



Cleveland Public Library

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019











## 2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

**Our Mission:** We are The People's University, the center of learning for a diverse and inclusive community.

**Our Vision:** Cleveland Public Library will be the driving force behind a powerful culture of learning that will inspire Clevelanders from all walks of life to continually learn, share, and seek out new knowledge in ways that are beneficial to themselves, their community, and the world.





A MESSAGE  
FROM THE DIRECTOR

## TRANSCENDING 150 YEARS

In 2019, we were thrilled to celebrate the Library's sesquicentennial anniversary. From the CPL150 Street Festival to the puppetry exhibition, photography and oral history projects, a keynote Writers & Readers event, and the implementation of our fine-free initiative, this year proved to be one of our biggest and best ever.

As I reflect on our organization's long journey to reach this point, I want to focus on three areas. First, we cannot celebrate our present accomplishments without recognizing our history, which includes 150 years of innovation in library services. Next, the Library is resilient, having risen from adversity many times since its founding in 1869 to remain strong. Lastly, we always strive to remain relevant. People don't use libraries in the same ways they did 20, 50, or 150 years ago, and we're now a technological and social hub in addition to providing books and materials.

We were thrilled to celebrate our anniversary this year with those who matter most: our public, our patrons, our staff, and our community partners. As we turn our attention to the next 150 years, and I'm honored to be at your side as we facilitate all the Library can achieve now and in the years to come.



Felton Thomas, Jr.  
Executive Director/CEO  
Cleveland Public Library



CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY



## A CELEBRATORY YEAR

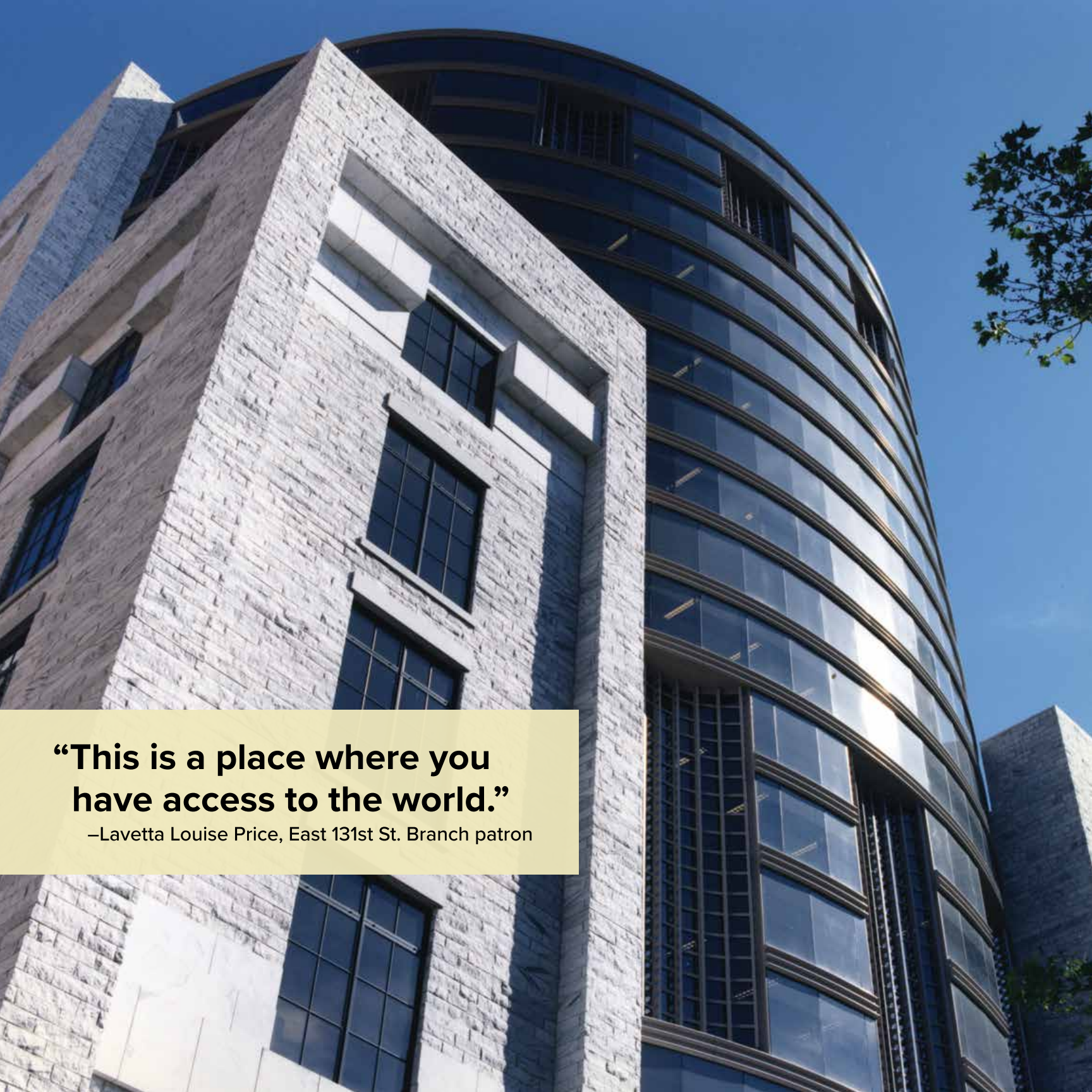
While the photographs in this annual report tell the story of Cleveland Public Library's 150th anniversary, 2019 was about more than our sesquicentennial. This year, we strove to innovate and find new, better, and far-reaching ways to improve our service to the community.

The recognition we received locally and nationally in 2019 demonstrates the effectiveness of that service. Executive Director Felton Thomas, Jr., won *Cleveland Magazine's* 2019 Community Leader of the Year; our Facilities Master Plan was honored by the American Institute of Architects Cleveland with a Merit Award in Architecture; South Branch received a Preservation of a Community Landmark Award; the *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service again granted us a prestigious 5-star rating; the Library received an Age Friendly Cleveland Champion award; and, along with The Cleveland Foundation, HUD and the Council on Foundations awarded the Library a Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships.

Receiving these accolades during our 150th anniversary year signaled that our efforts to improve our community are working. At the end of the day, after all, we're here to serve our patrons. It's what we've done for 150 years, and it's what we'll continue doing far beyond this anniversary. I for one can't wait to see what that future holds.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maritza Rodriguez'.

Maritza Rodriguez  
President, Board of Trustees



**“This is a place where you  
have access to the world.”**

–Lavetta Louise Price, East 131st St. Branch patron





## CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY GOES FINE FREE

Cleveland Public Library kicked off its 150th anniversary year by announcing the elimination of overdue fines for library materials. The fine-free policy went into effect on July 27, 2019 and serves as a natural extension of the Library's efforts to improve public access to resources and information. As Executive Director Felton Thomas, Jr. explained when revealing the initiative at his State of the Library address at The City Club of Cleveland, eliminating fines will remove barriers and help more people access the Library.



## THE WORLD OF PUPPETS

The magic of puppetry came to life at Cleveland Public Library this year through *The World of Puppets: From Stage to Screen*, a special exhibit in Brett Hall featuring more than 100 puppets from around the world. Antique puppets as well as modern-day popular characters from theater, film, and television were on display.

With a theme of “PuppetPalooza,” our annual Summer Lit League program also joined the puppet-related fun this year. From puppetry workshops to author appearances, neighborhood celebrations, and more, Lit League programming inspired young patrons to get excited about reading over the summer months, positioning them for greater success in the new school year.











## CPL150 STREET FESTIVAL

On July 27, 2019, thousands of people flocked downtown to the CPL150 Street Festival. This free, all-ages event offered world-class performers, giveaways for kids, games, and even Ferris wheel rides. Featured performers included comedian Roy Wood, Jr., DJ Dâm-Funk, ballet fusion dance company Hippet, author Eric Litwin, and many others. The event also featured a puppet parade, public art, a Lion King ticket giveaway for Summer Lit League program finishers, and more, all as our way of thanking Clevelanders for their role in the Library's success.









**“When I’m reading, I put myself  
in an alternate world. I put myself  
in the character’s shoes.”**

—Jaylyn, South Brooklyn Branch patron











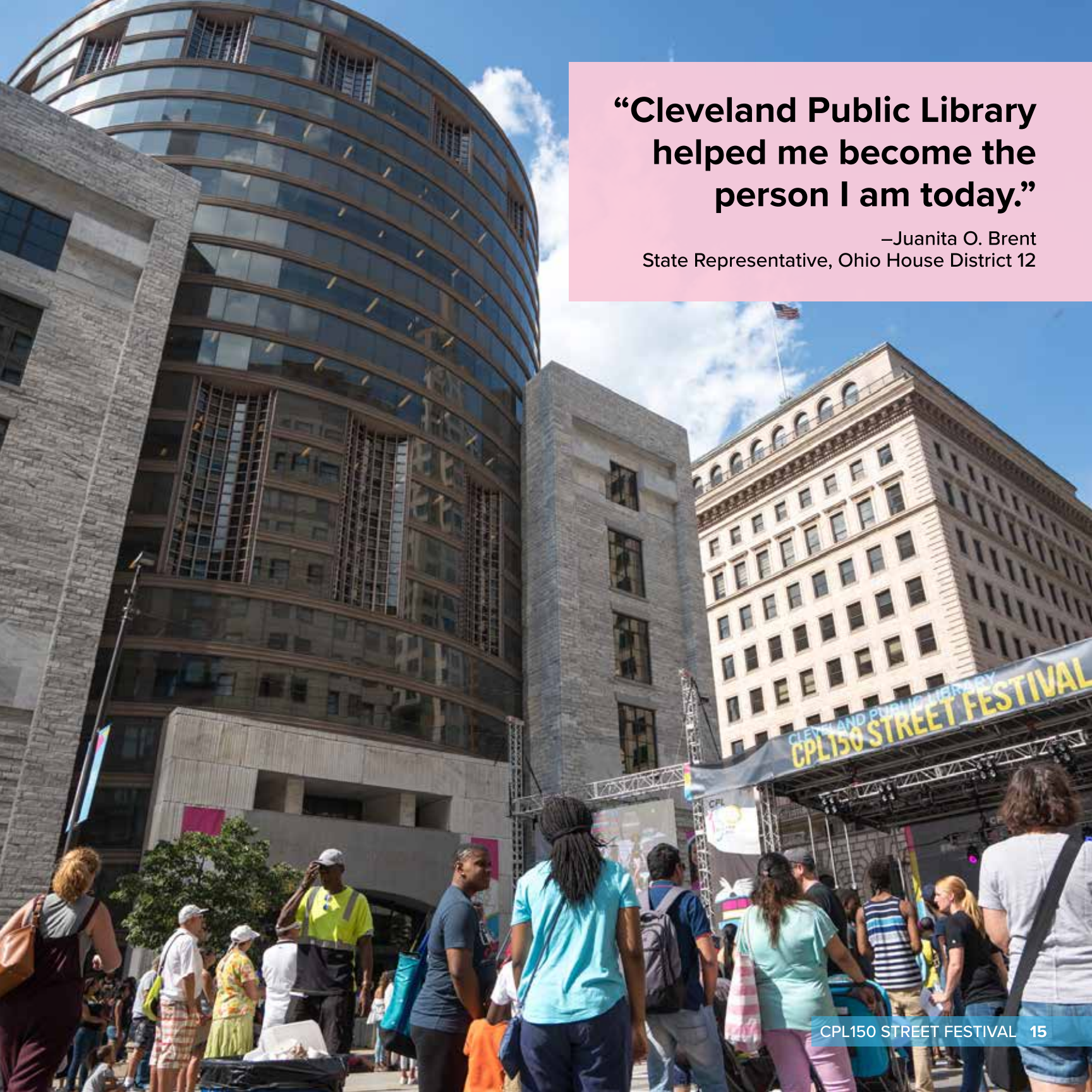












**“Cleveland Public Library  
helped me become the  
person I am today.”**

–Juanita O. Brent  
State Representative, Ohio House District 12





Soledad O'Brien



Michael "Killer Mike" Render

## WRITERS & READERS

The Library's esteemed Writers & Readers series returned in September to welcome broadcast journalist Soledad O'Brien in conversation with rapper and political activist Michael "Killer Mike" Render. This event highlighted Writers & Readers' new mission to bring together authors, performers, journalists, activists, and educators to discuss the books and stories that shaped their lives. In a wide-ranging discussion, O'Brien and Killer Mike offered their thoughts surrounding race, diversity, social inequality, and the power of empathy and imagination.





# CPL150 ANNIVERSARY AFFAIR

On November 16, 2019, more than 400 guests gathered in Main Library to mingle, dine, and dance at Cleveland Public Library's 150th Anniversary Affair. Hosted by the Cleveland Public Library Foundation, this event honored the Library's sesquicentennial anniversary and encouraged philanthropic support, including a new Transportation Fund to help school children access library programming. Local authors Dan Chaon, Raquel Eatmon, Paula McLain, Phil Metres, D.M. Pulley, and Loung Ung attended as honored guests; awards were bestowed upon Thomas D. Corrigan and Robert Pincus; and the festivities included puppetry exhibit tours, live music, themed cocktails, dancing, dessert, and more.















## LET FREEDOM RING

On January 20, 2020, Cleveland Public Library's year of 150th anniversary celebrations officially came to a close at the 35th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commemorative Program, held at the John Hay Campus High School Auditorium. This tribute to Dr. King featured a keynote from Dr. Akram Boutros, President and CEO of the MetroHealth System, while renowned architect Robert Madison received the Drum Major for Change Award. Finally, the Library recognized 150 Unsung Heroes—the everyday individuals who keep Dr. King's dream alive by driving positive personal, community, or social advancement in our city.







## CLEVELAND 20/20

In 2019, Cleveland Public Library embarked on yearlong photography and oral history projects to document the lives and stories of everyday Clevelanders. As a city-wide, community-based photography program held in partnership with the Cleveland Print Room, Cleveland 20/20: A Photographic Exploration of Cleveland captured the spirit of our city's people and places. The project culminated in a special exhibit that opened in Brett Hall in early 2020. All photographs from the project will be added to the Library's Photographs Collection.













# CPL150 STORYTELLING PROJECT

In partnership with ideastream, our CPL150 Storytelling Project collected and archived stories from Cleveland residents recorded in their own voices. Library staff interviewed patrons who wished to share stories surrounding family history, immigration to Cleveland, military service, education, the life and culture of particular neighborhoods, and more, all to create a snapshot of Cleveland in 2019 in residents' own words. Ideastream professionally produced six stories that aired on the radio during peak hours and also appeared online.



Photograph by Mary Fecteau, ideastream



Photograph Courtesy of Ted Carter





Photograph by Justin Glanville, ideastream



Photograph by Mary Fecteau, ideastream



Photograph by Mary Fecteau



Photograph by Justin Glanville



Stores on Fleet Avenue in 1978



Photograph by Mary Fecteau





***“I like coming here because I like music and hanging out with friends. The Library is one of my favorite places.”***

–Joswen Colon, South Branch patron





**“I love to read and swim, so the Edgewater Book Box is perfect for me. It’s on the beach, with a bunch of books of all genres. It’s very peaceful and relaxing. I like how it’s peaceful and quiet in libraries.”**

—Lila Gibson, Edgewater Book Box patron

**“My wife and I were interested in creating a board game, and we were able to use the laser cutter in the Library’s MakerSpace. We were so excited to find all the equipment and tools that staff taught us how to use. We were able to prototype our board game using those materials.”**

—Eliot Hariton,  
Best Buy Teen Tech Center Volunteer, Rockport Branch



**“Like reading, knitting takes a lot of concentration. You stitch from left to right, just the way the words are written. You go one stitch at a time, just like one word at a time when reading, and you have to go patiently until you get to the end of the row. Having that kind of attention and focus is a prerequisite to reading.”**

—Eleanor Bergholz, volunteer and founder of the Harvey Rice Knitting Club at Rice Branch







# CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORICAL TIMELINE

**1869**

Public School Library officially opens and will later be called Cleveland Public Library

**1890**

CPL is the first library of its size to open shelves to the community

**1892**

CPL's first branch opens near the West Side Market

**1898**

The first library space dedicated to children opens at the Main Library

**1903**

CPL is one of the first libraries to lend Braille books to the blind

**1911**

CPL begins home libraries for people who cannot visit a branch or the Main Library

**1925**

Construction of the current Main Library building is complete

**1930s**

During the Great Depression, CPL serves record numbers

**1942**

CPL establishes the Film Bureau to lend 16mm film to patrons

**1957**

Friends of CPL is founded and will later become the Cleveland Public Library Foundation

**1975**

CPL begins transferring 5 million catalog cards to computer records

**1982**

CLEVNET launches

**1997**

The Louis Stokes Wing (LSW) is dedicated

**2003**

CPL is the first public library to offer ebooks

**2012**

Tech Central opens with computers, tablets and 3D printers



## TURNING TO THE FUTURE

This year was about more than celebrating our 150 years of history—it was also about preparing for the future. To that end, the Library unveiled its Facilities Master Plan in 2019 to detail how every branch library will be significantly updated, redesigned, or even rebuilt in the coming decade to better serve our community.

“We must look to our future and consider our course for the next 150 years. In the process, we’re making a commitment to ensure that Cleveland has some of the best libraries in the country—if not *the* best libraries in the country.”

Felton Thomas, Jr.  
Executive Director and CEO







# 2019 GENERAL OPERATING FUND

## EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES

SALARIES AND BENEFITS	\$37,040,900
LIBRARY MATERIALS	\$10,906,220
UTILITIES AND PURCHASED SERVICES	\$11,197,827
OTHER EXPENDITURES	\$2,377,807
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND ENCUMBRANCES	\$61,522,754

### Carried Forward for the Next Year's

FIRST QUARTER OPERATIONS	\$25,395,007
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TOTAL	\$86,917,762

## REVENUES

PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND (STATE GENERAL REVENUES)	\$23,303,557
PROPERTY TAXES (CITY OF CLEVELAND)	\$35,858,652
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AID	\$2,588,139
OTHER REVENUE	\$2,475,983
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TOTAL REVENUE	\$64,226,330

FUND BALANCE JANUARY 1	\$22,691,431
AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS	\$86,917,762





# 2019 STATISTICS

<b>FORMAT</b>	<b>MAIN COLLECTION</b>	<b>BRANCH COLLECTION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Titles			2,616,667
Books	2,828,306	368,817	3,197,123
Bound Periodicals			267,824
Government Documents			569,054
Maps			56,804
Microforms			4,707,323
Photographs, Pictures			1,401,505
Sheet Music			18,000
Sound Recordings			106,667
Videos			237,571

Circulation	5,950,936
Visitors	2,378,300
Reference Questions	1,093,653
Items added	223,503

	<b>PROGRAMS</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
Programs at CPL as well as in schools, daycare centers, community centers, etc.	19,938	328,112





# DONORS

## \$1,000 TO \$5,000

<b>DONOR/COMPANY NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
CLEVELAND FOUNDATION	\$1,000
WOLF ASSOCIATES INC/DISPATCH PRINTING COMPANY	\$1,000
IDEASTREAM	\$1,000
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS	\$2,300
PPG	\$4,500
SISTERS OF CHARITY FOUNDATION OF CLEVELAND	\$1,500

## \$500 TO \$999

<b>DONOR/COMPANY NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
BRUCE & DOROTHY BAUNACH	\$500
THE HARLEY C. LEE AND ELIZABETH KEEDICK LEE FUND OF THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION	\$930
ESTATE OF ELEANOR SANTOS	\$800

## \$100 TO \$499

<b>DONOR/COMPANY NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
BRADLEY & KATHRYN CAMPBELL	\$100
COLUMBUS PARTNERSHIP	\$250
KARN & MICHAEL FIORILE	\$150
LYNN KELLEY	\$250
ELIZABETH KESSLER	\$300
STEPHAINE & MARION LITTLE	\$150
JANET & GERALD MCKILLIP	\$100
DAVID & CAROLYN PATTERSON	\$100
JAMES & LINDA PESHINA	\$100
HANNAH WEIL	\$100
MARGARET WIDMAR	\$150
JOHN & CHERYL ZEIGER	\$250





# ADDITIONAL GRANTS AND OTHER LARGE GIFTS

## TO CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **The Bruening Foundation**

\$150,000 for year two of two, to train public services staff to engage parents with babies aged 0-3 years around the Every Child Ready to Read strategies developed by the Public Library Association.

### **Childcare Resource Center of Cuyahoga County Inc.**

#### **d.b.a. Starting Point**

\$57,002 for MyCom out of school time transitions programs, including Kindergarten Clubs to help prepare parents and children to start school in the fall and after-school tutoring services.

### **The Cleveland Foundation**

\$65,000 for Library HotSpot Lending and Retail Refurbished Computers.

### **The Cleveland Foundation**

\$25,000 to provide funding for a fellowship position with the External Relations and Development Department.

### **Cleveland Thermal, LLC**

\$114,006 for a twenty-five year performance warranty and three educational kisoks in connection with the construction of a solar panel system on the roof of the Rice Branch.

### **Ohio Library for the Blind & Physically Disabled**

LSTA Federal Aid of \$234,000 and State Aid of \$1,274,194 for providing services for the blind and physically disabled.

## PASS THROUGH FROM CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

### **Amazon**

\$15,000 for STREAM Programming.

### **Best Buy, in partnership with the international Clubhouse Network**

\$10,000 for Best Buy Teen Tech Center at the Rockport Branch.





**The Chuck and Char Fowler Family Foundation**

\$25,000 to be used for Arts and Education Programming.

**The George Gund Foundation**

\$50,000 to support 150th Anniversary Oral History and Photography Programs.

**Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation**

\$4,650 for Transitional Work Grant Program.

**Ohio Transformation Fund Grant from Aperture Foundation**

\$8,000 to host the Prison Nation Exhibit at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch.

**PNC**

\$25,000 to support 150th Anniversary Oral History and Photography Programs.

**Verizon**

\$25,000 for STEM Programming.

## **OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED**

**Estate of Anna M. Schweinfurth**

\$147,538 for the purchase of architectural materials.

**Frederick W. and Henryett Slocum Judd Fund**

\$242,075 for the Library's Homebound Service

**Lockwood Thompson Memorial Fund**

\$189,493 for the purchase of fine arts materials, lectures, staff recognition and travel expenses.

**Estate of Dorothy Ann Turick**

\$10,000 as a gift for Children's Services.

**Winifred Beech Young Testamentary Trust**

\$52,653 for the services to blind persons of the Connecticut Western Reserve.





# 2019 PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations, Cleveland Public Library and its newly launched Cleveland Public Library Foundation received more than \$500,000 in gifts during the anniversary year. These gifts support the Library's strategic priorities to advance our mission of being The People's University, the center for learning for a diverse and inclusive community.

## CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION DONOR RECOGNITION

- Stephen B. Ames • Pamela Blake • Robert & Nancy Bostwick
  - George & Margaret Cannon • Margaret Anne Cannon
- Chicago Title • Tom Dewey • Robert D. Gries • HBM Architects, LLC
  - Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
- The Fred A Lennon Charitable Trust • Gilbert and Carol Lowenthal
  - Jean McFarren • David and Inez Myers Foundation
    - The Pincus Family Foundation
  - The Steve and Loree Potash Family Foundation
    - PPG Industries Foundation
- The Albert B. and Audrey G. Ratner Family Foundation
  - Judith Roman • Madeline Rosenshein
- Aaron Saltzman c/o Adele Gelb • Sherwin-Williams
  - Teleangé Thomas • Walter & Jerry Sue Thornton
    - Connie Tu • Linda & Chris Warren





## 150TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR DONOR RECOGNITION

- Applied Industrial Technologies • AT&T • Bialosky Cleveland
  - Chicago Title • Cleveland Cavs • Cleveland Clinic
- Cleveland Museum of Art • College Now Greater Cleveland
  - Cuyahoga Community College
    - Cuyahoga Community College Foundation
      - Dix and Eaton • Dominion Energy Ohio
  - Eaton • Fifth Third • First Energy Foundation
- Gallagher • HBM Architects, LLC • Albert M. Higley Co.
- Huntington • Mansour Gavin • Medical Mutual • Midwest Tape
- Osborn Engineering • Overdrive • Richard Pogue • Royce Security
- RPM • Karen Skunta & Company • United Way • Chas Withers
- Margaret Wong & Associates • Youth Opportunities Unlimited

## IN-KIND SUPPORT

- Cleveland Browns • Cleveland Clothing Company
  - Cleveland Indians • Cleveland Water Department
- Community Leader/Cleveland Magazine • Dix and Eaton
  - Great Lakes Brewing Co.





# ANNIVERSARY AFFAIR DONOR RECOGNITION

- Applied Industrial Technologies • AT&T
- Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP • Bialosky Cleveland
  - Chicago Title • Ciuni & Panichi • Cleveland Airport System
    - Cleveland Metropolitan School District
      - Cleveland Neighborhood Progress
      - Thomas Corrigan & Diane Downing
        - Cuyahoga Community College
  - Cuyahoga Community College Foundation
  - Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority
- The Davey Tree Expert Co. • Dix and Eaton • Dominion Energy Ohio
  - Eaton • Lillian Emmons • Event Source • Fifth Third • First Energy
    - GE Lighting • Robyn Gordon & Teleangé Thomas
      - Greater Cleveland Foodbank • Deb Hermann
      - Albert M. Higley Co. • Huntington • Ideastream
  - Samantha Joseph • KeyBank • The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
  - Mansour Gavin • Tracey McGurk • Medical Mutual • Aaron O'Brien
    - Nicole & Kevin O'Sullivan • OverDrive • Tana & Greg Peckham
- Bob Pincus • PNC • Regency Construction • Regency Technologies
  - John Rowland • Siemens • Sisters of Charity Foundation
    - Squire, Patton, Boggs • Third Federal Foundation
    - Felton Thomas, Jr. • Turner Construction Company
  - United Black Fund • Western Reserve Historical Society
    - WKYC • Margaret W. Wong & Associates LLC



# LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

as of December 31, 2019

## BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Maritza Rodriguez	President
Alesha Washington	Vice President
Thomas D. Corrigan	Secretary
Alice G. Butts	Member
John M. Hairston	Member
Anthony T. Parker	Member
Alan Seifullah	Member

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Felton Thomas, Jr.	Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer
Timothy Diamond	Special Assistant to the Director
Joyce Dodrill	Chief Legal Officer
Carrie Krenicky	Chief Financial Officer/Fiscal Officer
Tana Peckham	Chief Marketing & Communications Officer
Lynn Sargi	Chief Talent Officer
Jeremiah Swetel	Chief Operations Officer
Shenise Johnson Thomas	Chief External Relations & Development Officer
Sadie Winlock	Chief Equity, Education & Engagement Officer
Jean McFarren	Director of Collection Services
Harriette Parks	Director of Public Services
John Skrtic	Director of Public Services





# BRANCH LOCATIONS

**MAIN LIBRARY**

325 Superior Avenue  
216-623-2800

**ADDISON**

6901 Superior Avenue  
216-623-6906

**BROOKLYN**

3706 Pearl Road  
216-623-6920

**CARNEGIE WEST**

1900 Fulton Road  
216-623-6927

**COLLINWOOD**

856 East 152nd Street  
216-623-6934

**EAST 131ST STREET**

3830 East 131st Street  
216-623-6941

**EASTMAN**

11602 Lorain Avenue  
216-623-6955

**FLEET**

7224 Broadway Avenue  
216-623-6962

**FULTON**

3545 Fulton Road  
216-623-6969

**GARDEN VALLEY**

7201 Kinsman Road  
Suite #101  
216-623-6976

**GLENVILLE**

11900 St. Clair Avenue  
216-623-6983

**HARVARD-LEE**

16918 Harvard Avenue  
216-623-6990

**HOUGH**

1566 Crawford Road  
216-623-6997

**JEFFERSON**

850 Jefferson Avenue  
216-623-7004

**LANGSTON HUGHES**

10200 Superior Avenue  
216-623-6975

**LORAIN**

8216 Lorain Avenue  
216-623-7011

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

1962 Stokes Boulevard  
216-623-7018

**MEMORIAL-NOTTINGHAM**

17109 Lake Shore Boulevard  
216-623-7039

**MT. PLEASANT**

14000 Kinsman Road  
216-623-7032

**RICE**

11535 Shaker Boulevard  
216-623-7046

**ROCKPORT**

4421 West 140th Street  
216-623-7053

**SOUTH**

3096 Scranton Road  
216-623-7060

**SOUTH BROOKLYN**

4303 Pearl Road  
216-623-7067

**STERLING**

2200 East 30th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
216-623-7074

**UNION**

3463 East 93rd Street  
216-623-7088

**WALZ**

7910 Detroit Avenue  
216-623-7095

**WEST PARK**

3805 West 157th Street  
216-623-7102

**WOODLAND**

5806 Woodland Avenue  
216-623-7109

**MOBILE SERVICES**

5806 Woodland Ave. 44104  
(216) 623-7114

**OHIO LIBRARY FOR THE  
BLIND & PHYSICALLY  
DISABLED**

17121 Lakeshore Blvd. 44110  
(216) 623-2911

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

City Hall, Room 100  
601 Lakeside Ave. 44114  
(216) 623-2919

[www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org)









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