



**Statement by Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, Queens Library**

“In the six months since Queens Library implemented six-day service across the borough, more than 765,000 New Yorkers have visited the library on Saturdays. Think about that – 765,000 in **only** six months and **just** on Saturdays. Those library visits are more than mere strolls in the neighborhood. They are people who are realizing more of their potential using library resources, whether it is to educate their children through early childhood literacy classes, or to learn a new job skill for themselves – they are all moving their lives forward. I am here today to tell you how much more we can do for the people of New York City should an additional \$22 million – in addition to the FY 16 allocation – be invested in New York City libraries.” Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, Queens Library



**Statement by Dennis M. Walcott, President and CEO, Queens Library**

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

**Fiscal Year 2017 Executive Budget Hearing**

**May 19, 2016**

Good morning. My name is Dennis Walcott, President and CEO of the Queens Library. It is a distinct pleasure to provide testimony to the City Council today on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2017 Executive Budget.

Before I begin, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Mayor de Blasio, Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, Library Sub-Committee Chair Andy King and the entire City Council, for restoring \$43 million to the operating budgets of the three library systems for the current fiscal year. As you know, this investment has ensured universal six-day library service and enhanced programming for all New York City residents.

We are encouraged to see \$21 million of the \$43 million accounted for in the Mayor's FY 17 Executive Budget. I must stress the importance of baselining the full \$43 million in future budgets because we cannot afford to lose these incredible gains. It is not hard to imagine the impact of having millions of dollars of your annual budget in question just weeks before a new fiscal year. The uncertainty of continued funding has a detrimental effect across the board – from staffing continuity and customer service hours, to program planning and delivery.

I am also here today to tell you how much more we can do for the people of New York City should an additional \$22 million – in addition to the FY 16 allocation – be invested in New York City libraries.

In the six months since Queens Library implemented six-day service across the borough, more than 765,000 New Yorkers have visited the library on Saturdays. Think about that – 765,000 in **only** six months and **just** on Saturdays. Those library visits are more than mere strolls in the neighborhood. They are people who are realizing more of their potential using library resources, whether it is to educate their children through early childhood literacy classes, or to learn a new job skill for themselves – they are all moving their lives forward.

As you saw in the video, Emily Chen and Victoria Love are two shining examples of how Queens Library has positively impacted the lives of our customers. Through our valuable Adult Learners Program, and Job and Business Academy, Emily and Victoria have been empowered to pursue learning that will change their personal and economic futures. Emily and Victoria would have had to pay hundreds, if not thousands of dollars to learn English, or master the tools necessary to start a

small business, but at Queens Library, they were able to do it all free. This is true for the thousands of New Yorkers who access our free programs and services on a daily basis. An investment in libraries is a direct investment in every one of your constituents who rely on us to improve their lives.

Last year, we implemented a curriculum-based, afterschool program called Stacks for school-aged children that we currently operate in 18 community libraries. There is a long waiting list at each of these program sites. We could easily serve twice as many children at each location, but this program is not available at 70% of Queens' community libraries. Children in every community deserve quality educational enrichment. We must expand the Stacks program to every one of our remaining 44 community libraries in Queens. In addition to offering traditional homework assistance and educational enrichment, Stacks is closely aligned to common core and we are building evaluations into the curriculum so we can measure and assess the impact and outcomes. **This program also complements the City's Equity and Excellence Universal Literacy initiative, as well as the Middle School Quality Initiative by providing critical supplemental instruction to children outside of the traditional classroom setting, in a safe learning environment.**

Queens Library's Adult Learner Program is one of the largest library-run literacy programs in the United States. In our ESOL program alone, we provided instruction to over 6,500 students. We increased our ESOL seats by 6.6% last fiscal year, adding classes, locations and more weekend sessions. However, we still turned away more than 1,100 students due to lack of capacity. The 2016 investment was historic, but if one student is turned away, that is one too many. If thousands are turned away, it is a tragedy.

Queens Library is also proposing to expand our digital access points to family homeless shelters and hospitals. We are in the process of identifying potential partners to initiate a pilot program soon. We will be in touch with our partners in government as we progress in our planning. This initiative is another innovative new way to reach people outside our physical spaces, and has the potential to change the way people see libraries and access materials. **It also supports the Administration's efforts to provide educational resources to homeless families outside of our facilities, particularly homeless children.**

Queens Library is also at the forefront of bridging the digital divide in our communities – we are the borough's technology hub. For too many Queens residents, the digital divide presents barriers to education, job opportunities and tasks of daily living. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey, approximately 135,000 Queens' households do not have a computer. Twenty-six percent of the borough does not have broadband access at home. In Queens Community Districts 3 and 14, 31% and 32% of households, respectively, do not have broadband access. In addition, 40% of New Yorkers who do not have a high school degree lack broadband access at home. You can well imagine how a child's education suffers without learning critical technology skills, or how an adult can become disconnected without access to information and services available only online. With an increase in funding, we will be able to expand in-library tech sessions by 17% to reach 3.5 million customers. Additionally, we will be able to expand publicly accessible Wi-Fi outside of our facilities. **We are aligned with the Administration's and the Council's goal to increase broadband access to underserved communities.**

Maintaining our 65 locations and aging infrastructure is also a short and long-term challenge for the Library. The average community library is 61 years old. More than a third of them are over 50 years

old. They are heavily used, and most were not constructed to accommodate the traffic that we see due to the growth in demand for our services. Additionally, 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. Our challenge is to modernize our facilities, maintain our critical infrastructure and to expand our public spaces in order to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Collectively, the three library systems have over \$250 million in emergency and critical maintenance needs, but we seek \$100 million this year to address our most pressing matters. In the next fiscal year alone, Queens Library has \$71 million in unmet needs for critical infrastructure, which includes roof replacements, HVAC, ADA compliance, building envelope and mechanical projects, and expansions to relieve overcrowding. Some specific needs include projects with ADA compliance components at Astoria and North Hills; new roofs at Flushing, Broadway, Rosedale and Seaside; new HVAC systems at Lefrak City and Maspeth; interior renovations at Richmond Hill and South Hollis; and expanding public space at Corona and Laurelton.

To recap, and in addition to what I have just discussed, with \$44 million this year – \$22 million baselined to lock in last year's gains, and an additional \$22 million so that the people of this City will have access to vital services and increased opportunities:

- Queens Library would provide robust six-day service every week and be able to hire 60 more staff to serve the public, including children's librarians.
- We would increase our program offerings in well-maintained and safe facilities.
- We would increase operating hours, adding 223 total hours per week across the borough while bringing seven-day service to every council district, enriching the lives of hundreds of thousands more people each year.
- We would be able to offer 500,000 more computer sessions, and increase the materials we have in our collection by 40,000 items, including more homework help materials, more e-books, more ESOL support and more high-demand items for adults and children.
- We would be able to provide our free, curriculum-based, after-school STACKS program in every community library in the borough. This equates to 8,800 additional sessions and 26,400 more instructional hours for Queens children.

**Libraries are an indispensable institution and the cornerstone of a strong democratic society.** With greater hours, comes greater responsibility. We are tasked not only with maintaining the excellence and quality of our programs, but we must also provide more opportunities to the people who have been without weekend programs in their neighborhoods for almost a decade. When we are asked to do more with less, we deliver. When the City needed a reliable partner to advance key initiatives such as IDNYC, UPK or the New Americans Corner, we successfully took the challenge. These partnerships have helped thousands of the most vulnerable residents gain access to City services.

Investing in libraries is an investment in the people of this great City. Together, we do great work, but we can do more. Our work is not finished, and we need your continued investment. Let us continue to build on the amazing work we have accomplished so far. We can only do so with your support.

Thank you.



**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

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

**FISCAL YEAR 2017 EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND AGENCY OVERSIGHT HEARING**

**May 19, 2016**

Good morning. I am Tony Marx, President and CEO of The New York Public Library (NYPL). I would like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer, Subcommittee Chair Andy King, and the entire City Council, for hosting me today. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2017 Executive Budget.

**OVERVIEW**

There is little doubt that the challenges our city faces in the wake of rising inequality are considerable. As my colleagues and I have demonstrated in the past, libraries are uniquely poised to combat inequality in all its forms. Last year, the Mayor and City Council agreed with this, making a historic investment in The New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and Queens Library. By restoring \$43 million of the \$65 million cut from our three systems since 2008, and dedicating more than \$300 million to libraries in the Ten-Year Capital Strategy, the City Council and Mayor have underscored the crucial role that libraries play in our shared struggle to reduce inequality. Last year's increase in operating funding allowed our three systems to enhance our delivery of vital services to New Yorkers—from staying open more days, expanding hours, and



increasing our high-demand educational programs, to acquiring more materials and adding staff across the city's 217 branch libraries. Further, with the additional capital funding, we are now able to begin tackling key infrastructure needs across our three systems. At NYPL specifically, thanks to this increased funding, we were able to add 142 staff positions, 85 percent of which are union. These include 93 new branch librarians, 15 facilities and security staff, and 34 additional employees focused on school outreach, educational programming, and expanded services at our research centers. Thanks to increased capital funding, we are now able to fully renovate five of our Carnegie branches, bringing these inspiring, historic buildings into the 21<sup>st</sup> century so they can continue to meet the ever-growing needs of our users in the decades to come.

Looking ahead to FY17, with your support, we can commit to further extending the Library to meet the needs of the most-underserved New Yorkers. As we speak, 70 percent of the city's 3rd graders cannot read at grade level, 30 percent of our high school students do not graduate in four years, 27 percent of households in our city lack home Internet access, nearly one in four New Yorkers needs assistance learning English, and over 20,000 children under the age of 18 are currently living in homeless shelters. With locations in every neighborhood, a proven record of delivering results, and the deep trust of our communities, libraries are on the front lines of battling these pressing challenges, even as demand for our services continues to surge. That is why today we are requesting a full—*baselined*—restoration of our operating budget to pre-



recession levels, and an increased investment in our capital funding. Fully funding our three systems amounts to \$22 million more than last year's \$43 million increase and would allow us to keep up with soaring demand for our services while delivering even more, particularly for the New Yorkers most in need. Furthermore, baselining this increase solidifies it in future budgets and allows libraries to preserve citywide six-day service, retain staff hired last year, and continue to provide expanded programming for all New Yorkers. As for capital, libraries face nearly \$1 billion in overall needs, with over \$250 million in critical maintenance for next year alone. In FY17, we are requesting an additional \$100 million for all three systems: while this only addresses a portion of our needs, this funding would set a precedent that, over time, would allow us to meet the larger challenges with our infrastructure.

## **RESTORED FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES**

Serving as an imperative resource for New Yorkers from all backgrounds and as a steadfast partner with the City Council and Mayor in confronting inequality, we have delivered time and time again on our goal of extending opportunity to all New Yorkers. With an additional \$22 million (\$10 million of which will be allocated for NYPL), we can commit to accomplishing even more.

Since the recession began in 2008, libraries have persevered through what is now a net loss of \$22 million in operating funding as demand for our services soared. Over that time, NYPL has experienced an increase in programming sessions of over 150 percent.



Despite the demand for our services greatly surpassing supply, our system has continually made progress with the patrons that need our services the most. In our efforts to expand early literacy, NYPL has hosted over 8,500 early literacy programs, reaching 277,000 attendees last year. With the prior FY16 budget increase, we were able to increase our early literacy program attendance by 29 percent. We also deepened our partnership with the DOE through MyLibraryNYC, an innovative program that provides educators across the city with high quality professional development materials. Now present in over 500 schools across the city, MyLibraryNYC's circulation of teacher sets—books and other materials for educator use in the classroom—more than doubled (107 percent) this school year. Also, just this past month, school visits to branches system-wide rose by 124 percent compared to last March. Attendance at those visits has gone up by 99 percent for the same period (an increase of 18,793 attendees). The gains we've made are promising and with the additional funding requested for FY17 we can deliver even more. With full funding we plan to nearly double the number of participants in our early literacy programming from our total two years ago. That is over 500,000 participants with access to early literacy services. We will further commit to strengthening our City partnerships in support of Pre-K for All and increasing our outreach to schools and daycares by 75 percent to support grade-level reading. The increase would also allow us to create 84 Family Literacy Centers (up from 20) aimed at empowering families to support grade-level reading by 2nd grade.



In addition to investing in early literacy, NYPL is focused on bridging the digital divide, another indication of our city's struggle with growing inequality. Throughout the past four years, we have increased our free technology training programs by 162 percent, currently serving over 100,000 attendees. Recently, we have also started to offer coding classes. Attracting predominantly women and people of color, our classes have defied the demographic trends of the tech industry and empowered a diverse range of individuals with valuable 21st century skills. In addition to a strong early literacy resource in every neighborhood of our service area, as discussed above, increasing our funding by \$22 million will create strong technology training resources across the system. With the additional funding we will expand advanced tech training offerings, adding 600 slots to our coding classes. This amounts to a 150 percent increase and makes much-needed progress in decreasing the size of our 5,000-person waitlist for these classes. We will also collaborate with the New York City Housing Authority to ensure residents have access to digital literacy classes of all levels and lend an additional 5,000 Library HotSpots to families without access to high-speed Internet at home.

Homelessness is another core area where our libraries are uniquely poised to provide more services for those New Yorkers most in need, particularly for the more than 20,000 children without homes. Currently, NYPL participates in the Department of Homeless Services Family Shelter Library Pilot Project, which connects families in 15 shelters with literacy programs and other library services. At these shelters, our



librarians lead weekly story times, build Pre-K and after-school partnerships, host family literacy workshops, and organize financial literacy courses, all to bring the power of the library to those who need it most. For example, staff at Morrisania Library in the Bronx have visited the Crotona Inn family shelter 26 times so far this year to offer story time programs and one family literacy workshop, which were attended by a total of 199 children and 107 adults. The branch also visited the BEDCO Cluster shelter and led a program there for 25 children and 25 adults. Finally, NYPL recently contributed to the Youth Homeless Count, hosting volunteer counters for the initiative this past January. These efforts are critical, but we can and must do more. For our homeless neighbors who face so many challenges, and for these young people for whom opportunity has been elusive, libraries provide safety, comfort, and assistance, as well as tangible services and programs to help them overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges. This kind of support is what you are investing in by augmenting funding for libraries in FY17. It means building on the successful Family Shelter Library pilot to deliver even more opportunities for those who need it most.

## **BASELINED FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES**

Not only do New Yorkers need more funding for libraries, they need *sustained* funding for libraries. As important as last year's increase has clearly been, only a portion of the increase has been baselined. New York City's three library systems need to be fully funded at \$43 million, and these funds need to be a permanent part of the City budget. With only a portion of our funding baselined, libraries are put in the position of having to



fight for funding year in and year out. The resulting uncertainty threatens jobs, hours, and services and is, without a doubt, counterproductive to our larger mission and our ability to provide New Yorkers with the vital resources they need.

## **CAPITAL FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES**

The services we have outlined here and the effort dedicated to bettering our city will be in jeopardy if they are not accompanied by a corresponding investment in the physical infrastructure of our branches. We are grateful for the capital investment made by the City last year in its Ten-Year Capital Strategy, but the need is still significant. There is still \$1.4 billion in outstanding capital needs across the three library systems, with NYPL alone having over \$100 million in unmet critical maintenance. Crumbling floors and roofs, unexpected system breakdowns, and outdated, inefficient spaces have added “building manager” to the job descriptions of too many of our branch librarians. These preventable problems inhibit our staff’s ability to do the great work we have outlined here today and have a direct, negative impact on our provision of services.

Our joint proposal for an additional \$100 million lump sum allocation in capital funding will allow us to make substantial headway in clearing this hurdle and providing New Yorkers with the functional spaces they deserve. With a fraction of our needs currently met, library capital funding still constitutes an incredibly small percentage of the overall capital budget of this city. Of the \$83.8 billion included in last year’s Ten-Year Capital Strategy (FY16), \$943.1 million went to libraries. That is just .001 percent. This means



that with a relatively small investment of \$100 million, you can have a substantial impact that tells New Yorkers in need that the spaces they depend on are a vital part of our city's infrastructure. Let's send that message by fixing the basement at NYPL's 115th Street branch in Harlem. This otherwise valuable programming space has been rendered unusable for years because a nearly 100-year-old underground pipe burst and destroyed the floor. With the increase in capital funding requested today, we seek to repair the floor and replace the old piping and boiler. Until that project is complete, the branch has no dedicated space for teens, despite its proximity to many schools, and is struggling to provide space for adult programming.

## **CONCLUSION**

Not only are the outcomes of an investment in libraries clear, the economic impact is promising. Studies show that for every dollar invested in libraries, municipalities see an estimated \$4 return in economic value and benefit. An additional \$22 million in operating funds, baselined in the budget, and \$100 million in capital funding could therefore produce a \$488 million return for our city. The benefits are evident: with demonstrable, positive impacts on New Yorkers from every social, cultural, and economic background, libraries are a great investment for New York City. Over the past 100 years, this impact has been felt throughout our city, contributing in large part to making it the great place it is today. Think for a moment of what our city can accomplish in the future if libraries are fully funded.



Thank you again for all your support and for this opportunity to testify. We remain available to answer any questions you may have.

## **BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARING**

**Committee on Finance jointly with the Committee on Cultural Affairs,  
Libraries & International Intergroup Relations**

**May 19, 2016**

Thank you, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Ferreras-Copeland, Majority Leader and Cultural Affairs and Libraries Chair Van Bramer, Libraries Subcommittee Chair King, our Brooklyn delegation, and the entire City Council for supporting New York City's libraries.

Brooklyn Public Library is very grateful for the \$12 million increase we received last year for our operating budget. Thanks to your support, every Brooklyn library is now open at least six days a week for the first time in nearly a decade. Working families are now able visit the library on weekends, and busy professionals can access our resources in the evening. Brooklyn Public Library is providing an additional 217 hours of service per week throughout the borough, with average branch hours of operation increasing from 45 to 49.

We have hired 95 new staff members, more than two-thirds of whom are librarians. They have contributed enormously to the communities they serve—as have the 26 new employees we were able to hire with your support in late 2014.

Their work has increased our programming capacity, particularly on evenings and weekends. For example, our children's librarians are offering 18% more First Five Years sessions than they did a year ago, while participation in our teen programs is up 39%.

I'm also thrilled to report that since the last time we appeared before you, Brooklyn Public Library has been awarded the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for libraries. We're very proud of the librarians and staff whose work has earned us this great honor. Many of them were hired with your increased support.

Needless to say, to keep our expanded hours and programs, and to retain our new staff, we are counting on you to preserve the funding we received in last year's budget. But preservation of last year's gains is not enough. The time has come for us to take the next step together—because with your help, we could be doing so much more for the New Yorkers who rely on us.

With Brooklyn Public Library's \$6 million share of the \$22 million in additional operating funds the library systems are requesting this year, we will be able to hire more than 40 new staff members to:

- Expand our literacy and technology programs
- Reach more underserved patrons
- Increase our hours of operation, and
- Purchase more materials for our collections.

One of our highest priorities is the expansion of literacy services. With your support, we will offer the Ready, Set, Kindergarten program, currently serving 30 locations, at all 60 of our branches. Every branch will host STEM programming for children 6-12 on weekends and after school, while successful young adult programming such as Teen Tech Time will be made available to youth in every Brooklyn neighborhood. We will create new teen areas in five of our branches while improving 10 of our most heavily-used children's spaces.

As we reach more young people and families, we will also ensure that more Brooklynites are able to access our free digital resources and technology. With your increased support, the in-branch laptop loan program that currently operates in 10 locations will expand to serve 40 libraries. We'll host more tech programming, with 46 new classes ranging from computer and internet basics to advanced coding. We will offer wired tables in all of our facilities, and we will install more electrical outlets to better accommodate our patrons' digital devices.

Outside of our branches, Brooklyn Public Library will serve more residents of homeless shelters, senior centers, and Department of Correction facilities. We currently host library collections in nearly 200 locations and provide services in 552 outreach sites throughout the borough. With your help, we can do more.

As you can see, we have an ambitious vision for the next 12 to 18 months—and our staff and volunteers are up to the task. All they need is your support.

But it is not only our people and our patrons who need your help. Public libraries should be the pride of their communities—yet few, if any, civic institutions in New York City must contend with challenges on the scale of the capital crisis Brooklyn Public Library confronts in its 60 branches.

With \$100 million in additional capital funding this year for the three library systems, we can begin to address years of underfunding and neglect. BPL alone faces nearly \$300 million in unfunded capital needs, including \$80 million in emergency repairs. Our laundry list of needs is—or at least, should be—an embarrassment to the city.

Brooklyn's 60 public libraries, institutions to which hundreds of thousands of people turn every year, need 28 new boilers, 20 new HVAC systems, and 18 new roofs. Fourteen branches require ADA and accessibility improvements. Twenty-nine need fire and other safety upgrades. Brooklyn Public Library patrons lost nearly 1,500 hours of service last year from unplanned branch closures, many of which were caused by emergency building maintenance issues.

Our challenges are dire in libraries like McKinley Park, a formerly leased building that is among the smallest, and most heavily used, in our entire system. Indeed, it would be easier to tell you what isn't wrong with that branch than to run through the full litany of its needs, which include a new roof, HVAC system, and boiler. Meanwhile, Pacific Library, Brooklyn's first Carnegie branch, is almost totally inaccessible to patrons with disabilities.

McKinley Park and Pacific illustrate the stark contrast between the high demand for our services and the unwelcoming environments in which we provide them. The city's inclusion of \$300 million for libraries in last year's ten-year capital plan was an encouraging start, but this investment amounted to less than one-quarter of what we needed—enough only for each system to complete five full branch overhauls. Our critical infrastructure needs are staggering, yet the plan included no additional funding for Brooklyn Public Library in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

There is a better way forward, and it begins with our request for more funding in this year's capital budget. Brooklyn Public Library is grateful for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. We are proud to join New York Public Library and Queens Library in asking the city to:

- preserve the increased operating support we received last year and provide an additional \$22 million in discretionary operating support in Fiscal Year 2017; and
- allocate sufficient capital funding for libraries to finally address the emergency needs that threaten our ability to serve the public.

We ask your support of this request, and we look forward to working with you to extend the reach of the library—with more programs, longer hours, and more outreach outside our walls—to New York City's most vulnerable populations, the people and communities who need us most.

I'll close by noting that millions of patrons visit New York City's 217 libraries every year. Some are compelled only by their intellectual curiosity, the inspiration they draw from our vast collections to contribute something of lasting value to the world. Others come to us determined to change the course of their lives by finding new jobs, starting businesses, or mastering new skills. Children begin their journeys here, discovering the wonders of reading, while older adults depend on our branches to remain engaged in their communities.

I'm sure that each of you have your own reasons for supporting the library. Whatever they are, we hope that you will remember our patrons as you enter into budget negotiations with the administration—and that you will do everything you can to pass a budget that reflects how New Yorkers feel about their libraries.

Thank you.

*"The library helped me become a U.S. citizen."*

JESUS, QUEENS

# EXTENDING OUR REACH

## Serving the New Yorkers Most in Need

*"Libraries provide me with access to computers and internet that I cannot currently afford."*

ROY, BRONX

*"My library makes reading a pleasure I can always afford to indulge in while still being able to afford dinner."*

MARISSA, STATEN ISLAND

*"When I was laid off from my job, my library provided all I needed to make a new start."*

ELLEN, BROOKLYN

*"In our five-year odyssey in the shelter system, NYPL has been a 'home away from home' for me and my two young daughters."*

NIC, MANHATTAN

## FY17 Executive Budget & Agency Oversight Hearing

New York City Council | May 19, 2016

Tony Marx The New York Public Library | Linda E. Johnson Brooklyn Public Library | Dennis M. Walcott Queens Library

KEEP INVESTING IN  
**LIBRARIES**  
KEEP INVESTING IN NEW YORKERS!

**Bklyn**  
Public Library

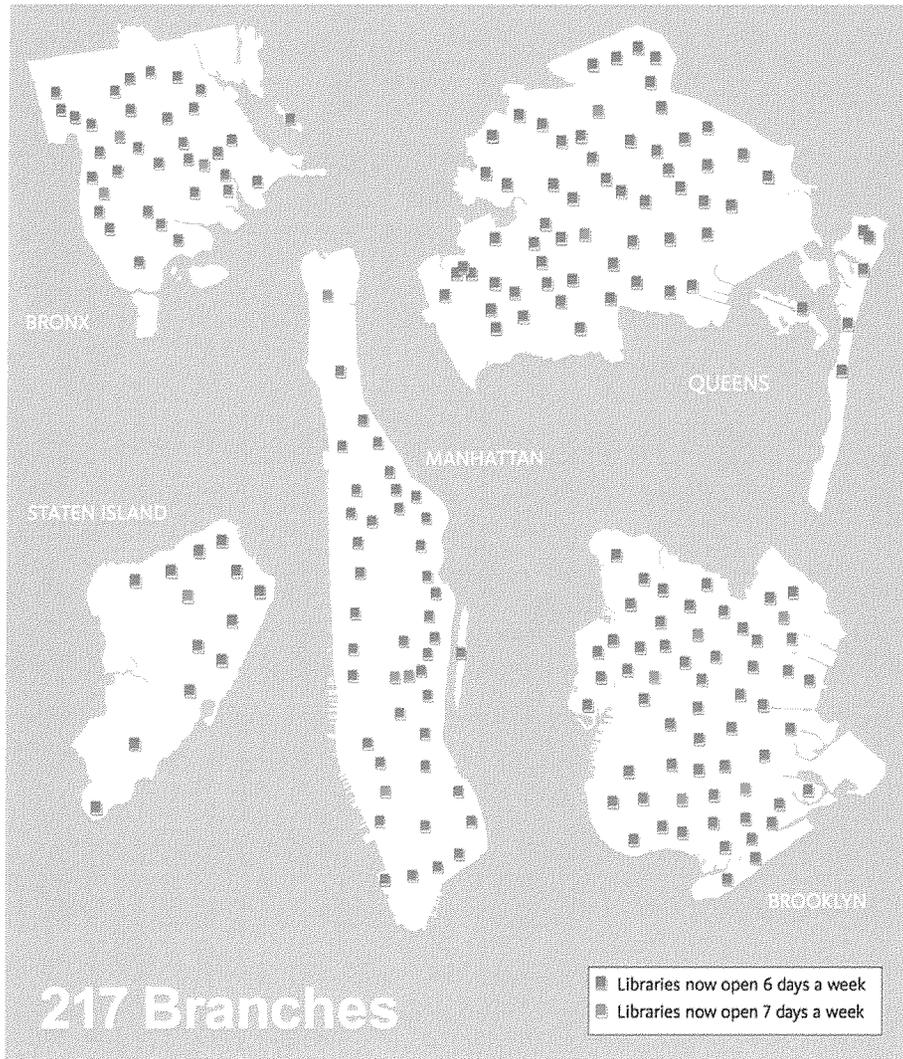


New York  
Public  
Library

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## EXTENDING OUR REACH

# NYC LIBRARIES: FY17 Budget Needs



## OPERATING

- +\$44 million to fully restore libraries
- Baseline all funding

## CAPITAL

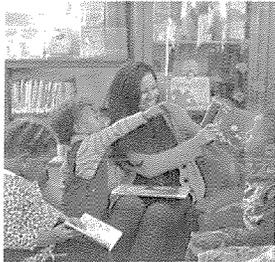
- \$100 million of our more than \$250 million total critical maintenance needs



New York  
Public  
**Library**

# THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY: FY17 Budget Needs

## OPERATING



### Expanding Family Literacy

- Enhanced services at **84 branches**, up from 20 branches
- **50% increase** in program attendance (to 500K)
- **75% increase** in outreach to schools & daycares
- Expand DHS–Library pilot, now serving **15 shelters**



### Promoting Digital Equity

- **150% increase** in coding classes (to 1K slots)
- Lend **5K Library HotSpots** city-wide
- Increase **tech outreach** to NYCHA residents

## CAPITAL



115th Street Library  
MANHATTAN



Mosholu Library  
BRONX

### NYPL has \$126 Million in Critical Repairs at 56 Branches

- New boilers & HVAC
- ADA compliance
- New roofs & windows
- Fire alarms
- Electrical upgrades

**Preserve:** 142 new staff + expanded hours | **Plus:** 50 new staff | 11 libraries open 7 days | \$2M for collections

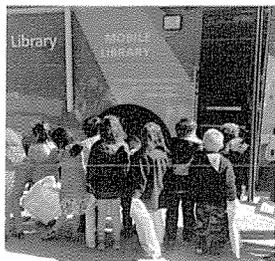


# Queens Library

## EXTENDING OUR REACH

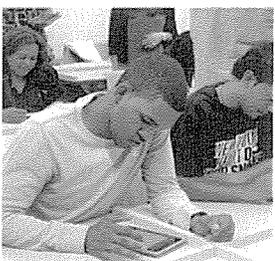
# QUEENS LIBRARY: FY17 Budget Needs

## OPERATING



### Expanding Family Literacy

- Curriculum-based after-school programs **+340%**
- Expanded ESOL, Adult Learning
- Expanded mobile library and digital access points at hospitals, family shelters



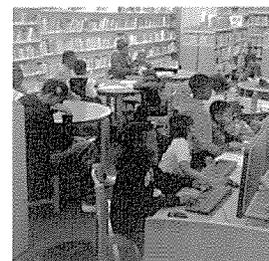
### Promoting Digital Equity

- In-library tech sessions **+17%**
- Expanded Wi-Fi access (in *and* around libraries)

## CAPITAL



Corona Community Library  
QUEENS



Laurelton Community Library  
QUEENS

### Urgently Needed Upgrades

- Expansions to relieve overcrowding
- New boilers & HVAC
- ADA compliance
- New roofs & windows
- Fire alarms
- Electrical upgrades

**Preserve:** 129 new staff + 6-day service    **Plus:** 60 new staff | 14 libraries open 7 days | +16% for collections

# Bklyn Public Library

# BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY: FY17 Budget Needs

## OPERATING



### Expanding Family Literacy

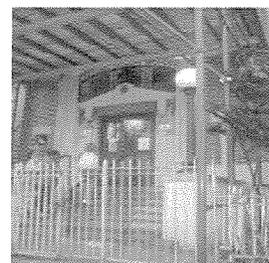
- Story Time, STEM at all 60 branches
- +15 children, teen + YA spaces
- Expand beyond 200 sites for outreach to vulnerable populations
- Increase services and materials to homeless shelters & DOC facilities



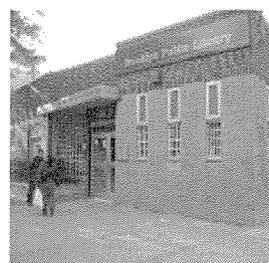
### Promoting Digital Equity

- +46 new tech classes
- In-branch laptop loans +30 sites
- Outlets & wired tables +30 libraries

## CAPITAL



Pacific Library  
BROOKLYN



McKinley Library  
BROOKLYN

### BPL has \$80 Million in Emergency Repairs

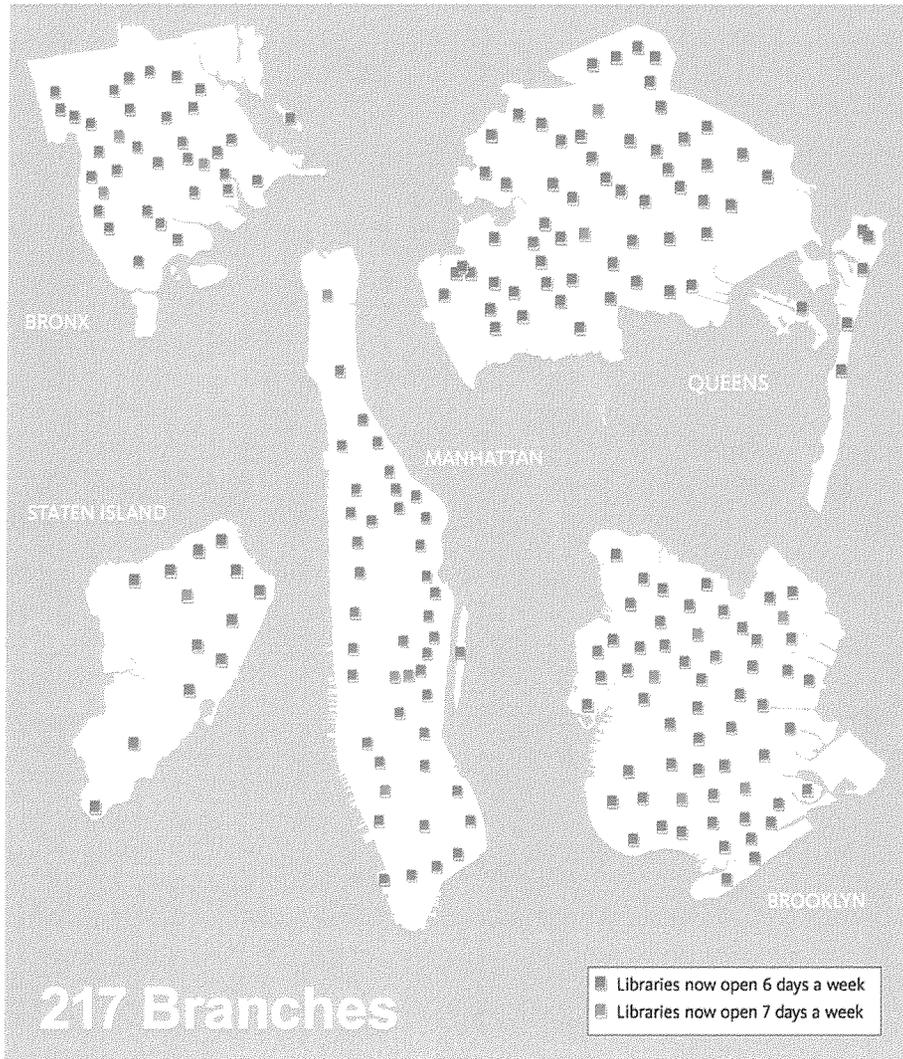
Critical infrastructure needs:

- 28 new boilers
- 20 HVAC systems
- 18 new roofs needed
- ADA upgrades at 14 branches
- Fire safety upgrades at 29 branches

Preserve: 95 new staff + 6-day service    Plus: 40 new staff | Expanded hours | \$1M+ for collections

## EXTENDING OUR REACH

# NYC LIBRARIES: FY17 Budget Needs



## OPERATING

- +\$44 million to fully restore libraries
- Baseline all funding

## CAPITAL

- \$100 million of our more than \$250 million total critical maintenance needs

# KEEP INVESTING IN LIBRARIES

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**New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations**  
**Fiscal Year 2017 DCLA Executive Budget Hearing**

Thursday, May 19, 2016, 11:00 AM – Council Chambers, City Hall  
Testimony Presented by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl

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Good morning, Chair van Bramer and members of committee. I am here today to present testimony regarding the Mayor's executive Fiscal Year 2017 budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs. I am joined by a number of DCLA staff.

I will begin today with a brief summary of the numbers. The Executive Budget allocates \$144.1 million in expense support to the Department of Cultural Affairs. This includes \$108 million for the Cultural Institutions Group, \$28.5 million for the Cultural Development Fund, \$6.7 million for agency operations, \$481K for the creation of the cultural plan, and \$370K for the Building Community Capacity program. As I've emphasized in the past – while we look like large agency, we spend just 3.7% of our annual expense budget on agency operations in the current fiscal year. The rest goes straight to our constituents to support an incredible range of cultural programming.

Turning to the agency's capital budget, the 4-year plan is now \$774.6 million, which includes funding for 386 active projects at 190 cultural organizations across the city. From major new construction projects to equipment and systems upgrades, these projects are essential to maintaining the infrastructure that provides New Yorkers with access to world class cultural facilities in all five boroughs. This figure also includes \$7.5 million for the Affordable Real Estate for Artists (or AREA) initiative. This investment is a step toward the commitment made by Mayor de Blasio in his 2015 State of the City address to build affordable housing and workspace dedicated to artists living and working in communities across New York City. Other project highlights include:

- The complete exterior rehabilitation and interior renovation of the **Nuyorican Poets Café's** turn-of-the-century tenement building on East Third Street;
- Site wide **electrical improvements for Snug Harbor** on Staten Island, which will increase the efficiency and safety of electricity on the campus and allow capacity for future growth;
- Construction of a new Edible Academy and Family Garden enhancements at the **New York Botanical Garden**, providing an extraordinary new educational amenity for families that visit the garden;
- The **South Site project in Downtown Brooklyn**, which will provide the neighborhood a new cultural hub with space for 651 Arts, BAM, the Brooklyn

Public Library, and a new home for the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts;

- And a chiller replacement at the **New York Hall of Science** which will keep visitors cool in New York's hot summer months.

Now, I'd like to expand on a few of the items included in the expense budget. First, the funding for the **cultural plan**. Last year, Mayor de Blasio signed legislation sponsored by Chair van Bramer and Council Member Levin that will create the first ever comprehensive cultural plan for New York City. Over the last several months we've done a great deal of research and have had in depth conversations with officials from other cities who have undertaken their own cultural planning processes. While these have been illuminating, New York is a place like no other. We are fully committed to creating a plan that speaks for all New Yorkers.

This plan will also allow us to unite a lot of the work we've been doing into a clear and compelling vision in a format that welcomes feedback and input from the public. The plan will sew it all together: from the cultural workforce diversity survey released earlier this year, to the Social Impact of the Arts report currently in development, to new initiatives like our Public Artists in Residence program, IDNYC cultural partnerships, and more – the plan will integrate this research and new programming in a way that gives residents a better understanding of where we're at with regards to our cultural engagement. In turn, the public's input will provide the backbone of the plan's policies, recommendations, and benchmarks moving forward.

Another program represented in the expense budget is **Building Community Capacity**. BCC strengthens the organizations and cultural networks that connect residents in targeted neighborhoods. It takes a collaborative and comprehensive approach to building cultural capacity by bringing together local stakeholders from across sectors for training, workshops, public programs, and more. We announced in January that East New York, Cypress Hills, and Brownsville will be the first neighborhoods to host this new DCLA program. We want local cultural groups to be deeply engaged in the community planning process currently underway there. We have increased funding for BCC by fourfold so we can bring the program to new neighborhoods across the city.

The de Blasio Administration's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in all fields is also something we're very actively pursuing with our partners in the cultural sector. We thank City Council for its collaboration and support on these efforts. Just last week, we welcomed more than 200 representatives of theater groups from across the city to The New Victory Theater to discuss strategies and opportunities for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. We were delighted to have Chair Van Bramer join us and address the crowd. It is our hope that we can continue to drive this conversation forward and make real progress – not someday in the distant future but today.

A commitment to diversity is a multifaceted effort, and we've been able to increase funding for cultural programming that engages residents of all backgrounds through partnerships with sister agencies:

- This Administration's number one priority in the arts is **arts education**. Within months of my appointment as Commissioner I was proud to join the Mayor, the Chancellor, and members of the Council to announce a \$23 million increase in funding for arts education. We also worked closely with Paul King from the DOE arts office to bring **Turnaround Arts** to four Brooklyn schools, infusing their curriculum with intensive arts training. Each school was also partnered with a celebrity artist. While I can't divulge details, the students will be taking part in some very exciting end-of-year activities later in May. More to come on that.
- Our **Public Artists in Residence (PAIR)** program, which brings the power of creative practice to civic issues, has been embraced throughout the Administration. We launched the program last summer with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and announced our second PAIR with the Department of Veterans Services in November. Veterans Services Commissioner Sutton has given art and culture a central role at her new agency and its mission of improving lives and cultivating health, healing, and wholeness for our veterans and their loved ones. We will soon announce our next PAIR with the Administration for Children's Services.

DCLA's current Fiscal Year 2016 budget is among the highest in the agency's history, and the Administration is pleased to have such a strong partner in the City Council on providing this robust support for our cultural sector. We are proud to work with the Council on the Cultural After School Adventures program, SU-CASA creative aging program, the Cultural Immigrant Initiative, and Art as a Catalyst for Change gun violence prevention program. These targeted investments in the arts enrich, educate, and transform communities in every neighborhood. We look forward to continuing this important work in partnership with you.

The arts are integral to what makes our City such a remarkable place, and we are proud of the role that City support plays in the vibrancy, breadth, and diversity of cultural activity. Thank you, Chair van Bramer and members of the committee, for your ongoing support. I will now take any questions you may have at this time.

TESTIMONY FROM NYCHA CHAIR & CEO SHOLA OLATOYE  
*EXECUTIVE BUDGET HEARING*  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING & COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2016 – 2:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEW YORK, NY

Chair Ritchie Torres, Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, and members of the Committees on Public Housing and Finance, and other distinguished members of the City Council: good afternoon. I am Shola Olatoye, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the New York City Housing Authority. Joining me today are Karen Caldwell, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Nicole Ferreira, Vice President for Development; and other members of NYCHA's executive team. Thank you for this opportunity to update you on the Authority's first quarter, our re-forecasted estimate for 2016, and NextGeneration NYCHA.

**More than a Plan—a Massive Turnaround Effort**

Before I get into the budget, I want to recognize that today is an important milestone for NYCHA. A year ago today, Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Chairman Torres, myself and many other distinguished elected officials, residents and advocates joined Mayor de Blasio in a packed community center in East Harlem's Johnson Houses for the unveiling of *NextGeneration (NextGen) NYCHA*.

It was a monumental day, not only because the de Blasio administration offered a long-term solution to stabilize the financial crisis facing New York City's public housing, but because it was a promise; a promise by this administration to change the way NYCHA is funded, managed, and how it serves its residents. We made a serious commitment to improve the quality of life for the more than

400,000 people who call NYCHA home, and to preserve public housing for today and for the next generation.

*NextGen* was then, and continues to be, a massive turnaround effort to pull NYCHA back from the brink. As we've mapped out in this strategic plan, righting the wrongs that have accumulated over decades will not occur overnight. And even though NYCHA's turnaround is a marathon, not a sprint, we've caught a commanding stride in *NextGen*'s first year.

### **First Quarter's Performance & 2016's Outlook**

When I testified in March, I outlined the challenges NYCHA faces, and specifically the external factors that most directly impact our cash flow. Among these factors are the President's budget, proration rates, Congressional appropriations, the volatility of utility expenses, and the growing cost of employee fringe benefits.

I believe this Committee understands the uphill battle NYCHA must climb each year, so while I won't be reviewing those specific points in my testimony today, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank you, Chair Torres. Since our preliminary budget hearing, you've championed NYCHA's funding cause and elevated the national conversation on public housing. You've helped put public housing front and center as a priority, making it clear that it is more than a New York issue, but it's a national issue and it should not be overlooked. I, along with all of the people who live and work in public housing, thank you for your voice and leadership.

Let me provide you with a summary.

We originally projected **\$3.32 billion in revenue** from the public and leased housing programs. We now project that to be down slightly to **\$3.30 billion**. However, we originally projected **\$3.38 billion** in expenses, but now expect to close the deficit with **lower expenses of \$3.28 billion**.

While NYCHA will continue to pursue every dollar, especially from the federal and state governments, the Authority has a promising budget update followed by a strong first quarter. We originally projected a *\$60 million operating deficit for 2016*, which included a \$38 million shortfall in the Section 8 program and a \$22 million deficit for the public housing program. With an encouraging First Quarter, I'm pleased to report NYCHA now anticipates a more positive 2016 outlook from NextGen NYCHA initiatives and from a higher than expected Section 8 proration.

Let me provide you with some specifics. Our strong First Quarter in public housing can be attributed, in part, to higher rent collection and lower personnel costs from the general wage increase and central office attrition savings. This year, NYCHA anticipates **\$24 million from central office employee attrition** and other staff integration, which began in 2015.

Separately, we will close the original projected Section 8 deficit, as we received a higher proration than budgeted. Higher funding levels and lower expenses enable us to grow our Section 8 program.

Additionally, we are on track to convert more unfunded City and State units this year. We have already converted 202 units this year, compared to 264 for all of 2015.

## **NextGen: A Living Document**

NextGen isn't a plan frozen in time; it's a living document guiding NYCHA to financial solvency. Only through experience—implementation, evaluation, and adjustment, can we achieve the end goal: identifying the savings and new streams of funding that stabilize operations so as to preserve public housing.

Each year, we will reforecast NGN projections based on how initiatives perform; some may outperform our expectations while other initiatives may not and will have to be revised. Projections are a tool we use to help inform decision-making and guide our program execution. It's only by putting NextGen strategies into practice that we can learn, improve, and move forward. As FDR once said, there are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still. NYCHA cannot afford to stand still.

## **A Year in Review**

It's appropriate that this year's budget hearing lands on *NextGen's* one year anniversary. The plan sets forth four principal goals: change the way NYCHA is funded; operate like a more modern, efficient landlord; (re)build existing public housing and new affordable housing; and engage residents in meaningful ways. In just one year, we're seeing some very promising results.

## Changing the Way NYCHA is Funded

*NextGen's* funding goals to achieve financial solvency center on two challenging, yet basic ideas: NYCHA will manage its expenses and collect more revenue.

To start, the Authority would be in a very different place today without the Mayor's major support and forgiveness from long-standing, untenable City payments, including NYCHA's Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and NYPD payments. By erasing these debts, NYCHA can keep **more than \$100 million annually** in our operating budget.

Our budget also benefits from greater than expected central office attrition and employee integration in the last year. By the end of 2016, NYCHA will reduce central office costs by \$24 million—30 percent more than originally anticipated in the plan.

To meet our funding goals, NYCHA must also be thoughtful about our ground floor vacancies. In the last 12 months, NYCHA has leased more than 27,000 square feet of ground-floor space to new commercial and community space tenants, which bring in new streams of revenue and benefit the community.

Some new tenants include:

- A new child care center at Washington Heights Rehabs, which will provide early education learning and universal pre-K;
- A new discount store moved into Queensbridge Houses in a space that had been vacant for over a decade; and
- And, optometrist Dr. James Kim, who recently opened his practice on the ground floor of the Williamsburg Houses—a space that had been vacant for

three years and will offer public housing residents and the entire community greater access to comprehensive vision care.

## **Changing the Way NYCHA Operates**

Solving our financial situation is one piece of the puzzle, which goes hand-in-hand with becoming a more modern and efficient landlord. To meet this goal, we are putting technology on the forefront and embedding quality assurance into everything we do.

New Yorkers are mobile and so is NYCHA. The Authority has gone digital with the launch of the MyNYCHA app, which has already been **downloaded nearly 23,000 times**. Residents can create work orders, change appointments, and receive alerts and much more from the convenience of their phone. Over 97,000 non-emergency work orders have been created through the app, **with an average response time of within 7 days**. Since my preliminary budget testimony, not only have we launched the MyNYCHA app in Spanish, but it—and other NYCHA tech initiatives—were recently recognized with an innovation award from regional housing professionals.

At its core, the operational goals in *NextGen* are about responsiveness. With OPMOM, our initiative to increase accountability and to empower property managers, we're seeing trends in a positive direction. Since the end of 2015, OPMOM sites on average had a **17% improvement in response times for routine repairs**.

Another way we will change the way we operate is with Flexible Operations: Expanded Service Hours (FlexOps), a joint initiative with our colleagues at Local 237, which will launch at 12 developments this summer. During a four-month

trial period, NYCHA property staff will start regularly serving residents at those developments before 8 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Property management offices will stay open until 8 p.m. one day a week for appointments. We will have multiple shifts to better tackle property upkeep, repairs, and other critical issues, while supporting greater flexibility for our staff to work at different times. Working families will be able to schedule an appointment for a routine repair in the evening after work. FlexOps will improve our residents' quality of life and the overall safety of these NYCHA communities.

Being a better landlord also means moving our capital projects forward, putting our money to work more efficiently to create healthier, safer, and more connected communities.

I'm pleased to announce that, thanks to our FEMA funding, over the past year, we have begun construction at 21 developments that were severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy. These funds have allowed us to make critical repairs to our Sandy-impacted developments and are putting us on the path towards a more resilient NYCHA.

Thanks to Mayor de Blasio's \$100 million investment for roof replacements, we've been able to perform repairs on some of the most damaged roofs. We've completed 19 of 67 roof replacements and are on track to finish all of the roof repairs scheduled for the first \$100 million by spring of 2018. With an additional \$121 million from the Mayor, 30 of our developments are also receiving much needed façade work. By incorporating industry best practices into our procedures and policies, our Capital Department obligates its funds in eight months, which is much quicker than HUD's required 24 months.

To make our developments safer and more secure, we've installed over 12,000 CCTV cameras across 181 of our developments. As part of the Mayor's Action Plan, we completed a \$4.8 million lighting project at the Polo Grounds, installing 341 new energy-efficient exterior lights at the development. Similar exterior lighting projects are currently underway at 9 of the 15 MAP developments. The remaining sites are scheduled to break ground on construction this summer. In addition, CCTV is currently being installed at 7 MAP developments. We expect all of our exterior lighting projects to be complete by next summer, and all of the CCTV and layered access installation to be complete by the following summer.

Additionally, with \$15.7 million in funding from the City Council and the State, we are installing CCTV cameras, along with layered access security measures, at 23 developments this year—that should be completed on time by the end of the year.

### **(Re)Build: Changing the Way NYCHA Looks**

NYCHA's development program is a lifeline to achieving financial solvency, preserving public housing, and creating more affordable housing across New York City.

The reality is NYCHA will only survive if we identify new, uncommitted streams of funding. We cannot bet NYCHA's future on hypotheticals and other funds outside of NYCHA's purview. Development on NYCHA land—for both revenue and affordable housing—is a balanced approach to solving many of the problems facing the Authority and the affordable housing crisis in New York City.

We are facing the burden of an unmet capital need of \$17 billion for our aging developments. We must bring in new sources of revenue, upgrade buildings, and improve the quality of life for our residents.

One solution to address the major rehabilitation needs of our aging buildings is through RAD or the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, which continues to garner growing support. We are completing our review of proposals from potential developers and we hope to announce a selection by the end of June. Through this program we plan to upgrade 1,400 apartments at Ocean Bay Apartments (Bayside) in the Far Rockaways—an investment that will likely total more than \$150 million in capital improvements.

The RAD announcement follows another important announcement we made earlier this month: NYCHA and HPD selected the developer teams to build 100% affordable housing and community centers at Ingersoll and Van Dyke Houses in Brooklyn, and at the Mill Brook Houses in the Bronx. NYCHA incorporated the input of residents and as a result, the applications include community center programming, innovative design and affordable housing for seniors and families.

A key component of NextGen is engaging with residents in new ways. We are taking this approach with the NextGen Neighborhood program at Wyckoff Gardens and Holmes Towers. Residents have been at the table as never before. Between the two developments, more than 600 residents at over 36 meetings have spoken up, contributed and provided critical feedback to what should be included in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFP, which we hope to release in the coming weeks, really is a testament to the good work and conversations that have occurred at these two developments.

As we continue to bring residents to the table we will continue to incorporate their input to help guide our work. NextGen is about doing things differently to better serve our residents. Through resident leadership and strategic partnerships, NYCHA is committed to creating opportunities for meaningful resident and community input.

## **CONCLUSION**

NYCHA has learned a lot through NextGen's first year of implementation. This is a major turnaround effort with significant budget implications. I am committed to getting it right.

As always, we appreciate your partnership in strengthening New York City's public housing.

**Testimony of Anne Roest**  
**Commissioner, New York City Department of Information Technology &**  
**Telecommunication**  
**before the**  
**New York City Council Committees on Finance, Technology and Land Use**  
**concerning the**  
**FY 2017 Executive Budget**

**Thursday, May 19, 2016**  
**City Hall, 10:00 am**

Good morning Chair Ferreras-Copeland, Chairman Greenfield, Chairman Vacca, and members of the City Council. My name is Anne Roest and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT), and New York City's Chief Information Officer. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today about DoITT's Fiscal 2017 Executive Budget. With me are John Winker, our Associate Commissioner for Financial Services; Rachel Laiserin, our Associate Commissioner of Procurement and Vendor Management; and Chad Rosenthal, our Deputy General Counsel.

DoITT's Fiscal 2017 Executive Budget provides for operating expenses of approximately \$635 million; allocating \$149 million in Personal Services to support 1,800 full-time positions; and \$486 million for Other than Personal Services (OTPS). Totalling \$128 million, Intra-City funds transferred from other agencies to DoITT for services provided accounts for approximately 20% of the budget allocation. Telecommunications costs represent the largest portion of the Intra-City expense, which was \$115 million in Fiscal 2016.

The 2017 Executive budget reflects a decrease of \$8 million and an increase of \$45 million from the Fiscal 2017 Preliminary Budget for Fiscal 2016 and Fiscal 2017, respectively. The increases to the Fiscal 2017 Executive Budget are attributed to IFA extensions; OTPS funding associated with the ongoing maintenance costs required to support recently approved, capially-funded initiatives; and one-time funding that are rolled from Fiscal 2016 for projects such as Citywide Procurement Innovation, and Broadband Access.

**In short, the 2017 Executive budget provides the funds we need to keep doing all the things we do to provide resilient, scalable, and leading IT services, infrastructure, and telecommunications to city agencies.**

So while the budget breaks the DoITT mission down into line items, we are talking about something far greater than the sum of its parts. We are talking about how DoITT is going to leverage its resources *to lead and efficiently manage world-class IT services* for the City of New York.

The 2017 Executive budget we are talking about today reflects our commitment to fulfilling DoITT's mission through:

- **A robust infrastructure**, secured by layers of intertwined defenses.
- **Improved services**, such as 24x7 coverage for essential citywide IT functions, facility and technology upgrades, as well as keeping pace with agencies requests for shared IT services. And we are doing more. For example, our data center has grown from 2,300 servers to 7,500 servers over the last four years, that's a significant increase in output, and that's just one example.
- **Investments in human capital**, by insourcing consultant staff but also by ramping up our recruitment efforts with an eye towards diversity and inclusion, led by our Chief Diversity Officer, Kenneth Hunter...And since our last hearing we continue our work with agencies to identify opportunities to insource IT work and reduce reliance on external IT consultants. In just this last budget cycle alone, 94 headcount have been added across various agency budgets, bringing the total to nearly 300 new headcount for the conversion of IT consultant positions to City staff.

And by:

- **Expanding access to technology** for all New Yorkers through the expansion of Wi-Fi and broadband initiatives. You may recall that in my last testimony I also highlighted Mayor de Blasio's commitment to providing every resident and business access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service by 2025. To further this goal, the Administration has funded six positions in this budget to staff a broadband unit to work closely with Mayor's Counsel Maya Wiley's office on rolling out various broadband initiatives.

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss DoITT's 2017 Executive budget. This concludes my prepared testimony, and I will now be pleased to address any questions. Thank you.

**From:** Carol H Krinsky [<mailto:chk1@nyu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:16 PM  
**Subject:** The 42nd Street Public Library

To the Hon. Rebecca Chasan, Hon Julissa Ferreras-Coperland, Hon. Jimmy VanBramer, Hon. Andy King.

I am writing to ask for a one-time allocation of City funds to repair the climate control system at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Library. I am a Professor of Art and Architectural History at NYU where I have taught since 1965. My years of research at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Library date back to 1955. Nearly all my research for five books and many articles was done at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street where books were always available from a closed-stack system of storage from which books never circulated.

When the Central Library Plan was active, between 2.5 and three million books were removed from the stacks, sent to storage in New Jersey. This means wasteful expense for storage, handling, and trucking now and in the future. The Library will put the most-requested books back at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, but the scholarly, foreign language, and rarer books are the ones that scholars rely on to be at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, ready to hand. They aren't digitized. They are obtainable only by advance request-- if one knows about making advanced requests. Those are the books that have sometimes been lost or misfiled in New Jersey. Despite the Library's hopes for rapid retrieval, colleagues and students report regular delays of three to four days.

You might assume that scholarly research is done by only a few people and that it reaches only a few people, but in fact, the effects of scholarship are felt in public policy changes, expenditure on culture by tourists, position papers by candidates for office, analysis of commercial transactions, and so on. People come from the entire western hemisphere to use 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. They come from abroad, too. Graduate students and advanced undergraduates at local universities use 42<sup>nd</sup> Street's facilities; I require every one of my students learn to use them. We all need the stacks to be rehabilitated, either with city or private funds. This would be a one-time city allocation to preserve the city's position as the hub of research in the western hemisphere.

Readership figures during the past year cannot indicate the number of people who normally use 42<sup>nd</sup> Street even in a digital era, because the closing of the Rose Reading Room for repairs led many of us to go wherever else we could to do at least parts of our work. I have access to NYU and Columbia libraries; independent scholars, retirees, and others don't. They all need 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. So do I.

A second reason why user statistics are not helpful is the MaRLI program. It lets certain people borrow books for months, from the formerly closed stack system that served all readers equally. The privileged people have two whole weeks to return the books if anyone else requests them--a ridiculously long time when anyone can photocopy or scan a book in a few hours. This means that anyone who can be sure of finding a given book elsewhere will go elsewhere. My colleagues and I used to go to 42<sup>nd</sup> Street regularly because what we needed was there, not in New Jersey. True, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street cannot store everything the Library owns, but the trained librarians could tell us which categories were where.

So we still need books back in the stacks. Please find money to rehabilitate the stacks and facilitate serious academic work. Our city is a commercial city but it is also an intellectual center. Our commercial city relies on the good commercial principle of research, which means thinking new thoughts, finding the evidence to make them functional, and turning the results to good use.

Respectfully, (Dr.) Carol Herselle Krinsky

**New York City Council - Committee on Finance, Committee on Cultural Affairs,  
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations, the Subcommittee on Libraries  
FY 2017 Executive Budget Hearings - Libraries May 19, 2016,  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Testimony by Veronika Conant, M.L.S.  
New York, NY 10019**

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

I strongly support plans to increase the operating budgets and to create baseline capital budgets for the three public library systems.

**Today I want to comment on the research function of NYPL.**

The Rose Reading Room at the 42nd Street Library has been closed for repairs since May 2014, about two years. During Spring 2013, over three years ago, about three million research materials have been removed from the seven floors of book stacks, below the Reading Room, and moved off-site. As of April 2016, about 6 1/2 million of NYPL's invaluable research collection are stored off-site: over 5 million in ReCAP, Princeton, NJ, and about 1 1/2 million in temporary storage by Clancy Moving Co.

As a result of these drastic changes, doing research at the 42nd Street library has become extremely difficult, and at times impossible. Getting off-site items takes too long, many are missing or damaged, or even misfiled. The reputation of NYPL as a major research institution is getting severely damaged as it can no longer support serious research efforts, and researchers are unable to pursue their goals.

Please make the speedy reopening of the Rose Reading Room and the restoration of the book stacks below them priority one.

Both the land and the library building at 42nd Street are owned by the City. Therefore, the upgrade of the HVAC system in the book stacks is the City's responsibility. The cost of upgrade of the books stacks is estimated by the NYPL administration to be \$46 million. For 160,000 square feet of stacks this comes to \$287.50 per square foot or for 3 million research items it comes to \$15.33 per item onetime cost. Whichever way calculated, this is a relatively small investment with large returns over the next hundred years.

**Please make a one time special allocation of \$46 million for this purpose.**

It is hard to pin down the value of research done at NYPL. However, NYPL has supported numerous authors, scholars and researchers locally and from all over the US and the world. A number of inventions originated at NYPL, the Polaroid camera and the Xerox machine among them.

There are many unique, invaluable older publications containing a great deal of prior knowledge, which have not been digitized. A recent example: the 2015 Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to three scientists for the development of drugs for roundworm parasites and malaria, saving billions of lives. One of the three, Younyoung Tu, a Chinese female scholar, used an ancient Chinese text to isolate from the ginghao plant an important antimalarial drug, artemisinin, without loss of its healing power\*.

**Please support the restoration of the research collection to its home at 42nd Street, to allow many other amazing uses in the future.**

I also want to make one more statement:

**Please do not allow the sale of any public library building in the three library systems, serving millions of City residents. Instead, protect and maintain them.**

Examples of past sales by NYPL were disastrous:

a) The **Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL)** needs to be saved. NYPL already sold five floors of the library for \$60.8 million. **The remaining two floors of the library function real well with hundreds of computers, and great seating and training areas. Please do not allow its sale, reproducing it elsewhere would be almost impossible as well as inconvenient to hundreds of thousand users, plus a major financial loss for the library system and the City which invested in it.**

b) My local circulating library, the **Donnell Library**, has been closed for almost 8 years. It was sold for \$67.4 million. The new library is being built mostly below ground level, in the basement of the 49 Stories high condo hotel built in its place, which has already made millions for both the hotel and the condo, while the library part is still unfinished. **It will be less than 1/3rd of the size of the old Donnell with one tenth of the old collection. It needs better configuration of the space than we were shown in 2013, and a good collection with services for the local community.**

Thank you.

**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: Dennis Walcott

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

I represent: Queens 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: LINDA E JOHNSON

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

I represent: BROOKLYN 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: Tony Marx

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

I represent: President, New York Public 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: Tom Finkelpearl

Address: 31 Chambers St

I represent: NYC Dept of Cultural Affairs

Address: 10

**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: 5/19/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chad Rosenthal

Address: Dep. General Counsel

I represent: DoITT

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: 5/19/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RACHEL LAISERIN

Address: Assoc. Comm. of Procurement and Vendor Mgmt.

I represent: DoITT

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

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**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: 5/19/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHN WINKER

Address: ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER for

I represent: FINANCIAL SERVICES

Address: DOITT

**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: 5/19/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: COMMISSIONER ANNE ROEST

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

I represent: DOITT

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: Nicola Ferrara

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

I represent: NYCHA

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:

Shola Olatoye

Address:

NYCHA

I represent:

NYCHA

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:

Karen Caldwell

Address:

I represent:

NYCHA

Address:

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