



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

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

**March 20, 2015**

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

Our City's public libraries serve the many and varied needs of a constantly growing number of people. They function as community centers and educational hubs, and provide a broad range of essential services that are free and available to all New Yorkers, including those most in need. They provide adult literacy programs, easy access to community health care and medical information, services for non-native speakers and new citizens, and academic opportunities for children of all ages. I am sure everyone in the City Council appreciates the value of libraries in every community and I know that you have been supportive of libraries, to the best of your ability, during the lean years.

We now have the opportunity and ability to do better for the people of this City — as the economy grows, so should the investment in libraries, so that together we can ensure that all of our residents and communities grow and thrive.

For the past several years, you have heard us talk about how vital our library services have been to our communities during the recession. You have heard about how we have provided digital access for people who cannot afford it, the pivotal role our Job and Business Academy has played in helping people prepare to go back to work, how we have helped families survive by helping them apply for benefits, and, of course, serving as an access point for City services, such as disaster recovery information, IDNYC and

more. Community wellness, adult basic education, digital literacy, academic support — we have struggled to provide it all during the bad times and many, many people in Queens were very appreciative that we were there.

Against that backdrop, I want to tell you what has happened at Queens Library. In the first half of Fiscal Year 15, **visitorship is up**. Attendance at free library programs is up **6.7% in the past 6 months**, and **up 43% over the past five years**. The demand for library programs and services continues to grow. The economy has improved, but we all know, **it has not improved for everyone**. I know the Mayor and this Council *truly* believe in Equity, Growth, Resiliency, and Sustainability. There is never going to be a better time than now or a better way to achieve those goals than investing in libraries.

We need funding for a minimum of six days of service in every library in every community. And we need funding that will enable us to have the services and materials people want and need on those days as well. Thanks to the leadership of Council Member Van Bramer, Council Member Ferreras and the entire Council, we received a modest increase in funding for Fiscal Year 15 and we are thankful. You can see that we had immediate results. But we need to do better.

Working families need to have access to early childhood programs such as our new Family Place in Corona on the weekend. Adult learners need to be able to access adult basic education, high school equivalency preparation and English classes on the weekends. And everyone needs more access to public computers and skills training classes.

Council Member Constantinides has publicly mentioned that in NYCHA housing, 40% of the residents do not have internet access. That is not an unusual situation. Public computers in the library are in constant use every day. Those computers bring the necessity of quick and efficient internet access to more Queens residents than any other institution. And so does our technology lending program, which includes Google tablets and mobile broadband hot spots that you can take home. But you can't use the computers, borrow a tablet or take a digital literacy workshop when the library is closed. Forty-three community libraries and centers in Queens are closed all weekend long. If we were open six a days a week, we would be able to provide computer access to hundreds of thousands more people in Queens. Think about how that would help to change the game not only in NYCHA houses but for all Queens residents.

Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Members Stephen Levin and Antonio Reynoso funded the Early Childhood Literacy Initiative, because they, along with all of you, understand how important it is to the future of our city to help parents raise strong and proficient readers. Queens Library is a national leader in the delivery of innovative services for early learners. We are the first public library in the country to operate a library-based, Public School Pre-K program. We established the first Family Place in New York City, a research-based learning environment for young children and their caretakers. But if working parents cannot come to the library with their children, if they cannot use the library and its books as bonding time, where they can make reading skills a part of their family life, then we are giving with one hand and taking away with the other.

We need funding to enable our libraries to remain open more hours when families can access our programs and resources. Chair Jimmy Van Bramer has often spoken about how he used the library as a child. He *still* comes to the library with his mother — we were happy to welcome her to an event at the Broadway Community Library recently. Now, we need to make family library time accessible to *this* generation of children. We need funding to keep our libraries open six days a week and for the programs and services that are essential to offer when the library is open.

Queens has the largest percentage of foreign-born residents in New York City, in the most ethnically and linguistically diverse county in the country, the World's Borough. Queens Library welcomes recent immigrants and those born here to celebrate their cultural heritage, adapt to life in the United States, learn English, and advance in their pursuit of the American dream. Sadly, last year, we had to turn away more than a thousand potential ESOL students because we simply did not have another chair to put them in. People come to us with a desire to learn, with a will to take the next step to improve their futures, but we have to turn them away. It's time to open our doors, expand our classes and make sure that the thousands of people who need help can get it at our libraries.

Let me tell you about Khadijah Rasheed. She wanted to be with us today, but I am pleased to say that she couldn't make it because she is working. She lives in Arverne, on the Rockaway peninsula. Khadijah was a very hardworking college student who happened to be in the library when the first Google tablets rolled in for loan. She was able to borrow one. Having the tablet allowed Khadijah to make better use of her long commute to and from classes. She used it to complete her degree at the College of New Rochelle with excellent grades. In addition to her job, she is now in a graduate school program.

Following Super Storm Sandy, private grant funds kept the library at Arverne open seven days a week, but that is over now. The library at Arverne is not open on weekends. Khadijah and her family need and deserve the educational opportunities that their library can provide. She needs and deserves this chance to grow, personally and economically. She could never have succeeded without the support of her public library. But now, it is only open Monday to Friday. Khadijah's daughter and her neighbors need our City to invest in New Yorkers by investing in libraries.

This year, thanks to the restoration of some funds, Queens Library was able to hire more staff to assist the public with their informational and educational needs, and to purchase more library materials for them to borrow. Unfortunately, that restoration was for one year only and our Fiscal Year 16 budget is starting out \$2.8 million less than this year. Along with my colleagues at New York and Brooklyn Public Libraries, we are asking for \$65 million to deliver more computer sessions, more adult education, more support for young students, more ESOL seats, and to hire more qualified staff.

At the same time, the need for capital funds for our library facilities must be addressed. We recently announced the approval to begin construction of the long-awaited new library at Hunters Point. We recently celebrated the opening of the new Teen Center at Cambria Heights, a new roof at Lefferts and Hollis and a renovated children's library space at Broadway. Dozens of projects are underway across the borough to improve and enhance library spaces. But, here too, the needs outweigh our budget.

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. Queens Library has submitted a request for \$418 million in projects over the next ten years that will be required to get our system up to a state of good repair, replace 6 and expand 5 libraries to relieve overcrowding and renovate 20 libraries to create suitable library spaces for the 21st century. The Ten-Year Plan has not yet been funded and we look to your support for this effort.

Queens Library, New York Public Library and Brooklyn Public Library are asking for a \$65 million baseline increase in City operating funding for libraries. And we are asking for a rational, sustainable Capital plan so we can keep our physical spaces worthy of our mission. I hope I can count on all of you to make that happen. Please: invest in libraries and invest in New Yorkers.

Thank you. I look forward to answering any questions.



# 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
  
- 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     Willets Point & Hunters Point
  - Replacement       \$162,400,000    6 Replacement Buildings with outfitting
  
- Miscellaneous       \$ 3,985,000      Elevators, ADA lift, self check
  
- Technology           \$25,000,000    System-wide
  
- **TOTAL**               **\$418,290,000**

\*- 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

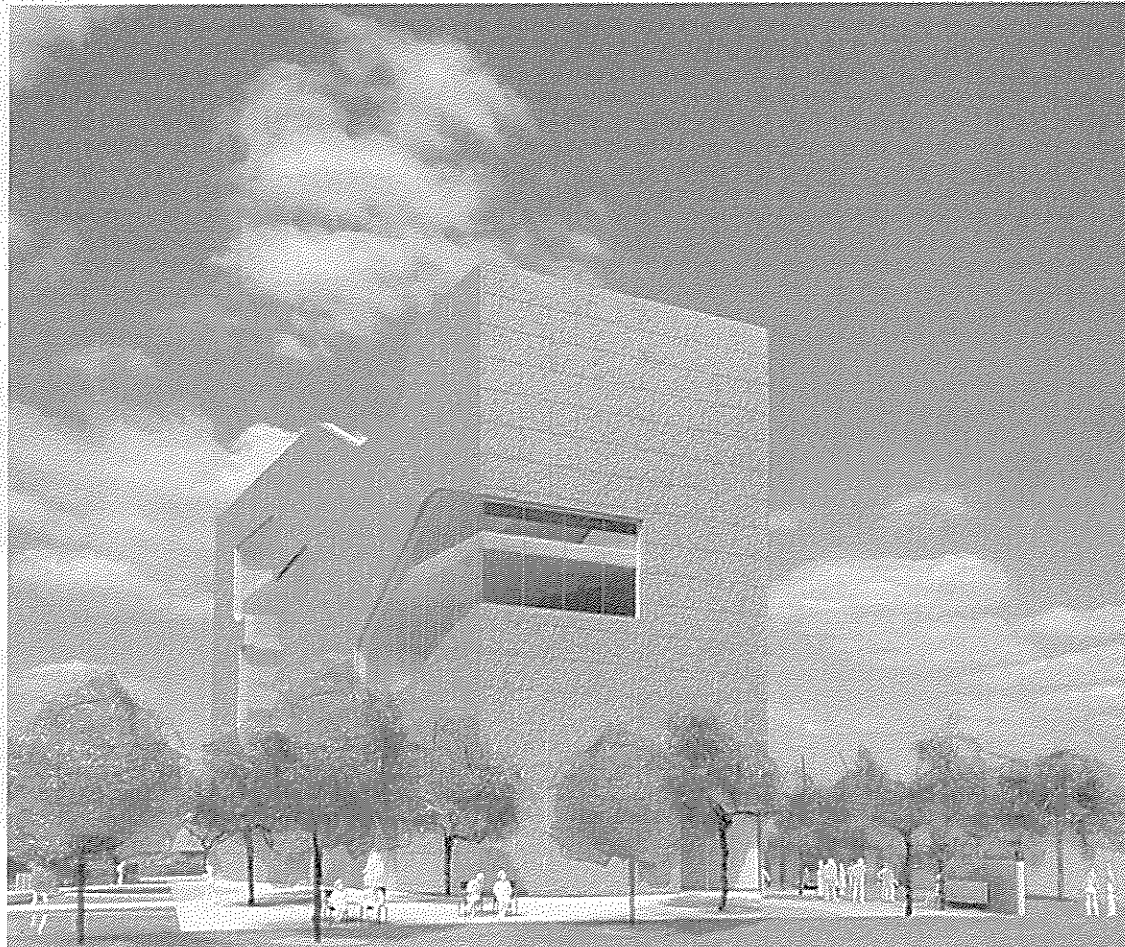
- ARVERNE EXPANSION \$ 3,800,000  
(based on estimate)
- CORONA EXPANSION \$ 22,000,000  
(based on estimate)
- REGO PARK REPLACEMENT \$ 29,000,000  
(based on DDC estimate)
- LAURELTON REPLACEMENT \$ 32,000,000  
(based on estimate)
- INFRASTRUCTURE (FY19-FY25) \$ 11,800,000  
(see infrastructure priorities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

**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

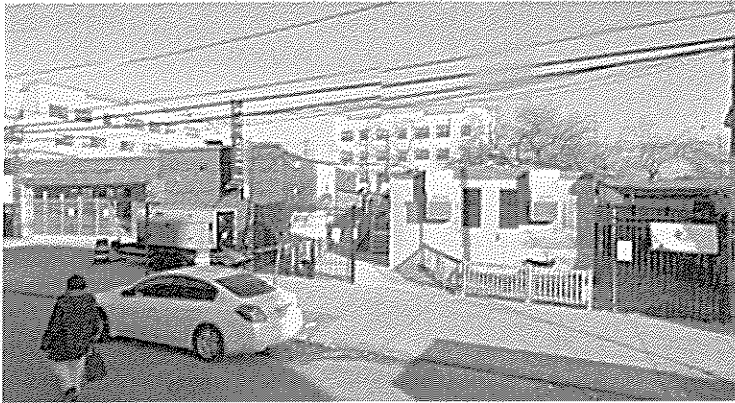
- The new 18,000 square foot library will replace the existing library in Far Rockaway.
- The new building seeks to increase the services provided to the neighborhood, and will serve as a catalyst for community transformation.
- The project is managed by DDC and is currently in the Design Development 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

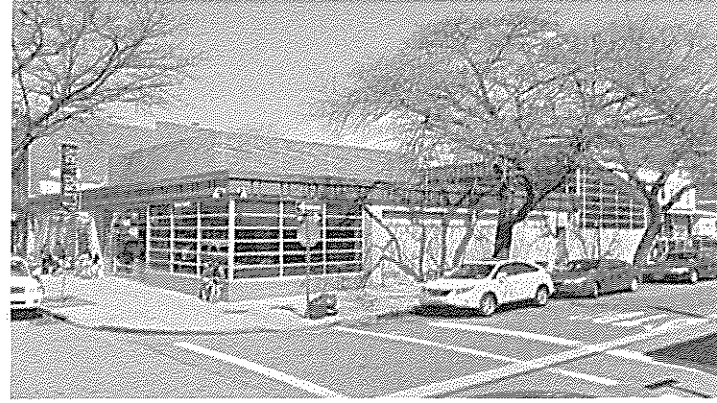
➤ Total Project Cost ( with Contingency/FFE)	\$29.8M
➤ Capital Funding Secured (from all sources)	\$23.2M
➤ Funding Shortfall:	
Construction	\$2.2M
Design	.2 M
Swingspace	.6 M
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	<u>\$ 3.6M</u>
➤ <b>TOTAL CURRENT SHORTFALL</b>	<b>\$ 6.6M*</b>

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

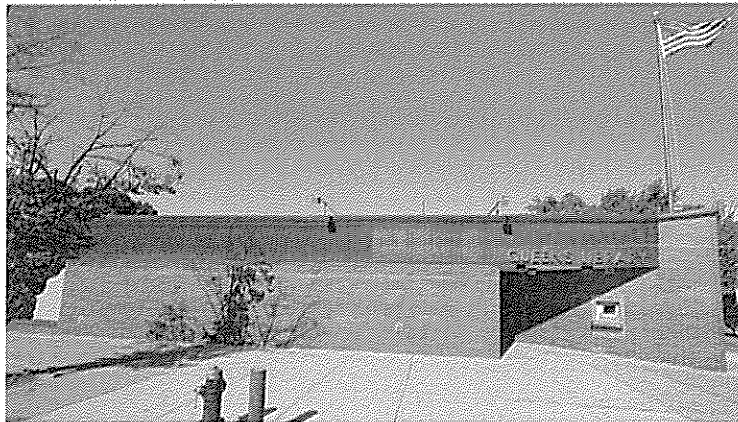
# EXPANSIONS/REPLACEMENTS



ARVERNE



CORONA



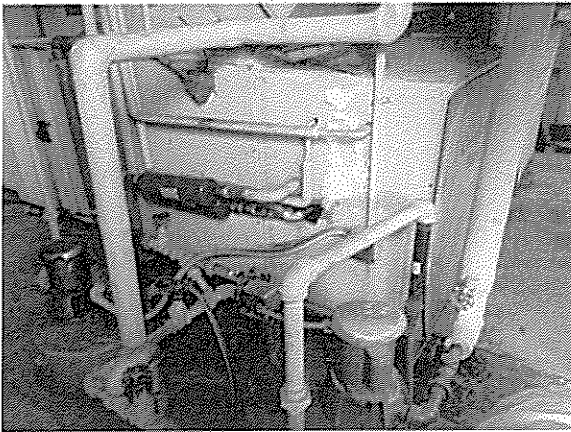
REGO PARK



LAURELTON

# INFRASTRUCTURE

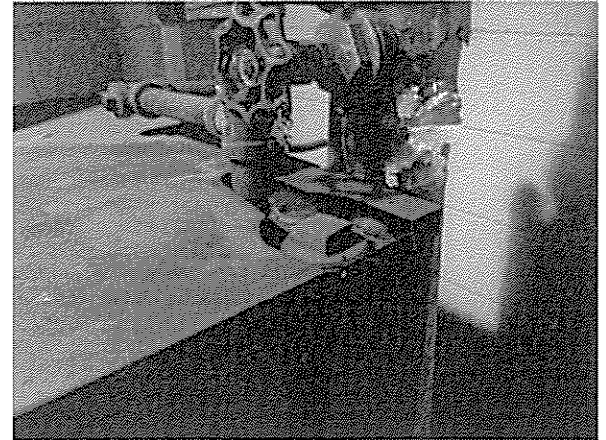
## SELECTED EXAMPLES OF URGENT HVAC NEEDS



Douglaston HVAC



Queens Village HVAC



Hillcrest HVAC



# INFRASTRUCTURE - PRIORITY 1

## FY 2016-2018

### INFRASTRUCTURE

HVAC				ROOFS			
	<u>FY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>AGE*</u>		<u>FY</u>	<u>ESTIMATE</u>	<u>AGE*</u>
DOUGLASTON	16	\$ 750,000	54	HILLCREST	17	\$750,000	28
HILLCREST	16	\$ 750,000	35	LAURELTON	17	\$800,000	28
MIDDLE VILLAGE	16	\$ 750,000	26	OZONE PARK	17	\$800,000	19
QUEENS VILLAGE	16	\$1,000,000	25	QUEENS VILLAGE	17	\$750,000	21
JACKSON HEIGHTS	17	\$ 850,000	18	SEASIDE	17	\$800,000	8
NORTH HILLS	17	\$ 850,000	29	WHITESTONE	17	\$750,000	20
POMONOK	17	\$ 500,000	51	BROADWAY (UPPER)	18	\$900,000	25
QUEENSBORO HILL	17	\$ 800,000	15	REGO PARK	18	<u>\$850,000</u>	6
LEFRAK CITY	18	\$ 850,000	45				
SEASIDE	18	<u>\$ 300,000</u>	15				
				<b>ROOF TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,400,000</b>	
<b>HVAC TOTAL</b>		<b>\$7,400,000</b>					

**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



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

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

HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

MARCH 20, 2015

Good morning. I am Tony Marx, President and CEO of The New York Public Library (NYPL). I would like to start by thanking Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer, Julissa Ferreras, and Costa Constantinides, as well as the entire City Council for their strong support of New York City libraries. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on the Mayor's FY2016 Preliminary Budget and the impact of the City's investment on libraries.

Over the past decade, City funding for public libraries has declined by nearly 20 percent; with staff cuts across the three systems totaling over 1,000 workers. Yet, demand has never been greater. Not only do we continue to provide books, information, and space for millions of New Yorkers, we are on the front lines in the fight against inequality: providing free classes and resources for new immigrants, educational programs and support for low income and working families, and an access point for the millions in the digital dark. Libraries are an essential, but consistently overlooked, part of the City's human and physical infrastructure.

Last year, for the first time since FY2008, libraries gratefully received a \$10 million increase in expense funding. With our portion of those funds (\$4.4 million) NYPL provided for 55 positions



and expanded access to many of our educational programs, opening doors of opportunity for the underserved and further strengthening our communities. This increase was an important first step. However, the Mayor's FY2016 Preliminary Budget did not baseline these additional funds. To us, it seems, the "budget dance" is not yet dead.

And so, together with Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Library, we propose a \$65 million investment in New York City's libraries, a restoration to FY2008 funding levels. These funds enable us to achieve 6 day service across the city, hire hundreds of staff, and greatly expand educational programming for thousands. Embedded in every community, beloved and relied upon by families of every background and economic status, libraries are core to an equitable and successful city. Let's realize our full potential together. An investment in libraries is an investment in all New Yorkers.

Here are just a few examples of our work:

### **Programs for New Immigrants**

In FY2015, NYPL will provide 10,000 seats in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes (an increase of more than 400% since FY2011). We are also offering 5,000 English language "drop-in" classes, which we plan, with the right investment, to double next year. In addition to informal and formal language instruction, through a partnership with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs



(MOIA), we are establishing “New Americans Corners” in all 88 of our neighborhood libraries. These spaces will provide information on City, Federal and library programs to help new immigrants, including citizenship courses. We’ve also partnered with the City’s Department of Small Business Services (SBS) who will provide courses in multiple languages through their Business Solutions Centers at seven branches later this year for small business owners and entrepreneurs. SBS will provide training to library staff on their services for immigrant small business owners and entrepreneurs. All of these programs and partnerships are a lifeline for the thousands of immigrants who walk through our doors each day.

With a \$65 million increase in expense funding, we would be able to double the number of seats in our ESOL classes, offering a total of nearly 17,000 spots.

### **Out-of-School (OST) Programming**

Last year, the New York Public Library established its “Out-of-School Time” initiative, a series of after-school programs providing students with structured, educational activities that complement the City’s curriculum. In part due to the addition of \$4.4 million in expense funding in FY2015, we were able to offer 3,000 spots (from pre-school to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) in OST programs for FY2015 – double the number of students from FY2014. OST programs also expanded from 15 to 25 locations. While we are pleased with this expansion, we know there is still more demand to be met and with an increased investment in libraries by the City we are prepared to expand from 1,500 students to nearly 10,000. We are also reaching out to afterschool providers in our



communities to identify potential partnerships and opportunities for us to supplement the important work they are doing.

### **Early Childhood Literacy Programs**

Since 2012, attendees at early literacy programs in branch libraries have increased by more than 30%, with 211,000 attendees expected this year across our baby lap-sit, toddler and pre-school storytime programs. Through the City Council's City's First Readers Initiative, which provided NYPL with \$175,000, we've also been able to purchase 15,000 early literacy kits that include books, charts and interactive learning tools, for families. We hope increased funding for this initiative is provided this year. Combined with additional expense funding, we commit to providing early childhood literacy support for ages 0-5 for 345,000 children, providing these children with the opportunity to begin school prepared to be successful students and ready to tackle Pre-K programs head-on. In addition, we are supporting the City's Pre-K enrollment efforts by connecting DOE's enrollment team with each of our branches, in order to train our staff so they can help parents enroll online using library computers. We're also offering class visits and classroom support through 40 of our branch libraries and there are 63 Pre-K sites who are participating in the MyLibraryNYC program.

### **Technology Access and Training**

Over the past year, NYPL has continued to expand our technology programs and services. In FY2015, we anticipate 90,000 attendees at our TechConnect courses, more than double the



number of attendees from FY2012. We are also participating in the Library HotSpot initiative, a joint program with Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Library, the City, and private partners such as Google. Through the HotSpot program the three library systems are in the process of lending 10,000 Wi-Fi hotspot devices to New York City families without broadband internet at home, helping to bring these families out of the digital dark, a problem that nearly 40% of New Yorkers face. We're also proud to have launched a unique partnership last year to offer space for Coursera students taking online courses to gather for class lectures and discussions.

While we are proud to be the City's partner in bridging the digital divide, we know there are so many New Yorkers left to reach. Through an additional investment in libraries, NYPL is poised to increase access to our technology trainings to 130,000 and Wi-Fi access (in branches) is expected to increase from approximately 2,424,966 to 2,910,000 sessions.

### **City Initiatives**

We are also pleased to be partnering with the City on new and exciting programs. In addition to our many existing partnerships with the City – such as MyLibraryNYC, Library HotSpot, Workforce1, and City's First Readers – we recently joined the City's Human Resources Administration in launching IDNYC enrollment centers in two of our branch locations – the Mid-Manhattan Library Center and the Bronx Library Center. Beyond providing physical space and 4 staff for the IDNYC program, the three library systems have also worked with the City to ensure the IDNYC card has the capability to function as a library card. We've already welcomed



thousands of new and future patrons into our branches through this partnership and recently expanded the enrollment center at the Mid-Manhattan Library, from 3 to 15 enrollment stations, a 500% increase. Time and again, we have demonstrated the immense value that libraries bring to these (and can bring to other) citywide initiatives. But we have also proved we are capable of moving quickly to execute on these key priorities.

All of these programs and initiatives are made possible through the support of and in partnership with the City and we hope that we have demonstrated the power of this investment on countless New Yorkers every day. As I have mentioned, the Mayor's proposed budget for libraries does not allow libraries to continue expanding access to these critical programs and services. In fact, it would likely force us to scale back these efforts. However, with the right investment, there is a tremendous future for libraries in this City as well as for the millions who use them.

Finally, as part of the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan process, NYPL has proposed a \$589 million capital investment across the next ten years. This funding would allow us to plan strategically, renovate ten neighborhood libraries, create a critical maintenance fund and complete necessary technology upgrades across our system. Combined with an increase in expense funding, New York's libraries would finally be able to plan for increasing and expanding programs and services in a long-term, thoughtful way, rather than attempting to solve problems through Band-Aid fixes.





With the City's investment, we will provide the library spaces and services that our citizens demand and that they deserve.

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



The New York Public Library

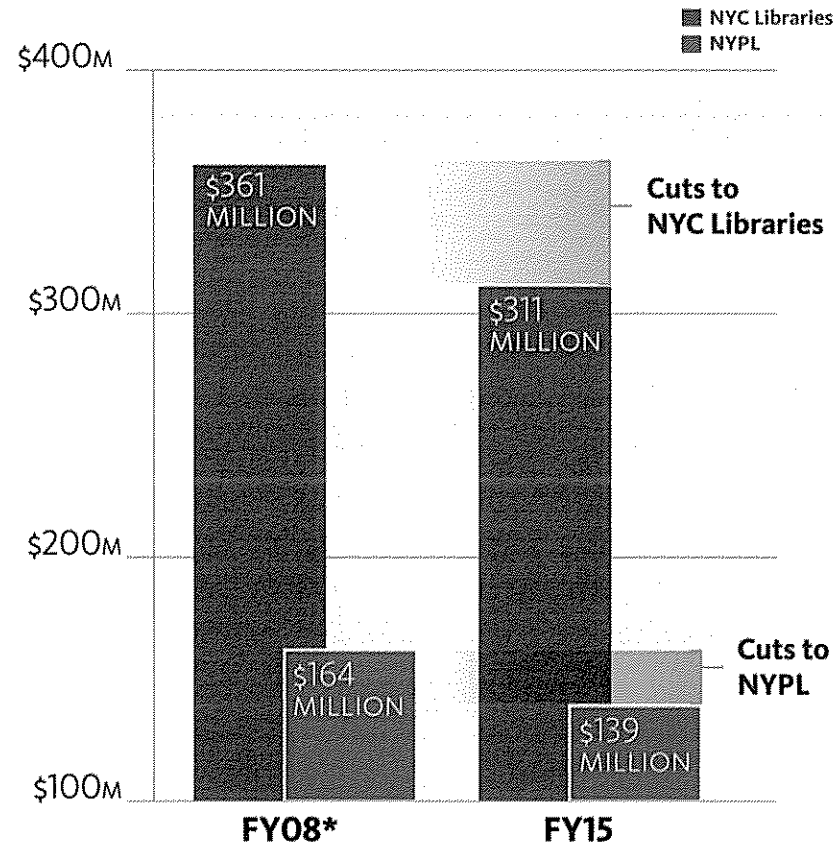
**INVEST IN LIBRARIES,  
INVEST IN NEW YORKERS**

New York City Council Hearing  
*FY16 Preliminary Budget*

March 20, 2015

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

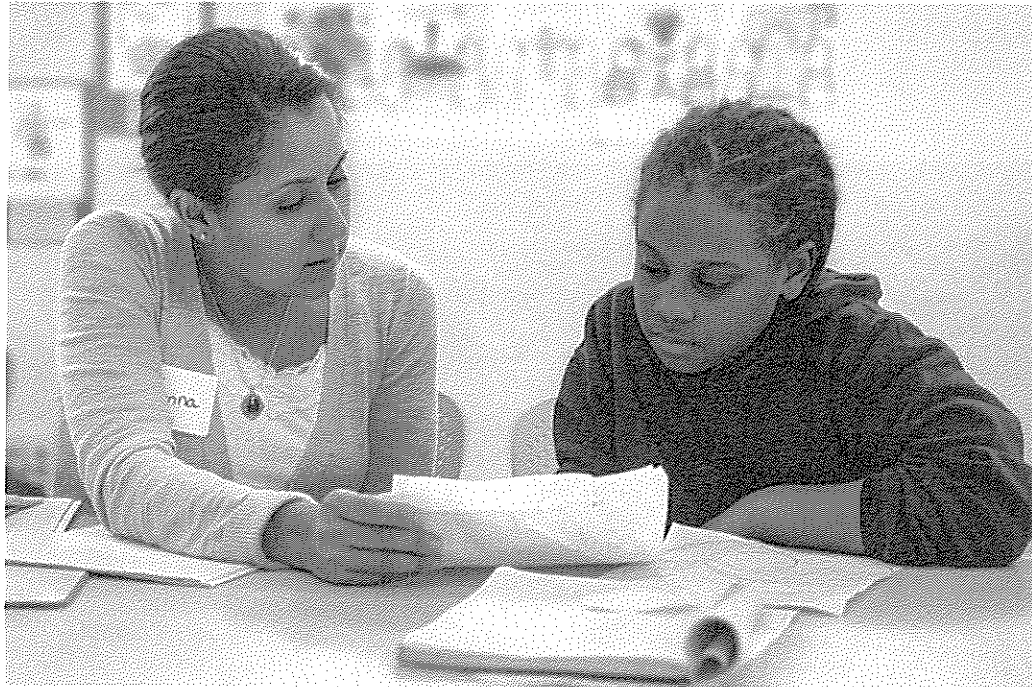
# INVEST IN NYC LIBRARIES: CITY FUNDING FY08-FY15



\*Adjusted for inflation



# INVEST IN AFTER-SCHOOL SUPPORT



## Enrichment Zones

Mott Haven Library, Bronx

**“He was having a hard time with reading. Now he’s doing much better.”**

**KEYONI GOODNER**  
Mother

**Out-of-School Time Program**

**FY14**

**1,555 spots**

**FY15**

**3,000 spots**

**+\$65M**

**9,700 spots**



# INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY

---



## Story Time & More

All NYPL Branches

**“Our programs help build reading and language skills, which are one of the best predictors of future success in school.”**

**EMILY NICHOLS**  
Manager, Early Literacy

Early Literacy Programs

**FY14**

**175,349 spots**

**FY15**

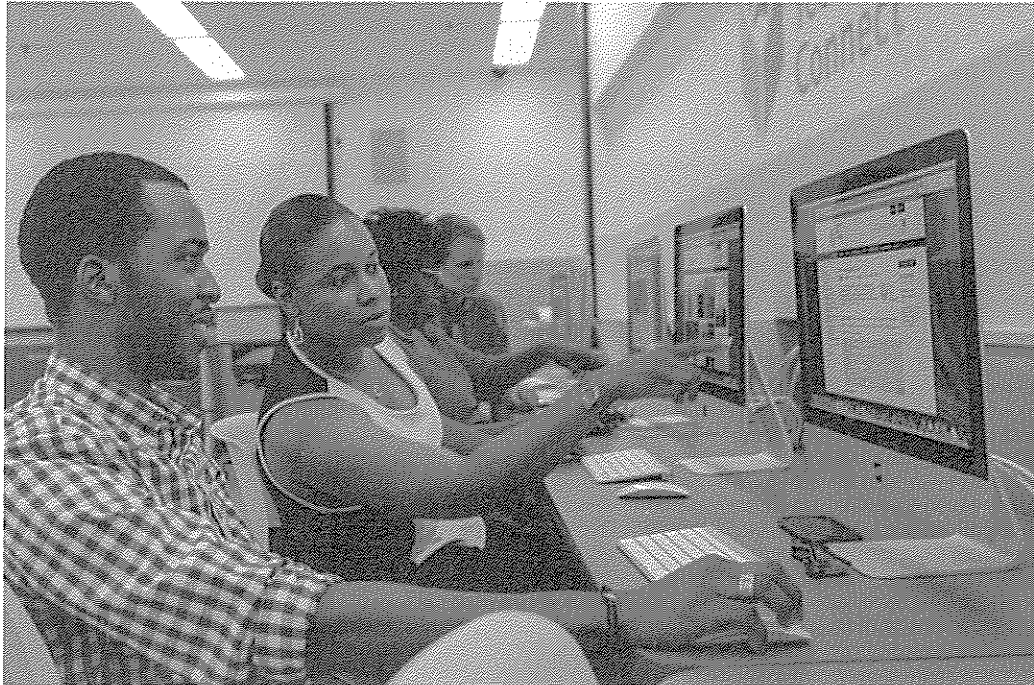
**211,000 spots**

**+\$65M**

**345,000 spots**



# INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY TRAINING & ACCESS



## Project Code

Mid-Manhattan Library, Manhattan

**“Our new coding classes have been very successful at opening the field to people who have traditionally been left out.”**

**BRANDY MCNEIL**  
Manager, TechConnect

**Technology Training**

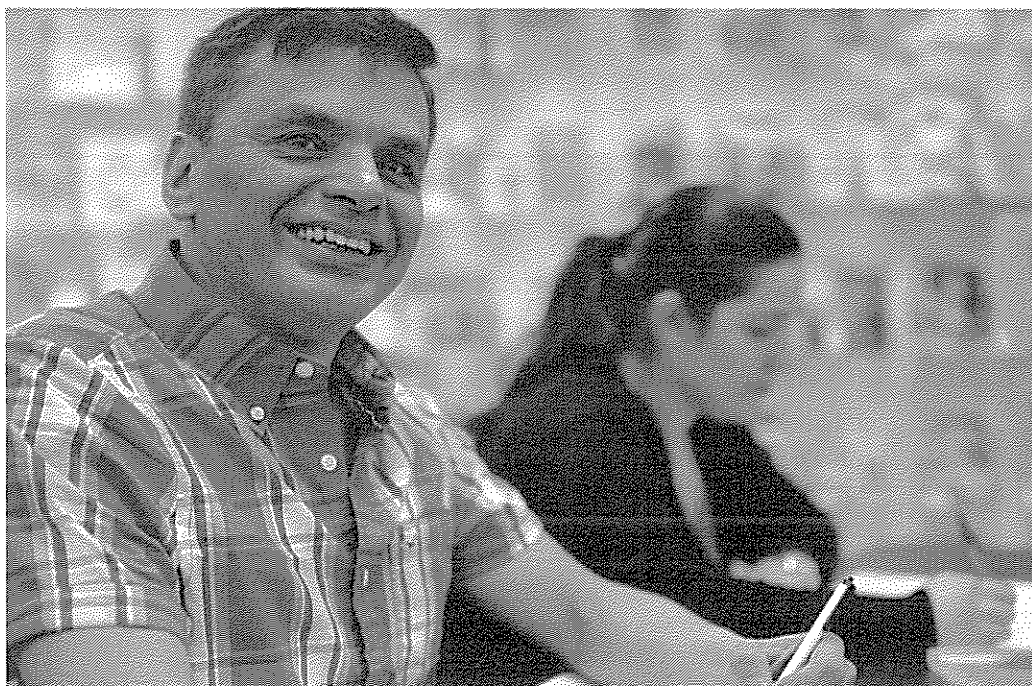
**FY14**  
79,091 attendees

**FY15**  
90,000 attendees

**+\$65M**  
130,000 attendees



# INVEST IN RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRANTS



## ESOL Classes

Aguilar Library, Manhattan

**“It is difficult for me to find a job that uses my skills and education because my English is not good enough yet.”**

**ALBERTO REYES**  
ESOL Student

English for Speakers  
of Other Languages

FY14

7,899 spots

FY15

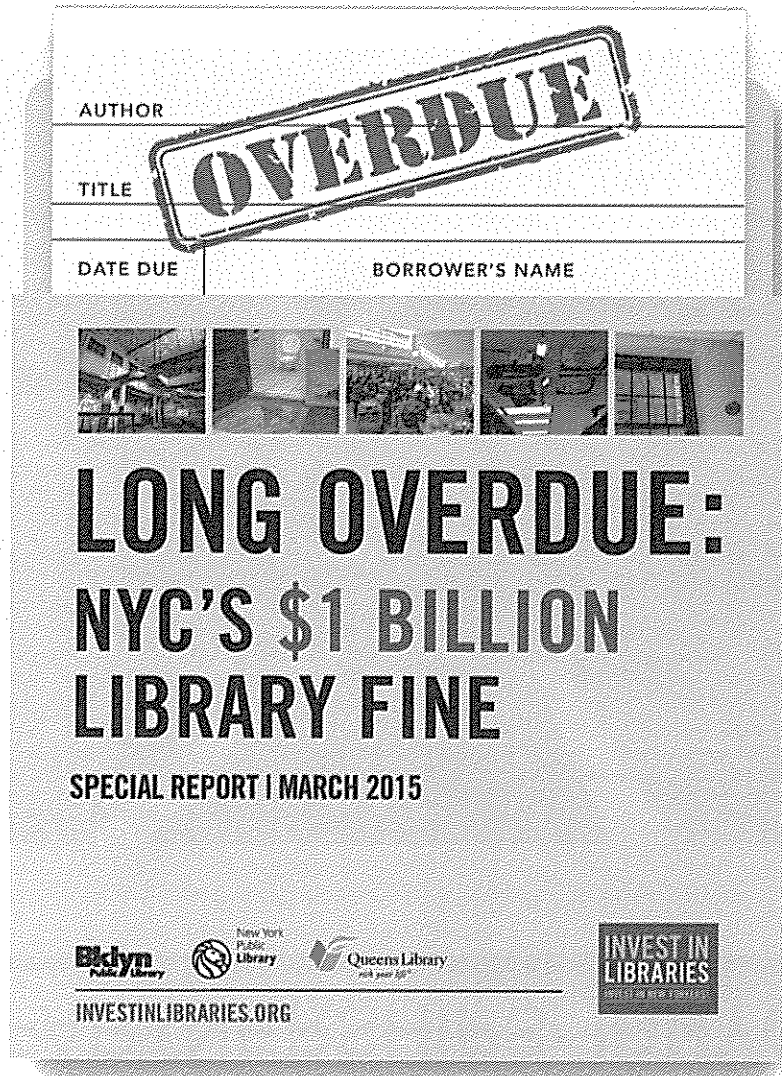
10,000 spots

+\$65M

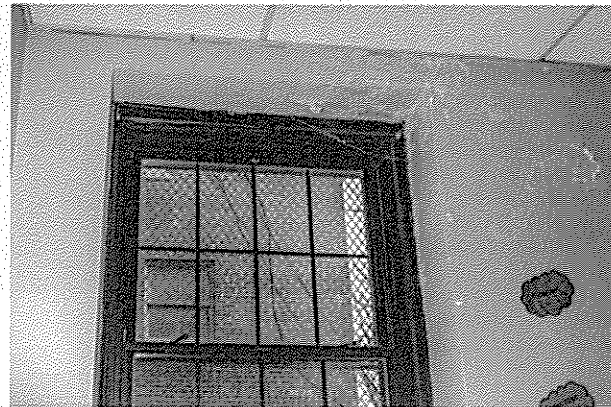
16,800 spots



# INVEST IN OUR BRANCHES



125th Street Library (Manhattan)



Hunts Point Library (Bronx)





# INVEST IN NYC PARTNERSHIPS: IDNYC

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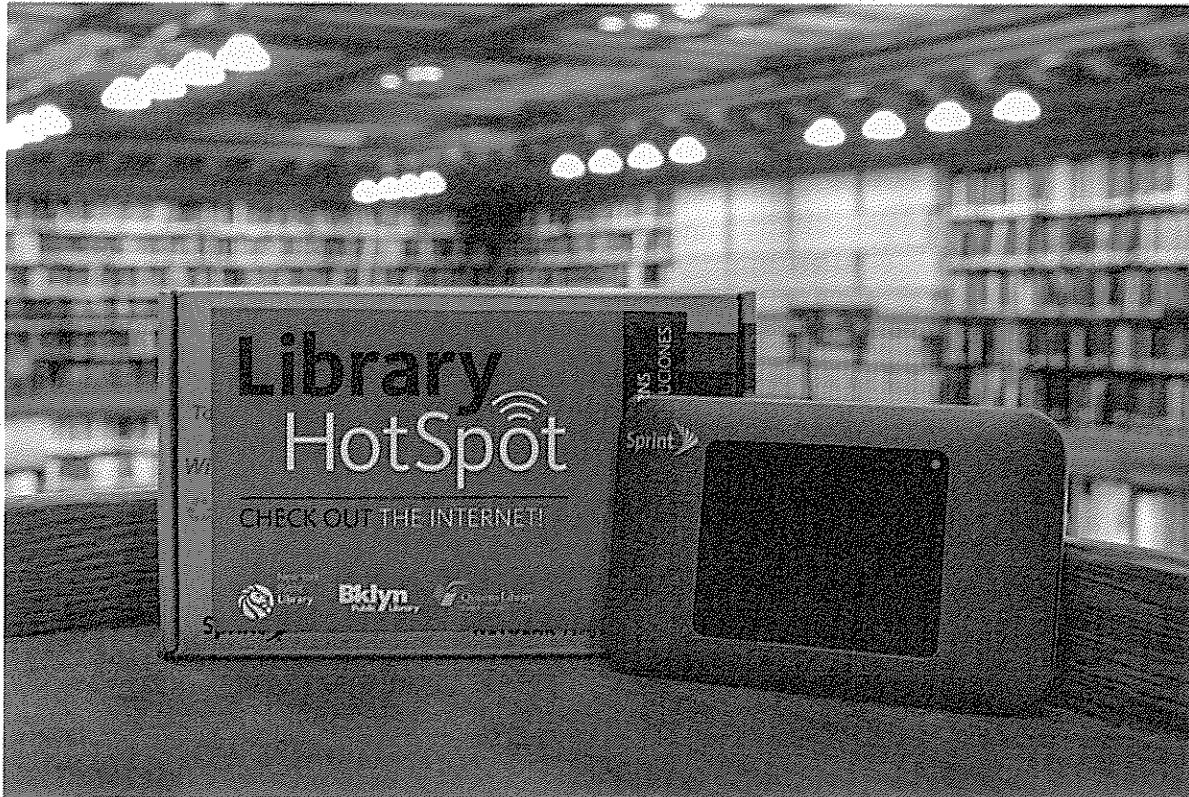
## NYPL Sites:

- **Bronx Library Center**
- **Mid-Manhattan Library**  
(expanded from 3 to 15 terminals)



# INVEST IN NYC PARTNERSHIPS: LIBRARY HOTSPOT

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## Library HotSpot

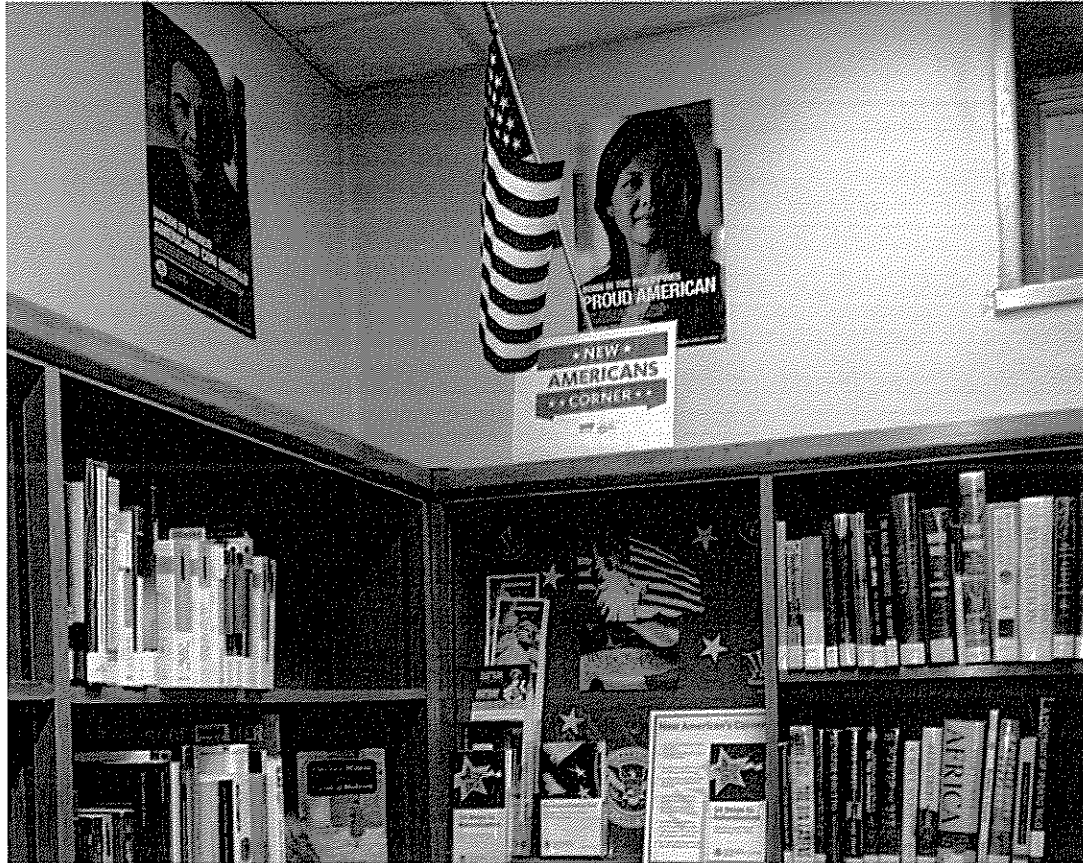
CHECK OUT THE INTERNET!

- **10,000 wireless routers available through the City's 3 library systems**



# INVEST IN NYC PARTNERSHIPS: NEW AMERICANS CORNERS

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Allerton Library (Bronx)



- Available at all 88 NYPL branch libraries



AUTHOR

TITLE

DATE DUE

BORROWER'S NAME

**OVERDUE**



# LONG OVERDUE: NYC'S \$1 BILLION LIBRARY FINE

SPECIAL REPORT | MARCH 2015



New York  
Public  
Library



Queens Library  
*rich your life®*

[INVESTINLIBRARIES.ORG](http://INVESTINLIBRARIES.ORG)



# LONG OVERDUE: NYC'S \$1 BILLION LIBRARY FINE

More than a century ago, a pioneering partnership was formed between New York City, its libraries, and one of the most generous philanthropists our nation has known, Andrew Carnegie. These partners had a simple yet ambitious dream: to build a library within walking distance of every New Yorker.

Each partner played an important role. Carnegie provided the funding for the buildings; the libraries would be responsible for providing staff and expertise; and the City would pay for the upkeep of the facilities, as well as for books, librarians, and operating costs.

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 libraries with improving their lives and making our city a beacon of opportunity for all.

Today, while New York City's 217 locations continue to offer access to books, they also provide expanded opportunities for learning and success—from computers and Wi-Fi to job search support, resume help, and numerous educational programs for patrons of all ages.

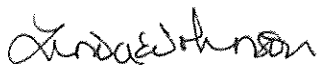
Yet, despite public libraries' ever more important role in keeping neighborhoods strong, City funding for libraries has not kept up, particularly for capital needs. As a recent report by the independent Center for an Urban Future (CUF) notes: "New York City's public libraries are serving more people 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." The report offers a stark assessment of government funding for libraries and concludes that our libraries face a \$1.1 billion maintenance crisis caused by a chronic lack of support. Put in context, and spread out over 10 years, this \$1.1 billion in need represents a mere 1% of the City's overall capital budget.

Our objectives in releasing this special report are multiple. We aim to document the array of capital problems that plague our libraries while highlighting the needs of the communities we serve. We are also proud to introduce you to staff at each of our featured branches and show how—despite challenging conditions—these dedicated professionals go beyond the call of duty to serve patrons.

We present this report as an urgent appeal for long-overdue City action on the staggering infrastructure crisis in our branches. We take great pride in our libraries and their historic legacy and are committed to ensuring that they can continue to provide New Yorkers with the high quality service they expect and deserve.

## "MAINTENANCE CRISIS" AT NYC LIBRARIES

- Unused Space
- Cooling & Heating Problems
- Overcrowding
- Chronic Water Damage
- ADA Inaccessible
- Too Small to Serve
- Out-of-Order Bathrooms
- Malfunctioning Windows
- Broken Elevators
- Inadequate Outlets



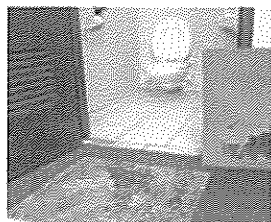
Linda E. Johnson  
President & CEO, Brooklyn Public Library



Tony Marx  
President & CEO, The New York Public Library



Bridget Quinn-Carey  
Interim President & CEO, Queens Library



# UNUSED SPACE

125th Street Library | Manhattan | The New York Public Library



## VACANT TOP FLOOR

Located just steps from the bus to the Wards Island homeless shelter, the 125th Street Library provides critical resources and opportunities, from computer access to job search help. This original Carnegie Library suffers from leaks and outdated windows and features a large, unused space on its third floor, which could be turned into a much-needed education center or computer lab.



## LOCAL HERO

Librarian Crystal McKay isn't letting the branch's capital needs stop her from helping patrons get back on their feet. McKay, who is on the community board, conducts outreach to bring the community in and stocks the branch with materials about local social services and employment help.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 71% High school diploma or lower
- 60% Household income under \$25,000
- 57% Speak another language at home

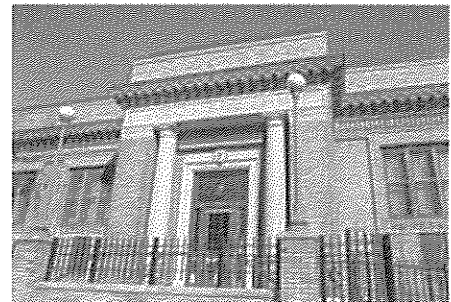
# COOLING & HEATING PROBLEMS

Brownsville Library | Brooklyn Public Library



## TOO HOT TO HANDLE

Serving a high-need neighborhood in eastern Brooklyn, Brownsville Library is an essential community hub, providing computer access and job search support for adults and homework help and a safe environment for kids. The branch faces chronic HVAC issues and is routinely forced to close on hot days, even though four temporary chillers were brought in to replace the broken AC system.



## LOCAL HERO

Supervisor Paulette Silvera knows how important it is to keep the branch running despite the HVAC problems. Many neighborhood kids have no other place to go after school or during the summer, while many adults have no other way to access computers or the Internet.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 35% High school diploma or lower
- 28% Speak another language at home
- \$25,730 Median household income

# OVERCROWDING

Corona Library | Queens Library



## BURSTING, WITH PRIDE

Located in a rapidly expanding immigrant community, Corona Library is exploding with families who rely on it for ESOL classes and after-school support for their kids. Adults crowd in throughout the day to use the computers, read newspapers in their native language, and attend English conversation groups. Programs for all ages frequently draw 100 people—more than double the room's capacity.



### LOCAL HERO

Assistant Library Manager Karen Keys tries to find creative ways to meet her community's growing needs. The branch held a special Saturday program to highlight its new Family Place, which attracted fathers who aren't able to bring their kids to the branch during the week.

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 86% Speak another language at home
- 35% Have no health insurance
- 27% Age 19 and younger



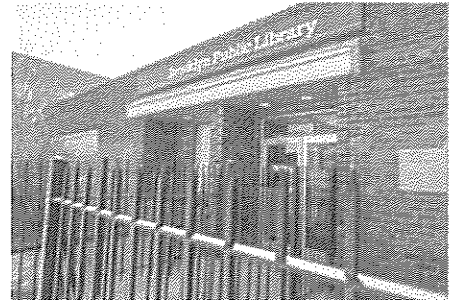
# CHRONIC WATER DAMAGE

Ulmer Park Library | Brooklyn Public Library



## WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

Ulmer Park Library, on the edge of Bensonhurst, serves a rapidly evolving neighborhood that has seen an influx of new multigenerational families, primarily from China, the former Soviet Union, and South Asia. The branch suffers from chronic leaks and water damage, particularly on the ceiling over the heavily used Chinese language section.



### LOCAL HERO

Librarian Edward Flanagan is used to keeping an eye on the weather. During big storms, Flanagan and his team spring into action to hang up tarps and split-open garbage bags to protect the books, block off flooded areas with caution tape, and place garbage cans and buckets around the branch.

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 50% High school diploma or lower
- 67% Speak another language at home
- \$37,608 Median household income

# ADA INACCESSIBLE

Melrose Library | Bronx | The New York Public Library



## ENTRANCE BARRIERS

Melrose Library serves a high-need neighborhood with many senior centers and adult day care facilities nearby. Despite this, the branch lacks both an elevator and an entrance ramp and requires major renovations to make it ADA accessible. Patrons face two steps up to the front door, another 14 steps up to the main floor, and even more stairs down to the Children's Room on the lower level.



## LOCAL HERO

Library Manager Sadeqwa Atkinson refuses to let the branch's stairs keep patrons away. Atkinson physically helps patrons up and down the steps and brings books down to patrons who can't make the climb. Atkinson also does outreach to local centers to sign seniors up for books by mail.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 61% High school diploma or lower
- 45% Household income under \$25,000
- 60% Speak another language at home

# TOO SMALL TO SERVE

Rego Park Library | Queens Library



## NOT ENOUGH SPACE

At only 5,900 sq. feet of customer service space, Rego Park Library is inadequate for the needs of this densely packed community. Adults vie for access to the branch's sole publicly accessible electrical outlet. Children dart through the computer area en route to the very crowded Children's Room, disturbing patrons who have difficulty finding a quiet place to work or study.



### LOCAL HERO

Librarian Deborah Yorsaner would love to meet the diverse community's needs with an array of free film screenings, fairs, and other events. But faced with limited space, she must frequently choose between competing needs since the branch has only one small area for programs.

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 70% Speak another language at home
- 189,000 Visitors to library in 2014
- ~\$60,000 Median household income

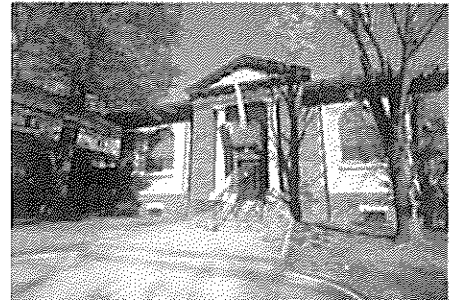
# OUT-OF-ORDER BATHROOMS

Port Richmond Library | Staten Island | The New York Public Library



## DILAPIDATED LANDMARK

Located in a gang-plagued neighborhood, the more than 100-year-old Port Richmond Library is a safe haven for countless kids and teens after school. The landmarked branch, which is in desperate need of a full renovation, suffers from chronic leaks, water damage, and outdated plumbing, which causes burst pipes, backups, and frequently out-of-service bathrooms.



## LOCAL HERO

When burst pipes or other maintenance issues cause the branch to close unexpectedly, Library Manager Patricia Kettles rallies her staff to call families and find other creative ways to make sure that the many kids and teens who rely on the branch get home safely.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 56% High school diploma or lower
- 29% Household income under \$25,000
- 47% Speak another language at home

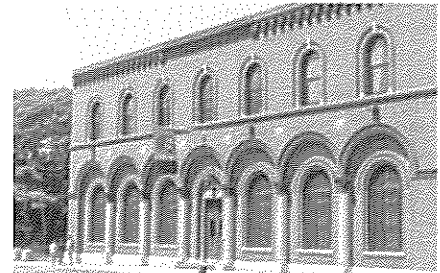
# MALFUNCTIONING WINDOWS

Hunts Point Library | Bronx | The New York Public Library



## CHRONIC DRAFTS & LEAKS

Located in a high-need neighborhood in the South Bronx, Hunts Point Library is a critical refuge, particularly for teen dropouts, out-of-work older adults, and shelter residents. The 100-year-old branch, which features a long-closed top floor that could house a much-needed career center, suffers from outdated windows that won't close in the winter or open in the summer, chronic leaks, and inadequate heat.



## LOCAL HERO

NYPL staffer Caroline Magee doesn't let the branch's capital needs stop her. On quiet mornings, Magee runs a makeshift career center out of the Children's Room, where she provides resume help and one-on-one computer training—next to windows that won't close and a garbage can that catches leaks.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 75% High school diploma or lower
- 55% Household income under \$25,000
- 61% Speak another language at home

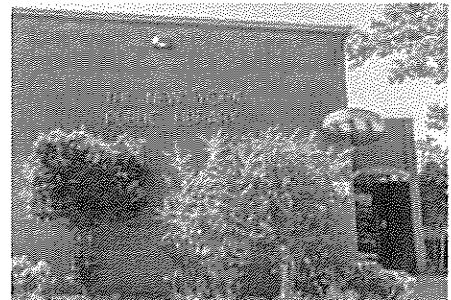
# BROKEN ELEVATORS

Richmondtown Library | Staten Island | The New York Public Library



## CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

Richmondtown Library in central Staten Island prides itself on providing an array of core services for all members of its growing community—from seniors to children with special needs. The outdated branch is especially challenged by its aging elevator, which goes up to the Children’s Room but routinely breaks down, stranding families with strollers, young children, and grandparents.



## LOCAL HERO

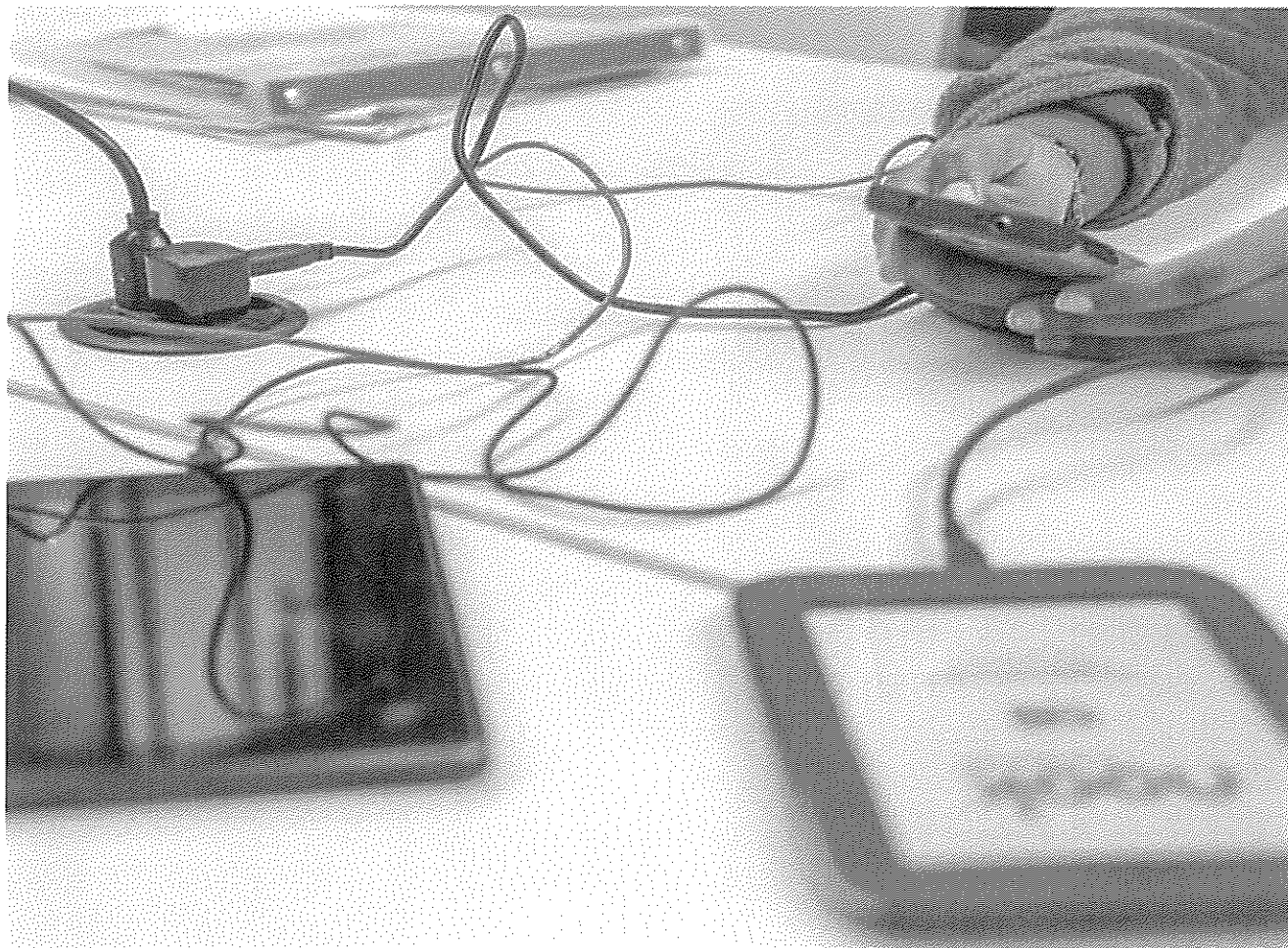
Children’s Librarian Mary Pyrak hosts programs in the branch’s upstairs Children’s Room for kids with special needs. When the elevator breaks down, she scrambles to find other locations in the busy branch to make sure that all children have a chance to discover the power of reading.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 31% High school diploma or lower
- 12% Household income under \$25,000
- 27% Speak another language at home

# INADEQUATE OUTLETS

Fort Washington Library | Manhattan | The New York Public Library



## BRIDGING THE TECHNOLOGY GAP

An original Carnegie Library, the historic Fort Washington Library provides patrons with access to computers and technology as well as giving local teens a safe place to study and hang out after school. The branch faces an array of capital needs—from chronic leaks and unused space to not enough computers or electrical outlets for patrons to recharge their devices.



### LOCAL HERO

Librarian Tara Johnson knows how important technology is for her patrons. This winter, when outdated electrical wiring took half of the branch's public outlets out of service, Johnson quickly reorganized the bottom floor to provide access to more outlets.

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

- 49% High school diploma or lower
- 33% Household income under \$25,000
- 73% Speak another language at home

**Brooklyn Public Library**  
**Preliminary Budget Hearing**  
**Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**  
**March 20, 2015**

Good morning. My name is Linda Johnson and I am the president and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library.

I would like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras, Majority Leader and Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Chair Costa Constantinides, and the entire City Council for their support of New York City's libraries.

We are grateful to the committee for having given us the opportunity to testify about our considerable capital needs at hearings in December and February. We hope that you will support our ten-year capital plan to modernize our libraries and ensure their continued service to the New Yorkers who value and depend on them.

Today we'd like to share with you the many great things that are happening inside our buildings, and how much more Brooklyn Public Library could achieve with increased support from the City for our operating budget.

In 2014, nearly 900,000 Brooklynites attended Library programs, an increase of 28% over the previous year.

Many of the people who attend our programs will go on to start businesses, graduate from college, or contribute to the artistic and cultural life of the borough—thanks to the help they received from the staff and volunteers at Brooklyn Public Library.

Patrons logged more than two million sessions on our 1,100 public computers in 2014, and usage of the Library's free wireless internet increased by almost 40%.



Many of these patrons found jobs, acquired professional certifications, or earned United States citizenship, thanks to the availability of free technology and digital resources at the Library.

In the past year, we introduced new initiatives to help immigrant communities access legal services and gain United States citizenship.

We engaged a record number of children and teens in our Summer Reading program.

And we added to the many services we provide outside of our branches. For instance:

- Our pop-up libraries offered specially curated collections at homeless shelters and other underserved locations.
- We taught the art of comic book creation to elementary school students at New York City Housing Authority community centers.
- And our TeleStory program facilitated virtual story times, sing-alongs and other bonding activities for incarcerated fathers and their children.

Our outreach efforts have not gone unnoticed. Brooklyn Public Library has been named a finalist for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The award is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for serving their communities.

Library usage is at an all-time high, and demand for our services has never been greater.

Unfortunately, the City's support for its libraries has not kept pace.

The mayor's preliminary budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2016 provides the Library with 20% less discretionary funding than we received in 2008.

These are the funds that we would use to hire staff, acquire materials for our collections, and deliver programs that help Brooklynites achieve their dreams.

While the recession that precipitated the City's budget cuts has passed, New York's libraries are still waiting for a recovery.

Last year, City Council partnered with Mayor de Blasio to baseline our funding and allocate an additional \$10 million to New York's three library systems.

Brooklyn Public Library delivered an extraordinary return on your investment. With your support and our implementation of numerous operating efficiencies:

- We undertook our most extensive hiring and training since 2008, bringing aboard 28 new staff members, most of whom are youth librarians.
- We trained staff to ensure that all 60 of our branches would have technology resource specialists to help patrons access our free technology and improve their digital literacy.
- And, thanks to your help, we expanded our hours of service at branches throughout the borough:
  - The number of libraries offering six-day service increased from 23 to 39.
  - The number of libraries offering Saturday service increased from 40 to 47.
  - And we added evening hours at many of our locations.

While we will continue to serve New Yorkers where they live, work, and play, one of Brooklyn Public Library's highest priorities is that our branches be open to the people who value our collections and depend on our services.

The single most important thing libraries can do for their patrons is to provide consistent, reliable service—in other words, to be there when we say we will be there.

And in spite of your support, our doors are too often closed to patrons when they need us most.

Only two branches are open seven days a week.

All New Yorkers should be able to take their children to the library after work and on weekends.

They should be able to visit the library in the evening to study, work on their resumes, or find a good book.

Unfortunately, Brooklyn's libraries are only open an average of 45 hours per week.

Our libraries offer fewer hours of service than libraries in cities like Chicago, Boston, and Seattle.

Our patrons—your constituents—deserve beautiful, well-maintained facilities that are open to all who need them.

The mayor's preliminary budget proposal eliminates the funds that allowed us to expand our hours and hire more librarians. If that funding is not restored, Brooklyn Public Library may be forced to roll back our expanded hours and reduce our staff.

We hope this is not the beginning of a new budget dance.

There is a better way forward. We are asking that you allocate an additional \$65 million in this year's budget to New York City's libraries, so that we may provide the level of service that you and your constituents expect and deserve.

With our share of the funds, Brooklyn Public Library will finally be able to restore six-day service to all of our branches.

We will extend morning and evening hours at branches that are currently open six days.

And we will increase the number of branches offering seven-day service from two to 10.

Furthermore, patrons who visit our branches during these expanded hours of operation will enjoy more robust collections.

City budget cuts have forced BPL to reduce its acquisitions budget by 20% since 2008.

With your help, we will increase the size of our print and digital collections to decrease wait times for popular materials and make it easier for patrons to access virtually all of humanity's accumulated wisdom.

We will also make our branches safer and more inviting by hiring more custodial and facilities staff.

Our overstretched librarians, public safety professionals, custodial workers, and clerical staff have performed heroically under difficult circumstances.

We are deeply grateful that our partners in DC 37 and Local 1482 have been such strong advocates for Brooklyn Public Library.

Several members of our staff are here today to testify about the extraordinary challenges they must overcome to serve our patrons.

It is because of our people—our hardworking staff and volunteers—that the Library is able to contribute so much to the social, economic, and cultural vibrancy of every community in Brooklyn.

No civic institution in our borough serves more people in more neighborhoods than Brooklyn Public Library.

Brooklynites visit our branches to learn, to be entertained, and to connect with their neighbors.

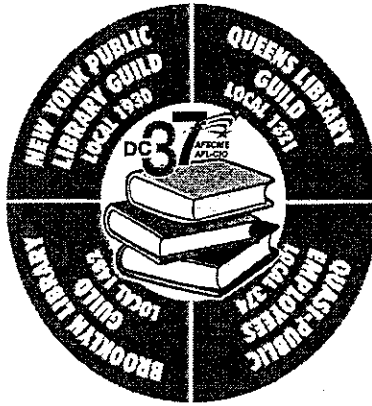
Today, the future of our libraries is in your hands.

Your approval of the budget request before you is essential to our ability to fulfill our mission.

We hope the City will honor the covenant it entered into with New Yorkers more than 100 years ago, when visionary elected officials and philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie imagined a New York in which all people would have access to exceptional libraries.

They were champions for libraries, as you are, and we are confident that you will continue to support New York's libraries in both word and deed, as they did.

Thank you for your support of Brooklyn Public Library. We look forward to working together.



**Preliminary Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2016**  
**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**  
**and**  
**Sub Committee on Libraries**  
**Joint Testimony of**  
**Brooklyn Public Library Guild, Local 1482**  
**New York Public Library Guild, Local 1930**  
**New York Public Library Quasi-Public Employees, Local 374**  
**Queens Public Library Guild, Local 1321**  
**March 20, 2015**

Chairman Jimmy Van Bramer and Chairman Costa Constantinides, thank you for giving my fellow presidents and me an opportunity to testify at this year's joint Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the Sub-Committee on Libraries hearing on the three library systems' budgets.

Val Colon, President, Local 1930; Cuthbert Dickenson, President, Local 374; John Hyslop, President, Local 1321; and I, Eileen Muller, President, 1482 come before you united. Our needs may differ because of our respective sizes, but our goal is the same: ensuring our members have the financial and human resources to improve and expand the library services our patrons, your constituents, demand from us every day.

As you heard from the three library directors, the over 2,800 frontline members of our unions provide an amazing array of programs and services, while maintaining a safe and inviting environment in over 200 locations for millions of New York City residents of all ages, educational backgrounds and nationalities. However, over the past eight years, this has become more and more difficult because the workers have lost over 870, 21% of their fellow co-workers. Valiantly, they do more with less but are extremely over-worked and have a very difficult time meeting the current massive demand.

In addition to this, every year frontline workers are asked and in some cases mandated to become library service innovators: providing new and expanded services to an ever-expanding community. Everyone wants us to offer more hours, more after-school programs, more adult learner classes, more material, and more programs. We appreciate the recognition that libraries are an indispensable resource to New York City's citizens, making our city more livable. However, these services require more funding and staff.

For years, you have heard from the unions' presidents, now you need to hear from the men and women who do the work every day. In the coming testimony Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library and Queens Library frontline workers will speak directly about the impact past years' budgets have had on their work and what more their neighborhood branches can do for their patrons, your constituents.

Our library patrons need our Library services. New York City library workers want to meet that demand. New York City Council, join us, help us, and help our patrons: increase funding, NOW.



**New York City Council  
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations  
Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget Hearing**

Friday, March 20, 10:00 AM – Council Chambers, City Hall  
Testimony Presented by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl

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Good morning Chairman Van Bramer and members of the committee. I am Tom Finkelpearl, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. I am pleased to present testimony regarding the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget. I am joined today by a number of my colleagues from the agency.

Today I will start by reviewing the Mayor's preliminary budget proposal for the Department of Cultural Affairs. For Fiscal 2016, Mayor de Blasio's proposed Preliminary Budget includes a baseline of \$149.7 million for Cultural Affairs, an increase of \$1.7 million over the Fiscal 2015 baseline at Adoption. This is due to collective bargaining and other adjustments. This preliminary proposal would allocate \$28.5 million for programs groups through the Cultural Development Fund and \$109.8 million for operating and energy subsidies at the CIG. The Fiscal 2016 forecast also includes \$5.1 million for CASA. Overall, these figures are largely consistent with the Fiscal 2015 adopted budget, not counting any one time initiatives or discretionary funding that might be added at adoption. DCLA started Fiscal Year 2015 with an adopted expense budget of \$157.2 million, which has since been modified for technical adjustments and is currently \$159.4 million. The Fiscal 2015 adopted figure was the largest budget of the past five years, and the third largest in the agency's history.

Turning to the agency's four year capital budget, we continue to work with our colleagues in City Council and the borough presidents to manage grants to cultural groups through the city. The agency's current four year capital plan includes \$722 million for 418 projects at 218 different cultural organizations. This portfolio allows nonprofits to leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in additional investments, and encompasses a wide range of projects that improve accessibility, upgrade equipment, reduce energy consumption, and provide New Yorkers with access to high quality cultural programming. Some upcoming highlights include upgrades to the Snug Harbor music hall in Staten Island, the complete renovation of Bronx River Art Center, the Jim Henson galleries at Museum of the Moving Image, the Edible Academy facility and family garden at New York Botanical Garden, the opening of St. Ann's Warehouse's new home in the former tobacco warehouse in DUMBO, and the opening of the new Whitney Museum building in Chelsea next month.

By now, many of you are familiar with the programs managed by my agency and my staff keeps you up to date on the application process and deadlines so you can inform your constituents. These include:

- the Cultural Development Fund, which provides grants to around 900 nonprofits each year for publicly accessible arts programming that reflects the incredible diversity of our city;
- Materials for the Arts, which collects donated supplies and provides them, free of charge, to nonprofits, schools, and government agencies with arts programming, and trains artists and educators how creative reuse can improve their programming while maximizing resources; MFTA represents a long-standing successful partnership with Sanitation and the Department of Education;
- the Community Arts Development Program, which builds capacity at small, community-based cultural groups to improve the stability and programming of these groups that are critical to their neighborhoods;
- Percent for Art, the City's public art program that enhances our libraries, courthouses, plazas, schools, and other public spaces with permanent art installations;
- SPARC, or Seniors Partnering with Artist Citywide, a partnership with the Department for the Aging and five borough arts councils that places artists in senior centers, engaging seniors with a wide range of arts programs and providing stipends for working artists;
- and the Cultural After School Adventures program, or CASA, which allows Council members to designate cultural organizations to partner with schools for afterschool programming, providing additional cultural education opportunities in all 51 council districts.

I'd like to point out that my agency manages these expense and capital funds along with these additional programs with an agency head count of just over 60 people and only around 3% of our annual expense budget going to staffing and administration. We may look like a \$150 million dollar agency in the budget, but operating expenses account for only \$5.6 million of our total funding, with the rest going straight to our constituent cultural groups. If you want updates on specific programs, I'm happy to provide more detail during Q & A. We are proud of all of these programs and proud to be the largest municipal funding agency for arts and culture in the U.S. I would like to turn now to a set of new initiatives. These are programs launched in the last year - programs informed by the vision of the new administration and City Council. They represent our efforts to find new ways to open the doors of the greatest museums, concert halls, zoos, and gardens in America; to enrich the lives of the newest New Yorkers; to find new tools of assessment to better understand the value of art on a community level; to see how local institutions enrich the city as a whole; and our conviction that we need to value artists and to look for concrete ways to address the issues of affordability in New York.



- In July 2014, I was proud to join the Mayor many of you to announce increased funding for the arts in our schools. Thanks to this funding, allocated by Mayor de Blasio in partnership with the City Council, the City has been able to hire borough arts directors to better coordinate cultural activities and fund additional certified arts teachers. We look forward to continuing this work to create a quality, sequential arts education curriculum for public school students. This is the foundation for all arts activity in our city and a top priority for the Administration.
- Last September, many of you joined Mayor de Blasio at the Bronx Zoo to announce that our partners in the CIG had agreed to offer free one year memberships to IDNYC card holders. I think it's no coincidence that demand for the card has been off the charts, and we have received our first reports of hundreds of card holders redeeming their memberships. I'd like to emphasize for everyone who has yet to have their appointment for their own IDNYC card, the yearlong memberships begin from the day you sign up. For year two of the IDNYC program, we are eager to begin conversations with CDF groups on future partnerships.
- The Social Impact of the Arts Project, which I've updated this committee on once before, has started its work in compiling a comprehensive report on what cultural services are provided and where, and what impact they have on the communities in which they occur. This report will capture the impact of not only the 1,200 or so nonprofits that are eligible for City funding, but thousands of more cultural service providers that engage New Yorkers in the neighborhoods where they live each and every day. SIAP measures the impact of the arts on a range of benefits for community vitality and social wellbeing, an excellent complement to economic impact studies. We can expect early results from this report in the coming months and a full report next year.
- The Fiscal 2015 budget included \$1.5 million for the Cultural Immigrant Initiative, a new program imagined and funded by the New York City Council and administered by my agency which supports arts and cultural activities that serve immigrant New Yorkers. There are a total of 88 Cultural Immigrant Initiative designations going to 72 organizations in Fiscal 2015. I look forward to making site visits to these programs in the spring!
- In January, my agency announced an initiative to examine the diversity of staffs, boards, and audiences at cultural organizations that receive city funding. We hosted two discussions on this topic, the first at Ford Foundation in January and a second at BRIC in February. These forums were attended by hundreds of cultural organizations throughout the city, and I was thrilled that you were able to join us at Ford, Chair van Bramer. Having a cultural sector that reflects the community it serves is critical to the future of the arts in our city. Following these kickoff events, my staff has

worked to form a diversity committee consisting of representatives of the field that will help to design a survey that will examine race, gender, disability, and other factors. We hope to distribute the survey this summer with results expected in the fall.

- In his State of the City address last month, the Mayor announced our plan to build 1,500 affordable housing units and 500 affordable workspaces for artists. This unprecedented commitment demonstrates just how serious this administration is about retaining the city's creative talent and making sure that New York – which benefits in so many ways from its cultural community - remains a place where artists of all backgrounds can live and work. The program is still in the very early stages, but my staff has already started the work of identifying sites, and we expect HPD to issue an RFP by the end of the year.

I'd like to point out that we've been working with partners from the philanthropic sector – including Ford Foundation, New York Community Trust, Lambent Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, The Surdna Foundation, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Mertz Gilmore Foundation - to underwrite many of these initiatives. It's important to us that we build coalitions for more sustainable impact and find ways to better serve the cultural field and maximize our City investments.

- I'm happy to report that you can follow updates on all of these programs on our recently-launched social media channels. You can follow us on Twitter (@NYCulture), Instagram (@NYCulturalAffairs), Facebook, where you can search for "New York City Department of Cultural Affairs," and our Percent for Art Tumblr blog that showcases permanent public art around the city. So after this hearing, if you're left craving more conversation on all things culture, you can find us there.

My colleagues and I have also been pleased to continue working with you on proposed legislation to create a cultural plan, which we discussed at a town hall at MoMA PS1 on Wednesday evening. I think this is part of a valuable process of working together to find ways to better serve New Yorkers. In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Van Bramer for his leadership, Committee members, and all your colleagues on the City Council for your continued support.

I'd be happy to answer any questions that you have.

Joycelyn Maynard, Brooklyn Public Library

Good morning every one. I want to start out by thanking the Finance, Cultural, and Library committees for allowing me the opportunity to testify at this budget hearing. My name is Joycelyn Maynard, Neighborhood Library Supervisor at the Stone Ave Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, located at 581 Mother Gaston Boulevard in Brownsville. I am in my 21<sup>st</sup> year working for this great organization, having worked in some of the most diverse communities throughout Brooklyn from Williamsburg, to McKinley Park, to Crown Heights. As a Young Adult Librarian with a background in Criminal Justice, I have worked with, and mentored numerous young people for many years. Some of whom have gone on to do wonderful things in life. Including one who started with me at the Flatbush Branch as a volunteer, and has moved on up through several titles to his current position as an IT analysis at Brooklyn Public Library. I live on the border of Brownsville in East Flatbush for the past 20 years, and have been working in Brownsville for the past 4 years.

In Brownsville, Brooklyn, an urban community with the highest concentration of Public Housing in the entire country. I know the impact that library funding has on such a community. I know firsthand that this community has a high crime statistic, and no viable outlets for young people to interact positively with each other. The library is next best thing to a community center for most of them. The people in Brownsville view the library as a safe haven for their children after school, and out of school time. The ones that is not fortunate enough to be able to send their children away, or out of state for these holidays. Look forward to us providing programs that will keep them occupied, entertain, and productive for the hours that they come into the branch. Libraries including Brooklyn Public library has long been the place of first option for services, or information on how to get services for the entire community. New Immigrants wanting to learn English, People wanting information on where they could attend classes to take the TASC exam, Parents looking for homework help for their children. The homeless person wanting to know where is the nearest shelter, pantry, or social services office, or just having a quiet and safe place to sit out the day before going back to a shelter.

Over the years Brooklyn Public Library has had to be content with doing more with fewer funds year after year. The Impact of having minimal funds means less material for the public's use, less staff, and at times less hours of service to the public. While the library has had to offer a cut back in services hours at times as mentioned, it has always maintained a high standard of programs, resources, and commitment from the staff to do the best that they can to assist the community that they serve to the best of their ability.

Libraries have become the first response institution to get necessary information for a vast majority of customers. In this digital age where most government institutions such as the Social Security Administration or Immigration & Naturalization Service, want every document computerized. Customers are being told to go to the library if, they do not have a computer at home to fill out the necessary paperwork, or to make an appointment, before coming in person. In instances like these, where persons who are employed, or under-employed have to make the sacrifice of paying their internet bill, or buying groceries to feed their families. The community as a whole takes comfort in knowing that at the library, anyone regardless of their legal status can go to the library, and use the computers for free, or use the free Wi-Fi on the premises, or even borrow a free MIFI device for one year free of cost.

Even though it is not always conveyed to you the elected officials by the constituents, how important libraries are to their day to day existence. We at the branches hear it often enough that we know people are grateful that if it starts snowing, and they are at work and cannot leave, their children can come in and stay inside the library until 6:00, 8:00, or 9:00pm without fear of something bad happening to them outside, and for that we are thankful that they appreciate us as service providers.

However, it is imperative that you as elected members of these communities do everything in your power to continue to fund libraries, and to continue to fight to maintain the standard that the people that you represent expect. I must commend those that are responsible for the day to day operation of our libraries, especially Brooklyn Public Library, for making sure that the doors of our libraries are kept open year after year. For far too long libraries have not only been operating at a deficit, but our buildings have reached crisis proportions where often times, the cost to repair a building is greater than it is for the price of the building itself. Library directors, or CEO's have to play the juggling dance each fiscal year to prioritize which building will get a new boiler, which will get a new roof or a patch, or weather staff will be made redundant, all to the detriment of the community that you and the libraries serve.

Libraries while not serving in the same capacity they once did with books, book, and only books on the shelves, and whether you want to believe it or not, are still a valued entity in the community. Libraries are transforming, and repurposing themselves to meet the needs of the new digital age, and continues to strengthen their role as engaging leaders in their communities. Library usage are up significantly, libraries are using new tools, new resources, and has become a vital agent of community change. This community and library connection includes a stronger connection to local civic organizations, non-profit organizations, corporations, funders, and greater community investment. In essence the community is looking to the library to meet their needs inside their communities rather than outside. Therefore continued funding for libraries will move the dialog from libraries in crisis to libraries as agents of positive community change.

In closing I want to thank the members of the city council for allowing me to speak on behalf of Brooklyn Public Library, not only as a staff member, but as a constituent, and a vital part of my community, who strive to make a difference in the lives of the millions of customers we serve daily.



TESTIMONY

March 20, 2015

CITY COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY

Anne Dennin, Co-Chair, New York City Arts Coalition

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the subject of the proposed funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs.

The New York City Arts Coalition is a membership organization comprised of cultural groups from all five boroughs from the smallest to the largest, working in all disciplines. Particularly focused on the City and State arenas, the Coalition does not solicit or take any government funding for its own efforts.

For the last year leadership from Cultural Advocacy Groups across the City has been meeting regularly to come to consensus on initiatives and on funding for culture in our City. With more voices in the room or more often free conference call we feel strongly that we can be more effective advocates for artists, organizations, New Yorkers and tourists.

We are pleased with the initiatives the Administration and Council put into place last year and are looking forward to seeing them roll out to provide us with an even stronger cultural base in New York. We welcome the increase in funding to CASA, and the Coalition of Theaters of Color. And we remain enthusiastic about the Cultural Plan, the NYC Diversity Initiative and the Social Impact Arts Study recently launched.

In the interests of time and because others are here to testify on other portions of the DCLA budget I am not going to address this committee on the importance of cultural organizations to our City. The DCLA Adopted budget for 2015 was budget \$158M, a portion of that dedicated to The Cultural Development Fund, which provides grants to organizations to support programming activities.

The New York City Arts Coalition is asking **for an additional \$30 million, to be divided equally between the CIG's and the CDF**. This increase would bring the Cultural Affairs budget from \$158M to \$187M. The 2008 budget, when adjusted for inflation, was \$186M. For the CDF an increase of \$15M offers an opportunity for newer groups to receive funding, or those that are seriously underfunded now to receive greater funding. It could also provide the basis for more innovative approaches at DCLA to expand the types of arts activities they will fund from those groups. An increase of this size to the CIG's will offer much needed resources to support and enhance their valuable work throughout the City as they provide life-long educational opportunities for all New Yorkers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. We would be pleased to be of assistance with more details should you be interested. I welcome any questions you may have, and look forward to working closely with all of you on both the budget and cultural issues.

Testimony from the NYC Arts Coalition

Co-Chair, Anne Dennin, June 6, 2014

Email: [anne.dennin@gmail.com](mailto:anne.dennin@gmail.com)

212-866-6082



**TO: Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer  
Members of the New York City Council Committee on Cultural  
Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**

**RE: Preliminary NYC Budget Hearing**

**DATE: 20 March 2015**

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Council Member Van Bramer and Members of the Committee, please accept my deepest appreciation to give testimony today regarding the New York City Preliminary Budget. My name is Andrea Louie, and I'm the executive director of the Asian American Arts Alliance, an arts service organization that, for 33 years, has supported individual artists and small groups in the five boroughs. I'm also here to support my colleague Anne Dennin, also testifying today, as co-chair of the New York City Arts Coalition.

I have three points to share today:

- 1.) **The Asian American Arts Alliance deeply appreciates the support given to our community by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs** and would not be able to serve our artists without this funding. The funding from DCA supports our core programs, which help create concrete pathways of access to cultural decisionmakers like curators and artistic directors; in addition, the Alliance also convenes important dialog around race, identity, and artmaking.
- 2.) **The Asian American Arts Alliance is grateful for City Council Initiatives that help advance cultural equity in New York and urges the Council to continue—and strengthen—these initiatives.**

The Alliance was honored and pleased to be a grantee of 2 (two) important new initiatives in the FY15 budget that were adopted under the leadership of Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverto:

First, the **Cultural Immigrant Initiative**—sponsored by our esteemed Chair here, Council Member Van Bramer—provided \$1.5 million in new funding to arts organizations that provide services to immigrant communities across the five boroughs.

Second, the **Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund** was championed by the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus of NYC Council under the leadership of Council Members Julissa Ferreras, Margaret Chin, and Andy King. This initiative provided \$2.5 million in new capacity-building funding to organizations of color that provide direct services to our city's most diverse constituents.

Again, the Alliance is deeply grateful to NYC Council for this important, and critically needed support to small, community-based organizations. We urge the Council to continue both these Initiatives and grow them in FY16. The Alliance stands with our colleagues in the 15% and Growing Coalition to respectfully request that the Nonprofit Stabilization Fund be increased to \$5 million.

3.) The Alliance joins our colleagues at the New York City Arts Coalition, One Percent for Culture, and members of the Cultural Institutions group **to respectfully request an increase of \$30 million to the DCA, to be evenly divided between the CIGs and the Cultural Development Fund.** This would restore funding to the FY08 amount.

Thank you for your kind attention. The Alliance looks forward to working with the Council for a fair, equitable, and just city for all New Yorkers, including members of our vibrant and diverse cultural workforce.



## Cultural Institutions Group

Testimony to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations  
March 20, 2015

Good afternoon, I am Holly Block, Executive Director of The Bronx Museum of the Arts and a member of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG). On behalf of the CIG members and their respective board members, I want to express our continuing gratitude to the Council for the longstanding leadership and support of culture in all five boroughs. Culture is a key element of New York City's exceptional quality of life and your support is a critical component.

The CIG is a coalition of some of the most respected art, science, and performing arts institutions in the world. Our exhibitions and educational programs attract millions of New York residents, families, schoolchildren, teachers and tourists each year. At the Bronx Museum alone, we have seen an increased demand for programming as evidenced in our attendance, which has grown from 20,000 in 2010 to over 70,000 in 2014. This surge is attributed to new programs mounted in partnership with our Community Advisory Council – a volunteer group of local Bronxites who advise on program themes. In addition, we work with over 30 programs groups, including members of the Bronx Arts Alliance, a collective of cultural and community organizations who hosted their annual exhibition at the Museum. Though the CIGs are varied, we share a collective mission of providing all of our visitors with a better understanding of our world and our shared experience. Some of our institutions are international destinations. Others are cornerstones of our communities. Whether or not there is a CIG institution in your district, we are your constituents, not only because of the vital support and service we provide to more than a million schoolchildren but also because of the nearly 9,000 people we employ – hardworking New Yorkers who live in each of the City's 51 Council districts.

I am delighted to join with my arts colleagues to submit testimony in support of a \$30M increase to the Department of Cultural Affairs budget.

We were grateful to the Council that the DCA funding was baselined and we appreciate your strong support and sustained commitment to the cultural community. However, as the Council develops their budget priorities for the coming fiscal year, the CIG strongly urges an increase of \$30 million to the DCA:

We are advocating for the following increase to the DCA FY2016 budget:

- Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) - \$15M
- Cultural Development Fund (CDF) - \$15M

Cultural organizations are cornerstones of their communities. According to 2012 data, we employ nearly 9,000 people who live in each of the City's 51 Council districts, and we spend more than \$300 million annually on purchased goods and services from more than 11,000 NYC based vendors. We are a

critical and essential component of the City's economic development goals; we support public education, and offer creative solutions to address social issues.

The depth and breadth of New York City's cultural community is what makes this one of the most desirable city's in which to live, work and visit. The amount that the City invests in culture is less than 1%, and provides a remarkable return on investment that is significant and critical to the City's long-term economic development strategy.

The DCA excels at its mission to "to promote and advocate for quality arts programming and to articulate the contribution made by the cultural community to the City's economic vitality," due in part, to its historic partnership with CIGs and other arts organizations throughout New York City. Over the years, the Council has supported CIG initiatives and the cultural sector as a whole by restoring funding and supporting capital projects throughout the five boroughs. This support has allowed cultural organizations to fulfill their mission of providing art experiences and quality programs and services to families, seniors, schoolchildren, public school teachers, and individuals. This increase in funding will allow DCA to sustain current levels of support and enhance critical programs and services that benefit all communities.

The CIG looks forward to working productively with the Council and this Committee in the coming months. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Preliminary Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2016**  
**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**  
**and**  
**Sub Committee on Libraries**  
**Joint Testimony of**  
**Kane Noel, Customer Service Specialist, South Hollis**  
**March 20, 2015**

Good afternoon distinguished city council members and chairmen, my name is Kane K. Noel from Queens Public Library. I work as a Computer Specialist at the South Hollis Branch. The Reason I am here is to talk about the importance of giving funding for better service to our community.

Where I work at South Hollis, every day, I may have close to 60 to 80 kids in our teen area all seeking to use the computer for homework and other important social information. This is great to have a large number of children. Some would say this is great. Why? Because a large number of children are ready and eager to do homework and projects. Others would say this is bad. Why? Because the supply does not meet the demand. We only have seven computers and can only be used an hour at a time. You can imagine the competitive nature of these children, trying to get at a computer.

Therefore, we instituted a program we call homework zone. From 3:30 to 4:30, we get 10 children with the most homework and projects and give them laptops in our meeting room. Still, we cannot meet the demand. We've got close to 30 kids doing homework and they try to share laptops, but that's an impossible mission. Some leave in tears because they cannot complete their homework. It is so hard for me to watch their disappointed faces leave the branch. I try and go above and beyond to help each child the best way I can. If we have more funding, the South Hollis Branch can get the resources our children need to excel in all avenues and be more ready to achieve their goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, knowledge is power and as gatekeepers to the Hall of Knowledge, I feel it is vital for us to be ready and able to be a key part in a child's success story. From having computers to books, tablets and hotspots, we at the Queens Library are making a difference in our community, but our children need more.

In closing, we need your help and support. To quote from Katherine Hepburn "What in the world would we do without our Libraries?" Thank you for your time.

**Preliminary Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2016**  
**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations**  
**& Sub Committee on Libraries**

**Thomas Wynn**

**Library Custodian**

**Cambria Heights Branch, Queens Library**

**March 20, 2015**

I would like to start out by saying Good Morning & thank you for taking the time to hear our plea. In behalf of the blue collar workers, we are begging you to hire more staffing in our department, due to the high demands of our job. In order to keep the libraries clean & safe, we need qualify workers and purchasing of good condition equipment, since millions of people reap the benefit of our institution throughout the community. Each year at different locations there's renovation and expansion being done which causes for more time, energy and resource that's being put to good use. Once again I would like to thank you for this opportunity to plea our concerns, please take this into consideration. Have a nice day.

Yours

Thomas Wynn

**Preliminary Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2016**  
**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**  
**and**  
**Sub Committee on Libraries**  
**Testimony of Mike Wong, Librarian, Broadway Community Library,**  
**Queens Library Guild, Local 1321 Member**  
**March 20, 2015**

Thank you Chairman Jimmy Van Bramer and Chairman Costa Constantinides for allowing me to testify at the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the Sub-Committee on Libraries budget hearing. My name is Mike Wong and I am a Librarian at the Broadway Branch and a Local 1321 member. I am here to testify for funding of public libraries' staff, particularly the staffing at the Queens Library branches.

Ten years ago, my branch had twice as much staff. We mostly had books to deal with then, maybe some audiobooks, CDs, and videocassettes. Now, we are running around trying to troubleshoot the computers, helping customers connect to WiFi, and trying to help someone find a DVD among a dozen shelves. This can be a needle in a haystack since we do not have enough hourly rates to shelve materials and maintain order.

There has been instances where we had to put a sign at the children's reference desk and say 'go downstairs to the other reference desk if you need assistance.' We also do not have a teen librarian, which is the case in most branches, to provide services and programs to this population and no one to monitor when the area becomes loud disturbing others who want to use the library.

Over the years, we have lost 187 public service staff—twenty percent of the branch staff due to attrition, retirements, and unnecessary layoffs. Thank you Chairmen Van Bramer and Constantinides, the rest of the Queens Councilmembers, and Borough President Katz for demanding that my brothers and sisters be brought back to the library and thank you Queens Library for recalling the staff. Also I wanted to say thank you, Council, for your generous support in the past, providing us with the resources in maintaining our buildings and grounds and for purchasing books and other materials.

However, a library cannot run without staff. We are working more hours with less staff. We would be able to do so much more with more staffing. We could have security in at least some of the troubled branches. I can tell you some of the incidents that occur--teens beating up and bullying another teen, a mentally ill person smearing his feces along the walls as he went up the stairs, and sex in the bathrooms. We don't need a scene from "Fifty Shades of Grey" in the library!!

As librarians, we could have class visits and outreach to other organizations like senior centers. We could maintain the collections better and order new or replacement materials. Services to teens can be provided as well as more programs for kids. We could provide better reference services and show customers how to use our website, which, by the way, has some great databases including one that you can learn 90 different languages! The librarian staff is graying and it would be helpful to hire new librarians who are more tech savvy to help those on computers or using their laptop or mobile devices.

Librarians who speak other languages than English can be hired especially in a diverse borough such as ours. An adult reference librarian has not been hired since 2008.

We are barely making it on five day service. Some of us work extra hours to cover branches that are open on Saturdays and Sundays. Everyone, including your constituents, wants us to provide six day service and library staff understands that need. Please provide us with enough funding so we can meet that demand.

I implore you, as our representatives of this great city to provide us the funding for the things that we need to improve our libraries, our front-line staffing situation to help your constituents, and our public to get the services they want and need. Thank you for your time and consideration.



One Percent for Culture  
Fund for the City of New York  
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## **Testimony on the 2016 Preliminary Budget Presented by Heather Woodfield on behalf of One Percent for Culture**

I am Heather Woodfield, Executive Director of One Percent for Culture and a practicing Long Island City based artist. I want to thank the Council for the opportunity to testify on behalf of One Percent for Culture and our over 550 Coalition Partners which include cultural organizations, small businesses, and civic and social service organizations throughout the five boroughs and in all 51 City Council districts. I also want to thank the City Council for their steadfast support of our city's nonprofit cultural community and artists.

### **Nonprofit culture makes our City stronger, fairer, and smarter**

- The depth and breadth of New York City's cultural community is what makes this one of the most desirable cities in which to live, work, and visit.
- Culture benefits our communities by providing access to the under-served and by helping to elevate the voices and enrich the spirits of all New Yorkers.
- Culture is a driving force in our local economy, and the presence of cultural organizations or programming is vital to the success of many of our local businesses.
- Cultural organizations employ over 120,000 individuals including over 51,000 artists.
- The nonprofit cultural community provides life-long educational opportunities and supplemental education for children, adults, and seniors throughout the city.

In fiscal year 2008, funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) was 0.29% of the city budget or \$169 million which when adjusted for inflation equals over \$186 million in today's dollars. For fiscal year 2016, we are asking to take a step toward our ultimate goal of increasing funding for culture to one percent of the municipal expense budget and restore 2008 funding levels. We are joining with our arts and cultural colleagues in requesting an increase in funding for DCA of \$30 million divided evenly between Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF).

With additional funding, DCA could support the continuation and enhancement of accessible programming that benefits families, seniors, school children, public school teachers, and individual New Yorkers. This new funding could ensure a diverse range of cultural activities, organizations, and artists receive funding and that culture can thrive in every neighborhood by providing increased funding for all while increasing the number of organizations funded.

We thank you for you for listening to us today. We look forward to continuing to build partnerships and collaborations between city government and the cultural community in order to better serve all New Yorkers.



## **Testimony – Tamara Greenfield, Executive Director, Fourth Arts Block, and Co-director, Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts New York**

Budget Hearing: Committee on Cultural Affairs – Friday March 20, 2015

Chair Van Bramer and members of the City Council - thank you for this opportunity to testify about the importance of increased funding for arts and culture in New York City and the equitable distribution of funding to all the cultures and communities that comprise New York City's cultural life.

I am Tamara Greenfield, Executive Director of Fourth Arts Block or FAB, a neighborhood wide coalition of 28 arts and community organizations in the East Village & Lower East Side. I am also co-director of Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts NY (NOCD-NY), a citywide alliance of artists, cultural and community organizations working to revitalize New York City from the neighborhood up.

FAB represents small cultural groups and businesses with community connections that stretch back more than 40 years. These small cultural organizations have deep roots in our community, contributing to the cultural vitality of the Lower East Side, while continually integrating and connecting new artist and partners. Each year they engage more than 2,500 artists and 300,000 participants in their programming.

We testify in alliance with other community based cultural organizations from across the City who play an essential role in the cultural life of New York City.

The funding that we, and our neighboring arts organizations, receive from the City comprises an essential part of our core operations. City funding helps bring stability and leverages investment by other individuals and funders. This funding helps our members create new work, pay artists, provide arts education in our schools, engage community residents and partners in creative and civic experience, and contribute to local economic renewal.

The Lower East Side has benefitted in innumerable ways from the long-term investment by the City in our community's cultural vitality. However, there are many communities that have not benefitted from this support.

**Increased funding for the arts can help bring more funding to populations, artists, and communities that reflect the city's diversity and cultural richness. We hope you will strongly consider increasing the budget for culture and ensuring that the benefits of this investment is shared more equitably across the city.**

We look forward to working with you to build a just, equitable and creative City. Thank you for your time.



# COCOON



A PUBLIC SPACE  
SCULPTURE BY  
KATE BROWNE

233 Spring Street 801 New York, NY 10013  
bykatebrowne.com

## **CITY COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY TESTIMONY - March 20, 2015** **Kate Browne, Artist, COCOON a public space sculpture**

Good afternoon. My name is Kate Browne. Thank you Chair Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee for the opportunity to talk to you today about funding for the arts, and specifically on behalf of The Field, a service organization of which I am a member and am fiscally sponsored.

I believe that increasing funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs and for The Field and similar organizations is crucial not only to support compelling art but also to engage people who are normally left out of the programming by the large established cultural institutions.

I build large-scale public sculptures -- with the public -- in places around the world that are dealing with traumatic and conflicting histories. The sculptures are called COCOONs, and they provide a platform for people whose stories are rarely if ever heard in public art forums. Behind me now you can see the portraits of five participants from past COCOONs.

The most recent COCOON was built last fall in the Goutte d'Or, a neighborhood in Paris that has long been home to immigrants from France's colonies in north and west Africa, including Algeria, Morocco, Mali, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire, among others.

I have also created COCOONs in Mexico City, and in Jackson and Greenwood, Mississippi. I continue COCOON work in the South Bronx.

The COCOON itself is quite large -- about 24 feet long and 10 feet high -- and is built over a four-week period. However, that short period is preceded by a year or two of organizing in the community, of reaching out to the various constituencies that exist, painstakingly gaining their trust, and convincing them that COCOON can be their project, that it can literally make visible their stories in a public space.

These are normally not the people who are engaged by the large established cultural institutions in their cities. And though I reach out to those institutions as well in my organizing, it is usually painfully clear that they are instinctively uncomfortable with having to share the project with others in the community.

I sometimes think bridging those gaps is my real artwork. Groups like The Field are crucial to my ability to raise money and to accept tax-deductible donations.

The COCOONS are beautiful and moving. They also create local jobs, strengthen and build the neighborhood network, and they offer local people a dignified public space to have a voice.

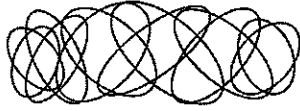
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kate Browne, Artist

COCOON a public space sculpture by Kate Browne

katebrowne101@gmail.com

# COCOON



A PUBLIC SPACE  
SCULPTURE BY  
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## Kate Browne Artist

Kate Browne builds large-scale public sculptures -- with the public -- in places around the world that are dealing with traumatic and conflicting histories. The sculptures are called COCOONS, and they provide a platform for people whose stories are rarely if ever heard.

The COCOON itself is quite large -- about 24 feet long and 10 feet high -- and is built over a four-week period. However, that short period is preceded by a year or two of organizing in the community, of reaching out to the various constituencies that exist, painstakingly gaining their trust, and convincing them that COCOON can be their project, that it can literally make visible their stories in a public space.

COCOONS have been created in Mexico City and two locations in Mississippi with ongoing work in the South Bronx. Her most recent COCOON was located in the Goutte d'Or, Paris.

She continues to make exchanges and links with local people at past, current and future COCOON sites through initiatives like the COCOON Gaze Exchange which linked 24 students from Action Collegiens, Goutte d'Or, Paris and SCAN and PS55 in South Bronx, New York City. She also brought young people from her Mississippi Core Team to join the Core Team in Paris and build COCOON.

Support for her artwork includes the Open Society Foundations, Cultural Services of US Embassy in Paris, Mississippi Museum of Art with National Endowment for the Arts, La Région Ile-de-France, L'Assemblée Nationale, La Ville de Paris, La Mairie du 18e arrondissement, La Fondation d'entreprise WFS, Yaddo, Rose Art Museum, Foundation for Contemporary Performance Art and Centro Cultural Universitario Tlatelolco. She continues her ongoing partnership with SCAN (Support Children's Advocacy Network) which included "Little Cocoons for the South Bronx" a collaboration with 150 students at JHS 151 Lou Gehrig.

Her early productions include: MOTHS, a co-creation with lighting designer Alison Brummer (2008); Animal Within (P.S. 122, NYC, 2003); reworkingCassandra (Gateway Theatre NY, Edinburgh Fringe, 2001); Needles (New York Performance Works, NYC, 1999); The Lost Tensions (Rose Art Museum, Boston, 1998); and The Big Window (Women's Project, NYC, 1995; Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh Fringe, 1994).

She grew up in rural Pennsylvania, graduated from Hampshire College, and lives in New York City with her husband and daughter.

**CITY COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY TESTIMONY - March 20, 2015**

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**Jennifer Wright Cook, Executive Director, The Field**

Thank you Chair Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs Committee for the opportunity to testify today on the subject of the proposed funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs.

My name is Jennifer Wright Cook and I am the Executive Director of The Field. The Field is a 29-year old arts service organization dedicated to helping 1,100 performing arts makers in New York thrive. The support we receive from the Department of Cultural Affairs CDF is vital to our mission-delivery. Thank you!

This year The Field is particularly excited about the **new initiatives** of the Administration and the Council – including the Diversity Initiative (of which we are a Committee Member), the Cultural Plan, the Social Impact Study, and the increases to CASA and the Coalition of Theaters of Color. Thank you for pushing these efforts forward!

To avoid repetition, I simply echo my colleagues' testimony from 1% for Culture and NYC Arts Coalition (of which The Field is a member and a Steering Committee member) regarding the importance of cultural organizations to the city.

I also echo my colleagues' request for **an increase of \$30 million to be divided equally between the CIG's and the CDF**. This increase would bring the Cultural Affairs budget from \$158M to \$186M (nearly in line with the 2008 budget when adjusted for inflation).

A \$15 million increase to the CDF offers an opportunity for newer groups to receive funding, or those that are seriously underfunded now to receive greater funding. This increase would thus support the vibrancy and stability of the sector.

The Field is also particularly interested in seeing **an increase to the Borough Arts Council's DCA regrant budgets** so that more unincorporated artists and companies can receive funding. These thousands of unincorporated artists (of whom The Field serves 1,100) are in many ways the movers and shakers, the avant garde, the up and comers that make New York bold, vivacious and provocative. Their work is seen at many of the DCLA-funded venues but many of them receive no city funding directly – due to insufficient grant dollars at the Borough Arts Councils. The Field specifically requests an increase to the Bronx Arts Council. This past year the Bronx Council received approximately 300 funding requests totaling nearly \$1 million\*. They had only \$144,000 from DCA for 56 recipients. Clearly, the demands and need outpace the supply.

The Field also strongly applauds the city's **new arts in education initiative and budget increases**. Children are the future. Arts education is vital to their success.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to working closely with all of you on both the budget and cultural issues.

Jennifer Wright Cook, Executive Director, The Field  
jennifer@thefield.org

\* From Ellen Pollan, Deputy Director, Bronx Council. \$144k from DCA split \$75k for BRIO Fellowships and \$69k for regrants. 250+ requests for BRIO (\$3k Fellowship) and 51 applications for regrants totalling \$215k.

Good afternoon.....Honorable City Council members, fellow Brooklynites, and library patrons statewide, as well.

My name is Mel Henkle and I'm the Neighborhood Library Supervisor—or branch manager—for the Jamaica Bay branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. I've worked at Jamaica Bay the past 4 and a half years of my 32-yr BPL career. It is located in the southern part of Canarsie—not far from the Canarsie Pier off the Belt Parkway.

We are one of 2 branches serving the Canarsie—or 11236 zip code—area. Our branch, therefor, covers the needs of just less than 50,000 residents of all ages in the southern half of the Canarsie community. Presently, we are only open 5 days a week (Monday through Friday) with a staff of 6 full time employees. We are utilizing three librarians, two clerical staff and one technology resource specialist, or TRS. The TRS helps us maintain the 11 public computer work stations at the branch. Even though Jamaica Bay has a Google Nexus 7 tablet lending program—and some users bring their own electronic devices to access our WiFi—the bulk of our patronage uses the hard-wired public computer workstations. These computers get very heavy use during the weekday mornings—with even more activity afterschool and during our 1 late night (when we stay open until 8 PM).

However, many of our patrons still want to use the computers on Saturdays, too. The closest Saturday branch to us is the so-named "Canarsie" branch on Rockaway Parkway near Avenue J. (0.8 miles from us). They are open for 7 hours on Saturdays and have only a dozen computer workstations for adults and kids. If both of these branches—my Jamaica Bay and the Canarsie branch—were to have adequate staffing levels to be open simultaneously, we could effectively double the capacity of these computers. We would be adding around an extra 130 users for the 7-hour day. Besides more computer slots, there would then be a second branch whose book and DVD movie collections and community meeting room that could be utilized by the public.

Highlighting some of the programs that we are currently offering at the Jamaica Bay branch include:

- Story Play (For kids ages 0-5 as part of the First Five Years initiative of BPL).
- RIF or Reading Is Fundamental (A program where kids get free books for reading books).
- Computer Basics and Intro to Email (Interactive onsite instruction with our TRS).
- Video Gaming program (for tweens and teens using PlayStation and Wii modules).
- 2 Toddler computers (that are always available with pre-programmed educational resources).
- Free live tax preparation help weekly from now through April 15 (to persons earning below \$60,000/yr.) through our partnering with the NYS Department of Taxation & Finance.

Our story—and the needs at Jamaica Bay—are not unique unto itself. I have almost 60 colleagues who are also Neighborhood Library Supervisors at their own library branches. Please help us to re-staff for the benefit of all the library users in Brooklyn.

Thank you!

Andre Powe, Brooklyn Public Library

I want to start out by thanking the Finance, Cultural, and Library committees for allowing me the opportunity to testify at this budget hearing. I am the Coordinator of Hospital Storytelling for the Brooklyn Public Library. Hospital Storytelling is a family literacy program in which readers visit medical facilities in Brooklyn and read aloud to children. We see anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 children per year. At each session we give each child a free book to take home. We also encourage the caregivers to read aloud at home. This is the only program of its kind in the country.

For me there are many reasons why this is an important program. There is the distraction from pain and suffering, which is a part of the healing process. There is the ability to reach children who may be unreachable by most other efforts. But if we were to talk about one important reason, it would be that reading and understanding helps make children better readers, brighter and more engaged citizens. Not all hospitals provide educational activities for children. Some inpatient wards have teachers on staff, but there are times when the whole summer goes by and the kid on a ward will get no instruction.

Our program fills the gap.

There are many who feel that outreach endeavors like Hospital Storytelling are just “feel good” programs, and as such, they aren’t justifiable to the data driven, to them success is only counted in the number of books a library lends. Programs such as these are in fact among the most important things that a library does.

I don’t meet the same children who are disparaged in public schools. I meet children who are always curious, always take their selection of reading material seriously, and parents and medical staff who support the effort. Teens in the clinic will often become translators, and sometimes help out by reading aloud to the younger children. This is the very essence of community engagement, where people, even children and teens, feel empowered enough to participate in their own development.

We meet kids every day that are enthusiastic about getting books. One recent report from a volunteer at the BedStuy Family Health Center stated “There is definitely a sweet spot for reading somewhere between ages 5-10. It’s difficult to get children younger than that to sit still long enough to listen to a whole book. Often older children are surprisingly happy to put down their computer game and listen along with a younger sibling while they are being read aloud too”.

It’s important to fund these programs because the job we do isn’t done by anyone else. The teachers in the inpatient ward don’t have the time to give the child individual attention that we give. The parents are grateful because Hospital Storytelling is a welcome distraction for the child. Thank you for your time and support to the Brooklyn Public Library Hospital Storytelling Program.

Robert Nerboso, Brooklyn Public Library

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Robert Nerboso. I am a Neighborhood Library Supervisor at the Rugby Branch of Brooklyn Public Library located in East Flatbush. I have been working for Brooklyn Public Library for over sixteen years.

I want to tell you about my work experience by telling you what an increase in the Library's funding would mean to the Rugby Branch.

An increase in funding would mean that I could help more people use computers to apply for both unemployment and employment. In both cases the applications create a barrier for someone without access to a computer and the internet. The Rugby Branch provides both.

An increase in funding would mean that I could have more story-times for preschool children and more after school activities for school children. The Rugby Branch has every chair occupied on most afternoons provides arts and crafts, homework help, and a safe place for study and recreation. I would be able to help more children get the books necessary for their school work.

An increase in funding would mean that I could help more people who are going to college both on campuses and the internet with their research needs. I am constantly surprised how many college and graduate students use the Rugby Branch as their primary library for their studies.

An increase in funding would mean that I could more programs for the seniors in the East Flatbush community. The Rugby Branch on many mornings has a large group of seniors who come not only to use the library but also to have social contact and avoid being confined in their homes. While the Rugby Branch provides book discussion and a knitting program, an increase in funding would allow for more robust programming.

An increase in funding would mean that I could provide more hours of service to the East Flatbush community. Currently the Rugby Branch is open Tuesday through Saturday. I constantly have people asking for the Rugby Branch to be open Monday. This is particularly important because the school children need a consistent place to go to after school.

I enjoy serving the East Flatbush community at the Rugby Branch of Brooklyn Public Library. I find it very rewarding when I help a patron get United States citizenship or a child find a science fair project and find that I have a significant positive impact on some of the people who use the Rugby Branch. I want to help more and I know that the story is the same at the other branches of Brooklyn Public Library. This is why I am asking that you increase funding for Brooklyn Public Library an institution that I am proud to say serves all: the rich and poor, learners at all levels, from birth to old age, and is so ingrained in Brooklyn that the public hardly thinks of it because it is just expected to be there like water when you turn on the tap.



Written Testimony - FY16 Preliminary Budget Hearing  
Andrew Oppenheimer  
March 20th, 2015

Hello everyone, my name is Andrew Oppenheimer. I work at the Stapleton branch of the NYPL on the North Shore of Staten Island. Our original building was a gift from Andrew Carnegie, with an enormous renovation extension designed by Andrew Berman. The library is going to celebrate it's 108th and 2nd birthday (respectively) in June. We receive frequent compliments and comments like "I haven't been here in 20 years, this is amazing," or "This is the prettiest library I've ever been to." While I am slightly biased, I wholeheartedly agree with them every time.

The original Carnegie building, while beautifully designed, was not ADA accessible. It was two small floors without an elevator, or even a public restroom. The roof leaked. It was barely able to serve it's vibrant neighborhood, and was one of the least visited branches on Staten Island. The message that it sent was not a positive one: while the library was never unwelcoming, the building was uninviting.

When the building was redesigned, it was made to be accessible, resilient, and incredibly welcoming. It was expanded three times over with all public space on one wheelchair friendly floor. The new building makes extensive use of natural lighting, with floor to ceiling windows that make patrons feel free. We now have more than 40 public computers, which are in near constant use. Book circulation has increased tremendously from before the renovation, and our visits continue to grow even from the year and a half we've been open. When I started at the library almost a year ago - officially a year this Tuesday - I was told that we were the third busiest branch on the island, trailing only behind Saint George and Todt Hill. After a year of service with the library, I can definitely see why.

Stapleton Library is located within walking distance from three schools for children ages 5 through 13, and a short bus or train ride from three public high schools. Many of the neighborhood children come to our library as they would their own front yard, or their living room. When my coworkers recently got married, some of our child patrons were upset that they gone for two weeks. This has happened twice, as there were two recent weddings in the branch. We missed them too - its hard for a staff of 8 to serve a community of hundreds even when our full staff *is* present.

We have more than 50 scheduled programs and events for the month of March, ranging from a recently finished Stop/Motion Animation Workshop series for teenagers through a weekly drawing class for the 50+ community. There are regular readings for kids, and in the past we've hosted author visits for all age groups. None of this would have been possible before the renovation, Stapleton likely would have still been an inadequate, under utilized branch that could not serve its community.

The Stapleton branch is an example of what can happen when capital funding is put to use. I've been to every hearing this fiscal year about the library's future in the capital budget, and I've been heartbroken by the stories told. It's unconscionable that any library should have to move its computers when it rains, or that a branch should need to close because they could not get their building warm enough to be habitable. It is my hope that the City Council and the Mayor's Office will work together to help libraries serve the citizens of New York in a way that they deserve, and give every community the same opportunities that Stapleton Library has been able to provide. Invest in libraries, invest in New Yorkers.

Testimony

Presented by

**Guy Lawrence Aiossa**

Participant from Elders Share the Arts

on

**New York City Council Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget, Mayor's FY '15 Preliminary  
Management Report and Agency Oversight Hearings**

before the

**New York City Council**

**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations &  
Subcommittee on Senior Centers**

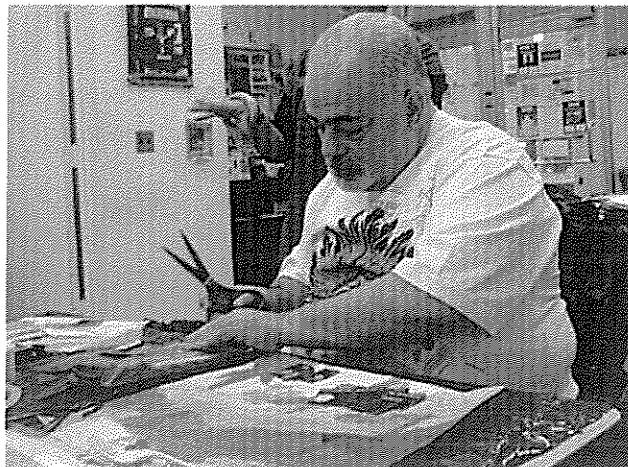
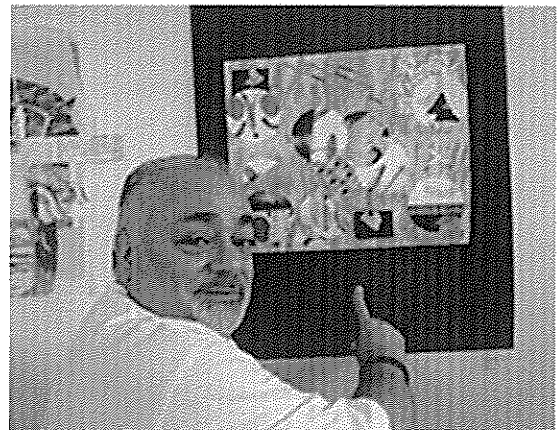
on

**Friday, March 20, 2015**

**11:30 A.M.**

at

**At 250 Broadway, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Committee Room  
New York, NY 10007**



Good morning, Chair Van Bramer and members of the Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Committee. I am Guy Lawrence Aiossa, an elder participant in art programs from Elders Share the Arts (ESTA). I am here to testify for the life altering experience ESTA have provided me with.

After a long and glamorous career, several void's had occurred in my life. I underwent a very difficult break-up, my mom who is in her later years became incapacitated. She suffers from a litany of health issues. Depression and being alone in the country add to her condition.

I am a single person, without siblings or children to help in my mom's care. A sense of being overwhelmed came over me.

After entering ESTA, imagine my joy at finding a group that cares about me through its many and varied programs. I have taken many courses including Digital Photography, storytelling and collage. ESTA's ability to combine art techniques, storytelling, and the "bonding" is unique.

I am now reinventing myself, as a result of these efforts.

Henri Matisse produced his famous "Cut-outs" in his later years. In a way, I have followed his lead. No longer lonely or withdrawn, I look forward to new programs from ESTA. It is never too late to express yourself in a new way. People are interested in your story. I am proud to be part of a group which is diverse, welcoming and non-competitive.

In "The Wizard of Oz", Dorothy's ruby slippers revitalized her. I feel revitalized myself. The power to follow "The Yellow Brick Road" to a productive and happier life has been attainable with ESTA's help.

I am grateful for your support, and urge you to expand funding opportunities for the arts, so that all New York City older adults can experience the benefits of cultural programming in their lives.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, God bless my "ESTA Family".

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Elders Share the Arts (ESTA) offers older adults high caliber arts programming that ignites creative expression, cultivates their role as bearers of history and culture, and generates new pathways to connect them to their communities.

<http://www.estanyc.org>



**City Council Testimony  
Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Committee on Libraries, Cultural Affairs and International  
Intergroup Relations**

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

Good afternoon. My name is Virginia (Ginny) Loulouides and I am the Executive Director of the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York (A.R.T./New York). I would like to yield my time to one of our member companies: *Girl Be Heard*, so that the artists we serve can tell you why DCA funding is so essential to the health of the theatre community, and the City as a whole. With me is Ashley R. Marinaccio Artistic Director of *Girl Be Heard*. Ashley will introduce her actors:

What you just witnessed is the true power of theatre, not just to entertain, but to educate, and literally to change lives. By giving voice to these girls and to countless other kids, teens and adults, the *Girl Be Heard* and other theatre not only create a vibrant community of artists and audience members, they help foster conversation and an understanding of “the other.”

New York City’s not-for-profit theatres have led the country in producing plays about the challenging issues of our time: from David Rabe’s play: *Sticks and Bones* (presented originally by the Public Theater and revived this year by the New Group) which explored a Vietnam Veteran’s trouble re-entering his life back home; to William Hoffmann’s *As Is* and Larry Kramer’s *The Normal Heart*, which were the first plays to deal with AIDS in 1985. The Working Theater produced *La Ruta*, in which audience members enter the back of a truck and play the roles of illegal Mexican Immigrants. Most have given their life savings to a stranger in the hopes of landing a better life in the United States. When the driver and wrangler is shot to death, we are left to die in a locked warehouse parking lot.

As I write this *Rasheeda Speaking* is ending its final week at the New Group. This play about racism in the work—place has prompted its audience to place themselves in the skin of Rasheeda and her white employer and her white colleague. Numerous post-performance discussions led by leading experts on race have given audience members greater insights into direct and subtle forms of racism. The Civilians *In the Footprint: The Battle Over Atlantic Yards* explored that project’s use of eminent domain and (through interviews with residents, politicians and activists) portrayed a picture of how the Barclays Center came to be.

These are just a few examples of the power of the theater. And I know I am preaching to the Choir. But I feel it is important for you to know what your funding is accomplishing on and off the stages of our many theaters.

***Council cultural funding through new initiatives:***

A.R.T./New York is extremely grateful to the Council, under the leadership of Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Majority Leader and Chairman of this Committee Jimmy Van Bramer, for increasing funding for cultural organizations through various new initiatives! These include the creation of *The Cultural Immigrant Initiative* and expansion of the *Cultural After School Adventures* program. In addition, the Council increased funding to the *Coalition of Theaters of*

*Color* which includes 10 A.R.T./New York member theaters. A.R.T./New York applauds the Council's funding increases and calls for the continuation of strong Council funding for the arts.

Of equal note, last year Mayor deBlasio, for the first time in my 23 years at A.R.T./New York held DCA funding at its current level! The number of hours this saved the cultural community from doing the "budget dance," cannot be underestimated. Those dollars saved went to incredibly good use; allowing us to produce MORE work.

**Increased programs funding for nonprofit organizations:**

**A.R.T./New York respectfully requests a \$30 million increase to the Department of Cultural Affairs FY 16 budget; to be divided equally between the Cultural Development Fund and the Cultural Institutions Group. Along with the New York City Arts Coalition and One Percent for Culture, we have identified this number because it would take us back to the \$169 million the Department of Cultural Affairs was awarded in 2008. Adjusted for inflation, that amount is now \$186 million.**

**Arts and Education:**

Similarly art New York applauds the administration's efforts spearheaded by the department of education to increase funding by 23 million for arts and education in New York City public schools. The funding has helped many art New York theater members develop new partnerships with schools enabling these nonprofit theaters to share their enthusiasm for the arts with students city wide.

**Access to Board Development Resources, DCSL Diversity Initiative:**

A.R.T./New York has participated with great enthusiasm and interest in the ongoing discussions about analyzing diversity at New York City's cultural institutions. As a trends are identified through this process and goals for increased diversity are established, A.R.T./New York hopes to see the Department of Cultural Affairs and other relevant city leaders increase their efforts to work with New York City's nonprofit theater community in the areas of board development. As anyone in the nonprofit sector knows, a strong board is critical to ensuring longevity of an organization and to enabling an organization to fully achieve its mission.

**Work/live affordability for theatre artists:**

Mayor de Blasio's housing at New York plan includes funding to facilitate lives/work spaces for artists and New York City. While ART /New York applauds this recognition of the importance of creating affordable live/workspaces for artists in the five boroughs, we remain concerned about the increasingly high cost of rehearsal and performing space for New York City's nonprofit theaters. Therefore we ask that as the community engagement process in the neighborhoods that have been selected as a part of the housing plan continues and as new communities are



identified as a part of the plan, that the administration similarly prioritize providing live/work spaces that are affordable for New York City's thousands of directors, artists and playwrights.

**In closing, I want to thank the Council for your incredible support of the arts, under the leadership of the Speaker and Majority Leader Van Bramer. And I urge you to increase our funding by \$30 million, so that the many programs you support and created can grow to new neighborhoods, serve more people, and keep up with rising costs. Many thanks.**



**Preliminary Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2016**  
**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations**  
**& Sub Committee on Libraries**  
**Thomas Wynn**  
**Library Custodian**  
**Cambria Heights Branch, Queens Library**  
**March 20, 2015**

I would like to start out by saying Good Morning & thank you for taking the time to hear our plea. In behalf of the blue collar workers, we are begging you to hire more staffing in our department, due to the high demands of our job. In order to keep the libraries clean & safe, we need qualify workers and purchasing of good condition equipment, since millions of people reap the benefit of our institution throughout the community. Each year at different locations there's renovation and expansion being done which causes for more time, energy and resource that's being put to good use. Once again I would like to thank you for this opportunity to plea our concerns, please take this into consideration. Have a nice day.

Yours

Thomas Wynn



**New York City Council  
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations  
Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget Hearing**

Friday, March 20, 10:00 AM – Council Chambers, City Hall  
Testimony Presented by New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl

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Good morning Chairman Van Bramer and members of the committee. I am Tom Finkelpearl, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. I am pleased to present testimony regarding the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2016 Preliminary Budget. I am joined today by a number of my colleagues from the agency.

Today I will start by reviewing the Mayor's preliminary budget proposal for the Department of Cultural Affairs. For Fiscal 2016, Mayor de Blasio's proposed Preliminary Budget includes a baseline of \$149.7 million for Cultural Affairs, an increase of \$1.7 million over the Fiscal 2015 baseline at Adoption. This is due to collective bargaining and other adjustments. This preliminary proposal would allocate \$28.5 million for programs groups through the Cultural Development Fund and \$109.8 million for operating and energy subsidies at the CIG. The Fiscal 2016 forecast also includes \$5.1 million for CASA. Overall, these figures are largely consistent with the Fiscal 2015 adopted budget, not counting any one time initiatives or discretionary funding that might be added at adoption. DCLA started Fiscal Year 2015 with an adopted expense budget of \$157.2 million, which has since been modified for technical adjustments and is currently \$159.4 million. The Fiscal 2015 adopted figure was the largest budget of the past five years, and the third largest in the agency's history.

Turning to the agency's four year capital budget, we continue to work with our colleagues in City Council and the borough presidents to manage grants to cultural groups through the city. The agency's current four year capital plan includes \$722 million for 418 projects at 218 different cultural organizations. This portfolio allows nonprofits to leverage hundreds of millions of dollars in additional investments, and encompasses a wide range of projects that improve accessibility, upgrade equipment, reduce energy consumption, and provide New Yorkers with access to high quality cultural programming. Some upcoming highlights include upgrades to the Snug Harbor music hall in Staten Island, the complete renovation of Bronx River Art Center, the Jim Henson galleries at Museum of the Moving Image, the Edible Academy facility and family garden at New York Botanical Garden, the opening of St. Ann's Warehouse's new home in the former tobacco warehouse in DUMBO, and the opening of the new Whitney Museum building in Chelsea next month.

By now, many of you are familiar with the programs managed by my agency and my staff keeps you up to date on the application process and deadlines so you can inform your constituents. These include:

- the Cultural Development Fund, which provides grants to around 900 nonprofits each year for publicly accessible arts programming that reflects the incredible diversity of our city;
- Materials for the Arts, which collects donated supplies and provides them, free of charge, to nonprofits, schools, and government agencies with arts programming, and trains artists and educators how creative reuse can improve their programming while maximizing resources; MFTA represents a long-standing successful partnership with Sanitation and the Department of Education;
- the Community Arts Development Program, which builds capacity at small, community-based cultural groups to improve the stability and programming of these groups that are critical to their neighborhoods;
- Percent for Art, the City's public art program that enhances our libraries, courthouses, plazas, schools, and other public spaces with permanent art installations;
- SPARC, or Seniors Partnering with Artist Citywide, a partnership with the Department for the Aging and five borough arts councils that places artists in senior centers, engaging seniors with a wide range of arts programs and providing stipends for working artists;
- and the Cultural After School Adventures program, or CASA, which allows Council members to designate cultural organizations to partner with schools for afterschool programming, providing additional cultural education opportunities in all 51 council districts.

I'd like to point out that my agency manages these expense and capital funds along with these additional programs with an agency head count of just over 60 people and only around 3% of our annual expense budget going to staffing and administration. We may look like a \$150 million dollar agency in the budget, but operating expenses account for only \$5.6 million of our total funding, with the rest going straight to our constituent cultural groups. If you want updates on specific programs, I'm happy to provide more detail during Q & A. We are proud of all of these programs and proud to be the largest municipal funding agency for arts and culture in the U.S. I would like to turn now to a set of new initiatives. These are programs launched in the last year - programs informed by the vision of the new administration and City Council. They represent our efforts to find new ways to open the doors of the greatest museums, concert halls, zoos, and gardens in America; to enrich the lives of the newest New Yorkers; to find new tools of assessment to better understand the value of art on a community level; to see how local institutions enrich the city as a whole; and our conviction that we need to value artists and to look for concrete ways to address the issues of affordability in New York.

- In July 2014, I was proud to join the Mayor many of you to announce increased funding for the arts in our schools. Thanks to this funding, allocated by Mayor de Blasio in partnership with the City Council, the City has been able to hire borough arts directors to better coordinate cultural activities and fund additional certified arts teachers. We look forward to continuing this work to create a quality, sequential arts education curriculum for public school students. This is the foundation for all arts activity in our city and a top priority for the Administration.
- Last September, many of you joined Mayor de Blasio at the Bronx Zoo to announce that our partners in the CIG had agreed to offer free one year memberships to IDNYC card holders. I think it's no coincidence that demand for the card has been off the charts, and we have received our first reports of hundreds of card holders redeeming their memberships. I'd like to emphasize for everyone who has yet to have their appointment for their own IDNYC card, the yearlong memberships begin from the day you sign up. For year two of the IDNYC program, we are eager to begin conversations with CDF groups on future partnerships.
- The Social Impact of the Arts Project, which I've updated this committee on once before, has started its work in compiling a comprehensive report on what cultural services are provided and where, and what impact they have on the communities in which they occur. This report will capture the impact of not only the 1,200 or so nonprofits that are eligible for City funding, but thousands of more cultural service providers that engage New Yorkers in the neighborhoods where they live each and every day. SIAP measures the impact of the arts on a range of benefits for community vitality and social wellbeing, an excellent complement to economic impact studies. We can expect early results from this report in the coming months and a full report next year.
- The Fiscal 2015 budget included \$1.5 million for the Cultural Immigrant Initiative, a new program imagined and funded by the New York City Council and administered by my agency which supports arts and cultural activities that serve immigrant New Yorkers. There are a total of 88 Cultural Immigrant Initiative designations going to 72 organizations in Fiscal 2015. I look forward to making site visits to these programs in the spring!
- In January, my agency announced an initiative to examine the diversity of staffs, boards, and audiences at cultural organizations that receive city funding. We hosted two discussions on this topic, the first at Ford Foundation in January and a second at BRIC in February. These forums were attended by hundreds of cultural organizations throughout the city, and I was thrilled that you were able to join us at Ford, Chair van Bramer. Having a cultural sector that reflects the community it serves is critical to the future of the arts in our city. Following these kickoff events, my staff has

worked to form a diversity committee consisting of representatives of the field that will help to design a survey that will examine race, gender, disability, and other factors. We hope to distribute the survey this summer with results expected in the fall.

- In his State of the City address last month, the Mayor announced our plan to build 1,500 affordable housing units and 500 affordable workspaces for artists. This unprecedented commitment demonstrates just how serious this administration is about retaining the city's creative talent and making sure that New York – which benefits in so many ways from its cultural community - remains a place where artists of all backgrounds can live and work. The program is still in the very early stages, but my staff has already started the work of identifying sites, and we expect HPD to issue an RFP by the end of the year.

I'd like to point out that we've been working with partners from the philanthropic sector – including Ford Foundation, New York Community Trust, Lambent Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, The Surdna Foundation, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Mertz Gilmore Foundation - to underwrite many of these initiatives. It's important to us that we build coalitions for more sustainable impact and find ways to better serve the cultural field and maximize our City investments.

- I'm happy to report that you can follow updates on all of these programs on our recently-launched social media channels. You can follow us on Twitter (@NYCulture), Instagram (@NYCulturalAffairs), Facebook, where you can search for "New York City Department of Cultural Affairs," and our Percent for Art Tumblr blog that showcases permanent public art around the city. So after this hearing, if you're left craving more conversation on all things culture, you can find us there.

My colleagues and I have also been pleased to continue working with you on proposed legislation to create a cultural plan, which we discussed at a town hall at MoMA PS1 on Wednesday evening. I think this is part of a valuable process of working together to find ways to better serve New Yorkers. In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Van Bramer for his leadership, Committee members, and all your colleagues on the City Council for your continued support.

I'd be happy to answer any questions that you have.

**Preliminary Budget Hearing Fiscal Year 2016**  
**Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**  
**and**  
**Sub Committee on Libraries**  
**Joint Testimony of**  
**Kane Noel, Customer Service Specialist, South Hollis**  
**March 20, 2015**

Good afternoon distinguished city council members and chairmen, my name is Kane K. Noel from Queens Public Library. I work as a Computer Specialist at the South Hollis Branch. The Reason I am here is to talk about the importance of giving funding for better service to our community.

Where I work at South Hollis, every day, I may have close to 60 to 80 kids in our teen area all seeking to use the computer for homework and other important social information. This is great to have a large number of children. Some would say this is great. Why? Because a large number of children are ready and eager to do homework and projects. Others would say this is bad. Why? Because the supply does not meet the demand. We only have seven computers and can only be used an hour at a time. You can imagine the competitive nature of these children, trying to get at a computer.

Therefore, we instituted a program we call homework zone. From 3:30 to 4:30, we get 10 children with the most homework and projects and give them laptops in our meeting room. Still, we cannot meet the demand. We've got close to 30 kids doing homework and they try to share laptops, but that's an impossible mission. Some leave in tears because they cannot complete their homework. It is so hard for me to watch their disappointed faces leave the branch. I try and go above and beyond to help each child the best way I can. If we have more funding, the South Hollis Branch can get the resources our children need to excel in all avenues and be more ready to achieve their goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, knowledge is power and as gatekeepers to the Hall of Knowledge, I feel it is vital for us to be ready and able to be a key part in a child's success story. From having computers to books, tablets and hotspots, we at the Queens Library are making a difference in our community, but our children need more.

In closing, we need your help and support. To quote from Katherine Hepburn "What in the world would we do without our Libraries?" Thank you for your time.



**TO: Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer  
Members of the New York City Council Committee on Cultural  
Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**

**RE: Preliminary NYC Budget Hearing**

**DATE: 20 March 2015**

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Council Member Van Bramer and Members of the Committee, please accept my deepest appreciation to give testimony today regarding the New York City Preliminary Budget. My name is Andrea Louie, and I'm the executive director of the Asian American Arts Alliance, an arts service organization that, for 33 years, has supported individual artists and small groups in the five boroughs. I'm also here to support my colleague Anne Dennin, also testifying today, as co-chair of the New York City Arts Coalition.

I have three points to share today:

- 1.) **The Asian American Arts Alliance deeply appreciates the support given to our community by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs** and would not be able to serve our artists without this funding. The funding from DCA supports our core programs, which help create concrete pathways of access to cultural decisionmakers like curators and artistic directors; in addition, the Alliance also convenes important dialog around race, identity, and artmaking.
- 2.) **The Asian American Arts Alliance is grateful for City Council Initiatives that help advance cultural equity in New York and urges the Council to continue—and strengthen—these initiatives.**

The Alliance was honored and pleased to be a grantee of 2 (two) important new initiatives in the FY15 budget that were adopted under the leadership of Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Vivierto:

First, the **Cultural Immigrant Initiative**—sponsored by our esteemed Chair here, Council Member Van Bramer—provided \$1.5 million in new funding to arts organizations that provide services to immigrant communities across the five boroughs.

Second, the **Communities of Color Nonprofit Stabilization Fund** was championed by the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus of NYC Council under the leadership of Council Members Julissa Ferreras, Margaret Chin, and Andy King. This initiative provided \$2.5 million in new capacity-building funding to organizations of color that provide direct services to our city's most diverse constituents.

Again, the Alliance is deeply grateful to NYC Council for this important, and critically needed support to small, community-based organizations. We urge the Council to continue both these Initiatives and grow them in FY16. The Alliance stands with our colleagues in the 15% and Growing Coalition to respectfully request that the Nonprofit Stabilization Fund be increased to \$5 million.

3.) The Alliance joins our colleagues at the New York City Arts Coalition, One Percent for Culture, and members of the Cultural Institutions group **to respectfully request an increase of \$30 million to the DCA, to be evenly divided between the CIGs and the Cultural Development Fund.** This would restore funding to the FY08 amount.

Thank you for your kind attention. The Alliance looks forward to working with the Council for a fair, equitable, and just city for all New Yorkers, including members of our vibrant and diverse cultural workforce.



## Cultural Institutions Group

Testimony to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations  
March 20, 2015

Good afternoon, I am Holly Block, Executive Director of The Bronx Museum of the Arts and a member of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG). On behalf of the CIG members and their respective board members, I want to express our continuing gratitude to the Council for the longstanding leadership and support of culture in all five boroughs. Culture is a key element of New York City's exceptional quality of life and your support is a critical component.

The CIG is a coalition of some of the most respected art, science, and performing arts institutions in the world. Our exhibitions and educational programs attract millions of New York residents, families, schoolchildren, teachers and tourists each year. At the Bronx Museum alone, we have seen an increased demand for programming as evidenced in our attendance, which has grown from 20,000 in 2010 to over 70,000 in 2014. This surge is attributed to new programs mounted in partnership with our Community Advisory Council – a volunteer group of local Bronxites who advise on program themes. In addition, we work with over 30 programs groups, including members of the Bronx Arts Alliance, a collective of cultural and community organizations who hosted their annual exhibition at the Museum. Though the CIGs are varied, we share a collective mission of providing all of our visitors with a better understanding of our world and our shared experience. Some of our institutions are international destinations. Others are cornerstones of our communities. Whether or not there is a CIG institution in your district, we are your constituents, not only because of the vital support and service we provide to more than a million schoolchildren but also because of the nearly 9,000 people we employ – hardworking New Yorkers who live in each of the City's 51 Council districts.

I am delighted to join with my arts colleagues to submit testimony in support of a \$30M increase to the Department of Cultural Affairs budget.

We were grateful to the Council that the DCA funding was baselined and we appreciate your strong support and sustained commitment to the cultural community. However, as the Council develops their budget priorities for the coming fiscal year, the CIG strongly urges an increase of \$30 million to the DCA:

We are advocating for the following increase to the DCA FY2016 budget:

- Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) - \$15M
- Cultural Development Fund (CDF) - \$15M

Cultural organizations are cornerstones of their communities. According to 2012 data, we employ nearly 9,000 people who live in each of the City's 51 Council districts, and we spend more than \$300 million annually on purchased goods and services from more than 11,000 NYC based vendors. We are a

critical and essential component of the City's economic development goals; we support public education, and offer creative solutions to address social issues.

The depth and breadth of New York City's cultural community is what makes this one of the most desirable city's in which to live, work and visit. The amount that the City invests in culture is less than 1%, and provides a remarkable return on investment that is significant and critical to the City's long-term economic development strategy.

The DCA excels at its mission to "to promote and advocate for quality arts programming and to articulate the contribution made by the cultural community to the City's economic vitality," due in part, to its historic partnership with CIGs and other arts organizations throughout New York City. Over the years, the Council has supported CIG initiatives and the cultural sector as a whole by restoring funding and supporting capital projects throughout the five boroughs. This support has allowed cultural organizations to fulfill their mission of providing art experiences and quality programs and services to families, seniors, schoolchildren, public school teachers, and individuals. This increase in funding will allow DCA to sustain current levels of support and enhance critical programs and services that benefit all communities.

The CIG looks forward to working productively with the Council and this Committee in the coming months. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

# Exploring the Metropolis, Inc.

Workspace Solutions for NYC's Performing Arts Communities

**FOR THE RECORD**

61 West 23rd Street 4th floor  
New York NY 10010-4246  
212.886.2503 tel  
212.737.1496 fax  
www.exploringthemetropolis.org

**New York City Council  
Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations Committee  
Council Chambers – City Hall  
Preliminary Budget Hearing Testimony FY16  
Friday March 20, 2015 1 PM**

Since 1982, Exploring the Metropolis (EtM) has focused on solving the workspace needs of New York's **performing artists**. Currently, we administer the EtM Con Edison Composers' Residency, now starting its seventh year.

Since 2009, we have provided **over \$100,000 worth of direct financial support to 41 NYC-based composers and seven cultural/community facilities**. We have provided over **12,000 hours of free rehearsal space**, with a cash value of almost **\$300,000**, and presented **40 free public programs to New York City audiences**.

In 2014, with the support of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), we released our report, "Queens Performing Artists & Workspace," part of our Queens Workspace Initiative. Based on our findings in this report, we are partnering this fall with the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning to create interdisciplinary workspace residencies for Queens-based choreographers and composers.

Cultural organizations and artists are essential to our economy, they provide supplemental education to our children, and they contribute to our city's cultural vibrancy which serves our citizens. It is vital that the city continue to support the full scope of nonprofit culture which includes organizations of all sizes, all disciplines, and in all neighborhoods whose collective work support and serve communities throughout our city.

**We ask for an increase of \$30 million to the DCA divided evenly between the Cultural Institutions Group and the Cultural Development Fund (CDF). The adopted DCA budget for FY15 was \$158 million. Our requested \$30 million increase would restore the funding to the FY08 amount — \$186 million when adjusted for inflation.**

We thank you for your time in listening to these artists today. We look forward to continuing to build partnerships and collaborations between city government and the cultural community in order to better serve all New Yorkers.

David Johnston  
Executive Director, Exploring the Metropolis



Good Afternoon Honorable Members of the City Council,

My name is Sifu Khaldun and I am the President of the Friends of Laurelton library. I would like to begin by saying thank you to all of you for having me. I have come before you today to let you know of the need for six day service at the Laurelton and Springfield Gardens libraries. The library at Laurelton used to have six day service but unfortunately had to go back down to five days. The members of our community are your everyday hard working citizens who need the library to be open six days in order to be able to take advantage of the great resources the library provides. Many of our community members work 9-5 and are unable to go to their local library. We have to travel to Cambria Heights in order to get service. While it may not seem like a lot it can be wearing on you and especially difficult for the seniors in our community who deserve to have their local library open to congregate, read a book, or have computer access.

This is why I urge you all as our elected leaders and community representatives to fund our libraries so that they may provide the six day service their communities are calling for.

Thank you.



Buenas Tardes Miembros Honorables del Concejal Municipal,

Mi nombre es Nube Jachero. He venido aca el dia de hoy para dejarles saber a los miembros del concejo municipal de la importancia de las clases de Ingles que provee la Biblioteca de Queens. Son muy importantes para la comunidad de Jackson Heights. Hemos muchas personas que nos hemos quedado sin la posibilidad de tomar classes porque los cupos se llenan muy rapido ya que hay demasiada gente. Tambien es muy importante la necesidad que se incluya un nivel avanzado ya que cuando se terminan los dos niveles de Ingles basico que ofrece la biblioteca uno no puede seguir avanzando los conocimientos porque no existe un nivel que nos permita poner en practica los conocimientos adquiridos. Tambien quiero exponer mi necesidad y de todos las personas que deseamos aprender el idioma. Tenemos trabajos que requieren saber el ingles o lamentablemente hemos perdido oprtunidades de trabajos por falta de conocimiento del idioma.

Otra mayor razon por cual estoy aqui es porque tenemos hijos en la escuela y no pudriamos comunicarnos con los profesores por falta de ingles sin estas clases. Esto pudiera tener un gran impacto en la educacion de nuestros hijos ya que nosotros hemos emigrado a este pais buscando una mejor oportunidad de vida. Por este motivo hoy he venido a dar mi testimonio ante el honorable Concejo Municipal de la Ciudad de Nueva York de la necesidad de mas fondos para nuestras bibliotecas. Para que puedan ofrecer mas clases y mas niveles en las sucursal de Jackson Heights.

Muchas gracias

*(Translation)*

*Good Afternoon Honorable members of the City Council,*

*My name is Nube Jachero and I have come here today to express how important the ESOL classes that the library provides are for the Jackson Heights Community. There have been a lot of us that have been left without the opportunity to take these classes because the demand is so high and the space is so limited. The need for higher level courses is also very important because it is difficult to put into practice what we learn during the basic courses. We want to express the desire and need to learn the English language by all of us. We have jobs that require us to learn English or have even lost jobs due to the language barrier.*

*Another major reason for which I am here is for our children. Our children are in school and we would be unable to communicate with their teachers without these classes, this could have a very negative effect on their education and we have all immigrated to this country have better lives for us and our children. For these reasons I have come to give my testimony and urge the honorable members of the City Council to provide additional funding for our libraries for English classes*



Buenas Tardes Miembros Honorables del Concejal Municipal,

Mi nombre es Nely Salazar. He venido aca el dia de hoy para dejarles saber a los miembros del concejo de la ciudad de que las clases de Ingles que provee la Biblioteca de Queens son muy importantes para la comunidad de Jackson Heights. Hemos muchos miembros de la comunidad que nos hemos quedado en lista de espera o sin la oprtunidad de tomar estas clases que necesitamos para poder seguir avanzando en este pais. Estas clases son esenciales para nosotros y son gratis, que ayuda mucha a la gente que quizas no tenga la capacidad de pagar por otras clases. La biblioteca esta dando un gran sericio con estas clases pero con el apoyo de ustedes pudiera llegarle a mas gente. Es por esto que les pido que porfavor apoyen a nuestras bibliotecas y le den los fondos para que ellos puedan seguir dandole servicios como estos a la comunidad no solo en Jackson Heights pero en todo el condado de Queens.

Muchas Gracias

*(Translation)*

*Good Afternoon Honorable Members of the City Council,*

*My name is Nely Salazar. I have come here this day to let all of you know that English classes provided by the Library of Queens are very important to the community of Jackson Heights. There have been many members of the community that have been left on waiting lists or without an opportunity of taking these classes. These classes are very important to move forward in this country. These classes are essential to us and provided at no cost which helps many community members who could not otherwise afford to pay for other classes. The library is providing a great service but with could make even more of an impact with your support. That is why I ask you to please support our libraries and provide them with the funds to continue providing services like these to the communities not just in Jackson Heights but throughout Queens County.*

*Thank you*

My name is Yuki Endo, resident of Jackson Heights, Queens and member of Citizen Defending Libraries and I depend on every public libraries in NYC and Long Island.

I do not support New York Public Library and Brooklyn Public Libraries' plan to sell busy libraries to real estate developer. Under New York Public Library's 42nd St Library Plan, two busy branch libraries, Mid-Manhattan and Science industry Business Library will be merged with 42nd St Research Library. Currently only libraries that are open 7-Days are Mid-Manhattan Library, 42nd St Library and Bronx Library Center. Entire 42nd St Library gets close due to special or private event, so combined two busiest libraries are not good idea. What happens if combined 42nd St Library was closed entirely for private event and it happens on Sunday? No one will go all the way to Bronx just to return due date materials. Lots of tourists are upset with 42nd Library because majority of tourists want to see Rose Reading Room and it need to be reopen.

I do not support Brooklyn Public Library's plan to relocate Brooklyn Heights Library because there are many business people depends on Business Center and it should remain there and so should Children's Room.

Relocated Business Center at Grand Army Plaza is not good idea because none of subway stations 7th Av (B)(D), Grand Army Plaza (2)(3) Subway Stations are not ADA Accessible. Brooklyn Public Library should follow New York Public Library and Queens Public Library's policy to return any Brooklyn Public Library materials to any Brooklyn Public Library branches because that will make it easier for anyone.

Please don't sell our libraries and we need all libraries to be stay open.

I have seen empty bookshelves in Manhasset Public Library's CHILDREN Room, Merrick Public Library, Port Jefferson Branch, which are operated by Nassau County Library System.

According to "Declaration for the Right Of Libraries" which states many people depends on both school and public libraries to read, study or do school project, or job resume.

Both libraries are important for community because majority of excellent programs people of all regions and ethnics into one program like English class, and children enjoys their kids activities.

In Long Island, most libraries are convient because some libraries like Manhasset Library has 2-hour computer access, or other libraries has either 30-45-60 minutes with color print or scanners available.

Please leave Brooklyn Heights Library, Mid-Manhattan and Science industry Business Library alone.

I spend more hours in Port Washington Library with visitor guest card for Pt. Washington Library because printing is only 5 cents and color print is 50 cent, cheap then NYC Libraries.

Sincerely yours truly,  
Yuki Endo

# ARTS & DEMOCRACY

**NOCD**  
**NY.org**

## Testimony

Preliminary Budget Hearing Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Inter-Group Relations  
Caron Atlas, Director Arts & Democracy Project and Co-director, NOCD-NY  
March 20, 2015

I am the director of the Arts & Democracy Project and co-director of NOCD-NY. I am speaking in support of an increased 30 million dollars to the DCLA budget to further the ability of all New Yorkers to participate in the wonderfully diverse arts and culture that can be found in every neighborhood in every borough of our city.

In the past two weeks I have traveled across the city as part of Arts & Democracy's 24 participatory budgeting arts workshops in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx.

What I've experienced in arts centers and NYCHA community centers, YMCAs and senior centers, is a deep hunger for arts and culture. I've seen the incredible diversity and talent of artists in the city who want to collaborate with their communities and are terrific at doing it. They are a valuable resource that we need to support.

I've seen adults who have denied their own creativity blossom after just minutes with these artists and with a teen arts council that brought their enthusiasm and talents to the table. And how the act of creating together builds community across different cultures, geographies, and generations.

It is striking how realizing you are in fact creative can lead to an agency that extends beyond the arts. Arts and culture animate civic participation – at our PB workshops and at this hearing. Creative forms of engagement bring new people to the table to speak for themselves about what we need in our city. They move us to action.

Arts and culture make a difference in NYC neighborhoods and people are willing to fight for them. In the past two weeks we have worked in three neighborhood cultural spaces in three boroughs that have been or are currently at risk of disappearing. These cultural centers are neighborhood hubs that bring people together in good times and bad. Their communities are organizing to keep them alive. NYC needs to invest in these cultural spaces.

Arts and culture support community identity, further inclusion, and bring us together in engaging ways. In short, they make our city and our neighborhoods places where we can thrive. As we act boldly to make change, they spark our vision for the city. This is a time for imagination and humanity. NYC needs to invest in its arts and culture.



**From:** [marbkn@aol.com](mailto:marbkn@aol.com) [marbkn@aol.com]

**Sent:** Friday, March 20, 2015 4:11 PM

**Subject:** Testimony submitted: Hearing on Preliminary Library Budget, March 20

Dear Council Members:

If we want to close the gap between rich and poor in New York City, then we must make education a top priority. Libraries are essential to an excellent education. I cannot imagine what it would be without them. It is the responsibility of our city government to fund them. We cannot become partners with private corporations in the hope that we can avoid that responsibility. When we do that, we see the demise of our democracy.

On behalf of Citizens Defending Libraries, I have canvassed countless days and hours in front of our Brooklyn Heights Library for almost two years, and I have heard the outrage of thousands against the destruction of our present library to be replaced by another a third the size beneath a luxury high-rise condo. Huge numbers from both our community and the less advantaged from surrounding communities told me moving stories about what this library has meant to them, how it influenced their lives and inspired them. One man, for example, told me that his constant browsing among the shelves, borrowing books he came upon there, let him understand that he did not have to be stuck in poverty, that he could go anywhere he wanted to go in life, be anyone he wanted to be. He said he became that person, thanks to our library, and now his young son also has the fortune of using it. These people expressed their anger against private developers who want to make billions on their luxury condos and care nothing about depriving the public of what they need and want. All of them thanked the CDL for their passionate efforts to rectify this gross injustice.

It is clear that our library has been intentionally allowed to become shabby. And the bookshelves, once crammed with books, are now either empty or half empty. Where have these books gone? I have received various explanations, but not one makes sense. Some librarians even tell me that the shelves are not empty, denying what they see when I point to the empty shelves! Others turn away, looking embarrassed. It's clear that they're not allowed to talk. The fact is that a library is allowed to look shabby, and suffer the loss of its books, when the intention is to put it up for sale to a private developer.

Worse, when they want to sell it, they fabricate needs for major repairs. Our library was closed for half a day during the last three summers, supposedly because the air conditioner was not working. Oddly, only the public areas in the library lacked air conditioning. The auditorium, offices, were not affected. In our FOIL request for documents relating to library repairs for all 60 branches, from 2007 through 2014, not one indicated a broken HVAC system that needed to be replaced in any of the branches up for sale. Where does the BPL, headed by Linda Johnson, get her information? She estimates, for the Brooklyn Heights Branch, \$4 million for a new HVAC and approximately \$5 million more for other repairs, though we are not told what exactly

they are. For all 60 branches she estimates \$300 million in needed repairs. There is no proof of such need. Yet our library, which accepted a bid for \$52 million is expected to pay for these repairs. Johnson says we will net \$40 million from that sum, but she does not figure in the many high costs that will vastly reduce that number for us even further. It is a shameful sacrifice of our library, a strong, solid building designed by Francis Keally, also the architect for the Grand Army Plaza. And especially shameful, because the sacrifice is based on fabrications.

Not only are these needs for repairs exaggerated to an astonishing extreme, but Linda Johnson claims that the original architect wasted space in this building and that the new architect will give us something bigger and better! Until the CAC meeting a couple of weeks ago, when I told her who the architect was, she did not even know it was Francis Keally. Of course, she will continue to deceive the public with her story of how a shrunken library will offer us more than what we have at present. Nor is she aware of the fact that most people prefer real books in their hands, not Kindles. Many recent articles in various publications tell us that e-books are less popular now. Nor is digitizing the simple process others like to claim. Nor can computer research substitute for books and documents spread on a table in front of us.

Nor does Linda Johnson, not from New York, certainly not from Brooklyn, know its subway and bus systems. She claims that shipping our Business-Careers library to Grand Army Plaza will give easier access to people from other parts of Brooklyn! I grew up in one of those other parts of Brooklyn and had need for extensive use of the library at Grand Army Plaza. It was a difficult, long trip entailing two trains and a long walk from the train. There is limited subway and bus service there. In Brooklyn Heights we have every train available, all buses, and from those trains we have elevators to street level for the elderly and disabled. None exists for them at Grand Army Plaza.

I also want to say some words with regard to the stacks at the 42nd Street Library, where the same developer-centered mentality exists. That library, so important to me for various kinds of research over the years, has refused to return over 3 million books to the stacks from storage, where they never should have been sent in the first place. These books belong us, not to Anthony Marx. The NYPL also wants to sell off SIBL, so heavily used, so important. Where are the rules set down by Andrew Carnegie? People like Marx and Johnson do not understand that the public libraries are ours and must be maintained by the city for our use. Not enough money? The money can always be found when the city wants to find it. As I said, education closes the gap between rich and poor in the city. Libraries are essential to an excellent education. We cannot place private interests over the needs of the public. That smells of corruption and destroys the structure of our democracy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Berkon

**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: Anne Dennis

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

I represent: New York City Arts Coalition

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hilly Block

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

I represent: The Bronx Museum of the Arts

Address: 1040 Grand Concourse

**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: Heather Woodfield (with Mahayana Landwe)

Address: 21-32 45th Ave LIC

I represent: One Percent for Culture

Address: 121 6th Ave

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: VESNA SIMON

Address: QUEENS - JACKSON HEIGHTS

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: March 20, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bridget Quinn-Carey, Im. President

Address: 89-11 Merrick Blvd, Jamaica N.Y.

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: Maria Vidali Weinbold

Address: 729 Courtlandt Ave. Bronx N.Y. 10451

I represent: Theater of the Oppressed NYC

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:

Address:

I represent:

Address:

KATE Browne + Jennifer Cook  
233 Spring St. Suite 801  
Artists and The Field

**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:

Address:

I represent:

Address:

Nina Siniakova  
244-47 Grand Central Pkwy Apt 2  
Little Neck Exploring the Metro-  
poli

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

Address:

I represent:

Address:

Bethy Yu  
355 Clinton Ave Brooklyn, NY  
Laundromat Project 11238

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: Mar 20, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sifu Khaldun H. Al-Shakeer

Address: 140-07 Springfield Blvd, Apt. P2

I represent: Laurelton Library (Queens)

Address: 134-26 225th Street

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: YUKI Endo

Address: 93-05 37 Av SA JACKSON HIGHLANDS

I represent: CITIZEN Defending Libraries

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/19/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tamara Greenfield

Address: 61 East 4th Street NYC

I represent: Fourth Arts Block, NOCD-NY

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katy Rubin

Address: 646-504-4582

I represent: Theatre of the Oppressed NYC

Address:

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID JOHNSTON

Address: 61 W 23

I represent: EXPLORING THE METROPOLIS

Address: 61 W 23

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: Mar 20, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aulan E. Jack Jr.

Address: 9728 157th Ave Apt 812 Corona

I represent: LeFrak City Library - Friends of the Library

Address: 9830 57th Ave NY

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GUY YEOWAB

Address: 333 4TH ST. APT 60 BROOKLYN  
11215

I represent: LEAGUE OF INDEPENDENT THEATER

Address: SAME

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RABBI GAURIEL BEN YEHUDA

Address: 119-55 FARMERS BLVD

I represent: BETH ELIYAHU HEBREW CONG.

Address: 186-19 LINDEN BLVD SAINT ALBANS  
QUEENS

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Linda Saylor-Marchant

Address: 91-30 191ST Hollis, N.Y. 11423

I represent: Queens Library (Friends/Community)

Address: 89-11 Merrick Blvd. Queens, N.Y.  
11412

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



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

[ ]

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: GUNNY LOULOUDES

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

I represent: A.R.T / NEW YORK

Address: 520 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SUITE 319

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

[ ]

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: The Field Jennite Cook

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

I represent: The Field

Address: 75 Maiden Lane

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

[ ]

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kathleen Xi

Address: 8710 51<sup>st</sup> Ave, Elmhurst NY 11373

I represent: (New York Public Library (employee) Queens Library (patron))

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Kemi Ilesanmi (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 385 E 18th, #6K Brooklyn NY 11226

I represent: The Laundromat Project

Address: 127 W 127 St, #324, NY, 10027

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 31 Chambers Street

I represent: Cultural Affairs

Address: "

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

LIBRARY 1 P.M. Date: 03/19/15

Name: ELINOR COHEN (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 689 COLUMBUS AVE. #11F

I represent: ANDREW HASKELL LIBRARY

Address: PUBLIC RECIPIENT

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Stfu Kaldan

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

I represent: Queens Library

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 7/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nely Salazar

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

I represent: Queens Library

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mube Tachera

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

I represent: Queens Library

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

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kanc Noel

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: Member, L1321, DC37 (DPL)

Address:

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Marilu D. GALVAZ

Address: Centro Civico Cultural Dominicanos

I represent:

Address: 609 W 145th St. NY NY 10031

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: BISMARCK CONTRERAS

Address: 37-30-107 ST CORONA 11368

I represent: A FUENTE

Address: 25 W. 18th St., 5th Fl., New York, NY 10011

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

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: NATHANIEL FABER

Address: 1690 GRAND CONCOURSE

I represent: GRAND CONCOURSE LIB.

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

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 03/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: GUY LAWRENCE AILOSA

Address: 138 SOUTH OXFORD STREET, BROOKLYN, NY

I represent: ELDERS SHARE THE ARTS

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

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Andrea Louie, Asian American Arts

Address: 20 Jay Street, Ste 740 Brooklyn Alliance

I represent: NYC Arts Coalition, Asian American

Address: Arts Alliance

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carina Nieves

Address: 8766 117th Queens, NY 11418

I represent: QPL Richmond Hill Friends Group

Address: Richmond Hill, NY 11418

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anne Dinnin

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

I represent: NYC Arts Coalition

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eric Pryor

Address: 266 W. 37th St.

I represent: The Center for Arts Education

Address: Same as above

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Libraries

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dawn Zimmerman

Address: 2849 Marlboro St. East Meadow NY

I represent: The New York Public Library Wakefield Branch

Address: 4100 Levee Place Bronx NY

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Libraries

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Chantalle Ulan

Address: 2150 University Ave Bronxville, NY

I represent: Francis Martin Bronx Library - NYPL

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

LIBRARIES

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrew Gopenheimer

Address: 27 Waks Place, St. NY 10310

I represent: NYPL - STAPLETON

Address: 132 Canal St 10304

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

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** Public

Library funding

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mel Henkle

Address: 2610 Ocean Pkwy - Bklyn -

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library

Address: 9727 Seaview Ave - Bklyn

Library Funding

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joseph Reece

Address: 71 Hawthorne Ave.

I represent: N.Y. Public Library

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

Library & Education Funding

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: March 20, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christian Arffmann

Address: 4323 Colden Street 18N Flushing NY 11355

I represent: Queens Public Library QPL

Address: 4117 Main Street Flushing NY 11355

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



**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nina E Manning

Address: 155 E Moshulu Pkwy

I represent: New York Public Library

Address: 465 Fifth Ave.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mike Wong

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: Member, L1321, DC37 (QPL)

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Thomas Wynn

Address: 125 Barclay Street, NY, NY 10007

I represent: Member, L1321, DC37 (QPL)

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

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Public*

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deborah Wynn

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: Member, L1321, DC37 (QPL)

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Public*

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nina Manning

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: Member, L1930, DC37 (MPL)

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Public*

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Paul Otto

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: Member, L1482, DC37 (BPL)

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

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dean Carrington

Address: 125 Barclay Street, NY NY 10007

I represent: Member, L. 1482, DC37 (BPL)

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

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eileen Miller

Address: 125 Barclay St NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L. 1482, DC37 (Brooklyn Public Library)

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

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK** public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Valentin Colon

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 1930, DC37 (NYPL)

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

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

[ ]

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joe Reece

Address: 125 Barclay Street, NY NY 10007

I represent: Member, L. 374, DC37 (NYPL)

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

[ ]

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Hystop

Address: 125 Barclay St NY NY 10007

I represent: President, L. 1321, DC37 (OPL)

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

[ ]

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ANTHONY WYCKE

Address: 1500 HORNELL LOOP #8A

I represent: NY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sonia Fajardo

Address: 25 Dungen Place 10040

I represent: THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 4790 Broadway

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Linda E Johnson

Address: 10 Grand Army Plaza

I represent: Brooklyn Public Library

Address: 10 Grand Army Plaza

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 3/20/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dr. Tony Marx

Address: 42nd St and 5th Ave, NY

I represent: New York Public Library

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

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joan Young-Santia 60

Address: 2335 Arthur Ave #6, Bronx NY

I represent: Belmont Library Advocate / myself Patron

Address: 186th St Bx Hughes + Arthur Ave

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: March 29, 2015

Name: Robert Nerboso (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 9615 Shore Road, Brooklyn

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

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 20 MARCH 2015

Name: ANDRÉ FOWE (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 2081 CRUGER AVE BRONX NY 10462

I represent: BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: GRAND ARMY PLAZA, BROOKLYN NY

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

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Public

Appearance Card

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

in favor  in opposition

Date: 03/20/15

Name: CHERRYANN JOSEPH (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 302 BERRIMAN ST

I represent: BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Address: 19 GRAND ARMY PLAZA BKLYN NY 11238

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