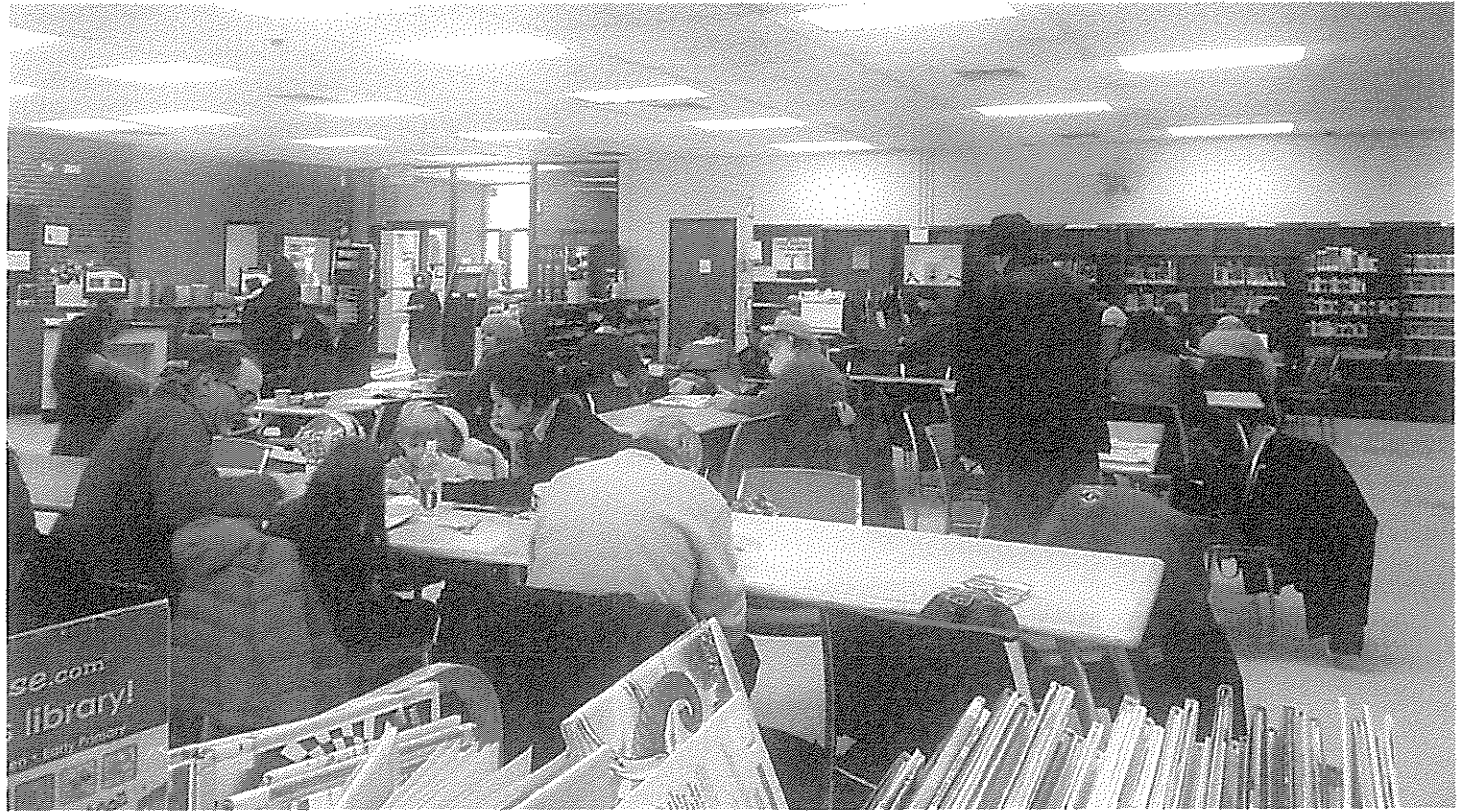


# Greenpoint Library



Current façade of **Greenpoint Library**.

# Greenpoint Library



**Greenpoint Library** teeming with patrons.

# Greenpoint Library



*Artist rendering of proposed facility © Beatty Harvey Coco Architect*

Brooklyn Public Library was awarded \$5 Million for a new 6,500 sq. ft. addition to the **Greenpoint Library** that will complement planned repairs at the branch.

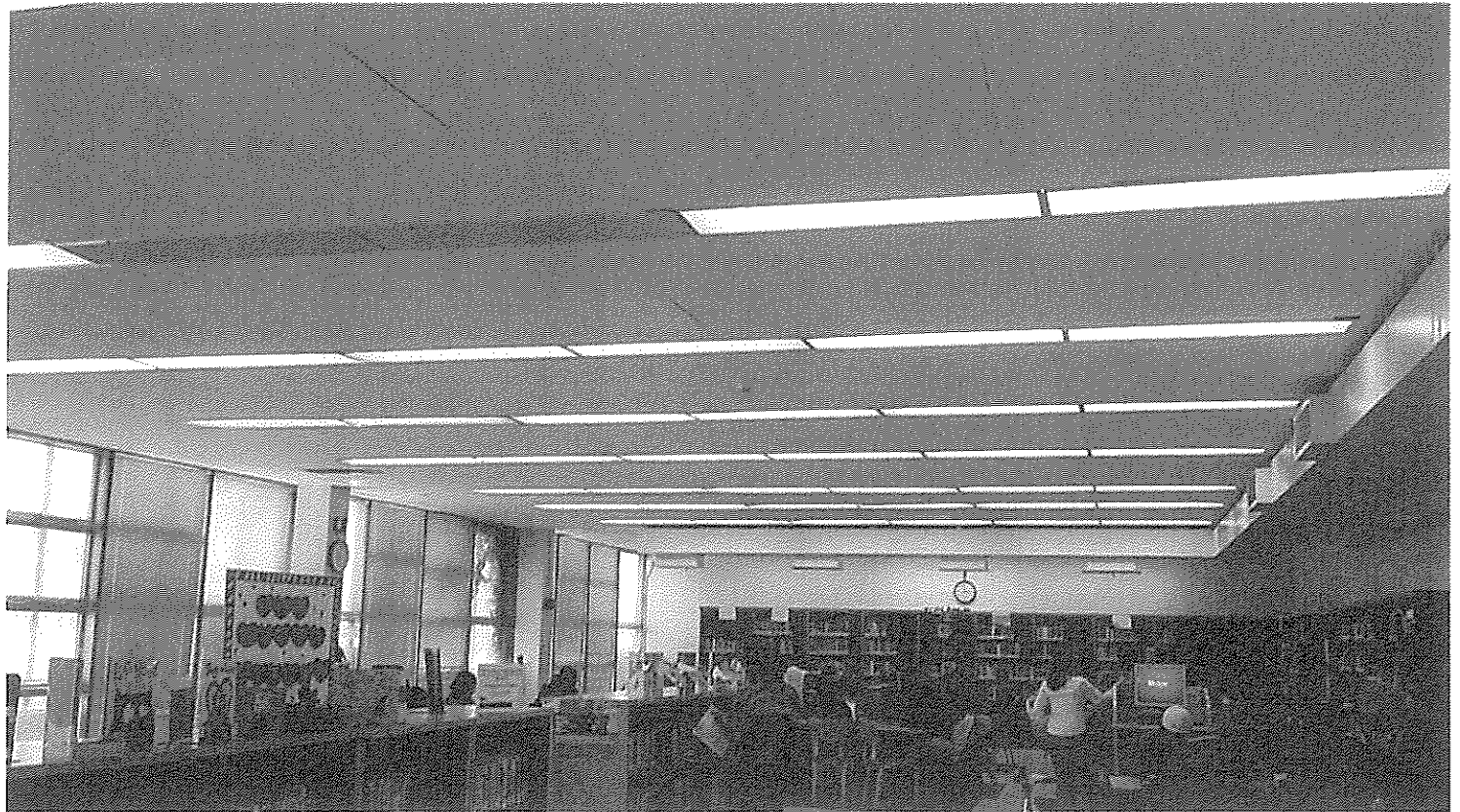


# New Lots Library



Tarps on the roof of **New Lots Library** to mitigate water damage.

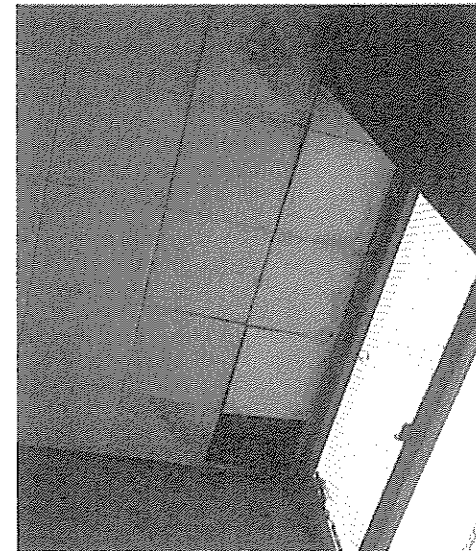
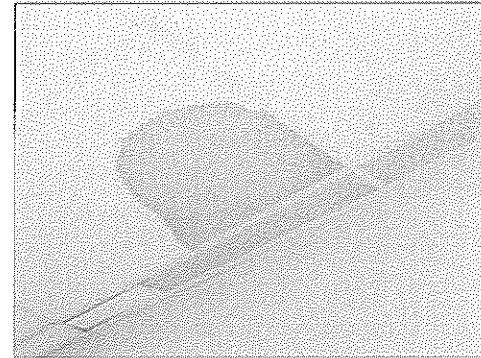
# New Lots Library



**New Lots Library** bustles with patrons, in a cramped space with poor lighting and windows that don't open.

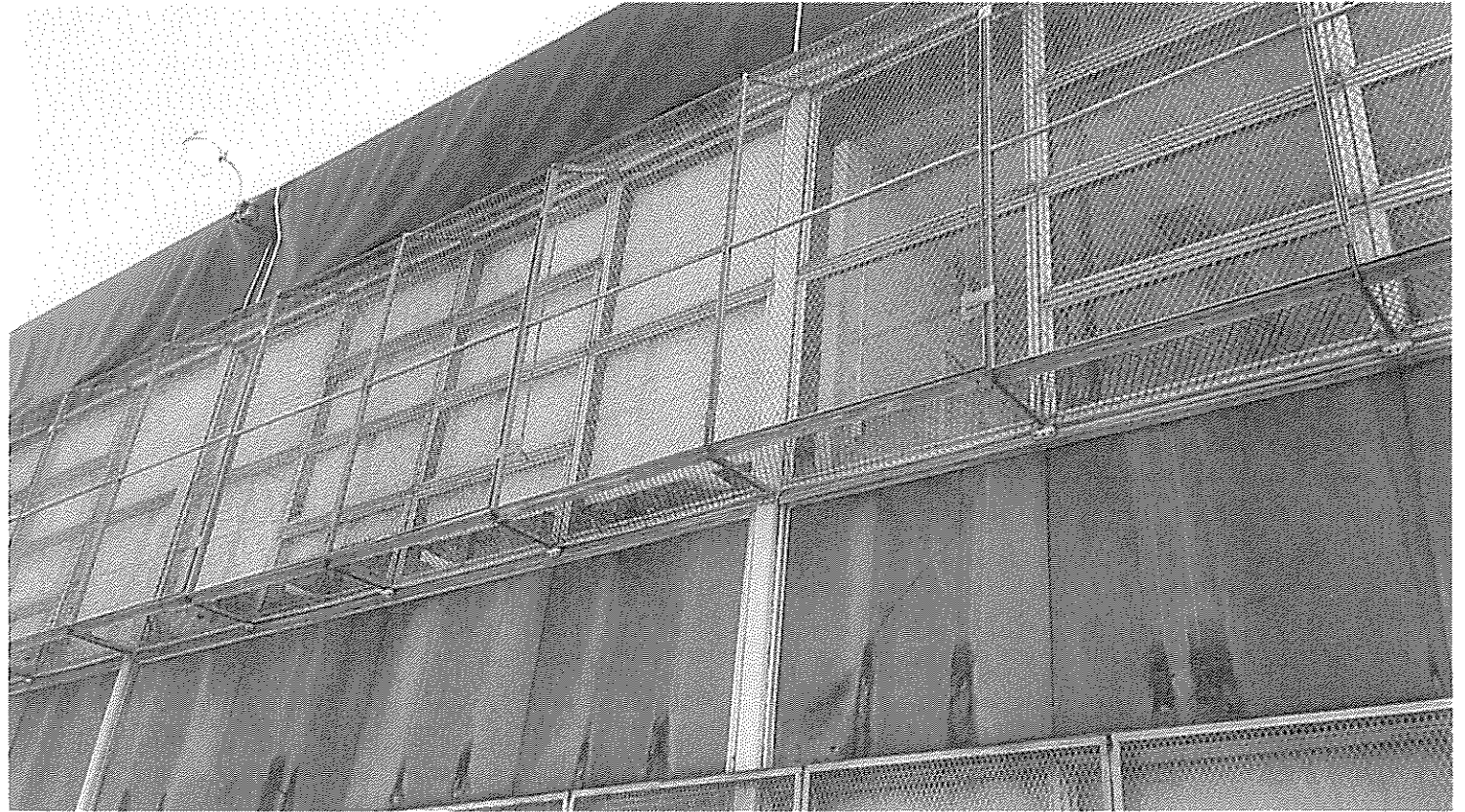


# New Lots Library



Water damage plagues the **New Lots Library**.

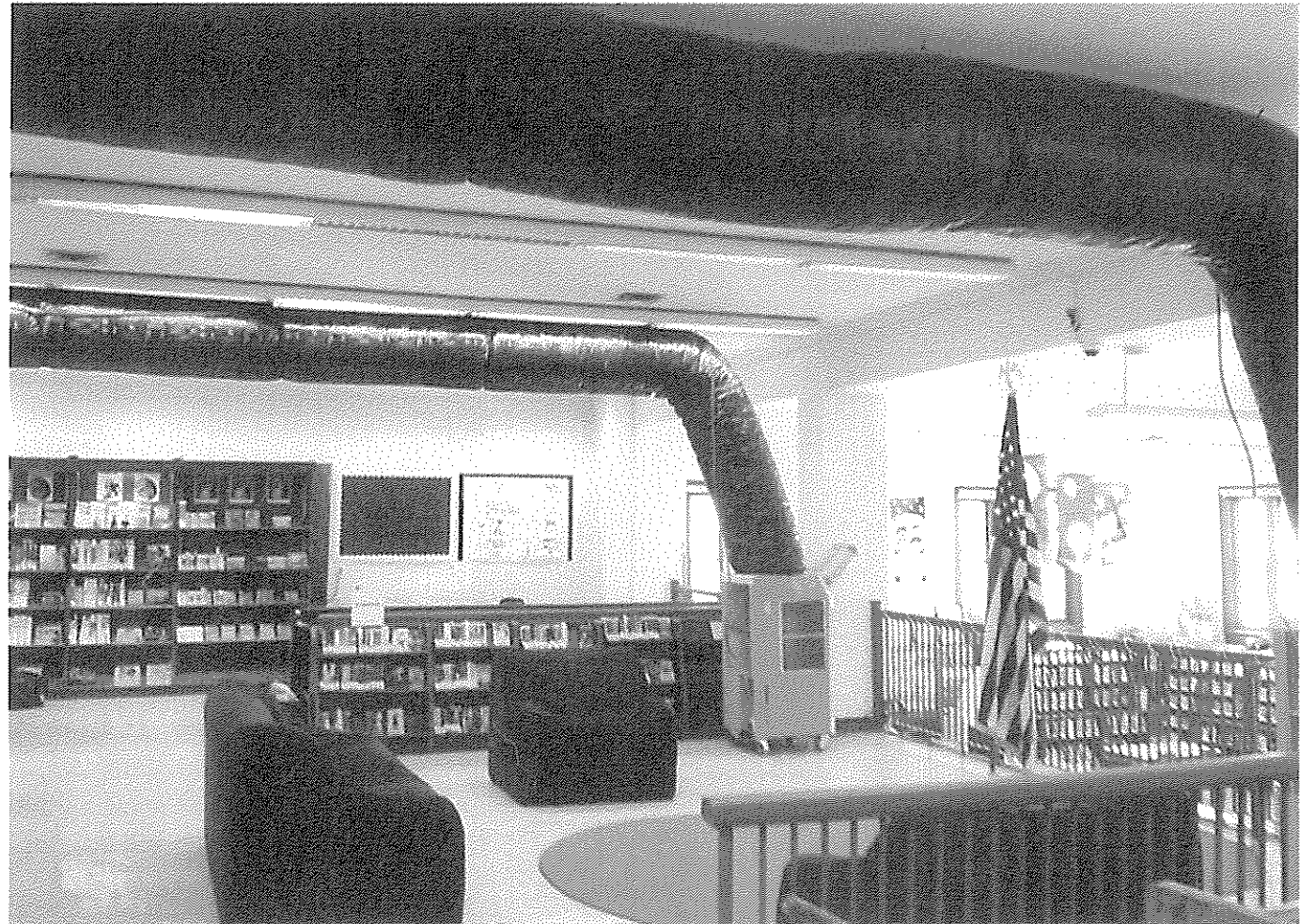
# **New Lots Library**



**New Lots Library** damaged façade.

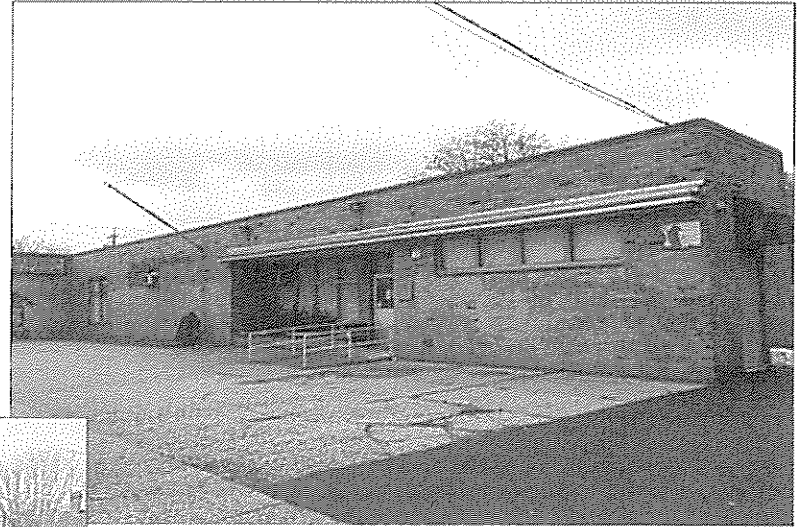


## Other Branches that Need Overhaul



The portable air conditioners at **Brownsville Library**, a branch we propose to revamp with adequate city capital funding.

## Other Branches that Need Overhaul



The failing roof and unwelcoming entrance at **Canarsie Library**, a branch in need of significant overhaul with the addition of adequate city capital funding.

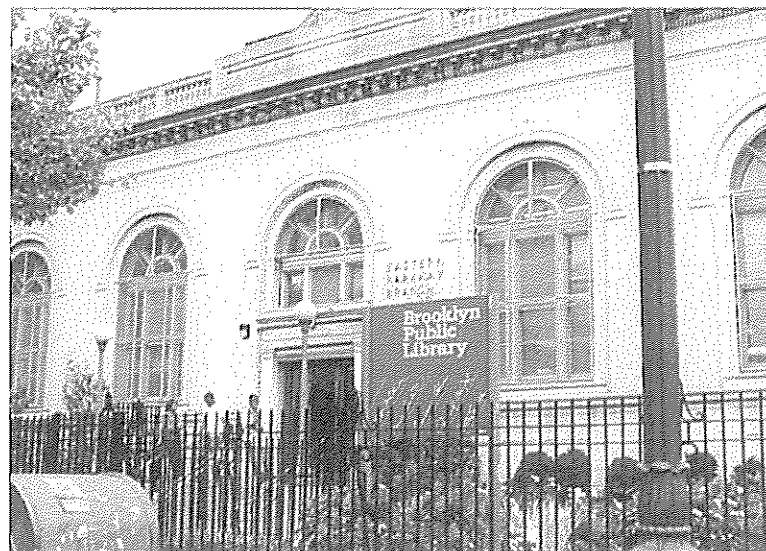
## Other Branches that Need Overhaul



Exterior wall cracks and aging meeting room at **New Utrecht Library**, a branch in need of significant overhaul with the addition of adequate city capital funding.



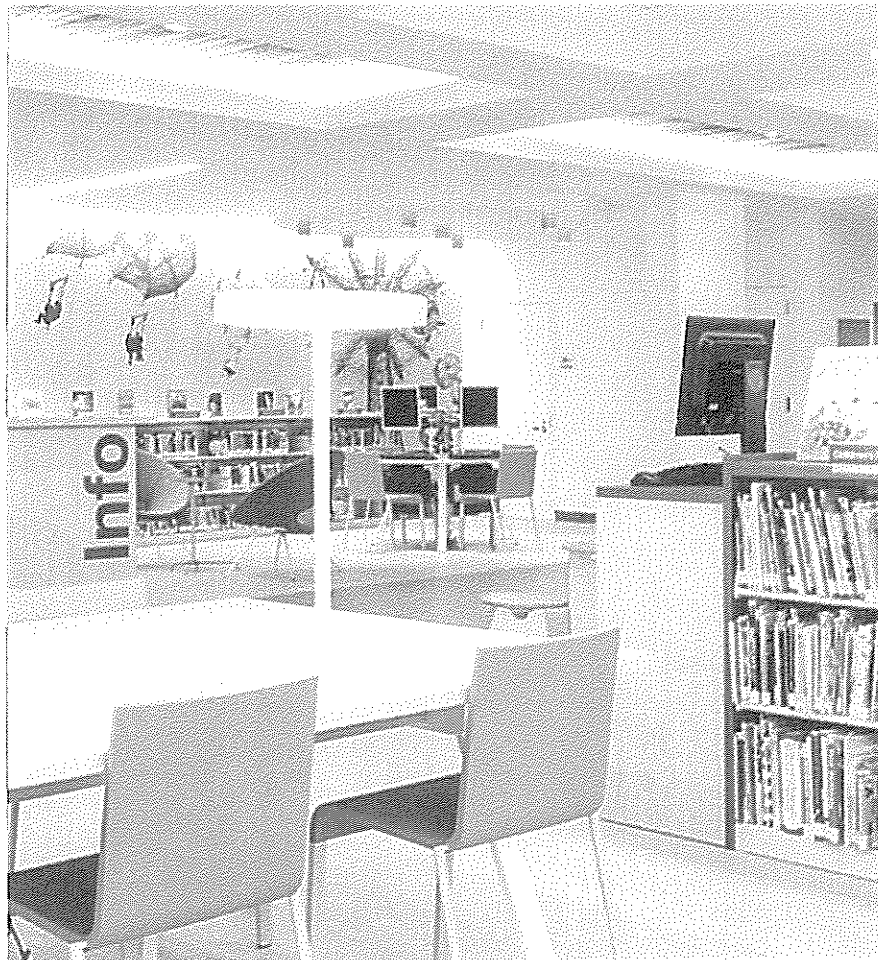
## Other Branches that Need Overhaul



A tarp covers a cracked window casing at **Eastern Parkway Library**, a branch in need of significant overhaul with the addition of adequate city capital funding.



## Recently Renovated Branches



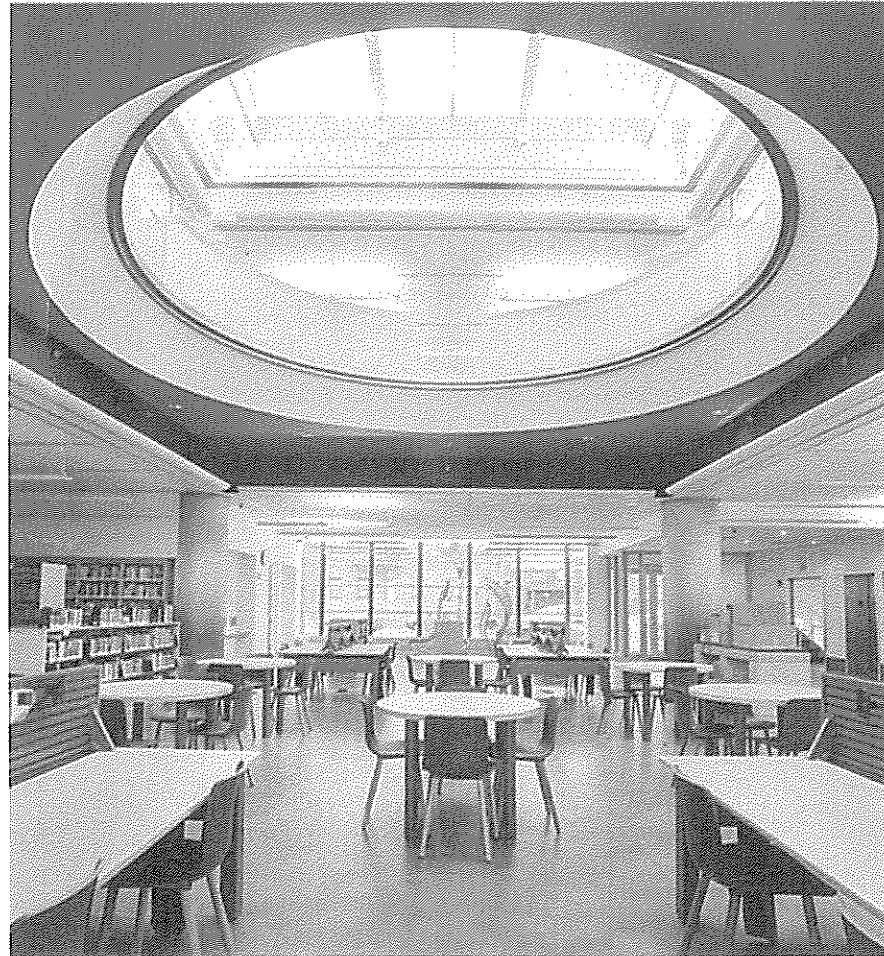
After Hurricane Sandy ravaged the coast, **Coney Island Library** was fully restored. The branch now provides functional, attractive and safe spaces that align the Library's physical footprint with twenty-first-century service delivery.

## Recently Renovated Branches



**Gerritsen Beach Library** faced significant damage after Hurricane Sandy. After a complete renovation it now provides an inspiring and modern usable space for patrons.

## Recently Renovated Branches



**Kensington Library** is the most recently renovated BPL branch.



**Statement by Bridget Quinn-Carey, Interim President and CEO Queens Library**

**New York City Council Finance Committee Jointly with Committee on Cultural Affairs,  
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and Subcommittee on Libraries**

February 24, 2015

Good afternoon. I am Bridget Quinn-Carey, Interim President and CEO of the Queens Library. I want to thank Speaker Mark-Viverito, Council Finance Chair Ferreras, Majority Leader Van Bramer, Library Subcommittee Chair Constantinides, Queens Delegation Leader Weprin and the entire City Council for its consistent support of the mission and programs of the Queens Library. Your ongoing support is critical and appreciated.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about the capital needs of the Queens Library and the Ten-Year Capital plan that was submitted to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget.

My colleagues and I come before you representing the great equalizer—our City's libraries. Together, we open our doors to provide the broadest range of services to the broadest range of New Yorkers. Whether it's teaching English to our new immigrant population, providing after-school services every day or providing job assistance to under- and unemployed New Yorkers, there is a free program in the public library. And we have had the most significant impact in helping to close the great digital divide by opening the wonders of the internet to more New Yorkers than any other institution.

Right now, our libraries are not able to give New Yorkers the full benefit of what we have to offer. The lack of reliable capital budget support has limited our ability to provide the level of services we know is needed and could deliver if our basic capital needs were met in a way that allows us to plan effectively. We all know that emergency repairs cost more than planned repairs; we are able to give taxpayers the best value for their investment when we have the resources to make needed capital upgrades strategically.

The average branch library is 61 years old, with a quarter of the branches built over a century ago. They are heavily used. Collectively, more than 35 million people visited their public library last year, creating a great deal of wear and tear. The vast majority of libraries are poorly configured to meet the demands of the digital age—with too few electrical outlets, too little space for classes, group work, or space for individuals working on laptop computers.

The Center for an Urban Future's "Re-Envisioning New York's Branch Libraries" report has detailed the stifling effects of long-term disinvestment in capital funding for branch libraries. In the five boroughs, we have more than \$1.1 billion in unmet basic capital needs. In Queens alone, that figure exceeds \$400 million.

Currently, our piecemeal year-to-year funding requests must compete for local support against a broad range of unique needs within each Council District and Borough. This approach does not allow us to effectively plan restoration projects, to replace aging systems on a routine basis and to assure continued public service. The members of the City Council have appropriately noted that they do not have the allocations available to fund high-cost projects including total building renovations, expansions or new facilities. Those projects should be within the purview of a comprehensive capital strategic plan.

We are encouraged that Mayor de Blasio is taking libraries' capital needs seriously and included libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital Budget Strategy planning process. We submitted a comprehensive plan to address the critical needs of our facilities. Our plan, if funded, will bring our libraries into a state of good repair, create the necessary spaces to provide full-service library programs, and support the goals of equality, sustainability, resiliency and growth. Mayor de Blasio's preliminary plan does not, however, include any new funding for projects included in our Ten-Year plan, leaving us literally and figuratively in an unsustainable position.

Library buildings in Queens are about providing the programs, services and spaces that people need to enrich their lives. How they look and perform makes a world of difference.

You will be hearing from the Friends of the Cambria Heights Library. This past year, thanks to the support of this Council, we opened a dedicated 4,000 square foot Teen Space with a tech lab, homework area, a recording booth and a gaming lounge. More than 100 young adults use it daily for school work and for a safe place to gather and relax. We can't think of a better place for teens to



congregate than the library, but it would not be possible without the capital investment in the space, and in them.

You will also be hearing about an expansion to our Adult Learning Center in Rochdale Village. Adult education services in Queens are in tremendous demand, but we simply did not have the capacity to serve one more person. There is an overwhelming need for our ESL services. Sadly, last year, we had to turn away more than 1,000 potential students because we did not have one more chair to put someone in.

There is a simple, cost-effective, expedient solution. We need your support to fund our capital needs so we can build and adequately maintain libraries that house these, and so many more, important community services.

Key projects already underway include a brand new Elmhurst library, expansion of the Kew Gardens Hills Library, the full renovation of the Central Library, the expansion of the Rochdale Village Adult Learning Center, and new library buildings in Hunters Point and Far Rockaway, which is now in design. Upcoming projects include the full renovation at Glendale, the expansion and renovation of the East Elmhurst library and interior renovations of the Richmond Hill and Woodhaven libraries.

Despite our progress, many unmet capital- improvement and maintenance needs remain across the borough. These include both critical infrastructure such as roof replacements, elevator and ADA upgrades, as well as expansions, renovations and new facilities which many communities have long sought. What does it say to a community when they walk into a library building and see buckets on the floor catching rainwater? It means nobody cares about them. And that couldn't be farther from the truth. *We* care, and I know this Council cares as well.

As you know, many of the city's libraries are simply too small. In Queens, 41 of our 65 service locations are less than 10,000 square feet. It is impossible to squeeze full-service library programming, classes and collections into these spaces.

Demands on and for library space will continue to grow. The City projects that the population of Queens will increase by more than 300,000 people by the year 2030. We know that we can best serve our teen population – one of the populations in which libraries are able to make the most impact

– when we give teens their own space. Areas in Queens that have traditionally been industrial space are now becoming newly residential, and there is no library nearby. We need to serve those new communities.

Over a ten-year period from 2016 to 2025, Queens Library seeks to enhance and enrich its library infrastructure by making capital improvements to 60 of our library locations, allocating over \$418 million over the course of the plan. This will require approximately \$41 million in capital funding per year.

It will allow us to fortify our existing buildings and build new ones with modern enhancements, incorporate energy-efficient materials and green architecture to reduce operating costs and preserve our environment.

The plan includes two brand-new libraries in emerging communities; six replacement buildings; four building expansions; indoor and outdoor renovations; new heating and cooling systems, and other environmentally-friendly innovations; and expanding technology services for our customers. An average of \$24 million a year will be spent on the development of building expansions, replacements and new facilities, and \$17 million a year will be spent on necessary reconstruction and ensuring a state of good repair and \$25 million over ten years for technology.

But it is much less about windows and air conditioners, and more about the people who will use those buildings. Millions and millions of New Yorkers will come to the library for lifelong education and cultural enrichment in an attractive and safe environment of which we can all be proud. Each capital improvement reflects the Mayor's policy priorities of Equity, Growth, Resiliency, and Sustainability and the values that have been repeatedly and eloquently expressed by the members of the City Council.

Our accomplishments have been many, but so too are our needs. Today, the three library systems have the opportunity to join with the Mayor and the City Council to create a new model that addresses this legacy of unmet needs and ensures a capital program that will be sustainable. We can only do so if the plan is funded. And that is our plea to the administration and to the City Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I look forward to our continued work together.

# Queens Library

## 10 YEAR CAPITAL PLAN



December 23, 2014



# STRATEGIC CAPITAL GOALS

Over a ten year period from 2016 to 2025, Queens Library seeks to enhance and enrich our infrastructure by making capital improvements to 58 of our community libraries allocating \$418 million over the course of the plan. These capital improvements will promote the growth of our infrastructure and increase equity, resiliency, and sustainability, so that we can:

- Fortify our existing buildings and build new ones with modern enhancements.

- Incorporate energy efficient materials and green architecture to save money and reduce our energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

- Increase our institutional capacity to better serve our customers - the 2.3 million residents of Queens who helped to log more than 11.2 million visits to the Library.

The improvements include two brand-new libraries in currently underserved communities; indoor and outdoor renovations at our community libraries; solar panels, new heating and cooling systems, other environmentally friendly innovations, and expanding technological services for our customers.

# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Ten Year Capital Plan is directly influenced by the policies set forth by the City's administration. Throughout our plan, each capital improvement has been clearly linked to the Mayor's policy priorities of Equity, Growth, Resiliency, and Sustainability. Several projects further more than one strategic policy goal:

- **Equity:** Helping underserved populations and neighborhoods.
- **Growth:** Promoting economic development and accommodating population growth.
- **Resiliency:** Enhancing capacity of the City's systems and infrastructure to withstand disruptive events.
- **Sustainability:** Reducing the City's contribution to the causes of climate change.

# EQUITY

- Our goal is to ensure that Queens Library facilities provide equal access to innovatively designed libraries that meet the unique needs of our borough's individual communities.
- Many libraries will receive interior and exterior renovations during the course of the Ten Year Capital Plan. These range from expansions of several libraries to ADA enhancements. These essential reconstruction efforts will ensure that all of our locations serve our customers equitably.
- We will solicit community feedback during the implementation of our plan. An essential part of our new strategic plan is to involve participation from staff, community-based organizations, Friends of the Library, customers and other stakeholders.

# GROWTH

- The City projects that the population of Queens will increase by more than 300,000 people by the year 2030. We know that in order to both serve our existing customers and adequately handle this influx of new people, our existing infrastructure must grow accordingly.
- We will build new libraries in Hunters Point and Willets Point, two communities that do not currently have library service. We will also replace and expand libraries in Far Rockaway, Corona, Arverne, Laurelton, Rego Park, Baisley Park, Briarwood, Rosedale, Hollis, Douglaston and Sunnyside to accommodate current demand and anticipated population growth.

# RESILIENCY

- The Queens Library served as a lifeline to many of the communities affected by Hurricane Sandy. The improvements we make to our library infrastructure (as well as the new buildings we construct) will take into account the role that our city's libraries play in times of disaster.
- Arverne, Peninsula and Seaside buildings have undergone extensive renovations post Hurricane Sandy that will make these libraries in flood-prone regions more resilient to extreme weather conditions, by installing flood barriers, raising critical infrastructure components off the ground and using more resilient materials.
- A major part of our efforts will be to ensure that all capital improvements are built with an eye towards cost-effective and sustainable maintenance.
- The Ten Year Plan includes funding for the expansion of Arverne to provide expanded learning opportunities and serve as a vital community resource in this flood prone area.

# SUSTAINABILITY

- Energy efficiency and helping to compensate for the effects of climate change are two of the city's top priorities over the next ten years and beyond.
- The improvements to our infrastructure during our Ten Year Capital Plan will help to achieve the Mayor's sustainability initiatives.
- Renovation and construction efforts will continue to utilize sustainable architecture practices.
- Thirteen of our libraries will receive new roofs designed to reduce energy and heating loss.
- We plan to upgrade and install new HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air conditioning) units at seventeen of our libraries.
- We will implement various sustainability initiatives, including permeable pavement, solar panels and expanded green spaces.

# SUMMARY BY PROGRAM CATEGORIES

• Replacement Branches (LQACQ)	\$244,450,000
• Essential Reconstruction of Facilities (LQRCQ)	\$130,850,000
• Reconstruction Necessary to Maintain Facilities (LQRHQ)	\$ 15,800,000
• Support Services Improvements(LQSSQ)	<u>\$ 27,190,000</u>
<b>Ten Year Plan Need</b>	<b>\$418,290,000</b>



# NEEDS SUMMARY

- Infrastructure:
 

HVAC	\$13,750,000	17 Libraries with systems either original or at end of useful life
Roofs	\$11,850,000	13 Libraries with roofs leaking or at end of useful life (15 years+)
Envelope	\$ 4,200,000	6 Libraries needing new doors/windows/masonry
- Security:
 

CCTV	\$ 1,805,000	18 Libraries that do not have CCTV systems
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- Renovations/Expansions:
 

Interior	\$112,250,000	20 Libraries needing total interior renovation
Expansions	\$ 39,550,000	5 Libraries that require expansion where possible to meet current needs
- New/Replacement Buildings:
 

New*	\$ 43,500,000	Willeys Point & Hunters Point
Replacement	\$162,400,000	6 Replacement Buildings with outfitting
- Miscellaneous
 

	\$ 3,985,000	Elevators, ADA lift, self check
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- Technology
 

	<u>\$25,000,000</u>	System-wide
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- **TOTAL**

	<b>\$418,290,000</b>	
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\*- Indicates new libraries in communities that do not currently have library service



## NEED BY FISCAL YEAR

FY16	\$50,495,000
FY17	\$49,945,000
FY18	\$30,350,000
FY19	\$51,100,000
FY20	\$50,750,000
FY21	\$52,300,000
FY22	\$39,500,000
FY23	\$51,450,000
FY24	\$37,400,000
FY25	\$ 5,000,000

**TOTAL    \$418,290,000**

# PRIORITY GROUP 1

- HUNTERS POINT SHORTFALL \$ 7,000,000  
(based on DDC bid results)
- FAR ROCKAWAY SHORTFALL \$ 6,000,000  
(based on latest DDC estimate)
- EAST ELMHURST SHORTFALL \$ 250,000  
(based on latest DDC estimate)
- INFRASTRUCTURE (FY16-FY18) \$ 13,800,000  
(see infrastructure priorities slide)
- SECURITY \$ 1,805,000  
(18 Libraries need CCTV systems)
- TECHNOLOGY \$ 10,000,000  
(\$5,000,000 IN FY17 and FY19)

**Total Priority 1**

**\$ 38,855,000**

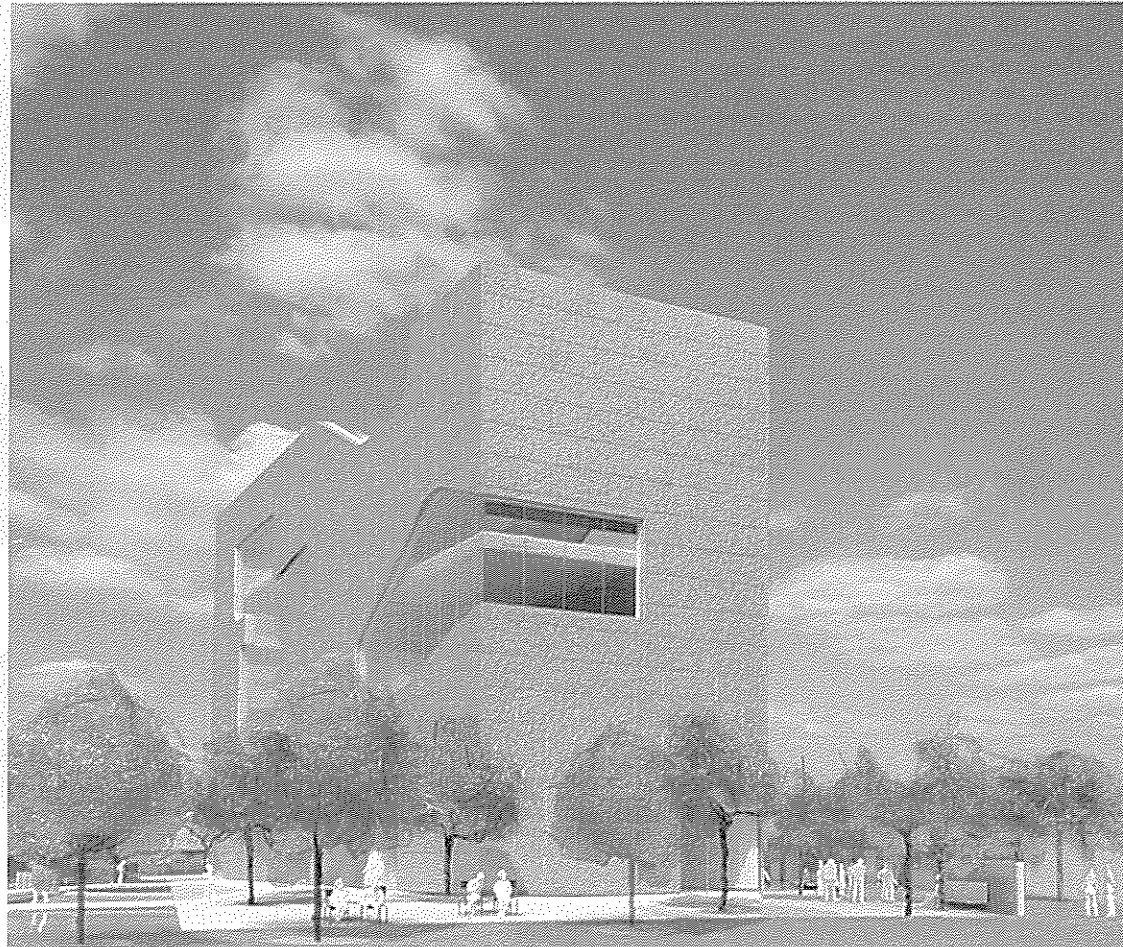
## PRIORITY GROUP 2

- ARVERNE EXPANSION  
(based on estimate) \$ 3,800,000
- CORONA EXPANSION  
(based on estimate) \$ 22,000,000
- REGO PARK REPLACEMENT  
(based on DDC estimate) \$ 29,000,000
- LAURELTON REPLACEMENT  
(based on estimate) \$ 32,000,000
- INFRASTRUCTURE (FY19-FY25)  
(see infrastructure priorities slide) \$ 11,800,000
- TECHNOLOGY  
(\$5,000,000 in FY21, FY23, FY15) \$ 15,000,000

**Total Priority 2**

**\$ 113,600,000**

# HUNTERS POINT



# HUNTERS POINT

- The new 21,000 square foot library, located in Hunters Point South, Long Island City, adjacent to the Gantries State Park along Center Blvd, will be among the largest in Queens with extensive resources for education, information, culture and recreation, including a special programming emphasis on environmental education. It will feature separate library space for children, teens and adults, a media center and a cyber center with computers for public use and wireless Internet access. The library will present hundreds of free educational and cultural programs annually; and support the activities of students in the nearby schools.
- CP issued November 25, 2014
- Construction scheduled to begin in early 2015.
- After receipt of bids, there was a budget shortfall of \$11,000,000. Queens Library has reduced the shortfall to \$7,000,000 by utilizing FY 15 Executive Funding that was provided for system-wide infrastructure.

## HUNTERS POINT

➤ Total Project Cost ( with Contingency/FFE)	\$39.5M
➤ Capital Funding Secured (from all sources)	\$32.5M
➤ Funding Shortfall:	
Construction Contingency	\$1.4M
Design	.2 M
Critical Deferred VE Items	.5M
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	<u>4.9M</u>
➤ <b>TOTAL CURRENT SHORTFALL</b>	<b>\$7.0M*</b>

\* Ten year plan includes additional \$4m funded from FY 15 Exec.



# FAR ROCKAWAY





## FAR ROCKAWAY

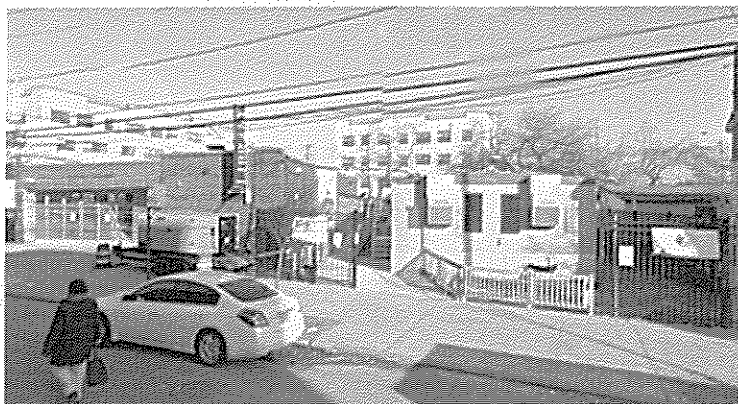
- The new 18,000 square foot library will replace the existing library in Far Rockaway.
- The new building seeks to increase the services provided to the neighborhood, and will serve as a catalyst for community transformation.
- The project is managed by DDC and is currently in the Design Development stage.
- Design is scheduled to be completed summer 2015
- Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2015
- Funding Shortfall of \$6M needed to open to the public in 2017

## FAR ROCKAWAY

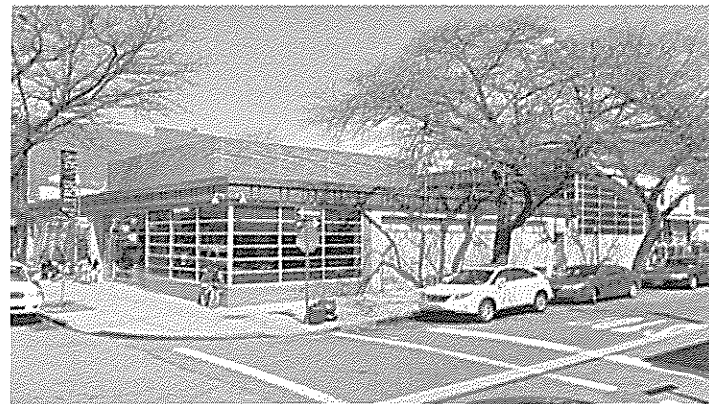
➤ Total Project Cost ( with Contingency/FFE)	\$29.8M
➤ Capital Funding Secured (from all sources)	\$23.2M
➤ Funding Shortfall:	
Construction	\$2.2M
Design	.2 M
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	<u>\$ 3.6M</u>
➤ <b>TOTAL CURRENT SHORTFALL</b>	<b>\$ 6.6M*</b>

\* Capital funding for FFE of \$3.6m was rescinded, the Library transferred \$1.6M of executive funding to move into the next phase

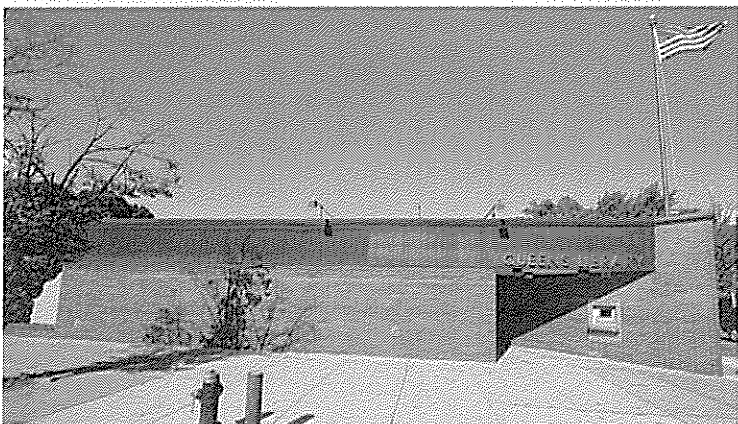
# EXPANSIONS/REPLACEMENTS



ARVERNE



CORONA



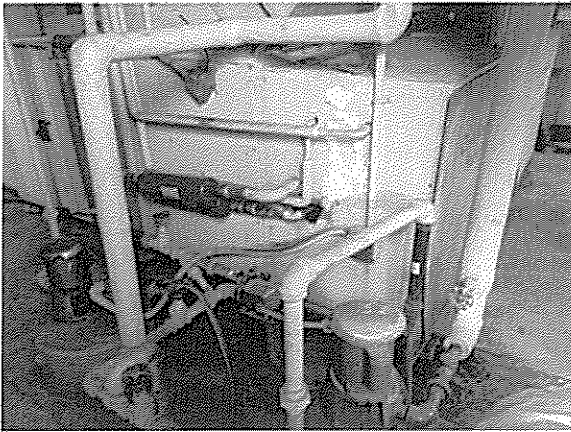
REGO PARK



LAURELTON

# INFRASTRUCTURE

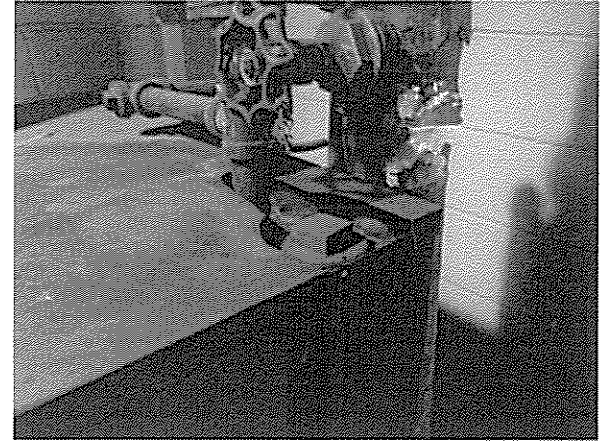
## SELECTED EXAMPLES OF URGENT HVAC NEEDS



Douglaston HVAC



Queens Village HVAC



Hillcrest HVAC

# INFRASTRUCTURE - PRIORITY 1

## FY 2016-2018

## INFRASTRUCTURE

## HVAC

	<u>FY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>AGE*</u>
ON	16	\$ 750,000	54
	16	\$ 750,000	35
AGE	16	\$ 750,000	26
AGE	16	\$1,000,000	25
RIGHTS	17	\$ 850,000	18
S	17	\$ 850,000	29
	17	\$ 500,000	51
RO HILL	17	\$ 800,000	15
	18	\$ 850,000	45
	18	\$ 300,000	15

HVAC TOTAL	\$7,400,000
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HVAC TOTAL	\$7,400,000
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## ROOFS

	<u>FY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>AGE*</u>
HILLCREST	17	\$750,000	28
LAURELTON	17	\$800,000	28
OZONE PARK	17	\$800,000	19
QUEENS VILLAGE	17	\$750,000	21
SEASIDE	17	\$800,000	8
WHITESTONE	17	\$750,000	20
BROADWAY (UPPER)	18	\$900,000	25
REGO PARK	18	\$850,000	6

ROOF TOTAL	\$6,400,000
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ROOF TOTAL	\$6,400,000
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**TOTAL PRIORITY 1    \$13,800,000**

\* AGE IN FY OF ASK



# INFRASTRUCTURE - PRIORITY 2

## FY 2019-2025

### INFRASTRUCTURE

#### HVAC

	<u>FY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>AGE*</u>
CENTRAL LIBRARY BMS	20	\$800,000	56
FRESH MEADOWS	20	\$950,000	23
MASPETH	20	\$950,000	35
CORONA	21	\$950,000	20
SOUTH OZONE PARK	21	\$1,000,000	14
FLUSHING	22	\$ 500,000	25
SOUTH JAMAICA	24	\$1,200,000	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,350,000</b>	

#### ROOFS

	<u>FY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>AGE*</u>
MASPETH	19	\$900,000	21
CORONA	20	\$900,000	16
FLUSHING	20	\$1,500,000	23
LONG ISLAND CITY	20	\$950,000	15
CAMBRIA HEIGHTS	24	\$1,200,000	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,450,000</b>	

**TOTAL PRIORITY 2    \$11,800,000**

\* AGE IN FY OF ASK

# Citizens Defending Libraries

Michael D, D. White  
Co-founder

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

February 24, 2015

James G. Van Bramer, Chair  
Committee on Cultural Affairs,  
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations  
Council Chambers  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10017

Re: Oversight – Supporting Public Libraries in  
the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan.

Dear Committee:

Since March 2013 we at Citizens Defending Libraries have been testifying at City Council hearings raising issues about proposed library sales and shrinkages, the elimination of books and librarians and the underfunding of libraries as an *excuse* for plans that benefit the *private* real estate industry, but *not* the *public*.

We have raised many still unanswered and important questions.

We have, I think, in multiple ways, proven ourselves ultimately to be right as facts were disclosed. The Donnell sale and the fact that the Central Library Plan was finally estimated to cost more than a half billion dollars, more than \$200 million beyond what the NYPL had previously publicized are just two examples. I don't think that any facts show us to ever have been far off the mark.

In connection with the June 3<sup>rd</sup>-June 9<sup>th</sup> hearings of this committee on these subjects we furnished City Council members and made publicly available (*now on the web*) many specific questions that need to be asked about these matters. Yet, aside from a few questions asked by the Public Advocate, whose time was restricted, most of those questions were and now remain unasked. (We incorporate into our testimony here the record of our submission and testimony at that June 3<sup>rd</sup>-June 9<sup>th</sup> and those previous hearings.)

There is serious lack of transparency on the part of library administration officials and the city real estate officials who are directing themselves to selling off libraries. We have requested, by FOIL, documents to which we are entitled, but have been stonewalled and furnished with nothing but meager and obfuscating information. Where is the BPL's Strategic Real Estate Plan hailing back to 2007, or the Revson Study calling for turning libraries into real estate development? Where are the facts and book census information about how many books are disappearing from our libraries?



Since June a “study” by the Center for an Urban Future and the Architectural League of New York about “Re-Envisioning New York’s Branch Libraries” has been promoted, but whatever good ideas were mixed into it, we could not help but hear during the presentations how libraries were to be considered tools for development with the public “*placatingly*” told that they would be able have better libraries *if* consent was given to increased density, development, and upzonings otherwise likely to be rejected. . .

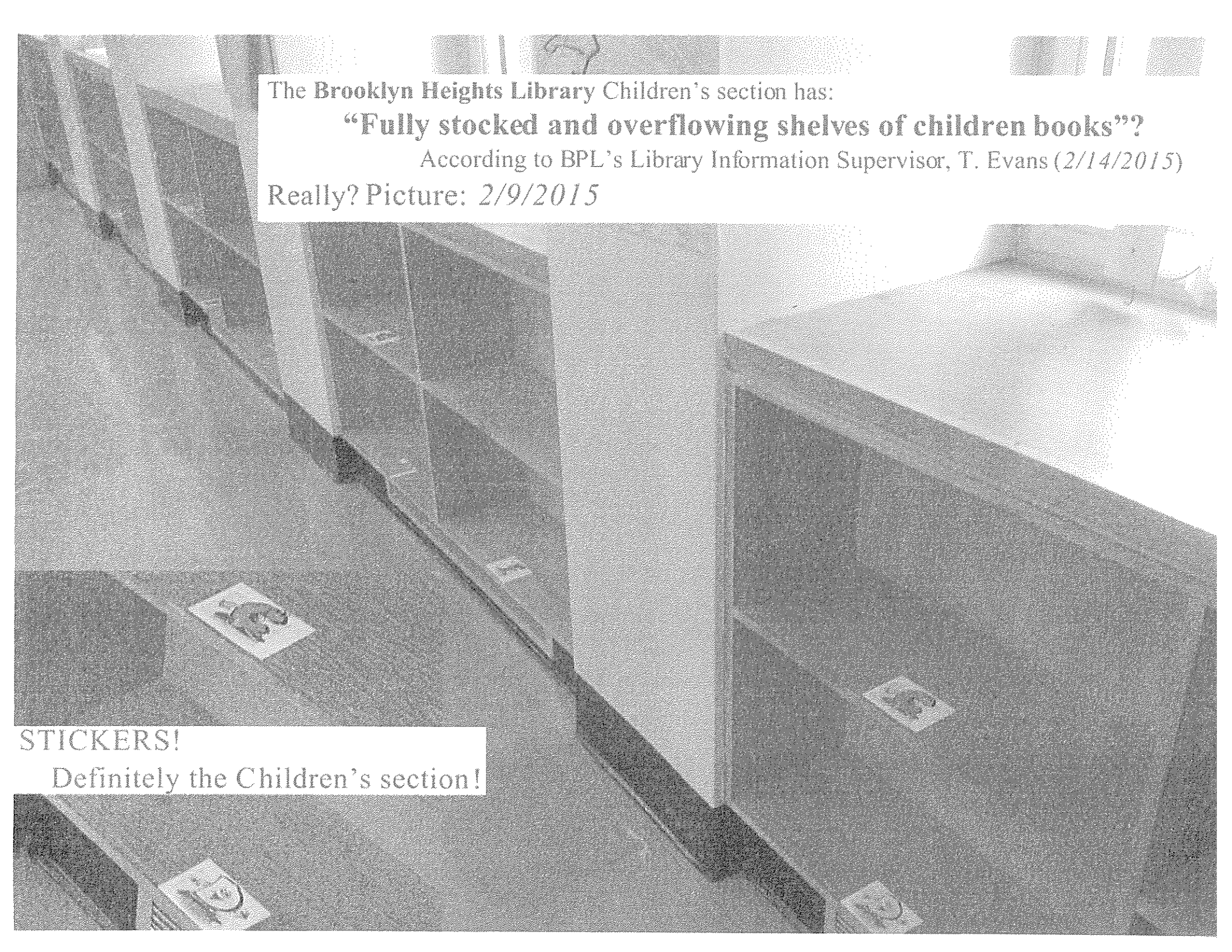
. . . . Study architects also spoke of plans to reduce books according to the advice of two librarians, one of whom expressed favor for removing books from the libraries, saying that eight-year-old children should be scolded if they came into the library to research Black History Month or women’s history, looking for related biographies without first calling to say they desired such books to be at the library. That librarian, who said that professional researchers should be treated the same way, doesn’t seem to understand how research is really done. These kinds of “*studies*” are in no way a substitute for the investigation it is incumbent upon the City Council to pursue.

It is exceedingly troubling that we have not yet restored library funding to pre-Bloomberg, pre-library sell-off plan levels. By contrast, Austin, Texas, one of the nation’s preeminent tech-based cities, is doing what its voters want: They are properly funding libraries which means enlarging them and increasing the number of books. It is a shame that we in New York are not similarly doing what the voters want and deserve.

Sincerely,

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

Michael D. D. White  
Co-founder,  
Citizens Defending Libraries



The Brooklyn Heights Library Children's section has:

**“Fully stocked and overflowing shelves of children books”?**

According to BPL's Library Information Supervisor, T. Evans (2/14/2015)

Really? Picture: 2/9/2015

STICKERS!

Definitely the Children's section!

**Testimony to a Joint Hearing of the City Council Finance Committee, Cultural  
Affairs Committee, and Library Subcommittee  
Oversight: Supporting Public Libraries in the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan  
February 24, 2015**

Good morning Chairperson Ferreras, Chairperson Van Bramer, Chairperson Constantinides, and Members of the Council. I am Larian Angelo, First Deputy Director at the Office of Management and Budget. On behalf of Director Fuleihan, I would like to thank the Committee Chairs for holding a joint hearing on this important issue and thank you for inviting OMB to testify.

Libraries are an important part of the fabric of the community and will continue to play a crucial role in addressing some of the City's most pressing issues in areas such as education and work force development. With the launch of the City's new municipal id card last month, IDNYC, even more New Yorkers will have easier access to the resources at all three libraries systems—just one of the many benefits of the IDNYC.

With over 200 buildings and 36 million visitors annually, it is not surprising that the three library systems have substantial capital needs. In the Preliminary Financial Plan that was just published, the Capital Commitment Plan lists the three library systems as having combined authorized capital commitments of nearly \$ 504 million in City Funding for Fiscal Year 2015. This ranks the libraries 8<sup>th</sup> out of 24 agencies in General Obligation (GO) funding in the current Fiscal Year placing them in the top one-third of capital funding. As is the case with most agencies the three library systems tend to front-load funding for capital projects and there is a little over \$60 million in GO funding in the Preliminary Ten Year Capital Strategy for Fiscal Years 2016-2025.

For Fiscal Year 2015 Mayoral funding accounts for \$223 million, City Council funding accounts for \$193, and Borough President funding accounts for \$87 million.

To conclude I would urge the Council to keep in mind that we are talking about the Preliminary Ten-Year Capital Strategy --- it is the beginning, not the end, of a budget conversation that will involve the Administration, the Council and the Borough Presidents during the Executive budget and budget adoption.

Thank you for your time and your attention during this testimony. I am happy to take questions at this time.





The New York Public Library

**STRONG LIBRARIES,  
STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS:  
A 10-YEAR PLAN FOR NYPL**

New York City Council Hearing  
*Supporting Public Libraries in the City's 10-Year  
Capital Plan*

February 24, 2015

# **STRONG LIBRARIES, STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS: A 10-YEAR PLAN FOR NYPL**

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Major renovations in high-need neighborhoods

10 branches in 10 years:

\$200 million

Critical maintenance fund

\$30 million a year for 10 years:

\$300 million

Technology upgrades

Infrastructure, hardware, Wi-Fi:

\$89 million

**Total Capital Request**

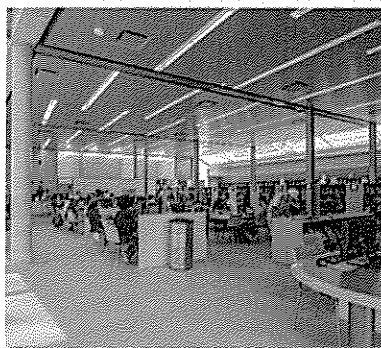
**\$589 million**



# RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

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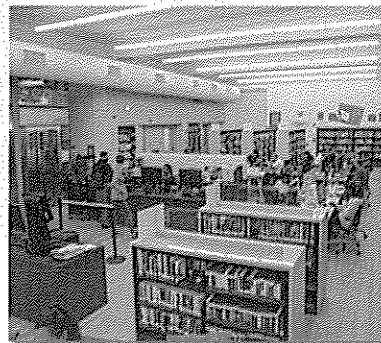
## KINGSBRIDGE (Bronx)



### IMPACT

**+90%** Program Attendance  
**+80%** Visits  
**+76%** Circulation

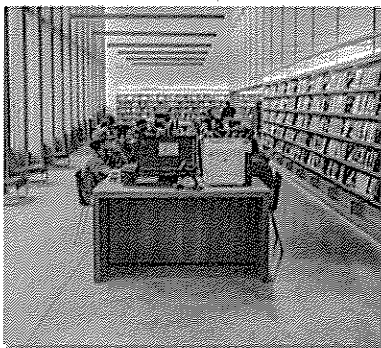
## WASHINGTON HEIGHTS (Manhattan)



### IMPACT

**+105%** Program Attendance  
**+47%** Visits  
**+45%** Circulation

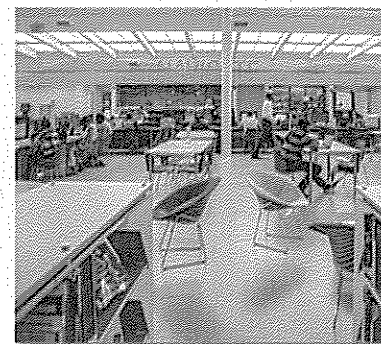
## STAPLETON (Staten Island)



### IMPACT

**+177%** Program Attendance  
**+33%** Visits  
**+51%** Circulation

## MARINERS HARBOR (Staten Island)



### IMPACT

New branch offering:  
community room and spaces  
for adults, teens, and children

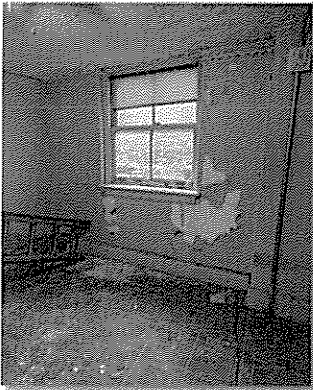
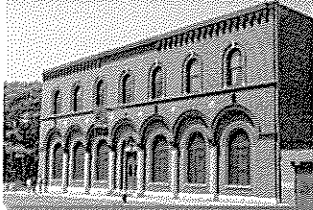




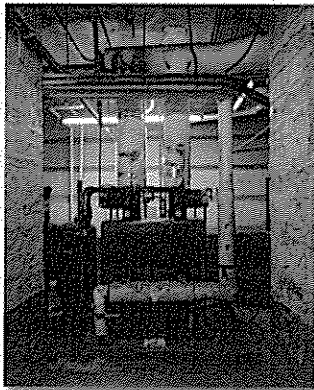
# MAJOR RENOVATIONS: PHASE 1

---

**HUNTS POINT**  
(Bronx)



**MELROSE**  
(Bronx)



**125TH STREET**  
(Manhattan)



**FORT WASHINGTON**  
(Manhattan)



**PORT RICHMOND**  
(Staten Island)



## Five Neighborhoods Combined

- 41%** Household income under \$25,000
- 58%** High school diploma or lower
- 64%** Speak another language at home

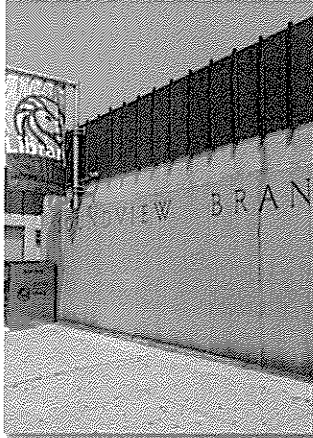




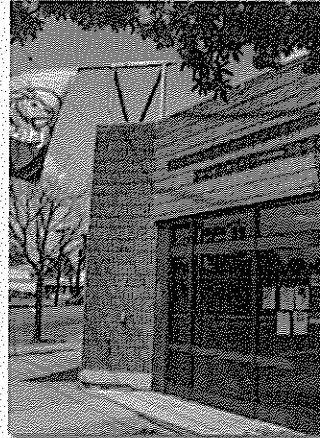
# MAJOR RENOVATIONS: PHASE 2

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**SOUNDVIEW**  
(Bronx)



**THROG'S NECK**  
(Bronx)



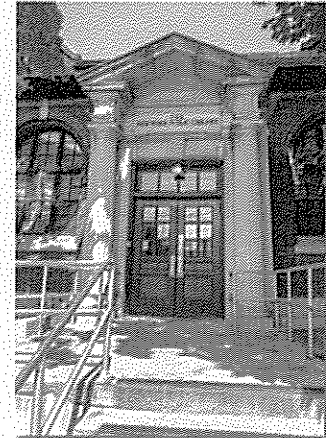
**BLOOMINGDALE**  
(Manhattan)



**HAMILTON FISH**  
(Manhattan)



**ST. GEORGE**  
(Staten Island)



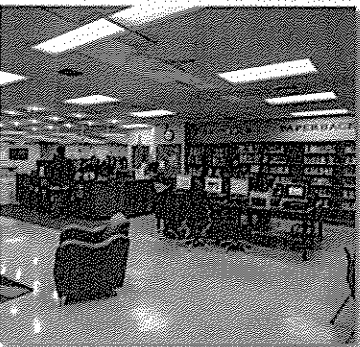
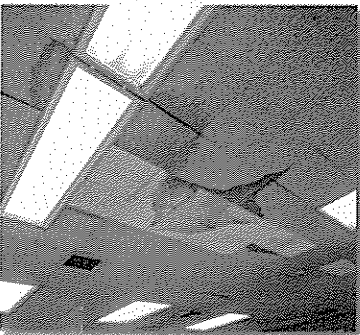
## Projected Impact of All 10 Renovations

Visits	+615,000	+44%
Circulation	+657,000	+46%
Program Attendance	+68,000	+59%

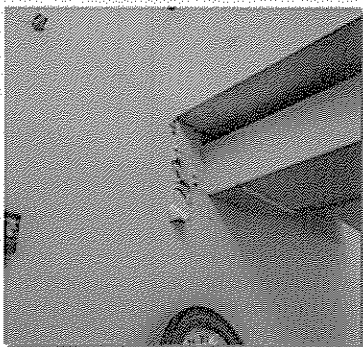
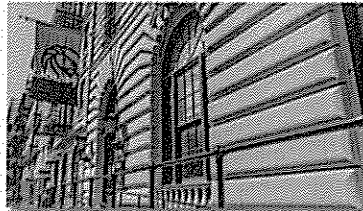


# CRITICAL MAINTENANCE

**THROG'S NECK**  
(Bronx)



**115<sup>TH</sup> STREET**  
(Manhattan)



**RICHMONDTOWN**  
(Staten Island)



## Essential Needs

Bathrooms  
Elevators  
ADA compliance  
Security  
Fire systems  
Sprinklers  
Egress  
Roofs  
Facades  
Windows & doors  
Drainage



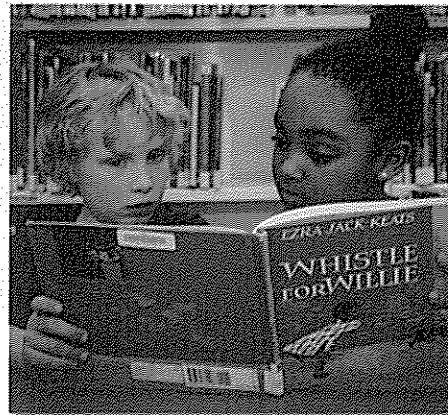
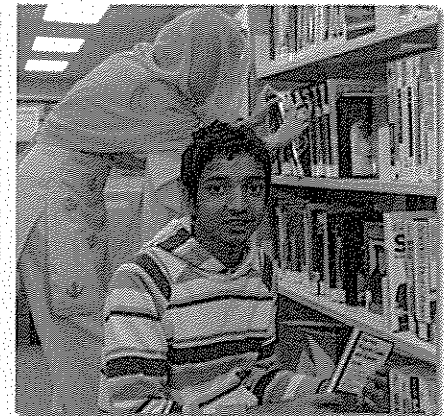
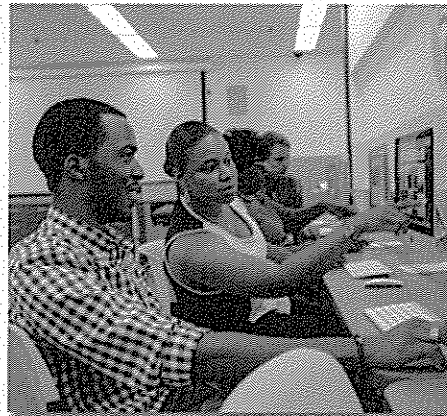
# NYPL'S 10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN: A PLAN FOR NYC

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## Strong Libraries, Strong Neighborhoods

- Promote EQUALITY
- Support GROWTH
- Build RESILIENCY
- Increase SUSTAINABILITY

**INVEST IN  
LIBRARIES**  
INVEST IN NEW YORKERS!





Committee on Finance jointly with the  
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations  
and the Subcommittee on Libraries

February 24, 2015 | 10 AM

Supporting Public Libraries In The City's Ten-Year Capital Plan

I would like to thank the Finance, Cultural Affairs and Library committees for allowing me to testify today. My name is Larissa Larrier and I am the Library Information Supervisor at the New Lots branch of Brooklyn Public Library. I've been in several positions within Brooklyn Public Library over the course of fourteen years, now I currently manage the day to day operations at the New Lots branch.

I've dedicated a lot of time, work, effort and passion into effectively serving a wide range of communities over the last fourteen years as an employee of Brooklyn Public Library. I've led story times, visited classes at schools, and conducted resume workshops, just to name a few programs, with patrons who really are in need of these services. But in order for these programs to be successful, there needs to be an inviting space for our patrons to participate in these programs. Right now at New Lots Library, there are multiple uninviting spaces. There needs to be new lighting installed throughout the entire building. We need new shelving in the building, especially in our small children's area where tall shelves block off a large portion of the space. We have a staircase that is constantly filled with paint and plaster that has fallen. The branch's windows are so outdated cannot open them and weeds have started to grow in them. The building walls need to be painted one cohesive color to show uniformity. Currently the New Lots branch has been able to survive, but we need to invest in this branch so that it can thrive.

Again, I thank you for this opportunity to testify and I encourage this committee to place New Lots high on the list of priority branches to receive capital funding to renew the building's interior.

Larissa Larrier  
Library Information Supervisor  
New Lots Library



## **New York City Council Hearing- February 24<sup>th</sup> 2014**

My name is Edwin B. Maxwell and I am the Neighborhood Library Supervisor at the New Lots Branch of Brooklyn Public Library.

Thank you to the Finance, Cultural Affairs and Finance Committees for allowing me to speak on behalf on the New Lots Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and the East New York Community. I won't spend much time trying to convince you how wonderful libraries are, because this is something that you already know. Instead, I would like to commend you all. So much of what is done at libraries today, is only possible because each time that we have faced cuts and/or possible closures, council members have stood up to support public libraries and made sure that our doors have remained open. However, once again, we need your help.

I have worked for Brooklyn Public Libraries for over ten years now, mostly in high need areas like New Lots and East New York. I particularly love working in these communities, because this is where the true value of libraries and the affect they make on people's life are the most evident. This is where tangible evidence exists that libraries are true life-transformative institution and the centers of the communities they serve.

I've only been at the New Lots library for three months, but I can personally attest to what the statics show- that New Lots is one of the busiest branches in Brooklyn. Every morning when we open (at 10 a.m.) there is a line of people waiting outside. Most nights we are open until 8pm and the traffic remains consistent throughout the day. The people in this community often turn to their library because there is nowhere else for them to go. For many of the community members of East New York our libraries are the safe place to Teens to go after school; for kids to first learn to read; It is the place where adults can learn work towards their GED, prepare for their citizenship exams, learn English as their second language. To them the library is their college.

This community loves their library. However, keeping the doors open is just not enough anymore. Although, we are doing the best with what we have, our building is in bad shape. Our walls are cracked, our lights are hazy; when it rains, water leaks through and puddles on the floor. Additionally, our bathrooms are frequently out of order because they are not equipped to handle the volume of people that use them per day. Moreover, although we may have the square footage that seems to support the amount of people that visit, the space is set-up inefficiently and large amounts of people are often corralled into small spaces. Simply put, we are in dire need of a renovation.

Again thank you for all your hard work to keep libraries open, but please support us in this next step to help our branch reach its full potential.

Thank you,

Edwin B. Maxwell | Neighborhood Library Supervisor,  
New Lots Branch  
Brooklyn Public Library 665 New Lots Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11207  
Tel: 718.649.0311 | Fax: 718.649.0719  
[e.maxwell@brooklynpubliclibrary.org](mailto:e.maxwell@brooklynpubliclibrary.org)

**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: 24 Feb 2015

*Libraries*  
Name: MARIA ROCA (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

Address: 521 41 St - Suite C1 - Brooklyn NY 11232

**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: ANNA NEMEROVSKY (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 701 Gerald St #56 Brooklyn 11235

I represent: BROOKLYN Public Library

Address: Sheepshead Bay Branch

**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: Ludmila VAYGEN (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 2323 Brigham St Brooklyn NY

I represent: Sheepshead Bay Branch

Address: BROOKLYN 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: 2-24-15

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Stephen Malmberg

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: BMA

Address: 235 Greenwich

**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: Velma Morton

Address: 224 East 125th St

I represent: New York Public Library

Address: 125th St Branch

**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: 2/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: LARISSA LARRIER

Address: 1185 Carroll Street BKLYN, NY 11225

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library

Address: 10 Grand Army Plaza

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: 2-24-15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MATTHEW CARLINO

Address: 191-73ST APT 234

I represent: BAY BRIDGE LIBRARY

Address: 7223 RIDGE BLVD.

**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: 2-24-15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jessie Henshaw

Address: 680 Fort Washington Ave

I represent: Sustainability Science group

Address: X

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Libraries Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☒ in opposition NA

Date: 02/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael D. D White

Address: 62 Montague St. Bkly 11201

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague St. Bkly 11201

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: 02/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carolyn E. McIntyre

Address: 62 Montague St. Bklyn 11201

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague St. Bklyn 11201

**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: Edwin Maxwell

Address: 665 New Lots Ave

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library

Address: 10 Grand Army Plaza Bklyn, 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: Bridget Quinn-Carey

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Queens Library

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: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Sadeqwa Atkinson  
Address: 910 MELROSE AVENUE, BRONX NY 10451  
I represent: NYPL  
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: 2/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Virginia Cantone  
Address: 1031 76<sup>th</sup>  
I represent: DYKER BEACH DYKER HEIGHTS  
Address: 13th Ave

**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: 02. 24. 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Malika Shaparaeva  
Address: 110 Bay 25 street, Brooklyn, NY 11214  
I represent: Brooklyn Public Lib  
Address: Sheepshead Bay Branch

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: 2/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liana Acevedo

Address: 877 Southern Blvd

I represent: NYPL

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: 24 Feb 15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Paul Ness

Address: 284 Fifth Ave, 6F

I represent: myself

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: Patty Kettles

Address: 1396 Clove Rd

I represent: New York Public Library

Address: 75 Bennett St SIM 10302

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: 2/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emily Banks  
Address: Queens Library at Rockdale Vill  
I represent: Queens Library  
Address: 169-09 137<sup>th</sup> Ave, Rockdale Vill  
Queens 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: 2/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Philippe Hogarth  
Address: Queens Library at Cambria Hts  
I represent: Queens Library  
Address: 24-12 Linden Blvd, Cambria Hts 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: LARIA Angelo  
Address: 255 Greenw. St  
I represent: OMB  
Address: 255 Greenw. St

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: 02/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maria Marcantonio

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Charles H. Revson Foundation

Address: 55 E B 59<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Romy Mary

Address: Gracie and 42nd St. NYC

I represent: New York Public Library

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: David Giles

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Center for an Urban Future

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: 2/24/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Veronika Conant

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

I represent: myself

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: Christian Fabris

Address: 46-46 45th St

I represent: Urban Librarians Unit

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: 2/24/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Roxana Benavides

Address: 3723 18th APT 154 Brooklyn NY 11218

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library - Sunset Park Branch

Address: 5108 4th Ave. Brooklyn NY 11220

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