

FOR THE RECORD

**Testimony of New York City Comptroller John C. Liu
Joint Oversight Hearing on the Capital Construction Needs and the Potential
Disposal of Libraries in New York City
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup
Relations
Select Committee on Libraries
New York City Council
September 30, 2013**

Good afternoon, Chairman Van Bramer and members of the Cultural Affairs Committee, and Chairman Gentile and members of the Select Committee on Libraries. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present testimony today on the capital construction needs and potential disposal of libraries in New York City.

We are here to talk about an issue that speaks to the heart and history of the people of our City. As Council Members, you again face the difficult decision of how to address critical funding issues and the needs of your constituents in various local districts throughout the City.

The amount of funding for programming in cultural institutions and for the maintenance of their buildings continues to decrease in tough economic times. The Administration has proposed the selling of public assets in order to meet capital construction needs, including the “disposal” of some of the buildings that house our public libraries.

As the Comptroller of the City of New York, it is my job to understand investments; to understand when we're making a good deal or something is being sold short. And I can tell you that the selling of the buildings that house our public libraries trades a small, short-term gain for a large, permanent loss.

New Yorkers love their libraries, just like they love their schools. And when a neighborhood is threatened with the closing or sale of its library, the residents mobilize to try and stop it. Because losing a library is a diminishment of that community, and the people who live there, know it.

One of the top priorities of the voters and taxpayers of this City is the extension of library hours. Libraries are where New Yorkers of all ages, from toddlers to teenagers to seniors and the unemployed go to learn and develop themselves, to connect with other people, to join book groups, and look for jobs.

Earlier this year, my office set up an interactive web site that allowed New Yorkers to vote on a variety of City budget proposals. We called it The People's Budget.

One of the top two vote-getters—in effect the most popular items that New Yorkers want their City government to spend more money on—is longer library hours. The other top vote getter—and the connection here is obvious—is adult education.

We need to remember that New York's public libraries are among our City's crown jewels. And they need to be treated as such. The policy of selling these assets is simply shortsighted and unwise.

Real estate development during the Bloomberg administration has been misguided. And we know that many neighborhoods have not been treated in a socially and economically responsible way.

From libraries to school sites to NYCHA properties, the Bloomberg Administration has used its waning time in office to sell some of the City's most important assets to wealthy developers. This trend of parceling out what rightfully belongs to all New Yorkers must come to an end.

The libraries on Pacific Street and in Brooklyn Heights should not be closed and their buildings sold off to private developers. These buildings should be recognized as historic gems and landmarked.

Buildings like these cannot be replaced. Demolition, as we know, cannot be reversed.

Let's work together to figure out a way to fix the funding problem. And let's safeguard our most valuable public assets so that they can continue to serve and be enjoyed by future generations to come.

These are important public assets and we should do all we can to hold onto our assets. Because once we give them up, we can never get them back.

Thank you for your time.

September 30, 2013

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS JOINTLY WITH THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES OVERSIGHT HEARING ON CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS AND THE POTENTIAL DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS IN NEW YORK CITY

Good day Chairs Van Bramer and Gentile and Council Members. I am speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Landmarks Conservancy is a private, independent, not-for-profit organization, founded in 1973. Our mission is to preserve and protect historic resources throughout New York.

First, we thank you for bringing this important issue to a public hearing. New York City's historic library buildings are some of its most valuable assets. They represent fine civic architecture and they are vital to communities, providing services well beyond lending books, for long-time residents and new populations. Therefore, the Conservancy has been dismayed to see both the New York Public Library and the Brooklyn Public Library unveil plans that would mean the loss of several significant structures.

In Brooklyn, we have requested that the Pacific Library and the Brooklyn Heights Library be designated as local landmarks. The Pacific branch was the first Carnegie Library in Brooklyn. Built in 1903, it was designed by Raymond F. Almirall in a robust Beaux-Arts style. Public outcry over the potential loss of this beloved building led to a deal that puts off demolition. A Library spokesman, however, has stated that the latest plan "could include maintaining some or all of the Pacific Street building." Which sounds like the building is still not safe.

The Cadman Plaza branch, which will likely soon be lost to a reported development deal, dates to the 1950s. It was designed in a classic mid-century style, with decorative figures at the entrance reminiscent of those at the Brooklyn main library. It is a rare and attractive physical reminder of an era that was transformative for downtown Brooklyn. In areas with population surges, where no libraries exist, it could make sense to put a library in the basement of a new luxury condominium building, but to demolish an existing branch library in favor of development is the wrong decision.

The Brooklyn Public Library has argued that maintaining its historic buildings is just too expensive. We've heard the claim that the Pacific branch cannot operate because it needs \$10 million of repairs, but we haven't heard what that scope of work is or why it can't be broken out into prioritized phases, a common practice we recommend to nearly every building owner we know. Taking care of a Carnegie Library does not have to cost more than other buildings in the Library's portfolio, as long as maintenance is not deferred due to budget cuts, creating larger problems.

The New York Public Library's plan to sell the Mid-Manhattan and Science, Industry, and Business Libraries is short-sighted. The City's substantial investment in the Science, Industry and Business Library will be lost if it is sold – an especially bitter pill in this time of budget reductions. After years of cuts to the branch libraries, the allocation of \$150 million dollars to the Central Library Plan is puzzling.

Our Public Policy Committee has reviewed the plan and the design for a new branch to be inserted in the western end of the 42nd Street building. They were unhappy with that design, and we understand that a new scheme is underway, so we are reserving judgment until the Committee has seen the new design. However, the plans for removing the stacks have raised concerns about the unprotected interior public spaces in one of the City's most significant buildings.

The 1911 Library is a fine example of the Beaux-Arts style, and the most important work by the firm of Carrère and Hastings. The exterior, the main lobby, the central hall, and some of the staircases are designated landmarks, but some of the best-known and best-designed interiors are not. We have asked the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate 14 of those interiors as landmarks, including the Rose Main Reading Room and Bill Blass Catalog Room (the full list is in the written testimony).

- Rose Main Reading Room (Room 315)
- Bill Blass Catalog Room (Room 316)
- Gottesman Exhibition Hall (Room 113)
- Dorot Jewish Division (Room 111)
- Milstein Genealogy Room (Room 121)
- Wallace Periodicals Room (Room 108)
- Princess Firyal Map Room (Room 117)
- Celeste Bartos Forum (Room 80)
- Trustees' Room (Room 206)
- Edna B. Salomon Room (Room 316)
- Art and Architecture Room (Room 300)
- Brooke Astor Reading Room for Rare Books (Room 328)
- South-North Gallery
- 42nd Street staircases and landings

The City has a long tradition of supporting and investing in libraries throughout the boroughs. The failure to do this adequately must be remedied. With such a substantial public investment, the Library systems should not be allowed to sell these buildings to developers. These beloved and well-used libraries should continue to be an important part of the City's legacy for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.

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September 30, 2013

James G. Van Bramer, Chair
Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations
250 Broadway, Committee Rm 16th Fl
New York, NY 10017

Re: Agency Oversight Hearings on capital
construction needs and the potential disposal
of libraries in New York City

Dear Committee:

We are here to say yet again we need a "*cooling off*" period. . .

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

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

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

- The reason Donnell Library needed to be closed, sold and shrunk? An air conditioning problem! To sell a whole library? At a considerable loss to the public because the NYPL netted less than \$39 million for the 97,000 square foot library? By way of reference, much of that library had been recently renovated, the auditorium, the Teen Center, and in November of 2001 a new 14,500 sq ft state-of-the-art media center paid for by the City and State of New York. That complete and extensive renovation *included new air conditioning for about 15% of Donnell's space. It cost \$1 million.* While that much of the building had been so recently renovated for so little (and other recent renovations of more space were in place) the NYPL provided cover for the announcement its announcement of Donnell's sale in 2007 estimating that renovation of the rest of the building would cost *\$48 million!*

- Why demolish the historic research book stack system at the Tilden Astor Central Reference Library at 42nd Street? According to the NYPL. . . *An air conditioning problem!*
- Need to sell off and shrink the Brooklyn Heights branch and Business and Career library? According to the BPL . . . *An air conditioning problem!*
- Sell the historic Pacific Branch? *An air conditioning problem!* Want to sell off a lot of libraries in Brooklyn? Announce that a lot of them have air conditioning problems and start closing them in the summer! See: More libraries fall as heat nears 100 degrees, By Mary Frost, Brooklyn Daily Eagle, July 6, 2012.

Highly suspicious. We need an audit!

The Brooklyn Public Library announced that it wanted to sell the Brooklyn Heights Library because of the condition of the air conditioning this January but the plan and decision to sell the library go back to at least 2008. The air conditioning breakdown that *'couldn't be fixed'* didn't occur until summer, 2012, right in time to announce the library's sale to the public.

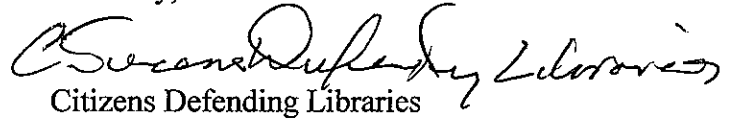
Although the public was told that the air conditioning was the reason to sell the library in January of 2013, library administration and city officials withheld information about exactly what was supposedly wrong with the air conditioning until mid-June, days before an RFP (Request For Proposals) to sell the library (because of the "air conditioning"!) was sent out. The withheld information finally released was simply a July 12, 2012 DDC Construction Report but even then the requested cost estimates that had been cited in the press all along were still withheld. When these documents were requested from the Brooklyn Public Library they referred our representatives over to DDC (New York City Department of Design and Construction) and when the DDC was requested to give up these documents they referred our representatives back over to the BPL. To date they haven't been produced.

In substitution therefor the BPL has produced another in a series of escalating estimates of the cost of repairing the air conditioning. A repair that was once estimated to cost \$700,000 or substantially less went to \$750,000 and from there to \$3 million, then to \$3.5 million. The official estimate has now recently escalated to between \$4.5 and \$5 million (and is apparently at odds with previous engineering assessments). You know that they are reaching to find costs because both the architect delivering the estimate and Brooklyn Public Library spokesperson are saying that one of the hard-to-meet challenges in fixing the system is all the heat that modern-day computers are throwing off. These modern-day computers are also being blamed by the BPL for making the library too expensive to repair in another way: It would be far too expensive to supply them with the electricity they need!

Further, the most recent estimate, disingenuous on its face, calls for fixing air conditioning that isn't broken and for air conditioning more space than actually required.

We need an audit and we need a “cooling off” period until that audit is completed and the mind-set of library and city officials is no longer one that prioritizes creating real estate deals for developers! Remember: These breakdowns accompanied by inflated repair estimates only came after the decision to the sell the library.

Sincerely,



Citizens Defending Libraries

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September 30, 2013

James G. Van Bramer, Chair
Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations
250 Broadway, Committee Rm 16th Fl
New York, NY 10017

Re: Agency Oversight Hearings on capital
construction needs and the potential disposal
of libraries in New York City

Dear Committee:

I am here today to shine a light on what is happening to our public libraries. I appreciate that this City Council Committee is providing this opportunity for those of us who love libraries and respect the place they have in our democracy. I am not a librarian, a hedge fund manager or a real estate developer. I am a therapist and a concerned citizen who could not watch these sacred spaces continue to be exploited and the librarians devalued.

I became aware of the attempts to close and sell my library, the Brooklyn Heights Library, in January at a community meeting at the library. Our branch is a very well used and loved branch. It is the most well used branch apart from the main library in Brooklyn because of its location and staff. The library sits right where all the major subway lines converge and where multiple bus lines stop. The Brooklyn Heights Library draws about a half million people a year from all over Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx. No other library is accessible by so many subway and bus lines.

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

I might have walked away doing nothing about the news except that I found out from a study by the Center For An Urban Future that use of libraries has gone up 40% and circulations up 59%. More people want to learn than ever. The report says the users are teens, seniors, immigrants, freelancers, job seekers, nannies and parents with young kids.

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

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

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

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

I started a petition a week after the meeting to stop the public policy of defunding libraries in order to sell the real estate to private developers. We now have about 12,000 signatures, mostly online, and you can easily find Citizens Defending Libraries on the web.

Since starting the petition it has become increasingly clear that a corporate-style takeover of the NYPL and the BPL leadership is being followed by the selling of significant library system assets, rushing to do this before the end of Bloomberg's term in spite of growing public opposition. Nothing they are doing makes sense in terms of what is best for the library or the public, but makes total sense in creating lucrative real estate deals for private investment companies and developers in real estate.


The new corporatist leadership under individuals hailing from Wall Street, Steven Schwartzman and David Offensend, may conceive of themselves as "leveraging" the real estate. New highly paid groups called "*strategy groups*" concentrate their time on pursuing real estate deals while librarians who have always done the real work of the libraries are being eliminated and replaced with lower-paid clerical staff.


Does this pattern sound familiar? Aren't we also seeing this happen to our schools, hospitals, and parks? This exploitation of public resources at the end of Bloomberg's term benefitting the one-percent while reducing resources and opportunities for the rest of society sends the message that a few count for everything and the rest count for practically nothing. If this exploitation and plundering is not stopped we stand to lose much more than real estate; we stand to lose all that made our democracy great. After taking all that they can that our ancestors and generous donors gave, what will be left?

We are either moving towards a more caring society or away from a caring society. Citizens Defending Libraries is demanding better from our elected and library administration officials. We need to affirm that all New Yorkers are worthy and deserving of these important public services.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,


Citizens Defending Libraries



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Re: Agency Oversight Hearings on capital
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of libraries in New York City

Dear Committee:

The profound lack of transparency with respect to the capital budgets for New York City libraries hampers and makes virtually impossible the City Council's job of properly administering and overseeing the provision of city capital funds to the libraries, just as that lack of transparency is also a barrier to those others, private citizens and organizations, who might join with the city in providing funds to our New York City libraries to pay for capital expenditures that would benefit the public.

Here are examples of that lack of transparency:

- In June of 2007 the NYPL previewed and had blessed by the Bloomberg administration plans to sell and shrink New York City library space. Similarly, in the summer of 2007 Bloomberg administration officials were looking at equivalent plans involving library real estate in the Brooklyn system. Neither the City Council nor the public were advised of these plans. If any individual members of the City Council were so informed they did not pass that information along. Instead, in November 2007, the City Council was surprised by the sudden, secretively-handled, selling off the five-story Donnell Library at 53rd Street that netted only a fraction of the value that library represented to the public. That apparently served as the first test run for future such sales. Then the Bloomberg administration started cutting back on library funding. Without being able to view these ensuing Bloomberg administration's cutbacks in the context of the planned sell-offs of library real estate (which the Bloomberg underfunding would be cited as justifying) the City Council and the public could not properly evaluate that underfunding or its motivation.

- A Request for Proposals has been issued by Bloomberg administration officials working with Brooklyn Public Library officials to sell The Brooklyn Heights Library. Ostensibly, that library, a significant and important capital asset for the public, is being sold and shrunk to raise dollars for the BPL's capital budget. There is of course the problem that any sale proceeds would *not* go to the BPL, but to the city, because it is the city that owns the library. Setting that aside, there is a bigger problem that was *not* mentioned to the public or to the elected officials theoretically being informed about and overseeing the transaction: *There is very little left to net any proceeds for the public because in 1986 most of the 10 FAR development rights were transferred out to Forest City Ratner.* Even worse, analysis indicates that, if the library were sold, most of the benefit, perhaps even most of the sale proceeds, would be going to Forest City Ratner, *not* the public. And yet, in promoting this transaction library and city administration officials felt they could keep this information under wraps and out of the equation.
- The City Council and city are paying for major capital assets that should last for years even as those assets wind up being quickly and unexpectedly sold off. (Real estate assets are supposed to last at least 30 to 40 years.) We saw how SIBL, the new Science, Industry and Business Library, was paid for with \$100 million that was intended to benefit the public, about half of that coming directly from the taxpayers, but more than 87% of SIBL was quietly sold off recently at what appears to be an appreciable loss, even as real estate prices in the Mid-town South neighborhood where it located with CUNY in the former Altman's building, are going up substantially. Similarly, when the Donnell Library was suddenly sold for little money, publicly paid for recent renovations of about 20% of that building were prematurely scrapped.
- How can the City Council and those wanting to fund libraries make sensible decisions about where to invest these capital monies for the public benefit when plans to sell libraries are kept secretively kept under wraps until the last minute? The plan to sell the Brooklyn Heights Library was decided upon at least as far back as 2008, but it wasn't publicly disclosed until 2013. How many years of capital funding had intervened?
- Just as library and Bloomberg administration officials have, by virtue of their secretiveness, raised questions about the trustworthiness of the way they furnish information, data furnished by these officials purporting to estimate capital costs is extremely suspect, apparently inflating to unbelievable numbers the cost of keeping and repairing real estate that administration officials want to hand off to developers. So, in the case of Donnell we find that 15% of that library had been recently renovated for \$1 million (with perhaps 20% of the library having been recently renovated in all) including air conditioning, but library administration officials managed to estimate the remaining 80% of the building was in need of repairs that would come to *\$48 million.* Really? Library administration officials love to cite outrageous air conditioning renovation needs whenever they want to

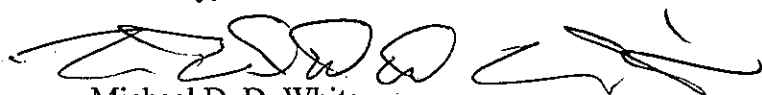
sell a library. That's the case in Brooklyn Heights Library where officials have gone through laughable gyrations to come up with an astronomical air conditioning repair figure, including deciding they will have to replace air conditioning that is currently working and will have to air condition a much greater amount of space than actually required.

- Capital dollars are supposed to pay for creation of buildings and space. But what is going on when colossal and extreme expenditures like the NYPL's "Central Library Plan" (recently rechristened the "42nd Street Library Renovation Plan") are paying for the shrinkage of space (and the handing off of real estate to developers). The last edition of the CLP, with expected overruns, may cost a half billion dollars, all money that is supposed to be going to benefit the public. It would be spent to pay for the reduction of more than 380,000 square feet down to 80,000 square feet of space. The NYPL does an obfuscatory dance to disguise the bottom line: Refusing to compare apples to apples, the NYPL 'reasons' that the shrunken space could be viewed as better space.
- Library administration officials seek capital dollars while leaving unexplained and unaccounted for how they have squandered (or perhaps worse) irreplaceable assets like Donnell in highly suspect transactions. NYPL officials are still refusing to answer questions about the Donnell transaction. Can the City Council consider that it is effectively overseeing the administration of the capital budget when those questions about the hundreds of millions of dollars of public benefit that were squandered remain unanswered and uninvestigated?
- The city is growing. It is a wealthier city than it has been before. The wisdom of selling libraries and shrinking library space at this time is highly questionable. The questionability of that wisdom cannot continue to go unaddressed when the city is providing the bulk of the library funds. Nevertheless, such things cannot be adequately addressed unless and until library administration officials have disclosed their complete city-wide ambitions in a comprehensive fashion enabling a proper economic impact analysis and City Council review. In the greater scheme of things, libraries cost little considering all the economic benefit they provide. There is also the civic benefit. As Walter Cronkite is often quoted: *"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."*
- The lack of public review has been part of the overall lack of transparency and part of that must fall at the feet of the City Council. It is extremely problematic that the plans for the sell-offs of these libraries involving hundreds of millions of public dollars has progressed this far and for so many years and have not yet been the subject of through scrutinizing reviews by the City Council. This hearing should be just the first step of a much more thorough process.

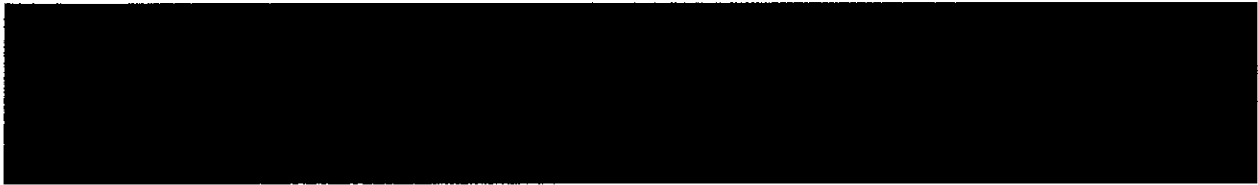
In the end it is not merely a lack of transparency. In the end the pervasive lack of transparency

must also raise questions about the priorities and motives of those who are not being transparent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael D. D. White



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September 30, 2013

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Re: Agency Oversight Hearings on capital
construction needs and the potential disposal
of libraries in New York City

Dear Committee:

People are shocked when they find out that library administration officials are selling libraries, shrinking the library system and that libraries are being deliberately underfunded to create real estate deals that benefit developers, not the public. Who would have thought that they would sell off the public libraries when usage is way up? How can the public defend itself against those who would think to do so?

The public is mostly still just finding out about these plans. Much of the plan to sell libraries is not yet fully unveiled or has been done so quietly that the public hasn't yet found out about it. How many people know that most of the SIBL, the Science and Industry Business Library, built at a cost to the public of *\$100 million* in 1996, has been sold for a mere *\$60.8 million*? That sale, part of the consolidating shrinkage of the Central Library Plan involving three major Manhattan libraries (four if you count Donnell as you probably should) is only part of what's happening overall.

Despite the public's disapproval, the Brooklyn Public Library is plowing ahead with its plan to sell the Brooklyn Heights Library, closely replicating the unpopular sale-for-shrinkage of Manhattan's Donnell library, which was closed for shrinkage in 2008 to be replaced by a 50-story building, a luxury hotel and condominiums. The Donnell sale netted the NYPL *less than \$39 million!*

If you want to know what may be in store when plans like this are not transparent, direct your attention to what those plan-makers do first and what they can do when they do things *in secret*. Look at the top-down plotted Donnell sale, shrinking the library down to less than one third size (from 97,000 square feet to 28,000 square feet), where it will be mostly underground and sadly bookless, demolishing that five-story building that was recently the beneficiary of publicly paid

As NYC Libraries Are Sold And The Library System Shrunk And Deliberately Underfunded

<http://noticingnewyork.blogspot.com/2013/05/a-consideration-of-race-equality.html>

- Saturday, July 13, 2013, Deceptive Representations By New York Public Library On Its Central Library Plan: We're NOT Shrinking Library Space, We Are Making MORE Library Space!
<http://noticingnewyork.blogspot.com/2013/07/deceptive-representations-by-new-york.html>
- Saturday, September 14, 2013, Empty Bookshelves As Library Officials Formulate A New Vision of Libraries: A Vision Where The Real Estate Will Be Sold Off
<http://noticingnewyork.blogspot.com/2013/09/empty-bookshelves-as-library-officials.html>
- Friday, September 20, 2013, Forest City Ratner As The Development Gatekeeper (And Profit taker) Getting The Benefit As Brooklyn Heights Public Library Is Sold
<http://noticingnewyork.blogspot.com/2013/09/forest-city-ratner-as-development.html>
- Thursday, March 7, 2013, Tossing Dwarfs?: It's Time To Demand That We Change The Way We Fund Libraries . . End The False Political Theater
<http://noticingnewyork.blogspot.com/2013/03/tossing-dwarfs-its-time-to-demand-that.html>

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

**Oversight Hearing - Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in
NYC.**

**Monday, September 30, 2013
Testimony by Veronika Conant**

I am Veronika Conant, a retired academic librarian, member of the Committee to Save the New York Public Library.

Thank you for calling this hearing about the much needed subject of capital construction needs of New York City libraries. I **oppose the use of capital funds for the NYPL's Central Library Plan (CLP)**. It would involve the sale of most successful and popular public libraries in Midtown, the demolition of the seven floors of book stacks at 42nd Street that hold up the Rose Reading Room, send into remote storage several million books, and insert a small circulating library in their place at the cost of \$300 - \$350 million, with \$150 million in capital funds from the City. **Our Truth document at our website, www.savenypl.org, explains why the CLP is bad for everyone except for developers.**

The Committee to Save the New York Public Library believes the Central Library Plan must not proceed until there has been an independent study of its costs, the costs of feasible alternatives and the impacts of the plan on the branch libraries, the Research libraries and the 42nd Street building itself. Please stop funding the CLP. A budget modification could redirect the funds towards alternative plans: the branches and renovating/rebuilding the Mid-Manhattan Library instead.

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

Several system wide upgrades are listed as well as the construction needs of 63 libraries (in Manhattan, Bronx & SI) for partial or full interior/exterior renovations, HVAC, windows, fire protection, etc. The total cost of almost \$337 million, should be compared to the \$300-350 million cost estimates for the CLP. A copy of the list is attached to my testimony.

The 87 Circulating Branches and the four Research libraries have functioned separately with their own financing and catalogs, since 1901. That was when Andrew Carnegie donated \$5.2 million for building 65 libraries in NYC on the condition that the city provides the land, pays the rents and utilities, and maintains them. As a result of this unique public private partnership, **90% of the revenue for the NYPL branch libraries comes from City, State and Federal resources. Only 9% is contributed by NYPL (about \$13 million in 2012).** Therefore, the branches are owned and supported by us, the taxpayers. No public library should be allowed to be sold without public hearings and serious consideration of the consequences. Once sold, these buildings do not come back. The **Donnell Library** was closed, dismantled and dispersed in August 2008, before the sale was completed. It was sold for \$59 million and resold by the buyer at a profit. We were recently shown the plans for a "new Donnell, 1/3rd of the original size, in the basement of a 50-story condo-hotel (not 11 stories as originally announced), where the asking price for a penthouse is \$60 million. I would like to ask both the City Council and NYPL to make sure the Donnell is rebuilt the same size as before.

Square Branch					
Woodstock Branch		32	79	Supplemental budget request (existing project)	\$1,000,000.00
125th Street	New York	30	68	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$11,350,530.00
58th Street		26	73	Partial renovation	\$1,500,000.00
67th Street		26	65	Remaining HVAC; boiler; rear façade; exterior lighting	\$2,080,000.00
96th Street		28	68	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$8,377,450.00
Aguilar Branch		48	122	Window restoration	\$1,200,000.00
Andrew Heiskell Braille & Talking Book Library		26	75	Replace HVAC & boiler	\$1,700,000.00
Bloomington Branch		30	69	Full renovation	\$6,000,000.00
Chatham Square Branch		25	64	Full renovation	\$6,000,000.00
Countee Cullen Branch		30	70	Supplemental budget request (existing project)	\$1,000,000.00
Epiphany Branch		26	74	Partial interior renovation; supplemental budget request (existing project) (\$200,000)	\$5,700,000.00
Fort Washington Branch		31	72	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$12,077,980.00
George Bruce Branch		30	69	Exterior rehabilitation; roof; boiler; window rehabilitation	\$2,500,000.00
Hamilton Fish Park Branch		25	64	Partial renovation; systems rehabilitation	\$3,228,000.00
Hamilton Grange Branch		30	70	Partial renovation	\$6,120,900.00
Hudson Park Branch		29	66	Full interior & exterior renovation; supplemental budget request (existing project) (\$2,000,000)	\$12,000,000.00
Inwood Branch		31	72	HVAC replacement; elevator rehabilitation; new roof; parapet restoration	\$2,450,000.00
Jefferson Market Branch		29	66	Replace MEP systems	\$7,192,000.00
Kips Bay Branch		26	75	Full interior renovation; supplemental budget request (existing project) (\$300,000)	\$6,222,000.00
Macomb's Bridge Branch		30	71	Acquire site; new branch construction; fire alarm (\$60,000)	\$10,060,000.00
Manhattan - various		Various	Various	Next generation desktop (\$2,318,690); phone systems (Manhattan Branch) (\$700,000); electrical power upgrades (\$2,000,000); technology reliability upgrades (\$510,000); security systems	\$6,068,690.00

			(Borough wide) (\$540,000)		
Muhlenberg Branch		29	75	Partial renovation	\$8,500,000.00
New Amsterdam Branch		25	66	Partial renovation	\$4,575,000.00
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts		29	67	Sidewalk replacement; foundation waterproofing & drainage; safety & security (\$2,850,000); replace building systems (\$1,565,000)	\$5,015,000.00
Ottendorfer Branch		29	66	Rehabilitate front façade; replace all windows	\$1,967,000.00
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture		30	70	Sound system replacement (\$750,000); new roof (Langston Hughes Building) (\$265,000); complete renovation of American Negro Theater (\$1,100,000)	\$2,115,000.00
Science, Industry, and Business Library (SIBL)		26	75	Audio/visual equipment	\$65,000.00
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building		26	75	Life, Health and Safety (Outside of Central Library Project) (\$2,200,000); building systems replacement (\$16,965,000); audio/visual equipment (\$50,000)	\$19,215,000.00
Tompkins Square Branch		25	74	Exterior & interior renovation	\$6,616,350.00
Washington Heights Branch		30	71	Partial interior renovation (phase III)	\$4,250,000.00
Webster Branch		26	65	HVAC replacement	\$500,000.00
Yorkville Branch		26	73	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$8,260,560.00
Dongan Hills Branch	Richmond	24	62	New ADA compliant doors	\$300,000.00
Great Kills Branch		24	62	Re-point façade; new windows	\$1,000,000.00
Hugenot Park Branch		24	62	Fire alarm (\$150,000); full interior & exterior renovation	\$3,650,000.00
Port Richmond Branch		23	61	Full interior renovation	\$4,243,050.00
Richmond Town Branch		24	62	Partial renovation	\$4,200,000.00
St. George Library		23	61	Full interior & exterior renovation	\$15,768,270.00
Staten Island - various		Various	Various	Electrical power upgrades (\$1,200,000); PCs and related infrastructure (\$154,800); technology reliability upgrades (\$255,000); phone systems (Staten Island Branch)	\$1989,800.00

				Libraries) (\$200,000); Security systems (Borough wide) (\$180,000)	
Todt Hill-Westerleigh Branch		24	63	Partial renovation	\$6,264,700.00
Tottenville Branch		24	62	New roof; HVAC; plaza rehabilitation; lighting; fence	\$1,300,000.00
West New Brighton Branch		23	61	Full interior renovation	\$4,186,350.00
NYPL System-wide	Various	Various	Various	Enterprise SAN (\$400,000); end management infrastructure & application visualization (\$500,000); digital repository system expansion (\$6,400,000)	\$7,300,000

Citizen Testimony to the City Council Oversight Hearing on Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC

Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity to offer our opinion on the Central Library Plan (CLP).

I have always been a regular at our public libraries and one of the main reasons I bought the apartment I did was it's proximity to SIBL and the Midtown library. I was devastated to learn that one part of the CLP is to dramatically scale back and then sell off both of these essential public resources.

As an example of my 7th, 8th, 9th,

In 2009 and 2010, I was fortunate to be employed by the Yale University business office. Why was this such a wonderful experience even though I had to commute 3 hours each way from NYC, forcing me to rent an apartment in New Haven? Because my work ID provided access to their marvelous library. Or I should say, their 24 marvelous libraries. I spent all my free time in the Haas Arts Library enjoying their amazing collection of art books - most of which are in German, unfortunately. Or I was buried in the Sterling Library which houses approximately 4 million volumes on 16 floors of book stacks. New and old books in multiple languages. Books on Ceramics in Korean, Chinese and Japanese. Dusty old volumes of criticism and history reflecting a perspective on life not available anywhere else.

Yale's libraries also have an enormous wealth of online materials for which they pay costly subscription fees.

Of course I don't expect NYC to provide access to its citizens to a high quality facility such as the Yale library but I am tempted to say **WHY NOT?** Are we not a world class city and a city that generates vast wealth? Yale is one of the finest universities in the world and I don't know how much it spends on its libraries. However, one thing is clear. *We should not be scaling back our public libraries and reducing our resources. If anything, we should be expanding them to aid our citizens in our competition in the new global economy.*

I applaud the libraries in NYC for enhancing their resources to include access to online materials. However, this must not be done at the expense of paper volumes. What an enormous loss this will be to our city's citizens including our young people.

Online materials in no way replace paper volumes. A tiny percentage of printed books are available online. This would spell disaster for young and old minds thirsty for knowledge. ***What can our future hold if we choose this path?***

In addition, the subscription to online services is not free. How easy would it be for a future administration to cut funding to online services thereby ensuring that we not only don't have paper volumes but also don't have access to electronic materials. It's a terrible idea and should be rejected by our elected representatives.

Thank you for your attention.

Paul Ness
284 Fifth Ave
NY NY





THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CITY

Testimony before the City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs The Capital Budget for Libraries September 30, 2013

The Society for the Architecture of the City is a small, all-volunteer historic preservation advocacy group, so we have a two-fold concern: with the preservation of historic library buildings, and with the availability of services which we frequently use to research our testimony before the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

As was discussed at the recent hearing on the operating budget, administration cuts followed by usually partial restorations, “the dance” as it is called, has taken a huge toll on all three of our struggling library systems. Delaying routine maintenance—in order to punt the costs of delayed maintenance into the capital budget—is a costly practice—costly in taxpayer dollars and costly in terms of damaged amenities for users. In recent years, however, things have got worse.

Now, these ill-maintained and struggling branch libraries are deemed “shabby” by the millionaire and billionaire trustees of two of the library systems, where real estate values have skyrocketed to such an extent that rosters of branch libraries have become alluring real estate portfolios, and library administrative staff include former financial industry executives like David Offensend, and former *Economic Development Corporation* executives like Josh Nachowitz.

Consequently, proposals to sell branch library buildings for real estate development are mushrooming, usually with some attempt to create an appearance of public benefit by promising sparkling new premises, located in the less valuable basements and lower floors of luxury towers. How this works in practice is well illustrated by the Donnell sale fiasco in Manhattan, where collections were dismantled, usable space reduced to a fraction of its former dimension—and the new library is still not open, years later. We oppose the branch library sell off: it does not really solve the underlying funding problem, wastes public resources, and destroys fine historic buildings that have been loved by generations of readers and bibliophiles.

Testimony prepared for
City Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup
Relations

**Oversight Hearing on Capital Construction Needs and the Potential
Disposal of Libraries in New York City**

Monday, September 30, 2013
250 Broadway, NY, NY 10007; 16th Floor Committee Room

Dear Committee Chair Van Bramer and members of the Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing. My name is SJ Avery. I am the co-Chair of the Forth on Fourth Avenue (FOFA) committee of the Park Slope Civic Council and a Trustee of that organization. I have lived for 30 years on a block adjacent to Fourth Avenue, about 6 blocks away from the Pacific Branch Library at Fourth and Dean Street. My comments today concern the Brooklyn Public Library system, with specific reference to plans by the BPL to sell the Pacific Branch Library, although I know that my branch-specific concerns echo similar ones throughout the greater NYC library system.

To enumerate capital-related challenges to the BPL in front of this committee would be like preaching to the choir. You have demonstrated awareness of such challenges, most notably during June budget hearings. While I do have questions about the accuracy of ever changing financial shortfalls that are cited as reasons to sell the Pacific Branch (more than a quarter of the \$11 million capital needs for the library are identified as making it handicapped accessible)ⁱ, it is clear that the library system needs more capital dollars. What is not at all clear is how schemes to address capital funding gaps by the one-time sale of precious community assets is a reasonable approach to either short term or long term financing. Nor is it clear that the BPL has a coherent capital plan. And I'm very concerned about the proposed disposition of my neighborhood library.

As you may know, in January of this year, the BPL announced its intent to sell the Pacific Branch library to a developer, move the library function to the BAM South project (a planned 33 story mixed use building) and use the proceeds from the sale to outfit the new library.

What you may not know is that a storm of community protest greeted this announcement. In March, the Park Slope Civic Council unanimously passed a resolution urging the preservation of the Pacific Street Branch, calling for landmark status of the structure and for services to remain in place, and then promptly submitted a request for landmark review to Landmarks Commission (the second in 10 years)ⁱⁱ. State Senators

funds that are available. Just last week, two large grants to Brooklyn Library branches were announced - the Arlington Branch in Cypress Hills (also a Carnegie library, built two years after the Pacific Branch) received \$1 million for renovation and another \$750,000 has been earmarked for roof repairs of the Dyker Branch Library, opened in 1974. While I certainly do not begrudge other libraries receiving capital dollars, the rationale for branch library awards is, at best, oblique.

Using public documents to try to understand how the BPL fundraises, and allocates resource, fails to evidence a coherent plan. The BPL's 990 filed in 2012 (for 2011) showed almost \$1.3 million of functional expenses allocated to fundraising (out of \$102 million expenses), and another \$69,000 allocated specifically for lobbying government officials (for funding). However, the December 2012 Audit report showed that government (city, state and federal) provided the lion's share of revenue (\$93 million out of \$139), which suggests that while government lobbyist funding may have been well spent, it's not so clear what the return was on the \$1.3 million.

In terms of allocating those scarce library resources , the December 2012 audit report shows that of the almost \$129 million spent on program services, almost a third was spent on the central library, while remainder was spent on the 58 branch libraries and special programs

As observed in "Branches of Opportunity", a report by the Center for an Urban Future (which the BPL is fond of quoting), the Brooklyn and Queens library have failed to make use of "Friends of (insert library branch name)" organizations to garner financial support for local libraries. The report also notes that "Major non-profits like universities, hospitals and cultural organizations have long expected their board members to help fundraise in their communities" and suggests in addition to raising the general capital allocation, city officials should "help the libraries build an ambitious, long-term capital plan capable of meeting the enormous needs of the branches."^{viii} Such approaches are far superior to the one-time sale of precious public assets to make up shortfalls in planning. As we have learned the hard way in New York City, once such public assets are gone, they are gone forever, along with their community-cohering impact.

I hope that this committee helps improve capital funding for city libraries, and plead that such improvements are tied to development of a financing strategy that is transparent and equitable in responsibility for attainment and allotment.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this important topic.

S.J Avery
392 Butler Street, Brooklyn 11217

ⁱ Presentation by BPL at March 5 community meeting, called by Councilman Steven Levin

ⁱⁱ The Pacific Branch Library, which opened on October 8, 1904, was the first “Carnegie” library in Brooklyn and the first New York City library planned with children in mind. The designer was noted architect Raymond Francis Almira, who designed other landmarked buildings in NYC. It is one of the few distinctive buildings left on the up-zoned section of Park Slope Fourth Ave. In both November 2004 and March 2013, the Park Slope Civic Council submitted Requests for (Landmark) Evaluation of the Pacific Branch building to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commissions. Despite the obvious landmark worthiness of the building, the requests have gone unanswered.

ⁱⁱⁱ See www.savethepacificlibrary.org

^{iv} The function of a library is as important as its architecture, and public use of the Pacific Branch has increased close to 60% over the past 10 years and keeps increasing. In 2011, the last year for which public data is available, circulation was over 93,000. However, the community value of the library goes beyond circulation. In the last quarter of 2012 alone, the Pacific Branch hosted 62 community meetings in its meeting room, attended by over 1100 people. An additional 320 adults attended 85 sessions on such topics as computer basics, resume writing and crocheting and knitting. 11 programs (such as “After School Homework Help”, “Jumpstart Read for the Record” and Toddler Time”) aimed at children and young adults, resulted in close to yet another 2000 visits.

^v Moving the library function to a different neighborhood (the BAM cultural district) which, while geographically close, is of a very different socio-economic profile and can only be accessed by crossing one of the busiest and most dangerous intersections in Brooklyn (the Flatbush, Atlantic Avenue, 4th Avenue juncture) amounts to an abandonment of the population it currently serves. To expand on the danger of the intersections, according to CrashStat.org, a website operated by Transportation Alternatives, between 1995 and 2009 there were combined total of 125 accidents (including one fatality) involving pedestrians at the intersections where current users of the Pacific Branch would need to cross to get to a library in BAM South. Since 2009, with the opening of the Barkley Center, those intersections have become still busier. While the original *Downtown Brooklyn Plan* envisioned a library at the BAM South site, it was never intended as a replacement library for the Pacific Branch - the original intent was to build a culturally focused library in the cultural district that was being planned. That intent was echoed at a BAM South City Council hearing, where the President of BAM, Karen Hopkins, enthused about locating “150 years of BAM history” in the proposed library. An influx of people occupying the new high-rises in the downtown Brooklyn area suggests the value of more new library resources close to BAM. However, it most emphatically does not suggest stripping resources from the community on the south side of Flatbush to accommodate expansion of a “cultural center” and upscale rental units. It also ignores expanding demand along Fourth Avenue resulting from the up-zoning of that street

^{vi} <http://www.bklynpubliclibrary.org/sites/default/files/files/pdf/about/Building%20a%20Better%20Pacific%20Library.pdf>

^{vii} At a June 20th meeting of the Independent Neighborhood Democrats (in the 52nd Assembly district), Josh Nachowitz, Vice President of Government and Community relations at the BPL, forcefully made the following statement: “Some politicians have been claiming credit for saving the Pacific Library (sic). I want to make it very clear - the Pacific Library has not been saved.”

^{viii} P47, “Branches of Opportunity”, accessed, www.nycfuture.org

My name is Carol Krinsky. I've been a professor at NYU since 1965 and a user of the Central Research Library since 1954. My husband and I contribute to it as Tilden Conservators.

I oppose any plans to remove any part of the stacks and oppose having the City pay part of the cost. The stacks hold research books that are not available in digital form and never will be. The book stacks are meant to hold millions of books for easy retrieval, to serve researchers.

The purpose of this building, uniquely, is research at a level unavailable anywhere else in the library system. The broader public is well served by Mid-Manhattan and it also uses 42nd Street right now, so the costly plans will not suddenly serve the public. Please consider visiting researchers who come here and add to our economy and knowledge.. They can order books in advance if they know to do that, but while reading, they find other books that they need. They can get them only in a day or two at least. Consider their sudden hotel bills. Consider the library's reputation as the hemisphere's greatest free public research library. Some offsite storage is inevitable, but before more books are sent there, the Library must make sure that books arrive within 24 hours. Most do not, which obviously affects local readers, too. What other job requires a 48-hour wait between doing task one and task two? Most Trustees probably have not recently submitted call slips and waited for days-- so they cannot understand what we do.

Mid-Manhattan is the essential resource for City University students and many other readers. That building should be preserved. How can Trustees imagine six floors of materials and services being stuffed into the 42nd Street building without injuring activities there now?

If Mid-Manhattan is sold, 42nd Street must accommodate many of its uses by repurposing its existing space better to serve the broad public, not by removing stacks or books. For instance:

1. The Trustees Room and the Bartos Forum are not used all day every day.
2. The beautiful South Court often appears to be under-used. Its auditorium can accommodate lecture audiences that are now in the Bartos Forum.
3. ~~Cataloguing~~ ^{Administrative services} can be moved offsite. I am glad that this is planned
4. Special rooms for a few scholars called the Cullman Center and the Allen Room could be re-purposed. The writers now there can use the main reading room as everyone else does. I've written five scholarly books by using the main reading room. So can they.
5. The lovely children's room can be repurposed, Until 3 PM, most children are not in that room but in school. It is not in a residential neighborhood where lending and browsing libraries ought to be. Only one subway stop is close to the 42nd Street building. During much of any weekday, it's a refuge for nannies who meet and chat. That is not its intended purpose.
6. Perhaps parts of the basement could be re-purposed and remodeled for public use.

Those spaces could be used for innovations that the Library has in mind for the stack area--though the Cullman and Allen donations may specify those programs to be permanent in those two spaces. Several rooms on my list are profitably rented now for weddings and events, not their intended use. The income from weddings and parties must be much less than \$350 million. Good planning would allow for multiple uses of these spaces..

A program called MARLI lets NYU and Columbia people borrow books for months.. Why? We can all go to 42nd Street.. A public library should give equal access to everyone. The Library's present practices don't. Plans to frustrate researchers won't.

My main plea today is that City Council members attend to the needs of research. That's what was intended for a research library. 42nd Street and Mid-Manhattan are also essential to CUNY. Education is a big business in New York City, so please help it work. Stop plans to wreck the stacks. That is essential for helping research for both professionals and novices. You will save taxpayers and library donors a lot of money, too.

My name is Monica Strauss. I am an art historian and writer. Much of my career has been spent in libraries, 42nd Street in particular. What has disturbed me in the last few months amid all the agitation about the Central Library Plan and the selling and shrinking of branch libraries, is how little opportunity library users have been given to contribute their views. A new plan is underway for the 42nd Street library for instance, but no committee has been formed that would include those scholars, writers, and journalists who are dependent on its efficiency for their livelihood. Nor have the job seekers who, thanks to its location, have easy access now to the Brooklyn Heights Business library, been asked what the impact would be of moving that library elsewhere. Public libraries are for the public, and yet decisions are made peremptorily by officers and boards and sprung on the public when it is often too late to protest. And, if it has proved impossible, to speak truth to power, under the present circumstances, how much more difficult will it be to deal with private developers who are being given the extraordinary bounty of prime real estate with which to make millions for themselves.

In this city, libraries “were” beacons of culture outside of the commercial sphere, beholden to no landlord, but the taxpayer. Are they still “public” when they are hidden in residential towers, subject to the rules of doormen and inhabitants, not to mention the whims of developers to buy and sell. Will the libraries be theirs or ours?

I also object to the deliberate misleading of the public on library issues. In response to the protest against the dismemberment of the stacks that is part of the CLP, President Marx has asserted that they will be put to some use in the new plan—as souvenirs of the past. The stacks are not random bookshelves but an essential part of the structure and function of the research library—a brilliant system for delivering books to the readers. The CLP justifies this destruction by insisting that the stacks are a fire hazard. In fact, advanced temperature and humidity controls were put in place in the 1980's and in 1991 a dry-pipe sprinkler system was installed. The Library of Congress has brought stacks of the same vintage up to modern standards.

Concerning the possibility of renovating Mid-Manhattan, Marx stated that it would be impossible since it would involve closing one of the most heavily used libraries in the county during a renovation. Many major libraries—including the Library of Congress--have been kept open during renovations.

We have only to see the catastrophic handling of the closing of the Donnell Library to see what lies in the future. Once the proud home of the much-used World Language Collection, now held in the threatened mid-Manhattan library, the new Donnell is to be one-third the space, and, I quote the architect “more like a cultural space. . . Its not really about just being a repository of books.” What about the 700,000 former “readers” who once used the Donnell?

Eileen Muller Testimony to the Joint City Council Hearing on Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC

Monday, September 30, 2013

Good afternoon. As President of District Council 37 Local 1482 (the Brooklyn Library Guild), I represent over 900 members in 60 neighborhood branches across the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) system. Every day, these dedicated, hard-working public servants provide crucial services to the people who need it most: seniors, families, and children; job seekers; and new Americans working to become part of our society.

New Yorkers know that public libraries are among the most valuable resources our City has to offer. As a recent report by the CUNY Center for an Urban Future shows, circulation, program attendance, and program sessions in the three library systems increased dramatically over the last decade. At Brooklyn Public Library, our members are doing more than they ever have before – circulation is up by 77% and attendance is up by 41%. All this despite unprecedented cuts to the library's operating budget and a significant reduction in the number of front-line library staff. The City has asked its workers to do more with less. Public library workers have clearly done our part.

But cuts to the operating budget are not the only threat that our libraries face. Looming on the horizon like an oncoming storm are truly massive capital funding needs that threaten the viability of our public library buildings. In Brooklyn alone, it's estimated that the system confronts roughly \$230 million in necessary repairs and upgrades for the 60 neighborhood library branches.

These long-overdue repairs negatively impact the level of service that our members can provide to the public. At the heavily-used Brooklyn Heights branch, a malfunctioning air conditioning system meant that public service hours were severely curtailed this summer. A number of other branches had to close repeatedly because the buildings were simply not safe for the public and the workers during the unprecedented heat wave that gripped the City.

At other branches throughout the system, the public and the library workers who serve them have to contend with broken shelving units, shoddy furniture, and inadequate lighting and ventilation. When renovations do begin, the work often takes far longer than originally expected, denying communities full library service for years at a time.

The lack of adequate capital funding inconveniences the public. It lowers employee morale. This is the richest city in the richest country in the world, and for some reason we can't properly maintain our public library buildings. It's a disgrace. It needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Unlike operating budgets, which are based on the needs of the libraries each year, capital monies are largely dependent upon the discretion of individual City Council members or borough presidents. Unfortunately, their efforts haven't come close to keeping up with the need. According to the CUNY study cited above, from 2003-2012 BPL raised only \$101 million for capital projects, the lowest of the three systems. That comes out to just \$40.50 per Brooklynite.

Library management and some elected officials have proposed to deal with the problem by selling lucrative properties to private developers; tearing down the old library buildings; and putting new branches in the ground floor of new luxury condo towers.

At first glance, this approach might look like a "win-win" for everyone involved. But the new branches would be far smaller than the ones they replace and the communities that would be directly affected – I'm thinking particularly of the users of the Brooklyn Heights and Pacific branches – would go without full library services for years. They've voiced serious concerns about these plans, and I don't blame them.

This approach is short-sighted, and it doesn't get at the root of the problem: the inadequate and haphazard way that we provide capital funding to our libraries.

It doesn't have to be this way. As other cities have shown, we can take meaningful steps toward solving the capital funding crisis without selling off our cultural inheritance to the highest bidder.

In San Francisco and Seattle, voters have repeatedly approved bond issues to renovate and reconstruct almost all of the library branches in each of those cities. These projects have been a resounding success, and today both cities are seen as leaders in public library services.

If San Francisco and Seattle can do it, why can't we? New Yorkers love their libraries, and they'll do what it takes to support what has become a truly indispensable service.

Thank you.

Eileen M. Muller

October 30, 2013

FOR THE RECORD

To: New York City Council,
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries
and International Intergroup Relations

Fr: Mary P. Buchwald
Citizens Defending Libraries,
Brooklyn For Peace

The three NYC library systems comprise an essential and vital part of our educational, intellectual, community and cultural infrastructure:

- to be upgraded with necessary capital improvements
- to be maintained as the vibrant libraries we all know them to be
- to end the Donnell Library model set in motion since 2007: the sale of vibrant libraries to real estate developers for condo/high rise structures

HALT the Central Library Plan - a 21st century version of 'Robert Moses' plan for Greenwich Village, that is, the destruction of another three vibrant libraries that comprise the educational, intellectual, community and cultural infrastructure of mid-Manhattan:

- return the research collection to the 42nd Street Research Library
- upgrade the capital improvements needed at the Mid-Manhattan Library
- maintain SIBL at its present site

HALT the current sale of Brooklyn Heights/Business Library and any future sale of the Pacific Branch. At the Micah Kellner Assembly hearings these two were described as the 'low lying fruit' in the BPL branch system, in need of costly repairs:

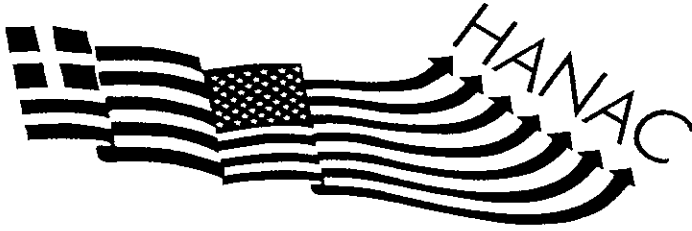
- provide the necessary capital improvements required at the Brooklyn Heights/Business Branch and Pacific Branch

FUNDING SOURCES needed for libraries' infrastructure to end real-estate roulette:

- BOND ISSUES in cities like Seattle could bolster capital allocation and reduce dependence on individual elected officials for capital funding in NYC
- BASELINE FUNDING: recommended by Queens Library Guild Local 1321: allocate 2.5% of existing citywide property tax levies dedicated for public library funding 'to provide more stable delivery of service to communities citywide which are using public libraries at an ever increasing rate.'

Our library buildings are public assets (infrastructure) to be invested in with adequate operating and capital budgets. They are not goal posts for developers.

DON'T SELL OR SHRINK OUR LIBRARIES.



49 West 45th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10036
Tel: (212) 840-8005
Fax: (212) 840-8384
www.hanac.org

John Kaiteris, Executive Director
Testimony Before Cultural Affairs Committee
NYC Council- September 30, 2013

My name is John Kaiteris, and I am the Executive Director of HANAC, a New York City based multi-faceted social services organization founded in 1972 to serve the needs of vulnerable populations throughout New York City. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today regarding the construction capital needs of New York City's public libraries.

The New York Public Library serves the needs of thousands of not-for-profit organizations throughout this city. The Library is a vital educational resource and allows organizations like HANAC to educationally and culturally empower individuals who otherwise may not have access to such facilities and opportunities.

HANAC benefits tremendously from its relationship with the New York Public Library. Our organization runs its ESOL, English as a Second Language program, using critical Library resources. This program affords recent immigrants the opportunity to learn English and become productive, integrated members of our City.

The New York Public Library's planned renovation will significantly expand its ability to deliver essential educational services while maintaining the integrity and reputation of its world-class research facilities.

Further, among the benefits of the Library's planned renovation, is that the flagship 42nd Street facility, the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, will be open seven days a week, for more than 12 hours on most days. This enables a very diverse citizenry – those with varying job, family and travel demands – to enjoy the vast benefits of the Library and all it has to offer.

This is particularly relevant for our City's immigrant communities, in which many individuals work multiple jobs and find it hard to utilize such resources on a more constrained schedule.

It is for these reasons and many more that HANAC fully supports the renovation of the New York Public Library's planned renovation of its flagship 42nd Street location, the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building.



FORT THE FUTURE

New York Library Association

The Voice of the Library Community

6021 State Farm Road, Guilderland, NY 12084
518-432-6952 / 518-427-1697 FAX
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**Testimony of Michael Neppi, Director of Government Affairs and General Counsel for the New York Library Association, to the New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the Select Committee on Libraries on Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in New York City
Monday, September 30th, 2013**

New York's public libraries provide essential services to our neighborhoods and communities. During the past several years, chronic underfunding has robbed citizens of what many view as a basic right for a democratic society rooted in free thought and the First Amendment – the right to libraries. This right is not satisfied merely through the existence of a building that houses books, of course; patrons must have access to a modern, maintained space with current technologies, and they must have the support of professional, trained staff to provide critical services during full, regularly scheduled hours. Brooklyn Public Library's plan ensures that Brooklyn Heights residents will again have access to a library worthy of the neighborhood it serves, and will strengthen branches throughout the system.

Libraries are only able to deliver on their mission to meet the educational, informational and cultural needs of the community when they are provided adequate funding for capital and operating expenses. Capital needs in particular are immense. Consistent cuts in funding have resulted in reduced hours, reduced staff and an accumulation of deferred maintenance. Despite these serious challenges, librarians and library staff have created innovative ways to continue providing critical programs and assistance on which the community has come to rely. Yet many libraries have reached a point at which capital needs are also eroding services, and even the most committed library staff and most efficient public library systems are unable to overcome these challenges.

If policymakers accept as a premise that libraries are integral to an educated, vibrant and economically secure society, and that our participatory democracy requires an informed citizenry, then it is the right of every resident of New York to have unfettered access to our public libraries. They are the sole institutions dedicated to freedom of thought, association, openness, community development and intellectual vigor for all citizens regardless of age, origin, background or views. To oppose any effort to enhance and expand library services is to advocate for a community devoid of character; to suppress freedom of expression; to abridge free thought. Failure to fully fund our libraries and their capital needs is, in a sense, tacit approval of that position, and it is antithetical to the traditions and cultural identity of New York. For these reasons, the New York Library Association supports commonsense, innovative plans that enhance and expand library services in response to the needs of the communities that they serve.

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FOR THE RECORD

Monday, 30 September 2013

Hearing: Capital Construction Needs and Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC

City Council Committees on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

The West 54-55 Street Block Association has been on top of the issue of closing and shrinking libraries ever since our neighborhood library, the Donnell, was closed without any involvement of the public in the decision. It was subsequently demolished and shrunk absurdly. Not only were these actions a demonstration of how the NYPL has secretly reconstituted itself as a willful, selfish, greedy and suddenly private organization, but it was a great example of how the City Council abandoned its constituency. In fact, Christine Quinn was present at the testimony our Block Association members were giving at a Community Board 5 hearing on the closing. She happened to be there to welcome new Community Board members. She said that it was the first time she had heard that the library had been sold, that she'd go back to the Council and find out how this could have happened, and would get back to us. Well, she never did, and she was not elected again.

Our city is furious and passionate about the abysmal state of our public schools. For those students without access to quiet places to study or even parents who can buy books for them, the library is and always has been a refuge. I started going to the library by myself when I was in elementary school and took out the maximum 14 books allowed every other week. I even wrote a review of the first Jacques Cousteau book, *The Silent World*, when I was 11 for the newsletter of the Brooklyn Public Library.

I believe it was this committee that arranged for the Block Association to have a tour of the closed Donnell. A journalist had contacted me from the Wall Street Journal to say how important the Donnell was to her when she and her mother had to leave Egypt. At the time she only spoke French and the Donnell had the best Foreign Language selection in the city. She and her mother went there every day after school. She came on the tour not as a journalist, but to offer her experience about why it was so important to immigrants. At the tour, a PR man from NYPL whispered to her that she was not welcome and to please leave. She was embarrassed and would never speak to me again.

I have helped Carolyn McIntire to get petition signatures and distribute leaflets at the Mid-Manhattan library a few times. I was struck by the fact that no one I spoke with as they exited the library knew it was in danger of being closed. When they signed, none had the same zip code; they came from every borough and outside of the city. They were horrified that they would lose what each said was such an important place for them, especially the high school and college students, and homeless.

This library, like many other branch libraries, has critical problems regarding upkeep and maintenance, including the ability to buy and keep books, not weed them out. The branch's needs have been totally ignored for years, by the NYPL. It is criminal that the NYPL is going ahead with the CLP when the money should be evenly distributed so that users of branch libraries can have the best facilities we can afford to give them. The concentration of future resources in the Schwartzman building makes no sense. The revelations in the press recently about interventions of NYPL board members on behalf of private real

estate interests should be enough to stop the CLP. And Mr. Offensend, the orchestrator and enabler of these plans, should offer his resignation.

RitaSue Siegel

Vice President, West 54-55 Street Block Association

Former President of Save the Donnell

Written as private citizen: 17 West 54 Street, New York, NY 10019, 917 806 3947

**MASON TENDERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

FOR THE RECORD

**Testimony of
the Building & Construction Trades Council of Greater New York
before the joint meeting of the
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries
and International Intergroup Relations;
and the Select Committee on Libraries
re: Oversight - Capital Construction Needs
and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC
September 30, 2013**

AFFILIATES

**MASON TENDERS
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
GREATER NEW YORK
& LONG ISLAND**

**GENERAL BUILDING
LABORERS LOCAL 66**

**ASBESTOS, LEAD &
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Good afternoon, Chairmen Van Bramer and Gentile, and to all of the distinguished committee members. My name is Michael McGuire and I am Director of the Mason Tender's District Council Political Action Committee. I speak to you today on behalf of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, representing more than 100,000 skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen working throughout the five boroughs. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony at this important hearing on the construction capital needs of our city's public libraries.

The Building and Construction Trades Council whole-heartedly supports the New York Public Library's planned renovation of its flagship 42nd Street location, the iconic Stephen A. Schwarzman Building.

This facility is a world-renowned educational resource—not one solely used by those in the rarefied air of academia—but also by countless thousands of everyday New Yorkers each year. The proposed renovation will not only solidify that reputation but also allow the New York Public Library to carry on its prime mission.

Providing public educational resources, such as those available at the Library, enable working and middle class New Yorkers, including our members, their families and their children, to make use of a vast collection of publications and reference materials that they would otherwise not be able to access.

Of course, as a union representative, I'm very concerned about jobs as well. This planned renovation will create nearly 600 union construction jobs for individuals across all five boroughs. This type of project is important not just to the scholars who avail themselves of the Library's resources each day, and not just to our members, but to the New York City's economy as a whole. This type of project is an economic engine that will return much more than it costs to the City's economy.

When our highly-skilled tradesmen and women have completed their work, this world-class educational and research facility will have increased library space, with more than

double the amount of public space at the flagship location, and improved existing facilities including classrooms, computer labs and research areas.

The renovation of the New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building will immediately improve the lives of thousands of New Yorkers, and will continue to do so for generations to come. In the name of improving a world-class educational facility while creating nearly 600 good, middle-class jobs in the process, the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York resolutely supports the renovation. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. McGuire
September 30, 2013

September 30, 2013

New York City Council
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations
The Honorable James Van Bramer, Chair

Select Committee on Libraries
The Honorable Vincent Gentile, Chair

FOR THE RECORD

Dear Chairman Van Bramer, Chairman Gentile, Committee Members and Attending Members of the City Council:

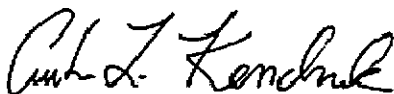
My name is Curtis L. Kendrick, and, while I currently serve as University Dean for Libraries and Information Resources at the City University of New York, I am writing to you on my own behalf and my views do not necessarily reflect those of my employer. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony at this important hearing. During the course of my thirty year career as a librarian I have had the privilege of working at several excellent institutions including Harvard University, Columbia University, and now of course CUNY. During my tenure at Columbia I served as project lead for what eventually became the Research Collections and Preservation Consortium (ReCAP), the high-density, environmentally-controlled shelving facility jointly owned by the New York Public Library, Columbia University and Princeton University. This is just one of the several capital projects I have worked on during my career.

Capital projects are not just about building new buildings. Buildings must be kept in good repair and up-to-date so that users can have the best experience possible and be inspired. The New York Public Library operates many locations across three boroughs, and I believe is doing all it can to maintain its branches and research libraries, and respond to the needs of its users. The Library recently completed full renovations of its Kingsbridge and Highbridge branches in the Bronx, and its Stapleton branch in Staten Island, among other important projects, such as the replacement of all outdated computers throughout the library system.

Another aspect of the challenge, however, is that fact that there is no centralized way for the libraries to request capital money; as a result, each year, the Library must go to local elected officials, including Council Members to request capital funding for projects. Success can vary greatly amongst elected officials, depending on other priorities in their districts. As a result, the libraries have traditionally not received enough capital funding to meet all of their needs.

The Library's goal is to provide the best service possible for the public, offering inspiring, beautiful, modern facilities capable of handling current needs. Everything the Library is doing in terms of capital planning - and all of its initiatives - is with that goal in mind. The Library needs your support to make these plans a reality.

Thank you.



Curtis L. Kendrick

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony by Roberto Gautier of Brooklyn, New York

Hearing of NY City Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

September 30, 2013

FOR THE RECORD

As a parent, teacher and writer, I don't want the Brooklyn Heights Library branch sold to Bruce Ratner or any other developer. Just as we need a local hospital, we need to prevent the sale of such a valuable community asset. For decades, I've borrowed books, periodicals, films met SCORE consultants when I wanted to open a business, attended presentations on blogging and community development, used the branch's computers and experienced the sense of community that local libraries foster. Many people have no idea that computers in libraries are the only way that thousands of New Yorkers can gain access to the internet. As an increasingly less white city, we should know of a Pew survey last year which reported that 92 percent of blacks and 86 percent of Latinos said it was very important for libraries to offer free access to computers and the Internet. A library ensures the positive impact of education and the creation of a diverse community. Keeping libraries means strengthening democracy, literacy, access to on-line job applications, health care information and the myriad of things required for access to the basics of surviving in NYC at this point in history.

One of the worst legacies of Michael Bloomberg's unfortunate reign as Mayor of New York City has been the unleashing of a brutal system of calculating what's of worth. His measure of what has value in the everyday lives of people is money, not people. His administration's pattern of selling, closing and defunding libraries, 20 firehouses, a dozen hospitals, schools, parks and other assets of "the commons" demonstrates the Dickensian, profiteering trend in NYC under Bloomberg. The effect is to prevent literacy and to insure greater poverty for those without economic power.

FOR THE RECORD

TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

As a former Children's Librarian with the Brooklyn Public Library system, I know first hand how important every branch library is to the community it serves: important for community stability, quality of life, education, and social mobility; important for people of all ages, all ethnicities, rich and poor, in good economic times and bad.

Plans for library closings, dismantling, and even demolishing for short term economic benefit are also short sighted. We know that when short sighted policies are reversed, it will be more expensive and sometimes even impossible to bring back what is lost, one of the lessons learned from the Penn Station disaster.

I urge you to landmark Carnegie libraries and to save and support ALL our libraries.

Sincerely,
Phillis Gershator

FOR THE RECORD

New York City Libraries and Me
Marsha S. Rimler
215 Adams St.
Brooklyn, New York 11201

I have spent my entire life in the City of New York.

For the first 5 years I lived with my parents near family on the Lower East Side. Both of my parents grew up there and my father and grandfather had businesses for life in that community.

My mother often shared with me how she went to the East Broadway library as a child. It is where she developed her love of books which has lasted all her life. As a child I remember her always reading. Always carrying a book.

She is not a college graduate but was often the winner at Scrabble at our home. Her children with masters and doctorate degrees lost to her when it came to knowledge of words. No doubt this is because of the East Broadway library.

After we moved to Sunnyside, Queens I would often visit the library (then on 47th street –now on Greenpoint Avenue). As a teenager I joined a stamp club there. My stamp collection taught me about history, geography and the people who were larger than life.

Living in Queens and attending City College the Donnell Library was my second home. I studied there, wrote papers and did research. It was halfway on the subway between CCNY and Queens. It afforded me an opportunity to be at home in my city, study and explore my future. The destruction of that branch was something we should all be ashamed of and promise not to replicate.

In Brooklyn after graduate school I lived on Hicks St. I still live in the neighborhood. We are lucky to live in such a wonderful community and need to make sure it remains. My daughter would spend hours in the children's room of the Brooklyn Heights library discovering wonderful books and the joy of reading.

The Brooklyn Heights Branch on Cadman Plaza houses the Brooklyn Business library. As far as I can tell BPL has not reached out to Brooklyn's citizens who use it. I believe the plan to relocate this library to Grand Army Plaza is wrong and discriminates against those who need libraries most. Does it make sense to relocate this branch in the middle of a Brooklyn renewal. We have more than 50,000 students in downtown Brooklyn that need to use this.

I suggest the city council study the per capita expenditures for libraries by borough. Why do Brooklyn citizens get less money for libraries than those in Queens. Why does Brooklyn look to shrink its system by giving sweetheart deals to developers while Queens builds new branches.

In a time of growing inequality in our city libraries are essential to those who want to educate themselves and their children. We need to remain a city of opportunity. Libraries are key. It is our duty to make our libraries responsive to this.

9/30/13

FOR THE RECORD

TESTIMONY

Justine Swartz
justinejuggler@msn.com
30 Clinton St.
Brooklyn, NYC 11201
718.852.1858

Isaac Asimov wrote

"When I read about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that American society has found one more way to destroy itself."

QUOTED BY:

Rabbi Joseph Potasnik
Congregation Mount Sinai
Executive Vice President
New York Board of Rabbis
W: 212-983-3521
F: 212-983-3531

The Business and Career Section of the Brooklyn Heights Library at Cadman Plaza will soon be located at the Grand Army Plaza Library.

I have filed a complaint with the ADA. The Grand Army Plaza library is not assessable by subway for the handicapped. There are no elevators at that stop.

I am the voice for those who can't make it into the library because of their physical restrictions. I have trouble with my knee and climbing the subway stairs now is agony. If I have to go someplace and multiple staircases are involved I will take car service or not go rather than using the MTA. I am fortunate I can afford the extra expense. Many people can't so they stay home. Their quality of life suffers. They won't be able to enjoy free career development classes, computers and WiFi, librarians educated and well thought out help, books, DVDs, diverse lectures and performances, at the Business and Career Library in Grand Army Plaza. It's a hardship being handicapped and closing down my library in Cadman Plaza is heartless and wrong.

If the Cadman Plaza Brooklyn Heights Library is demolished the effects on the mass population of handicapped and seniors, will be overwhelming for years. No temporary library will suffice. We can't afford a shut down. This is not fair.

I give voice to this topic as to the damage that will be inflicted on our people, on me, that need and use the free services of our over crowded library in these bad economic times. (Thousands of library patrons use Cadman Plaza Business and Career Library weekly)

LIBRARIES ROCK

RENOVATE DON'T TERMINATE

By Justine Swartz

WITH HEAVY HEARTS IN HANDS WE TAKE A STAND FOR MONEY.
NEW YORK CITY GOVERNMENT WE PETITIONED BY THE THOUSANDS NUMEROUS. I USE THE HUMOROUS.

I'LL GIVE YOU THE GOBBLEDEGOOK ON BOOKS.

PUSILLANIMOUS POLITICIANS ARE CRAVEN WHEN THEY DESTROY OUR CHILDREN'S SAFE HAVEN.

PACIFIC STREET LIBRARY'S GIRL SCOUT TROOP WILL HAVE NO MEETING PLACE. DEVELOPERS PLAN ON STEALING THEIR SPACE.

SUCH A DISGRACE.

SINCE 2008 PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING HAS BEEN DECIMATED, ABROGATED BY THE LIBRARY SLAYER MAYOR BLOOMBERG HE HAS SLASHED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN COLD HEARTED CASH.

WHAT BALDERDASH!

MANY LIBRARIES ARE AT RISK. THAT'S SO SICK.

BIG BUSINESS WANTS US TO FAIL.

OVERCROWDED LIBRARIES THEY WOULD DOWNSCALE.

EDUCATION, JOB SEARCHES, COMPUTER ACCESS, DERAILED, A GOOD ECONOMIC FUTURE CURTAILED.

ITS NOT PRETTY NEW YORK CITY HAS NO PITY FOR THE NITTY-GRITTY.

LIBRARY SHRINKAGE IS RECOMMENDED BY THE BAD ASSES MEANS FEWER FREE CAREER BUILDING CLASSES FOR THE MASSES.

CUT BACKS ON HANDY DANDY FREE CONVENIENT BOOKS PROVIDES A POOR ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.

DEVELOPERS HAVE HUGE APPETITES FOR REAL ESTATE IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS. IN CADMAN PLAZA BUSINESS AND CAREER LIBRARY'S FOOTPRINT IS A VERY BAD, MAD BLUEPRINT OF CONDOS FOR THE WEALTHY. FOR US, NOT SO HEALTHY.

HIGHLIGHTS OUR COMMUNITIES LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES.

AT THE DEFUNCT DELETED MUCH NEEDED DONNELL LIBRARY LOCAL THEATRICALS WERE DELIGHTFUL, NEIGHBORHOOD STRIVING ARTISTS INSIGHTFUL. PLAYS AND PERFORMANCES HAVE CEASED TO EXIST.

THE PUBLIC BATHROOMS ARE MISSED.

OUR PLEAS HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS.

FOR YEARS BROOKLYN HEIGHTS LIBRARY HAS NO AIR CONDITIONING.

BOILER AND FURNACE PIPES WARRANT RECOMMISSIONING.

WITH FASHION PASSION I BEG FOR MONEY WITHOUT DISTASTE ON BENDED KNEES WITH PIETY AND GRACE, OR FISTS OF FURY IN HIS FACE. OH LORD! DEAR GOD, I PRAY. PLEASE WE NEED A CAVALCADE OF FINANCIAL AID.

LIBRARIES ROCK! RENOVATE DON'T TERMINATE.

WE ARE THE HOI POLLOI. OUR LIBRARIES WE ENJOY!

IN SUMMATION IT'S A STRUGGLE TO GET A USEFUL EDUCATION.

I SWEAR TO THE TRUTH. I AM LIVING PROOF.

LIBRARIES CHANGES LIVES. OUR QUALITY OF LIFE THRIVES.

LIBRARIES COULD TRAIN YOU FOR A NEW VOCATION.

TAKE A LOOK. I LEARNED TO JUGGLE FROM A BOOK.

FOR THE RECORD

On Monday, September 30th, the City Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations will hold an oversight hearing on capital construction needs and the potential disposal of libraries in New York City. While this hearing is not exclusive to the proposals for Brooklyn Heights and Pacific Branch, these branches will be the topic at least some of the discussion. We are unable to attend this important meeting; however, we are staunch supporters of maintaining the libraries in their current state, and actually improving the services offered for all to use.

This effort undermines the current library system in the City and poses some questionable decisions made by those in control who are only looking out for their financial benefit. There is no justification in the "wisdom" shown in reducing usable "library" space by selling capital assets at far below their true value, so economic gain can be realized by real estate developers and those who probably never have and never will use the libraries. Me, my family and my children grew up with the Library. My children's families should be given the same opportunity.

The usage of New York City's libraries is actually on the increase, by approximately 40 percent programmatically, and nearly 60 percent in terms of circulation. The public demand for physical books is also on an increasing trend. More people visited public libraries in New York than every major sports team and every major cultural institution combined. Why then are we selling city libraries and shrinking the library system? Why are libraries being underfunded, when we know they cost a fraction of the city's budget to fund them?

The city's proposal to "redevelop" libraries to include market-rate housing (plans that generally would require the demolition of historic spaces) is not a good decision since the reduction in space would jeopardize the overall effectiveness of the library system. True, this initiative will bring additional funding to the system, but in actuality, turning over public space to private developers does not guarantee that new library spaces will be comparable in size or otherwise remain fully-functional.

The Donnell Library may be viewed as an example of what officials plan for the rest of the system. This library was sold in 2007 and quickly closed in 2008. It is now it is being significantly reduced (according to New York Times figures) by more than two-thirds, from 97,000 to 28,000 square feet. Similarly, the New York Public Library's Central Library Plan (CLP) involves the reduction of 380,000 square feet down to a mere 80,000 square feet. The Mid-Manhattan library (one of the most used libraries in the city), and the Science, Industry and Business Library will be sold, and the research stacks of the Central Reference Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street will be demolished.

The two libraries sold will be crammed into the former reference library stacks space. Any future expansion of the space will not be possible. Construction to accomplish these space reductions will cost the public a lot: the CLP is expected to cost roughly \$350 million, with \$150 million from tax-payer funds, and the balance from funds charitably donated to the public. Due to this, advocates presented legal challenges that temporarily delayed construction.

The underfunding of our city's libraries is a serious problem, but in many instances it is an easy excuse for these private sell-offs taking place throughout the city. We need to oppose these plans and work with the city to come to sustain our New York Public Libraries. The relative low cost of operating the libraries in the big scheme of things is relatively small. In any case, this

entire issue should be reviewed, in detail, by an independent committee and a documented economic impact study should be completed, and available to the public. As it stands now, this entire process is suspect since there has been a lack of investigation of previous suspicious conduct, like the prior sale of the Donnell Library. This leads one to believe that there is an underlying effort for economic gain for some in the city and the thought of collusion and crooked dealings comes to one's mind.

The quote by Walter Cronkite aptly and succinctly summarizes this whole issue: "Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."

Sincerely,

Libby & Mel Garofalo

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony to the City Council Oversight Hearing on Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in New York City September 30, 2013

Therese Urban

**member: *East Pacific Block Association,
Boerum Hill Association
Brooklyn, NY***

I am not familiar with all the libraries in the New York City metropolitan area, but I want to impress upon all City Council members why they should be insisting that all our library caretakers continue to value our presently threatened libraries with the same honorable egalitarian foresight that created them, and why it's important to keep those libraries open, well-maintained, and, especially noted in this testimony, situated on the land they already own.

This testimony particularly addresses the plan to demolish 2 library buildings in Brooklyn and sell the land under them to one or more private developers.

The plan for these sales looks to follow the pattern that has been implemented in recent years, known as "public/private partnerships". This model has become a politically favored method of funding public services in New York City, services that have traditionally been provided by taxes, and which funding negotiations are often presented to the public side of that 'partnership' as a virtual 'done deal'. These deals award taxpayer subsidies and tax reductions that serve to further erode our future tax base, instead of increasing the taxes these desirable new properties should be remitting to sustain a civilized city.

Results from prior short-sighted economic manipulations underpins the current scrutiny of library land values, and the City Council must not allow more of the same to erode this unique legacy.

Libraries were built on valuable land because they were meant to inspire people to reach for personal excellence.

We all understand the first 3 criteria of real estate value: "location, location, and location". Land here is finite, and has always been coveted by people who could see the next profit in their own pockets. And the land under both the Brooklyn Heights and Pacific libraries is admittedly very valuable. And why should they not remain the proud owners of it?

Carnegie libraries were placed in highly visible and accessible locations, and given formal architectural prominence in order to accomplish their several missions: the expansion of free education to the general public, the social advancement of minorities and the underprivileged, and to heighten public understanding of the particular needs of children in society.

Carnegie libraries had a very important function, a very new function in a time when allowing the public to browse through stacks of books and freely choose to read whatever sparked their interest was unheard of, when only wealthy people had such open access to information

Social Engineering wears many faces, has many arguable practical considerations, but the Carnegie Foundation's idea in providing unique spaces to move inspiration to aspiration is one of our country's finest philanthropic legacies, and should not be hijacked to current monetization trends.

The Pacific Library has served that purpose for 108 years. The Carnegie mission is as relevant now as it was in 1905. Nothing has changed - except that now, what masquerades as 'philanthropy' in NYC negotiates a price: influence, zoning overrides, tax breaks. Current promotional media reminds us that Andrew Carnegie is dead, that all possibilities for Profit must be pursued, that Profit is now required of all enterprises, and thus all public service deliverables should now be monetized. My community says "NO".

BPL land should be held in the public trust, not sold for momentary funding needs.

We have a building boom of mostly luxury housing going on in Downtown Brooklyn. It is internationally recognized. The massive Atlantic Yards Project (although it is now for sale without having achieved any of its promise, only its profit), controls the land right across Pacific Street from the Pacific Library site. Additionally, the Church of The Redeemer is looking to monetize its site on the opposite corner. Understandably, developers are salivating for this library's valuable land, the same as they're coveting the land under the Brooklyn Heights branch! In fact, the same developer also owns property adjacent to that site.

The Pacific Library owns 1/3rd of the block fronting on 4th Ave. Coincidentally, the remaining 2/3^{rds} of that block is leased by the City of New York from a private LLC, and I understand that lease will expire in 2 or 3 years - just in time for the Two Trees development, the BAM South building, to be realized across Flatbush Avenue. That building is negotiating for a zoning height override in exchange for providing some ground floor space for community use.

The plan called for moving the Pacific Library into that space. While it is true that Councilwoman James has received some current assurances as to the safety of the Pacific Library, we all know how representatives and representations change, how competing agendas can be decided by economic expediencies. We need a firmer guarantee of this safety for all our library land.

Aside from other considerations, it is worth noting that an opinion was already floated to electeds by the BPL that the land under the Pacific Library wouldn't bring in very much money - not enough money to actually build out a large new space because it was a small footprint. Such misrepresentation of that parcel's value exemplifies the greed working behind-the-scenes to obscure the future availability of connecting nearby parcels. This same spin is presented in Midtown Manhattan, and Brooklyn Heights.

Aside from suspicions of undue influence in acquiring the land rights, there are other serious disadvantages to our libraries entering into any "public/private partnerships". Once that land is sold, the library will never get it back; it's gone forever. And corporate interests are always going to be aligned with profits. Placing libraries in a space that's

future management and business strategies as decided by that enterprise. Today's promises are profit-driven; tomorrow's will be too. There will be no guarantee of meeting a library's financial needs, 20 years, 30 years, 100 years from now, any better than there is now, when they own their own sites. Why should we take that risk?

Case in point: After selling the site to a developer, the rebuilding of the new Donnell Library space is delayed for several years due to certain private business decisions made by the developer in the owner's self-interest. Also, the Donnell has permanently dissolved its children's and young adults collections because they don't fit into the new digital model of library space, as it is drastically reduced from the lovely space it used to inhabit. The City itself is now admitting the error of that sale.

The Pacific Street Library is especially significant as it is.

The architecture of this beautiful building is symbolic in the way that all Carnegie architecture is: the impressive doorway is designed to impart the idea that learning elevates one's station in life, and it's flanked by lamp posts symbolizing enlightenment. Maybe that's hokey in the 21st Century, but all architecture uses visual notes to make its music and the music of the past is not irrelevant to the present. It should inspire, if only as a reminder that someone long ago thought underprivileged people deserved to be fed at a beautiful table, and we should demand that today's caretakers still value and promote that public ideal.

Several attempts have been made by Park Slope and Boerum Hill community groups within the last 15 years to landmark it, but the applications suffered pocket vetoes by people with other agendas. Again this year, the Park Slope Civic Council has voted unanimously to have the library landmarked, and across 4th Avenue, we in Boerum Hill joined in that application and again hope for success. So far I have not heard anything encouraging for our efforts.

I have heard Linda Johnson, BPL Director, say that the Pacific Library's structure is just plain unusable, with small 'rabbit warren' rooms. Well of course! Because this particular library, the first Carnegie Library in Brooklyn, had an interior designed specifically for children! And an exterior designed to impress and inspire them to excellence. It was built for children, and one size does not fit all:

The street façade is straight, but behind that classic façade, the building is rotund. On the main floor, stacks radiate in from the curved walls toward a central librarian, so children can be easily helped, taught and supervised. The lower and upper floors are large windowed rooms, presently used for and by numerous community groups. There's a grassy surrounding yard, and a rear driveway entrance. This library is intimate, charming, and inviting - and it doesn't fit adult users.

We need to keep the Pacific Street Library where it is.

Thousands of new apartments are in the Downtown Brooklyn pipeline, and all residential services in the area will certainly need to be expanded. In exchange for the increased FAR they dearly desire, because profits must be maximized, the developer should trade space for a new library that serves the new population; the Pacific "children's library" doesn't

have to be a part of that conversation. The developer won't care which library is housed, only that they can trade for the more valuable higher floors. Let us keep ours!

Within a 5-block radius to the south and southeast of this library, in the neighborhoods of Boerum Hill, Park Slope and Gowanus, we already have 3 NYCHA public housing developments (Gowanus South Colony Houses, Wyckoff Gardens Houses, and Warren Street Houses) and 5 public schools (PS 216, 38 and 133 elementary, Middle School 447, and the Brooklyn H.S. of the Arts). ALL of these children already live in the neighborhood.

We need this library working for us, not a replacement in another neighborhood.

These children, independently or in school groups, shouldn't have to cross the 2 busiest intersections in Brooklyn (Atlantic Ave and Flatbush Ave) to go into Ft Greene for their library. That's just another impediment for them to overcome. Ft. Greene has its own library, we deserve our own neighborhood library.

Additionally, the NYC and BPL central plans for replacement services all entail reducing actual book space to complement an increase in digital access. It's a cost-cutting measure being sold as a benefit to the public.

Digital books are not inspiring to children. Picture books, storybooks, books you can hold, carry and share, books you're inspired to read in bed by flashlight – those are necessary for children. Symbols you can see and feel add understanding, help form ideas, and the physical space that welcomes children, that makes them feel like important people, nurtures lifelong learning habits.

Digital media has its place and libraries should provide it, but many of our children can't afford home computers, can't afford monthly internet fees. They shouldn't be expected to buy e-readers that, in yet another 'partnership', require accounts with Amazon or Barnes & Noble to borrow an e-book from what used to be the free public library! Even if e-books are free, access requires an investment.

Instead of destroying this one, the Pacific Street Children's Library could be the jewel of the Brooklyn system!

Returning it to its original service, updating it with the technology our children truly do need, this 1905 legacy could shine as a continued promise. Just imagine! How wonderful it will look, left at its own original corner; what a beautiful counterpoint the old building will be to the modern ones sure to rise on the other corners, and all over Downtown. Anyone who sees it will thank us for keeping it as a reminder of what our great-great-grandparents cherished, and how well this generation nourished Carnegie's public trust.

Thank you for your attention. And long live private philanthropy not tied to government subsidies!

FOR THE RECORD



Fifth Avenue Committee
Our Community. Our Future.

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**City Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International
Intergroup Relations**

Testimony for oversight hearing on capital construction needs and the potential
disposal of libraries in New York City

Fifth Avenue Committee / South Brooklyn Accountable Justice Initiative

September 30, 2013

Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) is a 35 year old nonprofit comprehensive community development corporation in South Brooklyn that advances economic and social justice by building vibrant, diverse communities where residents have genuine opportunities to achieve their goals as well as the power to shape the community's future.

FAC is a nationally recognized nonprofit community development corporation formed in 1978 that works to transform the lives of over 5,500 low and moderate income New Yorkers annually so that we can all live and work with dignity and respect while making our community more equitable, sustainable, inclusive and just.

To achieve our mission, FAC develops and manages affordable housing and community facilities, creates economic opportunities and ensures access to economic stability, organizes residents and workers, offers student-centered adult education and combats displacement caused by gentrification. Our South Brooklyn Accountable Justice Initiative, known as SBADI, specifically works to ensure that development and land use policies in our neighborhoods are leveraged to advance economic, social and environmental justice by improving access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality of life, civic participation and accountable and sustainable planning and development for South Brooklyn low and moderate income residents.

FAC and SBADI strongly oppose the closure and sale of the Pacific Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. We believe that such a closure would be against the interests of the neighborhoods on the South side of Flatbush Avenue who currently rely on the historic library for:

-Children's services, including excellent children's reading room which was the first in the country; and several programs, including seasonal reading programs and toddler reading programs.



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-Availability of computers and internet access, for people who do not have internet or computer access at home.

-Resume tutor program, which is an important resource in the current economy for people seeking employment.

-A place to study.

-General library services unavailable anywhere else close to the Gowanus neighborhood.

Furthermore, there are no public libraries in the Gowanus neighborhood proper, and we believe that demolishing and relocating the Pacific Branch to an even greater distance away from the predominately low and moderate income residents of Gowanus, a large portion which live in the Gowanus, Wyckoff, and Warren street Public houses, and nearby FAC managed properties further exacerbates the long standing inequitable access and distribution of public resources in the area.

The Pacific Branch of the BPL is an historic and beautiful structure; it is the first library Andrew Carnegie built in Brooklyn, and we also support the calls to landmark the structure. Taking local residents' library away, and forcing them to go a much further distance, and to cross Flatbush Avenue to get to a newly-built library is a burdensome and unnecessary hardship, and the result of bad public policy. Everyone in our society deserves equal opportunity and access to study in an inspirational public space.

Library usage has steadily increased, and continues to do so. However, library funding has been cut severely in recent years. This public policy decision has left Brooklyn Public Library with less money to perform repairs and make improvements at the Pacific Branch location. Defunding the library system at a time when the libraries are used more than ever plays into the hands of the real-estate industry by making an excuse to sell off much needed libraries for quick cash, and/or to save on making necessary repairs and improvements. Rather than selling the Pacific Branch, the solution to the funding shortfall is to reinstate funding.

The current library administration has indicated that they wish to abandon their commitment to preserving the valuable community resource that is the Pacific Branch of the BPL. In the 1970's, when there was a true financial crisis, Kenneth Duchac, who was Executive Director of the BPL, worked with the community and fought hard to save each and every branch of

Urban Librarians Unite
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations
Committee on Libraries
September 30, 2013

Good Afternoon,

my name is Christian Zabriskie and I am the Executive Director of Urban Librarians Unite, a 501c3 not for profit organization dedicated to promoting urban libraries, developments in library science in urban areas, librarians in the city, and any library at risk. We have been fighting for and advocating for libraries in New York City for more than four years now. None of our staff are paid and we have hundreds of volunteers who have dedicated their time to not only advocacy for public libraries during the annual budget dance but also to supporting school librarians for our public school students, and direct disaster response to Hurricane Sandy. I personally have been a public librarian for more than twelve years and have served in almost every capacity that a public librarian can work in that time short of director. I and my members are frontline library workers and advocates and we have been speaking up for libraries for years now.

I am here today to endorse the plans that Brooklyn Public Library and New York Public Library have put forward to sell a very limited number of problematic buildings to address capital budget shortfalls and update service areas for the best library resources for our communities.

I am making this endorsement coming at this issue from the perspective of a library scientist and seeking best practices for facilities and financial administration. Librarians are a very pragmatic profession, we are interested in service over all and these plans offer the best possible service within the current situation. Would it be nice if we were not in the position where there were these high levels of capital budget shortfalls and maintenance needs? Yes of course it would be, but we are not in that position so from a library professional perspective any other discussion off that point is moot. The best service to the most people is the driving purpose of the public library. These plans represent the best solutions possible and are the result of hard decisions made by experienced professionals.

Some of the primary points of this debate bare discussion here, again from a library science perspective. NYPL's Central Library Plan has been hotly debated but, at its core, it is a strong plan to take a library that is the proviso of tourists and a dedicated but relatively small usergroup of scholars and turn it into a functioning community library which will retain its research services while providing the neighborhood with

a far better library for the people who actually live and work in that community. It is worth noting that as I did research into this topic I found that there has been a vocal minority that has HATED the 42nd Street New York Public Library building from its beginnings right through every significant renovation or design change that has taken place to the present day.

Brooklyn Public Library has significant capital budget shortfalls and considerable physical plant requirements. It is nice to romanticize libraries and our grand buildings but the reality of the working librarian is that our spaces need to be used, constantly, and they are. If our library is functioning well we have people coming in and out, people doing things, reading, working on the computers, every moment of every day. With that level of traffic we cannot have HVAC systems that are shot we can't have buildings that are falling apart. It is not safe for staff and it is not fair to our patrons.

The Brooklyn Plan provides the best results for the most number of people as a solution to a problem which has been developing for years. While the operating budgets for libraries have been cut and restored due to the hard work of our public officials the library capital budgets have not been so fortunate. This crisis has been building for a long time and predates the administration at either Brooklyn Public Library or New York Public Library. These are hard decisions which represent best efforts to solve real problems. If you are ever interested in the financial records of any of the three libraries they are all publicly available, I regularly take a look at them myself and there really isn't a lot of mystery in there.

There has been a lot of controversy around these plans. It's too bad that there has not been as much controversy around the capital budget shortfalls which have brought us to this place. We at ULU have been advocating and pushing for library budgets for years now. It has been a long and lonely fight and it is disappointing to see people attacking the libraries instead of pushing for an infusion of capital funding and calling for baseline funding to stabilize annual operating expenditures. Our libraries cannot grow without investment and until such time as they are a budget priority the libraries will be forced to seek whatever solutions they can to provide the best service to the most New Yorkers.

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to take any questions which you may have.



THE ADVOCATE FOR NEW YORK CITY'S HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

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Statement of the Historic Districts Council


City Council Oversight Hearing on Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in New York City
September 30, 2013

The Historic Districts Council is the advocate for New York City's designated historic districts, individual landmarks and structures meriting preservation. We thank the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations and the Select Committee on Libraries for holding this oversight hearing. The topic of libraries - from the disastrous New York Public Library's Central Library Plan to the needless demolition of local branches - is a subject of great concern to many New Yorkers. Libraries play a pivotal role in most New York neighborhoods. They serve as learning centers, community anchors and safe public spaces. They are landmarks in the truest sense of the word, and New York City is fortunate to have a remarkable architectural collection to house these essential services.


In Manhattan, the Central Library Plan seeks to congregate the Mid-Manhattan Circulating Library, the Science, Industry and Business Library, and the world-renowned Research Library in one building by removing the stacks and the books. While the purported aim of making more of the Central Library building available to the public may seem laudable, it should be kept in mind that the worth of a library, particularly one of the world's greatest research libraries, is not measured simply in the number of people who come through the door. A primary goal of the institution should be to enable quality research. Better instead to re-open the many empty rooms of the building as proposed, retain the stacks and combine them with the soon-to-be increased space under Bryant Park to ensure the library holdings can continue to grow and serve the public. The Mid-Manhattan Library should be redeveloped and modernized (as needed) to better serve its role as the nation's largest circulating library and if SIBL is truly as outmoded as claimed, perhaps it can be integrated into an expanded Mid-Manhattan Branch or another site.

Less talked about, but just as harmful, are the plans to sell library branch buildings to developers - a key element of the Central Library Plan and a troubling part of almost all the library systems' proposals. We have seen how poorly this scheme worked at the Donnell Library - the new, smaller space in the base and basement of a luxury hotel and residence is still not open over five years after the closing of the branch. HDC has particular concern for the Pacific Branch Library, first branch building constructed in Brooklyn with money from steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, and the disturbing trend that could start in throwing away these historic buildings rather than adapting them to library's changing needs. In 1901 Carnegie gave a \$5.2 million donation for the construction of branches throughout New York City, and we can still boast the largest collection of Carnegie libraries of any city in the country. Of the 67 built, 57 branches are still standing (most of them are not landmarked and are unprotected.) The Carnegie branches are beautiful structures, built with fine materials by the top architects of the day in sumptuous styles. They were designed to be centerpieces of their communities, both physically and intellectually. These were not libraries in the basement of someone else's luxury residences as today's projects are. They were, and still are, elegant homes of learning for all.

When Carnegie sought to donate much of his wealth to worthy causes, he made the clear distinction between philanthropy and charity. Carnegie only favored the former and had no interest in helping those who would not help themselves. The construction of public libraries was a perfect focus for his philanthropy. As Carnegie explained, libraries gave "nothing of nothing. Youths must acquire knowledge themselves." He also required the towns and cities receiving his donations to invest in the projects - they had to find the funding for land, books, and staff for the new libraries. Selling these buildings to developers would symbolize that New York City is no longer interested in improving itself and unworthy of Carnegie's gift.



HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL



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His forethought has borne the test of time. Since their establishment, New York's libraries have served the public in a variety of ways, but always increasing the public's access to knowledge. As our information-based society continues to evolve, the libraries play an increasingly important role, as evidenced by their growing use in recent years. The public must increase its investment in them because they are too important to our city and culture to allow market-driven forces and private boards to be solely responsible for their guidance. Leaving this essential service to the non-existent mercy of the economy will create a leaner, meaner library system but that is exactly the wrong thing for a library system to be. A library is a garden, not a machine. Gardens create and cultivate life. When gardens are healthy and flourish, they provide room for new life to spring forth and unexpected cross-pollinations of opportunity to happen. Machines should not do the unexpected, if they do that, they are not working. When a machine is in good repair, its chief function is to save time. A garden is good year after year, with a changing population to meet new needs and seasons. An old machine is thrown away and replaced with a newer model – obsolescence is part of its lifecycle. Are our libraries places to be cultivated or things to be replaced?

Testimony of Jonathan Bowles
Executive Director, Center for an Urban Future

Before the NYC Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC
September 30, 2013

Good afternoon. Thank you for inviting me here today. I am especially grateful to have the opportunity to testify before this committee about an institution that is so important to the city's future: the public libraries.

My name is Jonathan Bowles and I am the executive director of the Center for an Urban Future. I should point out that the Center for an Urban Future is not a library advocacy organization, but a non-partisan think tank that publishes reports about critical challenges and opportunities facing New York City. In recent months, we have published studies about the aging of New York's immigrant population; how New York's community colleges have become critical platforms for economic mobility; and the importance of expanding and improving workforce development programs in New York.

But whether we are writing about New York's alarming skills gap, the challenges facing the city's immigrants, how New York must plan for the aging of the city's population or the digital divide, there's one institution that comes up again and again: libraries.

As we documented in our Branches of Opportunity report earlier this year, the 206 branch libraries across the five boroughs have become the go-to places for those who lack the essential literacy, language and technological skills needed to get ahead today. They are helping adults upgrade their skills and find jobs, assisting immigrants learn English, fostering reading skills in young people and providing technology access for those who don't have a computer or an Internet connection at home. In short, at a time when far too many New Yorkers are struggling to make the transition to today's knowledge economy, no institution is doing more to bridge the gap than the city's public libraries.

And don't just take my word for it. More New Yorkers are using the city's libraries than ever. As we showed in our report, over the past decade, circulation at the city's three public library systems is up 59 percent while program attendance is up by 40 percent.

Despite all of this, the libraries' physical infrastructure hasn't kept pace. Though demand for library resources has never been higher, branches across the city are suffering from decades of neglect and underinvestment. The city's three public library systems have over \$1.5 billion in construction needs, including hundreds of millions in deferred maintenance costs.

In Brooklyn alone, the average branch is more than 60 years old and there are 18 Carnegie branches that were built more than 90 years ago. The borough's libraries have more than \$230 million in outstanding maintenance needs.

Although several branches citywide—from the new Jamaica Central Branch to the Bronx Library Center—have undergone much-needed renovations in recent years, too many community libraries across the city remain in bad shape. Dozens of branches across the city need to replace ailing mechanical equipment, patch roof leaks, and ensure ADA compliance, to say nothing of the physical upgrades that could dramatically improve the services they offer to the public.

The city's three public library systems recognize the need to reinvest in their physical infrastructure. But they have gotten little help. Whereas Chicago used city funding to rebuild or repair most of its 79 branch libraries and other cities such as Seattle, San Francisco and Washington, DC have all made big public investments in renovating their branch libraries, there has been no similar commitment to fund capital improvements in New York.

A big part of the problem is that the city's system of funding capital projects for libraries is broken. All three systems receive extremely small amounts in general capital allocations every year and have to rely on the discretionary funds of individual elected officials in order to complete the lion's share of work they need done. This system has created huge problems for the libraries, since it requires them to cobble together funds from multiple sources over many different budgets. While the libraries hunt for money, problems are left to fester, leading to higher costs down the line.

It has also led to wide discrepancies in capital funding among the three systems and left gaping holes in the libraries' maintenance budgets. For instance, between 2003 and 2012, the Brooklyn Public Library raised only \$41 per person in capital funding, compared to \$62 per person for NYPL and \$69 per person for the Queens Public Library.

This system absolutely needs to change in the next mayoral administration. But because the city has been under-investing in the branches for decades, if not generations, the libraries are also smart to look for ways to raise capital funds beyond what they are likely to get from the city. To be sure, selling branch buildings to private developers should be undertaken with extreme care and caution, but in select cases doing so make a lot of sense.

First, raising fifty or even one hundred million dollars through the sale of select branches would allow the libraries to make strategic investments in buildings across the city, dramatically improving conditions and services where it is needed most. Second, in select areas, co-locating branches in new residential towers could be an effective way to improve services even while reducing operating and maintenance costs. Any loss in square footage should not be an overriding consideration, since many older branch buildings are not only extremely costly to operate they don't make efficient use of space. Third, it could allow the libraries to replace branches that are located in out-of-the-way areas with new libraries in high-traffic pedestrian corridors, thereby expanding their reach in the community. Many of the city's older branches were built over 100 years ago when many of the city's neighborhoods looked very different than they do now. A number of branches are awkwardly located near highways or are otherwise stuck in areas with few pedestrians.

The proposed sale of the Brooklyn Heights branch, for instance, would replace an older 30,000 square foot building that has more than \$9 million in capital needs with a 20,000 square foot library inside a residential tower. Depending on the design of the new library, 20,000 square feet should be plenty of space for a dynamic neighborhood library—in fact, it could pave the way for dramatically improved services by creating spaces for group work and classes even while providing improved conditions for freelancers and others who want a quiet space for work and study.

Many older branches were designed to accommodate solitary readers rather than classes and group work and tend to use way too much space for storing books. Because library patrons can order any book in the system and have it delivered to their local branch, not every branch building needs a lot of shelving. Moreover, as was documented at great length in our Branches of Opportunity report, more and more patrons want to participate in educational and cultural programming, but physical constraints have put a firm cap on how much of it the libraries can offer.

As we showed in our report, there is a strong correlation between the condition of branches and the number of people using them. It's no coincidence that the alluring Flushing library has the highest annual circulation in the city and one of the highest in the nation. When the High Bridge branch in the Bronx opened in 2010 after undergoing major renovations, circulation shot up by 170 percent while program attendance rose 275 percent. Similar bumps occurred after renovations at the St. Agnes branch in Manhattan and Corona branch in Queens.

The city needs to do more of these branch renovations and find a new way to fund the upkeep of these invaluable institutions. Among other things, the city should raise the general capital allocation for the libraries and take the bolder step of helping the libraries build an ambitious, long-term capital plan to address critical maintenance issues and bring aging branches into the digital age.

Until the city takes these steps, the city's library systems are smart to develop alternatives for addressing its crumbling infrastructure.

**Testimony: Oversight - Capital Construction Needs and the
Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC**

FOR THE RECORD

September 30, 2013

Julie Sandorf, President of the Charles H. Revson Foundation

Good Afternoon. My name is Julie Sandorf and I am the President of the Charles H. Revson Foundation. I want to thank Chairman Van Bramer and Chairman Gentile for inviting me to speak to you today.

The Revson Foundation operates a variety of grant programs in the areas of Urban Affairs, Education, Biomedical Research, and Jewish Life, and some of the most innovative and far-reaching projects we have funded in New York City have revolved around public libraries. When Lincoln Center wanted to extend its world-class arts and culture beyond its campus, we funded performances in branch libraries across Queens. And starting in January, both the Queens and Brooklyn systems, in partnership with Lincoln Center, will be screening HD productions of Lincoln Center performances, representing a performing arts partnership without precedent anywhere in the world. When ReServe was founded to pair retired professionals with nonprofit organizations, one of the most meaningful ways to utilize the expertise of older adults was to support Queens Library's community service programs. Whether the mission is technology, arts and culture, education, senior services, employment, or immigrant services, the unparalleled geographic and programmatic breadth of New York City's public libraries put them in a unique position to form successful and mutually beneficial partnerships with a wide range of institutions and agencies across the City.

From the newly revamped Department of Outreach at Brooklyn Public Library, to Queens Library's interactive online job-readiness assessment software, to New York Public Library's national leadership on the issue of e-books, New York City's libraries are at the forefront of organizational and technological innovations aimed at expanding access to resources to as many New Yorkers as possible, and the Revson Foundation has been privileged to support these efforts.

Some have argued that in the digital age of ipads and e-books, no one uses the public library anymore. However, when we look at the data, we see that the opposite is true. According to the Center for an Urban Future's *Branches of Opportunity* report, in 2011, the city's 206 branch libraries greeted over 40.5 million visitors, which is more than all of the city's professional sports teams and major cultural institutions combined. Our public libraries are not only being used by millions of New Yorkers, but usage has reached record levels. Over the past decade, our city's libraries have seen a 27 percent increase in program offerings, a 40 percent increase in

program attendance, and a 59 percent increase in circulation. To put that into perspective, New York City's libraries rank in the top 10 in the country in each of these categories.

The libraries have accomplished this while simultaneously having had their budgets cut by the city. Collectively, New York City's libraries fail to make the top ten in terms of local government funding and average hours of service per week when compared to other large U.S. cities. Boston, Seattle, Chicago, Houston, and even Detroit's libraries are open more hours per week on average than our city's libraries. Only 8 branches in all of New York City are open on Sundays. This is a waste of precious resources and real estate, but without a viable financial strategy from the city, our libraries are being forced to make impossible choices. Given their critical importance, locked library doors seem penny wise and pound foolish.

The city has an invaluable resource in the public libraries; located in nearly every neighborhood and trusted by all. In order to most effectively use these incredible community assets, libraries must be open more hours. In fact, when the great philanthropist Andrew Carnegie built over 100 branch libraries across all five boroughs, the City of New York signed the Carnegie Compact, which legally obligated it to keep the libraries open six days a week from at least nine in the morning to nine at night.

However, currently, the city's public libraries are, on average, open only 43 hours per week. Can you imagine how many more people would be able to access the vast resources and programs of the library if the branches were open every evening? Or during the weekends? Just think of the recent immigrant who works all day, but desperately needs to improve her English language skills. Or of the parents who can never be home in time to take their son or daughter to the library to pick out books; or the student living in a tiny apartment with five other people, looking for a quiet place to study for a test on a Sunday afternoon. Libraries are the institutions that touch the lives of New Yorkers on a daily basis. An additional \$100 million in city operating funds would allow the libraries to stay open an average of 60 hours per week and position them to become the most utilized public libraries in the country.

Equally as important as keeping the libraries open a greater number of hours is what we are focused on today, the libraries' capital needs. As many of you know, the capital funding process is highly discretionary and byzantine, to put it mildly. The libraries do not have a stable capital budget from which to maintain and upgrade their facilities and are heavily reliant on city council discretionary funds to subsidize their capital needs.

Consequently, branches across the city are suffering from decades of neglect and underinvestment. The city's three public library systems have over \$1.5 billion in construction needs, including hundreds of millions in deferred maintenance costs. This is evident when you walk into branches where there is no air-conditioning or elevator. In Brooklyn alone, the average

branch is more than 60 years old and there are 18 Carnegie branches that were built more than 90 years ago. Brooklyn's libraries have more than \$300 million in outstanding maintenance needs.

Since branch libraries depend largely on accumulating funds from council members and borough presidents to repair, renovate, or build a new library, it can take years to raise enough money to even begin a capital project. In most cases, we are not talking about extravagant upgrades; these capital projects include some of the most basic infrastructure needs, such as fixing leaking roofs, heating systems, and broken elevators. These issues affect how New Yorkers experience and access their libraries every day. All the while, the physical problems grow worse and building and construction costs continue to rise.

Every year these necessary repairs are taking money from the libraries' already strapped operating budgets. Year in and year out, all three systems are forced to use operating funds to address repairs that should be part of the capital funding process. These funds, totaling approximately 3.6 million dollars this year, could be used to fund the libraries' Pre-K literacy programs or workshops for job-seekers; instead they are being used to patch the roof. Programming, books, and hours shouldn't be at the expense of building maintenance or vice-versa.

In fact, improved building conditions and renovated space contribute significantly to program success and library usage overall. The numbers speak for themselves: the High Bridge branch in the Bronx, for example, saw its circulation increase by 170 percent and program attendance rise 275 percent after undergoing major renovations in 2010. When we invest in the upkeep of our libraries, the public is able to take full advantage of its many resources.

The current capital process has resulted in wide discrepancies in capital funding between the three systems and left gaping holes in the libraries' maintenance budgets. For example, between 2003 and 2012, the Brooklyn Public Library received \$41 per person in capital funding, compared to \$62 per person for NYPL and \$69 per person for the Queens Public Library. This is unacceptable and is the result of a failure to adequately fund a citywide capital plan for our branch libraries. This is not a way to fund the upkeep of a vital city asset that is in high demand. All three library systems are focused on delivering the best service and providing the best environment for New Yorkers, but are being thwarted in their efforts due to a lack of city funding.

The philanthropic community has great interest in supporting the wide variety of library programs and services being offered to the public, but not the basic infrastructure. The capital funding process must be reformed. The city should raise the general capital allocation for the libraries and help the libraries build a long-term capital plan to address the critical maintenance issues and bring aging branches into the digital age. In some cases, accumulating maintenance needs actually makes it cheaper to build a new branch than to fully renovate an existing one.

The libraries are wise to consider alternatives to address its crumbling infrastructure. Understanding the overall limits of the city capital budget, we should not ignore new potential capital sources drawing from the value of deteriorating facilities. If planned and executed with community input and support, there are many opportunities for libraries. With the proper safeguards and the ability to maintain a library presence in the community during construction—mixed-use development, for example, holds great promise.

In the 1980s, when many of the city’s neighborhoods were devastated, city government stepped up to rebuild tens of thousands of units of affordable housing through the use of general obligation bonds. The City’s commitment not only revitalized our neighborhoods, but also leveraged significant private financing and philanthropic resources. There is no reason why the City Council and next administration couldn’t execute a similar plan for the libraries using general obligation bonds. I cannot imagine a better bang for your buck.

All New Yorkers, regardless of neighborhood or borough, deserve well-maintained libraries and equal opportunity to education. In today’s digital age, rapid access to information isn’t a luxury, but a necessity. New Yorkers need their libraries more than ever. Thank you.



Statement by Thomas W. Galante, President & CEO Queens Library

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

Jointly with the Select Committee on Libraries

Oversight: Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC

September 30, 2013

Good afternoon. I am Thomas Galante, President and CEO of Queens Library. Before I begin my testimony today, I would like to thank the chairman of the Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Committee, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, the Select Committee on Libraries chairman, Council Member Vincent Gentile, along with all members of both committees, for the work you do on behalf of libraries. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on this important topic.

As you well know, public libraries in New York faced a potentially devastating budget reduction this past fiscal year. We are grateful to all of you for your work in averting it. I want to also thank and acknowledge Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Chair of the Finance Committee Council Member Domenic Recchia, Jr. Council Member Leroy Comrie and the entire Queens Delegation. With your leadership, every dollar proposed to be cut was retored, allowing us to

maintain our staff and public service hours. After all, a state-of-the-art library facility is useless without the operating support to keep it open.

Queens Library is among the busiest public library systems in the world, serving a population of 2.3 million people from 62 community libraries, a Teen Library, seven Adult Learning Centers and a Children's Library Discovery Center. Together, these facilities welcome 45,000 visitors a day. The library footprint is robust in Queens, with 99% of residents living within one mile of a library facility. These facilities are very well utilized. Last year, we provided 38,000 programs for 665,000 people.

The vast majority of community libraries in Queens are city-owned, stand-alone structures; a handful of community libraries plus the Teen Library are operating out of leased facilities.

Queens Library has no current plans to sell any of these community libraries. However, it is critical to recognize that many of these facilities date to the 1970s or considerably earlier.

Despite a robust capital plan, there remains a need for significant capital investments to bring and maintain these buildings to a standard our communities deserve, to keep them safe and to protect the significant assets these buildings house.

The capital needs in the Queens Library system total more than \$292 million. First among these needs are the critical infrastructure, which includes roofs, heating and air conditioning, masonry, and doors and windows. The investments that the city, state and other funders make in the extensive, diverse collection of books and materials are jeopardized by the potential for failing leaking roofs. In total, critical infrastructure needs are over \$14.1 million. We are making good progress but have much more to do. We are currently in the process of replacing 17 roofs.

However, several more are in need of replacement, some dire, for a total estimated cost of \$4.5m million.

In a similar vein, many of the existing heating and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems are in need of replacement and upgrades. Libraries are places people come to cool off during the summer and warm up during the winter. On particularly hot or cold days, libraries serve as officially designated NYC cooling and warming centers. If the HVAC system fails at a particular library it can no longer serve that critical purpose. This past summer, in the midst of the heat wave, we saw attendance borough-wide shoot up by 20 percent. This is just one service of the many a library provides for the City on any given day, but it is a critical one, particularly for vulnerable populations with no other alternative place to go. We are undergoing replacements or upgrades of eight such systems. Several libraries are currently in need of an HVAC replacement, at a total cost of \$4.7 million.

Queens Library is in the midst of the largest capital improvement and expansion plan in its 100-plus-year history. Over the past 10 years, we have expanded, upgraded or modernized two-thirds of our community libraries. We have added self-service technology at a majority of our facilities. This technology allows patrons to check out materials on their own as well as return materials in an ATM style machine installed at the exterior of the building, 24/7. This investment in community libraries is especially valuable as it creates efficiencies among our staff, freeing them from the circulation desk to help customers on the floor. It is also an incredible benefit to working families who need to return materials on evenings and weekends, when the library is not always open. We are about to enter the final phase of our roll-out, with intentions to complete either interior or exterior self-service installations in every library location in 2014.

A primary objective of the capital plan is to expand and build new facilities to accommodate communities where demand for libraries outstrips the available facilities. In many communities in Queens, keeping up with the demand is a particular challenge. In Corona, for example, usage more than doubled when the library was expanded from 5,600 square feet to 7,500 square-feet. The library saw 22,000 monthly visits during FY 2012, compared with 8,262 monthly visits before expansion, in FY 2004. It is, again, bursting at the seams. We are currently negotiating the purchase of an adjacent property to secure the property for future expansion.

The new Elmhurst library is currently under construction. When it opens, it will be twice the size of the old library, at 30,000 square feet. It will offer separate floors for an Adult Learning Center, teens, children and adults, an interior atrium, and a Cyber Center. We anticipate this bold new building will much better suit the needs of a thriving, diverse, multilingual community and may even rival Flushing (the largest circulating library in the City according to the Center for an Urban Future) in terms of usage, despite being half the size.

Our Far Rockaway library is another example of need outpacing the existing building's capacity. Built in 1968 with only 6,300 square feet of public space inside, the library is often cramped with adults looking for jobs, surfing the Internet, and browsing books. A new building is in the design phase there that will double the size and complement the Queens Library for Teens, which was established in a nearby storefront to give teens more space and specialized facilities.

We have a long way to go still to bring every community library up to standard with the latest technology and modern finishes. The current capital plan calls for expansions, upgrades and

renovations at dozens of community libraries. The total needs in the system for site acquisition, new construction, library expansions and renovations totals nearly \$200 million.

It is also critical to build libraries to serve new communities. Queens Library at Hunters Point will serve the thousands of new residents who will live in the growing communities along the East River in Hunters Point. The new library 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. It will have a large ground-floor community room with flexible furniture, and an outside reading and Wi-Fi garden. The library will present thousands of free educational and cultural programs annually and support the activities of students in the nearby schools. We are grateful to Council Member Van Bramer for his commitment to the project and, of course, his direct allocation of funding too.

Our successes in this area are only possible with the support of our partners in government. We are immensely fortunate to have the strong support of our elected officials across the board. In particular, the Queens Delegation to the City Council with Council Member Van Bramer and Council Member Leory Comrie leading the way, have been critical to keeping the program strong. Borough President Helen M. Marshall is perhaps the biggest supporter of capital projects in our history, allocating over \$130 million to projects over the course of her tenure. We are also fortunate to have capital allocations made by the Mayor's Office, the State of New York and members of the New York State Assembly and Senate. Assembly Member Catherine Nolan,

Chair of the Education Committee, has paved the way for two large grants that have made possible dozens of critical projects across the borough.

We make a concerted effort every year to educate our legislators at all levels about the needs in each district library. From the flashiest projects to even the most mundane behind-the-scenes projects, our supporters have come through. For example, delegation funding from this body over the years has kept the Queens Library computer network — over 1,869 for customer use — going in every single community library. While often unseen by the typical patron, these include servers and switches and miles of cable to provide the people of Queens with reliable access to the Internet. This digital lifeline was used 3.1 million times last year. These are important investments in the future of our communities who rely on the library.

Capital allocations have enabled us to continue to make facility improvements, even as our operational funding has shrunk. The quality of our buildings — and, consequently, our service — is a direct result of legislators believing in what libraries can do for people of all ages and backgrounds.

These allocations solve both current infrastructure needs and offer libraries critical positioning for the future — a future we have been actively preparing for. New flexible models for library service are on the horizon. Queens Library at Queens Center Mall is currently in development. It will be a smaller "express style" library in a busy retail space. We envision Queens Library vending machines in places like Breezy Point, which is several miles from the nearest community library, as well as in MTA stations, airports, and other high-traffic areas. We are already expanding outdoor spaces and "pop-up" libraries like the one we jointly operated on

Governors Island this summer with our colleagues in Brooklyn Public and New York Public Library.

While the roles public libraries play in a community are certainly evolving, the need for top-notch physical space will always remain. Libraries are places of lifelong learning. Increasingly, that learning is taking place in group settings, in program rooms and in training sessions in computer labs. Entrepreneurs hold impromptu business meetings in libraries. Senior citizens socialize and read the newspapers. New immigrants take classes. Students do their homework. Program sessions offered in the library have been on the rise citywide since 2009. In Queens Library in FY '13, over 600,000 people attended one of over 38,000 free programs offered in a community library. The need to continue to invest in libraries, both in operational support and also in the physical infrastructure, is apparent. We appreciate your historic support and look forward to continuing to work with you to build strong libraries.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.



MICAH Z. KELLNER
Assembly Member, 76th District

THE ASSEMBLY
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ALBANY

CHAIRMAN
Libraries & Education Technology Committee
COMMITTEES
Banks
Cities
Consumer Affairs and Protection
Racing and Wagering
Steering

**Remarks of Assembly Member Micah Z. Kellner
at a Joint Hearing of the NYC Council Committee on
Cultural Affairs, Libraries & International Intergroup Relations and
of the NYC Council Select Committee on Libraries on the
“Capital Construction Needs and the Potential Disposal of Libraries in NYC”
250 Broadway, 16th Floor Committee Room
New York, New York
September 30, 2013**

Good afternoon, Chairman Van Bramer, Chairman Gentile, and distinguished Members of the City Council.

I would like to thank you for providing the public the opportunity to testify on this important subject matter.

I am Assembly Member Micah Kellner, and it is my privilege to serve as the Chair of the New York State Assembly Committee on Libraries & Education Technology.

New York’s public libraries are rightly deemed a critical element in our city’s reputation as the cultural capital of the world.

As vital public institutions, New York City’s public library systems are supported with significant amounts of taxpayer dollars, thanks in large part to funding allocated by you and the full Council.

It’s therefore incumbent upon all of us, in particular those of us elected to represent the public, to consider carefully how we can best serve as stewards of these most public of institutions.

Our libraries are in many ways sacred public space – and public officials have a duty to guard those treasured resources just as the lions stand watch over the Main Branch of the New York Public Library.

It is therefore very troubling that the New York Public Library has proposed a plan that will radically alter it as a public institution.

The 42nd Street Library Renovation plan, until recently known as the Central Library Plan, is a major real estate deal consisting of the sale of the New York Public Library's Mid-Manhattan Branch at East 40th Street and Fifth Avenue and of the Science, Industry and Business Library at Madison Avenue and 34th Street, with their functions and circulating collections to be moved into an extensively renovated and remodeled Main Public Library building.

The 42nd Street Library Renovation envisions the destruction of the stacks underneath the world-renowned Rose Reading Room in the Main Public Library. The extensive collections housed in the stacks have already been removed and shipped to an off-site location in New Jersey.

The principal architect engaged by the NYPL for this proposal, Joseph Tortorella of Robert Silman Associates, has likened the removal of the 1,300 steel columns that support the Rose Reading Room to, and I quote, "cutting the legs off a table while dinner is being served." Needless to say, such a complex and challenging undertaking is highly unlikely to come in either on time or under budget.

In my not so humble opinion, the NYPL is offering New Yorkers a false choice that it must sell the Mid-Manhattan Branch to finance an overhaul of 42nd Street, a project unprecedented in its scope that its engineers still haven't proven they can complete, or risk financial ruin.

Let us be clear: the 42nd Street Library Renovation plan is not about making up shortfalls in the NYPL's budget, but instead entails an unalterable transformation of the 42nd Street Branch and a fundamental shift in the NYPL's mission. If this plan moves forward in its current form, New York City will be forever altering the nature and purpose of one of the greatest – and, mind you, free – research libraries in the world.

We only have to look at other recent New York Public Library projects. The canary in the coalmine was the sale of the much-beloved Donnell Public Library in midtown Manhattan.

In what is now widely considered to have been a bad deal, the building on West 53rd Street housing the Donnell Library was sold by the NYPL for only a net profit of \$39 million to a private developer, who promised to build a new public library on the ground floor of the building, a library that had been slated to open in 2014.

That developer ended up backing away, however, to be replaced by another. Now, library patrons will be provided with new public library space in the basement of a new building, at about **one-third** the size of the original Donnell Library. It is hoped that the new library at the site might open before the end of 2015.

Few would argue that this scenario was optimal for library patrons – but it's one I fear will replicate itself on a much larger scale with 42nd Street.

Given the pre-existing public dissatisfaction with the unfolding of the Donnell Library saga, the NYPL's ambitious 42nd Street Library Renovation plan has raised widespread and vocal objections from many quarters. With New Yorkers who care deeply about the New York Public Library harboring grave concerns over this untested proposal.

Only after the Assembly committee hearing which raised more questions than it answered; with the discovery of documents indicating that a 1978 agreement between the Library, City and State of New York bars any structural alteration of the NYPL's Central Branch without prior consent from the State; and the filing of a lawsuit resulting in a Temporary Restraining Order, did the New York Public Library's leadership seem truly willing to reconsider its controversial and expensive plan. The NYPL has committed to looking at alternatives.

Many New Yorkers who have criticized the 42nd Street Library Renovation plan, argue that the three hundred million dollars budgeted for the enormously complex plan to remove the stacks at the Main

Library would be better spent in the public interest by instead devoting a lesser sum to renovating the Mid-Manhattan branch and installing 21st century technology in the stacks to better protect the collections.

What would a renovation of Mid-Manhattan look like and cost, one might ask?

We must only look back to 2003, when the NYPL commissioned the architectural firm of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates to prepare plans to renovate and expand the Mid-Manhattan Library to better meet the daily information needs of the thousands of New Yorkers who use it every day.

As Gwathmey Siegel noted when preparing this undertaking, the Mid-Manhattan Library occupies a prime location on Fifth Avenue and 40th Street. With the dramatic overhaul of East Midtown rezoning now under consideration, I would submit that this is an ideal time for the New York Public Library to consider the possibility of selling air rights to the Mid-Manhattan site in connection with the anticipated rezoning, and using the proceeds to renovate that vital branch.

I remain one of those who is unconvinced of the soundness and practicality of the 42nd Street Library Renovation proposal. What I fear most is another Donnell Library scenario, on a bigger scale: a large, complex financial and architectural plan that proves unrealistic, and results in a significant short-changing of the public interest in maintaining the 42nd Street branch as a treasured resource for our great city.

Instead this Council should mandate that the \$150 million appropriated for the 42nd Street Renovation in the City Budget be used only to upgrade the stacks so that it remain a wordclass – and free – research library.

I urge the Members of your Committees, and all the Members of the City Council and of the new mayoral administration, to consider carefully what is at stake when we contemplate a complex, expensive

and risky undertaking such as the 42nd Street Renovation. As stewards of the public trust, we should look long and hard before accepting assurances that the plan itself is indeed in the public interest or blithely assuming that all will go according to plan, especially in light of recent history.

And I am not alone in expressing these concerns. When one of the most progressive magazine in America, *The Nation*, and *City Journal*, the flagship publication of the arch-conservative Manhattan Institute, stand united in arguing that 42nd Street Library Renovation proposal is an ill-considered boondoggle, I think that all New Yorkers should sit up and take notice.

In particular, our current political leadership must remain vigilant in assuring the public that the 42nd Street Library Renovation does not become a 21st century Penn Station, in which the citizenry is short-changed as a result of an ill-considered attempt to update an iconic landmark of the greatest city in the world.

Thank you!



NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

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

HEARING ON CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION NEEDS AND THE POTENTIAL DISPOSAL OF
LIBRARIES IN NEW YORK CITY

September 30, 2013

Good morning, I am Tony Marx, President of The New York Public Library (NYPL). Joining me are David Offensend, the Library's Chief Operating Officer, and Mary Lee Kennedy, Chief Library Officer. The NYPL system provides library services to the boroughs of the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island, as well as the research libraries for the entire City. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Before I begin, I would like to thank committee chairs, Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer and Vincent Gentile, and the members of the committee for your support.

The New York Public Library is the nation's largest public library system and accordingly it has never been and cannot be stagnant. From a facilities perspective this is especially true. Through the decades we've built buildings, sold buildings, and renovated buildings – as needs arise and modernization becomes necessary and eventually possible. Today's hearing appropriately focuses on the capital construction needs of this City's three library systems. I hope to highlight for you the work the NYPL has done and continues to do, to strive to meet the needs of those we serve as best we can with our resources.

A Thriving Environment for Libraries

Today's libraries are about far more than just books. We are hubs of education and culture. And we serve everyone. That means we provide free services and programs for children and teens, immigrants and seniors, New Yorkers who lack access to broadband at home, people who need literacy services, New Yorkers who are actively looking for jobs and small business owners. We are also operating libraries amidst a digital revolution. The world of knowledge and information, and how people access that information both physically and virtually, is rapidly changing. The NYPL has undertaken the replacement of all desktops and laptops at its locations, as well as the upgrading of software, wi-fi and technology-related electrical infrastructure. This 5-year project called "Next Generation Desktop" is currently in its second year. It will cost approximately \$15 million, with funding coming from the City and Federal government, as well as private sources. Second to longer hours, more computers is the top request of library users – and we are meeting this challenge.

We have also launched three exciting new program expansions over the last year in response to the growing needs of our communities.

- The first is an expansion of our offerings of **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** classes. Beginning in the summer of 2012, NYPL expanded its ESOL offerings from 17 to 28 sites and serves 6,400 class seats per year.
- The second program, **NYPL TechConnect**, was launched in April, and represents a new, streamlined technology curriculum. NYPL TechConnect consists of 6 new technology labs with dedicated instruction space as well as technology training at more than 60 locations.
- Finally, today, the Library is officially launching formal after school programming pilots, serving over 2,000 students. These are very exciting pilots, offering enhanced homework help, project-based learning focused on Common Core standards, and credit-bearing courses for high school students to work with younger children on literacy. Additionally, with a generous \$15 million gift from the Helen Gurley Brown Trust, we are launching a new educational program called **NYPL BridgeUp**. This innovative program will offer services to 250 at-risk eighth-graders annually.

Capital Investment: Building New Libraries, Restoring Old Libraries

Meanwhile, as we're doing all this, the Library is challenged with an aging and, in some cases, failing infrastructure. Many library locations were either built in the first half of the 20th century or are newer libraries with deferred maintenance and in desperate need of repair. System-wide capital needs aggregate hundreds of millions of dollars and far exceed annual capital allocations, making it difficult for the Library to provide the visitor experience our users deserve.

Each year, the City provides approximately \$10 billion in capital funding for thousands of projects, for everything from schools, to roads, to senior centers and parks, as well as libraries. These capital appropriations are allocated by the Mayor, City Council and Borough President's in the City's adopted budget. As you are aware, there is no dedicated capital fund to address the ongoing maintenance needs, including boilers, roofs, windows, facades, air conditioning and technology, of the City's 214 public libraries. Every year we come to the Mayor, Speaker, Borough Presidents and Council Members and ask for funding. With the generous support of a number of our elected officials, we are able to piece together the funds to make much-needed capital enhancements. Unfortunately, it is never enough to address all of our infrastructure needs.

Despite this inefficient capital funding process, over the past decade alone, we have invested over \$300 million in dozens of projects in 50 locations throughout our system, and we anticipate investing at least another \$125 million over the next five years. Most of this spending is to maintain all our existing facilities but some is for expansions and new facilities. Here are some of the highlights of the work we have completed over the last decade, and work that is ongoing:

Completed:

- **Reopening Stapleton.** We fully restored the original, historic Carnegie building that was built in 1907, turning the original space into a dedicated children's room and expanding the branch by building a modern, light-filled 7,000 sq. ft. addition that has more than doubled the branch's library space to better serve this growing community on Staten Island.
- Branch additions in Manhattan include the **Mulberry Street** library in Soho, which opened its doors in May 2007, and the brand new **Battery Park City** library, which opened in March 2010. Mulberry Street is a 12,000 sq. ft. branch that now serves over 160,000 patrons and circulates more than 300,000 materials each year. And the new state-of-the-art Battery Park City library was constructed with a focus on environmental sustainability and was our first "green" library in Manhattan. In FY12, this branch received 186,637 visits and circulated 289,734 materials.
- We completed a major renovation of the **St. Agnes** branch on the Upper West Side, an original Carnegie building. Attendance at the branch doubled following the renovation.
- The Bronx has also benefited from a number of major projects. We opened the brand new **Kingsbridge** library in June 2011. This 12,600 sq. ft. library replaced an older building that was nearly 6,000 square-feet smaller.
- We also opened the **Bronx Library Center** in January 2006. With five floors and 78,000 square feet of space, it is the largest library in the Bronx. This building replaced the old and crumbling Fordham Library.
- And in May 2010, the **High Bridge** library reopened to the public after a major renovation. With an additional 2,100 sq. ft., the branch now boasts expanded adult and children's areas and a new community room.

In Progress:

- On Staten Island, we're nearing completion of the new **Mariner's Harbor** branch. The branch will include 10,000 sq. ft. of library space.
- In Manhattan, we are close to finishing a major renovation and update of our **Washington Heights** branch. The first and second floors have been renovated to include new children, teen, and adult spaces. The branch has also received an ADA upgrade.
- Also in Manhattan will be a new space for the **53rd Street Library**. In 2007, the Library agreed to sell the building housing the Donnell branch so that it could be replaced with a new library in the same location. We are elated to report that the project is moving forward and a new library is expected to open in 2015. As to why the library sold this building: in addition to operating as a branch library, Donnell contained the library's IT staff, plus various collections (world languages, historic children's books and a media collection) and a central children's library and a teen library. The new building will be devoted solely to being a community library branch as we've relocated other services and collections to locations that make far better use of those services and collections. The amount of public space available for general patron use in the new 53rd Street library will in fact be approximately the same as its Donnell predecessor (15,200 square feet v. 16,000 square feet).

Planned:

- To complete our branch expansions on Staten Island, we're working with the City's Economic Development Corporation to include a new branch as part of a larger development project. The new **Rossville** branch will be approximately 11,000 sq. ft. and will serve this quickly growing community on the Island.
- In Manhattan, we're in the process of relocating the **Roosevelt Island** branch into a new space that will be double the size of the old branch and better-equipped to meet the demand for library services on the island.
- We're also currently in Phase II of a major renovation at the **Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**. In 2007, we completed Phase I, which created a new lobby and scholar's center and refurbished its reading room.
- In the Bronx, we have three major renovations on the horizon including a renovation at **Woodstock**, an expansion at **Woodlawn Heights**, and a new **Westchester Square**.

However, even with these tremendous improvements, the Library still continues to have significant capital needs that are not fully met by current funding sources. As a result, we have had to find ways to be more efficient with less money and find creative solutions to improve library service for all of our users.

Creative Solutions to Better Serve a Growing Public

Decreasing *Non Public* Library Space

Over the past decade the Library has been reviewing all of its facilities across the three boroughs we serve, to figure out better ways to align our facilities with the best possible service to our users. We discovered that many of our facilities required modernization, many had far too much space allocated to non-public uses, some facilities had significantly underutilized space, and some services were poorly located for optimal access. These findings precipitated a series of changes to improve and enhance spaces that are open to the public and to reduce underutilized and nonpublic spaces.

An example: for approximately 50 years NYPL owned a warehouse on West 43th Street that was used for sorting, processing, distribution and storage. Concluding that this work was much better suited in a state-of-the-art facility in an area with much lower real estate costs, the Library sold the building to the NYC Department of Education, which will be building a new school at the site. From that sale and significant support from the City we created the Library Services Center in Long Island City, Queens. We have immense pride in this new facility. It provides the Library with its first central location for cataloguing, processing, digitizing, preserving and distributing materials.

Perhaps most exciting is our partnership at the facility with the Brooklyn Public Library – as our two systems are now for the first time combining resources to accomplish our shared needs – saving us millions annually, so we can spend more on books, librarians and library programs.

Another example: the gorgeous Schwarzman Building, nicknamed “the people’s palace” has, over the years, housed library staff serving important roles – but those jobs don’t need to be located in that building. So, starting this fall we’re moving the development, legal, web, capital planning and other teams across the street, together for the first time, so we can open this space to the public.

Growing *Public Space* in Existing Library Facilities

The other side of this coin is, importantly, over the past eight years, the amount of public square footage we have provided to patrons has increased by over 91,000 sq feet (see attachment – “More Public Space and More Libraries”). This number will rise even more as a result of the 42nd Street renovation. And the number of open NYPL facilities has increased from 86 to 91. That’s more space for reading, learning and convening – allowing the Library to do an ever better job of serving New Yorkers.

42nd Street Renovation

I would now like to talk about our largest capital project, the renovation of our Stephen A Schwarzman building at 42nd Street. This exciting project will restore the 42nd Street location to its original mission as both a great research facility and a state-of-the-art circulating library, while preserving, improving and increasing public spaces and enhancing research services. It will also allow us to better preserve our historic materials.

As observers of the Library know, the renovation of the 42nd Street Library is a complex project. In terms of building changes, the renovation involves (1) moving out about 100 non-public service staff from the Schwarzman Building, so we can significantly increase the amount of public space in the building (2) building a new Mid-Manhattan Library (MML), as the circulating library will return to the 42nd Street building, where it resided for the first 72 years of the building’s 102 year history; and (3) building a new Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL), as those services will also return to the Schwarzman Building. At the same time, with private funds, we will be expanding the book storage beneath Bryant Park, so we can safeguard our collections.

Again, as I mentioned earlier, this project will result in more public space than the three existing midtown buildings combined, 96,000 compared to 81,000 (see attachment – “Space Comparison”). This will allow us to increase space and services for researchers and writers, expand our children’s library and create a new teen library.

Additionally, the heavily used MML is badly deteriorated. Its patrons need better space. While the 42nd Street building is magnificent, it has a serious inadequacy - the seven floors of bookshelves under the Rose Main Reading Room where the research books that were housed in those stacks have suffered without modern temperature and humidity controls. By moving the research books into proper storage, the Library can better preserve these materials for the

future, meanwhile freeing up space in the 42nd Street building in which to create a new circulating library to replace MML and SIBL. At the same time, the historic spaces within the building – such as the Rose Main Reading Room – will not be altered.

With more public spaces, the integration of circulating services and an opportunity to reimagine Library as place, the 42nd Street renovation project opens up our ability for every person to use the building, to use even more public space than the three combined today, and to leverage the resources in the building for every person throughout New York City.

We are committed to securing third party estimates for this project and are currently in the process of obtaining these. We are also working with the City on an environmental review process.

Conclusion

As you can see, these are exciting *and* challenging times for libraries. Libraries are being challenged to meet the growing demand for their services with less public funding and an aging infrastructure. In addition, we are being forced to rethink our missions in order to stay current in the digital age. We are meeting the challenges head on.

What drives me and my colleagues across our library system is providing unmatched library services to the millions of users who depend on us every day. Our most important metrics are users, circulation, and program attendance – all of which I'm elated to report are up and growing. Being strategic in how we use our facilities is a very important means for achieving these results – and, again, we are proud to share that the Library is increasing the amount of square footage available to patrons, and is increasing the number of branches in the system. We are proud of what has been accomplished and even more excited about what lies ahead.

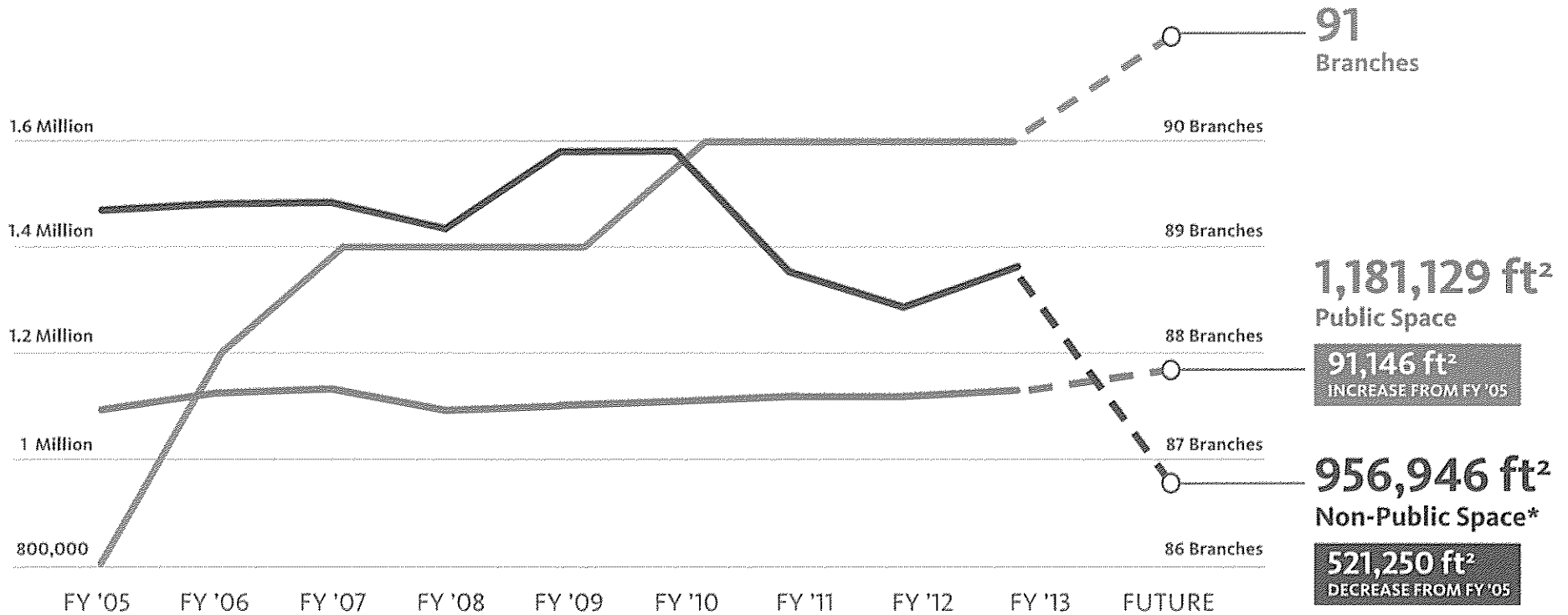
Again, thank you Chairs Van Bramer and Gentile and members of the Committee for holding this hearing on this very important topic and for your ongoing support of libraries.

I remain available to answer any questions you may have.

More Public Space and More Libraries

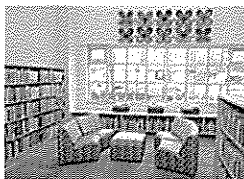


New York
Public
Library

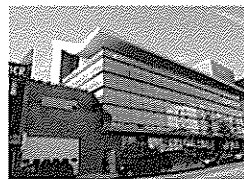


*Does not include off-site storage.

NEW LIBRARIES



MORRIS PARK (2006)



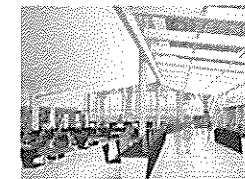
BRONX LIBRARY CENTER (2006)



MULBERRY STREET (2007)



BATTERY PARK CITY (2010)



MARINERS HARBOR (2014)

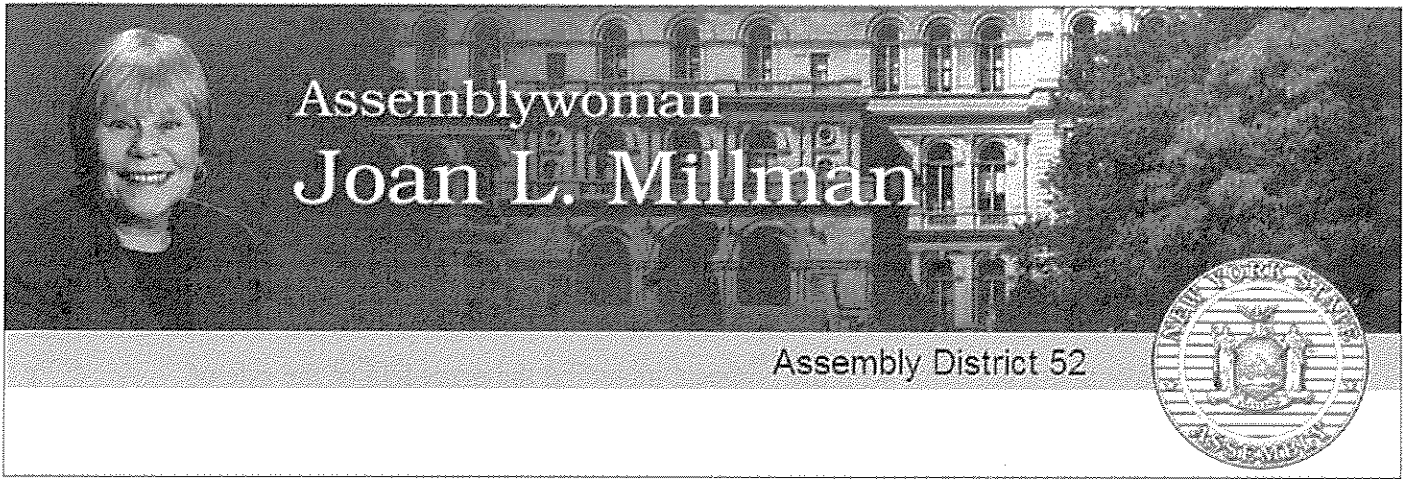
SPACE COMPARISON

Existing Library Public Space with Proposed New Library Public Space

	Existing Public Library Space (net usable sf)	New Library Public Space (net usable sf)	Change
SASB	66,000 nsf	162,000 nsf *	96,000 nsf **
MML	54,000 nsf	N/A	N/A
SIBL	27,000 nsf	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	147,000 nsf	162,000 nsf	+ 15,000 nsf

NOTES: * Total Library Public Space at SASB after CLP project is completed.
Includes existing, re-purposed and newly created library public space.

** Includes re-purposed and newly created library public space.



Assemblywoman Joan L. Millman
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Statement of Assemblywoman Joan L. Millman

September 30, 2013

Thank you, Chairman Van Bramer and Chairman Gentile for this opportunity to testify regarding capital construction needs and the potential disposal of libraries in New York City. My name is Assemblywoman Joan Millman and I represent the 52nd Assembly District which is often called Brownstone Brooklyn. I am testifying today because this issue not only affects my constituents but because I have a unique perspective. I hold a masters degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute and served as a public school library librarian for several years. I also know that during difficult economic times, libraries serve a larger population. Folks who need to update their resumes and search the web for job opportunities use their local public libraries.

While the topics of today's hearing are the capital construction needs and the potential disposal of libraries in New York City, my testimony will focus on the Brooklyn Public Library and the two branches located in my Assembly District, the

Brooklyn Heights and Pacific Street branches. Recently the Brooklyn Public Library decided to reconsider the sale of the Pacific Street branch located on 4th Avenue but the library's future is still unclear.

I have major concerns with the proposal including the precedent of the sale of public buildings to private developers. BPL has stated that they have a \$230 million capital construction budget need. Specifically the Brooklyn Heights branch and the Pacific Street branch each require \$11 million in repairs. Instead of rehabilitating these branches BPL and the City of New York have begun exploring the idea of selling these public buildings to developers in order to generate much needed funds for BPL. These sales hinge on a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and BPL. The next mayor and city council could choose not to honor the MOU that stipulates the money from the sale of the land the libraries occupy would go to BPL. If that happens, what would be the plan to rehabilitate these heavily used public libraries?

Every year BPL submits a budget and every year the mayor cuts library funding. Without hesitation city council members step up demanding that no library cuts go into effect and in the final budget, libraries are saved. In reality, operating expenses are saved but there are few dollars for capital repairs, about \$15 million per year so BPL puts off construction projects. Recognizing the value of the land which Brooklyn Heights and the Pacific Street branch occupy, BPL decided to consider another strategy, selling off the valuable real estate.

I believe that selling libraries and the land they occupy is just bad public policy. Selling a library building is a one-time fix for a recurring capital need. Currently, Brooklyn Heights and Boerum Hill have two wonderful branches. The BPL proposal

provides new libraries occupying space inside luxury housing. Brooklyn Heights and Boerum Hill do not need more luxury housing for example, talk to me about subsidized senior housing instead. These neighborhoods want and deserve well run and properly maintained public library branches.

This hearing presents the opportunity for all electeds to work together towards addressing the future needs of public libraries throughout the five boroughs. I understand that we will not be able to fund every last library capital project every year but I cannot accept the idea that selling off the public libraries is the best option we have available. Let's get to work addressing the real needs of these public libraries by talking to the community members, the schools, the librarians and friends of library groups that work in and use these branches day in and day out. Let's come up with a plan on how to repair the libraries in dire need of rehabilitation so they can serve the public. The park Slope Branch was closed for three years to rehabilitate the interior of the library. The community waited patiently for the library to re-open and in turn they were rewarded with a wonderful new interior space. When a neighborhood knows that their library will still be there in three years, then the community members will be more willing to cope with a library closure. I still don't know what a replacement library will look like or be located.

I remain skeptical of this plan and I will continue to fight to ensure that our libraries remain public institutions because the current proposal sounds like an effort to privatize our libraries. After all, BPL stands for Brooklyn Public Library, **NOT BROOKLYN PRIVATE LIBRARY!**

Carla Lord

Save-the-Library – 42nd Street and Mid Manhattan - Testimony

I. Concern over the underpinnings of Room 315: the Stacks and intentions for renovation.

Historically the stack construction has been highly praised for its double function: holding the books and as infrastructure for the Reading Room.

II. It is unclear what the intentions are for the renovation. Will the space be used for a lending library at half the size of the Mid-Manhattan? Will it be used for a restaurant or social center, which can be otherwise found all around Bryant Park? Or will it be used for a space purely for the kind patrons?

III. Fears for Diminishment of New York as a cultural center

If the library is “dumbed down,” and used for social purposes, rather than research, it will be yet another indicator to the international readers as well as the local ones, that intellectual pursuits count for less than ever in New York, and that is just unfortunate. Even Dr. Marx suggested that some areas of the library should be quiet.

IV. Keep the ever-popular Mid-Manhattan lending library where it is, and bring back the specialist librarians to 42nd Street.

V. Council committee President Van Bramer, who patiently sat through five hours of testimony, may have the best solution to economic stability of the libraries: charge the developers 2%, which will go towards libraries. That system has worked well for art. And/or float a bond. But don't destroy the libraries or sell them off.

September 30, 2013

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: SEN SIMCHA FELDER (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Sen. Velmanthe Montgomery (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 30th St

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/30/13

Name: YUKI ENDO (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 93-05 37 AV # 5A JACKSON

I represent: Citizen, Depending NY 11372

Address: LIBRARY

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

Date: 30 Sept. 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ROBERTO GAUTIER
Address: 140 CADMAN PLAZA WEST, BKLYN, NY 11201

I represent: Self.
Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Monica Strauss
Address: 115th St, NY 10029

I represent: Self, NYPL
Address: _____

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MONICA STRAUSS
Address: 9 E. 82nd ST.

I represent: Committee to Save the
Address: New York Public Library

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Neppi

Address: 6021 State Farm Rd Albany, NY

I represent: New York Library Association

Address: same

**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: JONATHAN Bowles

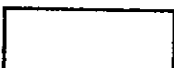
Address: _____

I represent: Center for an Urban future

Address: 120 Wall St, 20th Fl

**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: 9-30-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lucy Ko teen

Address: 138 Lafayette Av

I represent: self

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: 9.30.13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrea Goldwyn

Address: _____

I represent: NY Landmarks Conservancy

Address: 1 W. 11th St NY 10011

**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: 9/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Polly Thistlethwaite

Address: 412 E 7th St Pl 3c

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/30/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Assembly member Joan Millman

Address: 41 Smith St BK 11231

I represent: 52 A.D

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: Micah Kellner

Address: 1365 First Ave

I represent: NYS Assembly

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: 9/30/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Nadezhda Williams

Address: 42-25 65th Ave

I represent: Historic Districts Council

Address: 232 E 11th St

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

Date: 9/30/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Elliott Hurwitz

Address: 1300 Park Ave

I represent: UNIA

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 against NYPL's
Date: Sept 30, 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Veronika Conant
Address: 45 W 54 Street, 7C, New York, NY 10014
I represent: Committee to Save the New York Public Library
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition
Date: 9/30/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CARLA LORD
Address: 135 W 58th St 6A
I represent: ~~Committee to Save NYPL~~ OR SELF
Address: ~~above~~

**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: Sept. 30, 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth A.R. Brown
Address: 160 West 86th St. PH4
I represent: Committee to Save the NYPL
Address: 160 W. 86th St. PH4, NY 10024

**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: 9/30/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christian Fabriskie

Address: 48-46 45th St. Woodside NY

I represent: Urban Librarians Unite

Address: Above

**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: Sept. 30 13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: NYDIA LEAF

Address: 46 West 95 St.

I represent: Committee to Save Libraries

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9-30-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JEFFREY KROESSLER

Address: 39-24 46th St, Sunnyside

I represent: SELF

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: Sept 30, 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: S 201 Krinsky

Address: 370 First Ave

I represent: Committee to Save NYPL

Address: E. 11 St.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: SEPT 30 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CHRISTABEL GOUGH

Address: 45 CHRISTIANHERST UNIV NY CAMP

I represent: SOCIETY FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE

Address: 45 CHRISTIANHERST UNIV NY CAMP

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: TONY MARX

Address: _____

I represent: New York Public Library

Address: 42nd Street & Fifth 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: Sept. 30

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Susan Bernofsky

Address: 535 W. 110th St. 1

I represent: _____

**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: J. J. Abery

Address: 392 Butler St Brooklyn 11217

I represent: Park Slope Civic Council

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: 9/30/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Linda Johnson

Address: 10 GAP

I represent: BPL

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Valerie - Barton Richardson (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Church Avenue

I represent: CAMBA/NYPL

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: John Katteris (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: HANAC/NYPL

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Mike McGuire (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Trades Union/NYPL

Address: _____

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**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: RYLE, C.M. (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 470 West End Ave N.Y. 10024

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9-30-13

Name: Ellen M. Muller (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 125 BAILEY ST

I represent: Brooklyn Library Guild - Local 1497

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: _____

Name: Charles Warbel (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 210 W. 101 #10B

I represent: Coun. to Save NYPL

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tom Galante

Address: 89-11 Merrick Blvd Jamaica

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: G. Fishman

Address: 129 Columbia Heights St

I represent: myself

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/30/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael D.D. White

Address: 62 Montague Street

I represent: CITIZENS TRADING LIBRARY

Address: 62 Montague St.

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 05/30/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carolyn E. Au Intyre

Address: 62 Montague St

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague Street

**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: Paul Ness

Address: 284 5th Ave, 6F NY NY 10005

I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries

Address: 62 Montague Brooklyn

**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: Julie Sandorf

Address: _____

I represent: Charles H. Rowson Foundation

Address: 105 St James St 5th Fl

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. LIBRARIES Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 30 SEPT. 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: PATTI HAGAN
Address: 117 ST. MARKS AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11217
I represent: CITIZENS DEFENDING LIBRARIES
Address: NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/30/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: DAVIS Erin Anderson
Address: 49-15 Skillman St Woodside NY
I represent: Metropolitan New York Library
Address: 57 E. 11th St. NY NY Council
10007

**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: 9/30/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Mary P. Buchwald
Address: 220 Berkeley Pl Brooklyn
I represent: Citizens Defending Libraries (Brooklyn Forth)
Address: Brooklyn NY 11217

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: Comptroller John Liu

Address: 1 Centre St.

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 9/30/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lynne Sepe

Address: 18-42 ASTORIA BLVD #2R ASTORIA

I represent: myself

11102

Address: _____

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