

Commissioner Brian Bannon, Chicago Public Library
2018 Budget Testimony to the City Council

Good Morning Madam Chair, Vice Chairman Ervin and honorable members of the City Council. I would like to begin by thanking you and Mayor Emanuel for your leadership and support in making the Chicago Public Library a world class leader in libraries and learning.

Chicago Public Library (CPL) is recognized as a leader in designing and delivering innovative, responsive library services. The Library provides free access to rich resources, engaging cultural and educational programs, and technology for all Chicagoans through its 80 neighborhood locations.

A shift of strategy, culture, and program delivery has resulted in improved learning and postsecondary outcomes for youth, new skills and jobs for adult learners, and stronger communities through shared cultural experiences. CPL offers a wide range of programs, focused on nurturing learning, supporting economic advancement and fostering civic engagement in every Chicago neighborhood. Since 2011, the City of Chicago has invested over \$200 million to enhance library buildings and services.

CPL has long been a leader in library services. It is also the largest and most visited cultural institution in Chicago. Our 80 locations provide the library services, information resources, technologies and tools that Chicagoans need to reach their goals and to support Chicago as a competitive force in the global marketplace.

The Library has demonstrable impact throughout Chicago communities – increasing literacy, bridging the digital divide, and delivering a sense of excitement and wonder to each generation. With the goodwill and support from patrons across the city, the City of Chicago and private support through the Chicago Public Library Foundation – and growing national and international recognition, CPL is well-positioned to expand its offerings to support Chicagoans to excel in the knowledge economy.

We circulate over 10 million items per year and provide state of the art digital content for download and streaming. Chicago Public Library also:

- Is the biggest provider of free digital access in the city;
- Provides 24/7 access to library services through the CPL website and apps for android and Apple devices where patrons can read eBooks and magazines and listen to audiobooks; get homework assistance; learn new languages and stream movies, TV and music.
- Offers the largest, most comprehensive free after-school homework help program in the country, with both in-person and online options;
- Provides one-on-one support and digital tools aimed at helping people improve computer skills, as well as prepare for the workforce and apply for jobs;
- Is the largest provider of preschool literacy programs in the city.

The following is an overview of the Library's 2017 operations:

- Over 105,000 kids read more than 90 million minutes over the summer through Rahm's Readers.
- During the 2016-2017 academic year, CPL delivered over 100,000 Homework Help sessions, including Teacher in the Library sessions, online Homework Help sessions, Test Prep sessions and writing lab submissions.
- Over 9,500 teens participated in YOUmedia workshops through August 2017, representing a 29% increase over the same period the previous year. General attendance at YOUmedia during the same period increased by 6% to over 32,000 teens.
- During the first eight months of 2017, nearly 5.8 million patrons visited a Chicago Public Library location to use computers, seek reference assistance, check out materials, attend an author program, take part in a children's program, attend a workshop, view an exhibit, or simply find a quiet place to read or study.
- The Library's website received over 33 million page views and over 2.9 million visitors through September 2017, offering patrons 24/7 access not only to the catalog and rich online account services, but also to extensive sources of online information through subscription databases and resource and reading recommendations for all ages prepared by CPL librarians.
- During the first two-thirds of 2017, CPL circulated more than 7.6 million items.
- As is the case across the country, the public library is the only access to computers and online information for many residents. Chicago Public Library has provided over 1.3 million people free access to the computers in library in just the first eight months of this year.
- The Library provided over 2.5 million free Wi-Fi sessions in the first 8 months through all locations in 2017.
- There are approximately one million active library card holders in the city. That's one-third of all Chicago households.

Below are some of the exciting initiatives and accomplishments from this year:

- Participation and engagement in the award-winning **Rahm’s Readers Summer Learning Challenge** were both at an all-time high, with more than 105,000 children reading a total of 90 million minutes this summer. CPL remains the only public library system in the nation to receive an award from the National Summer Learning Association for excellence in summer learning, and solidifying CPL’s national leadership in summer learning at public libraries. The CPL team and partners at the Museum of Science & Industry released the bestselling book *Summer Matters: Making All Learning Count*.
- CPL opened the **Thomas Hughes Children’s Library**, the new flagship early learning space at Harold Washington Library Center, thanks to a \$2.5 million Exelon Corporation grant and city support. The space and its programs are designed to support evidence-based early childhood education and STEM practices for children 0-13. This new library also serves as a lab to test new equipment, workshops and initiatives to model new programs to branches citywide with an emphasis on family engagement.
- The Library supports parents of young children (ages 0-5) with **new interactive play spaces** in 20 branch libraries that support early learning, language development and social development. These interactive spaces feature books, toys, games and, most importantly, highly-trained librarians to guide parents and caregivers, so they are equipped to develop their children’s early literacy skills.
- The Library continues to **invest in Chicago neighborhoods**. CPL announced multiple modernization and infrastructure projects at neighborhood branches, including a new branch in West Loop and major renovations to Whitney Young, Chicago Bee and Kelly branches. CPL also announced a first of its kind partnership with Chicago Housing Authority to co-locate four libraries and renovate another.
- CPL entered into a **first-of-its-kind community benefits agreement** to co-locate libraries with affordable housing, build stand-alone libraries, and renovate branch locations. CPL participated in a citywide Design Competition to choose world class design architects, incorporating strong civic architecture into the co-located Chicago Public Library/Chicago Housing Authority locations.
- Major maintenance and repair projects to both **Sulzer and Woodson Regional Libraries** will be completed this winter.
- The Library partnered with Lyric Opera on the **Chicago Voices** program to creatively celebrate stories from Chicago communities. CPL also collaborated with Joffrey Ballet and Joffrey Academy of Dance to present the winners of the **Winning Works Choreographic Competition** in free public performances at the Harold Washington Library Center. Three public programs were presented at the Harold Washington Center in March to more than 800 attendees.

- CPL implemented a new **Library Management System (LMS)** in April 2017. The new LMS has streamlined and supported core functions such as circulation, cataloging, purchasing, and collections processing. It integrated with patron facing services, such as the library website and digital content like Over Drive, Zinnia and Hoopla.
- CPL continued to build community through cultural programming and resources with the addition of the **HistoryMakers digital archive** to CPL's collection, providing public access to the largest African American video oral history archive in the world. CPL is the first public library system to offer this resource to patrons for free.
- CPL partnered with Chicago Innovation to co-host the annual **Chicago Innovation Summit**, engaging over 500 Chicagoans and providing the first free, public program and expo.
- CPL was awarded "**Leader in Digital Inclusion Best Practices**" from Next Century Cities and Google Fiber in May for the library's collaboration with P2PU to pilot Learning Circles, lightly facilitated online classes in libraries.
- Through the "**On the Right Path**" **Financial Education Project**, in collaboration with the Office of the City Treasurer and the American Library Association, CPL provided more than 45 financial literacy programs to nearly 500 patrons citywide. The program also trained over 120 CPL staff to help them connect patrons to high-quality financial resources available through the Library system.
- CPL's **One Book, One Chicago** selection *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* engaged nearly 55,000 Chicagoans on the topic of "Eat. Think. Grow." through over 140 programs, events and discussions during the 2016-2017 season.
- Chicago Public Library was the largest convener of "**On The Table**" **discussions** hosted in partnership with Chicago Community Trust. Conversations with the community were held in branches citywide with nearly 700 participants.
- Building on existing "**Scopes in the City**" programming, CPL partnered with Adler to distribute safe solar eclipse viewing glasses at all 80 CPL locations. Approximately 15,000 sets were distributed throughout the city, with many branches running out on the first day of distribution.
- CPL hosted David Simas, CEO of the Obama Foundation, for the **annual Cindy Pritzker lecture** on urban life and issues. Nearly 300 Chicagoans attended the lecture.
- As part of the celebration of the **life and legacy of Mayor Harold Washington**, CPL partnered with the Chicago Urban League, The HistoryMakers and the Harold

Washington Legacy Committee to host Valerie Jarrett as a keynote speaker, and launch Kevin Coval's collection of poems *A People's History of Chicago*.

- Chicago hosted the annual conference for the **American Library Association** in June, drawing thousands of librarians from across the country to learn more about innovation in the library field, programming and best practices for library service. This five-day conference also provides a significant tourism boost for the city.

CPL will continue to offer the following initiatives and programs in 2018:

- CPL continues to offer **the largest, most comprehensive free homework help program** in the country. In-person Teacher in the Library assistance is available at CPL branches throughout the city, as well as online homework help seven days per week in both English and Spanish.
- CPL has begun a series of **parent engagement workshops** to encourage parents and caregivers to learn more about issues that pertain to raising their children. A monthly series began in July and was kicked off with pediatricians from Lurie Children's Hospital who talked about brain development and language. In 2018, CPL will continue to host parent workshops on Early Math skills, the importance of Play and more. These events are prototypes of programs that will be held throughout the city.
- The Library's travelling **STEAM team** continues to conduct STEAM-based story times to pre-school aged children throughout Chicago. Introducing these skills at a young age will make children more successful and school-ready. The STEAM team visited 1,101 classrooms and more than 21,000 children have participated since its inception in October 2015.
- The **2017-2018 One Book, One Chicago** selection is *I'll Take You There: Mavis Staples, the Staple Singers, and the Music That Shaped the Civil Rights Era* by Greg Kot. CPL will offer a variety of events and programs, including walking tours, art exhibits, discussions, music performances and more, to bring people, businesses and civic agencies together to engage with the book and theme - *Music: The Beat of Our City*. The program runs through April 2018.
- CPL will continue to offer the award-winning **Learning Circles** program, and include classes related to music for the 2017-2018 *One Book, One Chicago* season.
- YOUmedia launched a pilot six-week summer internship program to employ teens at local businesses, including Loop Capital and FCB Chicago, to expand career exploration and postsecondary opportunities for teens who have excelled at YOUmedia. CPL will be working with the Chicago Public Library Foundation to expand the program for summer 2018.

Comment [A1]: What does steam stand for?

- More than 61,000 Chicago Park District Archive photographs from the 19th century to 21st century have been digitally scanned per **CPL's new digitization strategy**. The Library has also begun work to scan the Philip David Sang Collection. During the 1960s, Sang spent much of his time with documents from the African American experience in slavery and in the resistance which culminated in its abolition. It will include more than 500 items and is scheduled to be available to the public in early 2018.
- The **Internet To Go hotspot lending program** has been extended, allowing the Library to continue offering patrons the opportunity to use WiFi in-home.
- CPL will continue to expand digital skills through the CPL-created online tool, **Chicago DigitalLearn**, and will develop new content modules to support basic technology skills.
- Library branches continue to **serve as community centers**, offering free meeting spaces to neighborhood groups, serving as early voting locations and providing workshops on topics like financial management, legal issues, energy efficiency and computer literacy.
- CPL's **Maker Lab**, the award-winning advanced manufacturing lab, will continue to bring together people of all ages to explore their creative interests and strengthen Chicago's economic competitiveness.
- **CyberNavigators** will continue to guide Chicagoans through the digital world and assist with online job search, communication and workforce readiness.

Looking Ahead

Early learners, teens, adults, families: Chicago Public Library continues to provide world class services to every citizen of Chicago. Our library spaces and the skilled librarians on staff help children build early learning skills, enrich their understanding of science, technology, engineering, art and math, and discover the world around them. Teens are introduced to new interests, educational and career opportunities through mentor-led programs. We help Chicagoans compete in our workforce, guiding them with tools and support to learn basic digital skills and apply for jobs. We create collaborative spaces in which community members come together to share, to make and to create. Adults keep their love of learning, doing and reading alive through the diverse programs offered by the library.

Below are some of the exciting new projects and initiatives for 2018:

- Create and staff eight additional **early learning play spaces** at Libraries across the City, bringing the total to 28 in 2018. Librarians and partners in these library-based early learning centers will provide research based programs and services to support brain,

language and social development, increasing high quality early learning experiences for Chicago's children while engaging and supporting families as their child's first teacher.

- The nationally recognized YOUmedia program, which builds on young people's interest in technology and creating by connecting teens with skilled mentors to engage them in active learning in a teens-only space, will expand to eight additional branches. This expansion brings the total to 20 free digital media labs around the city, creating links between students' academic studies, their personal passions, and opportunities to engage with peers who support and share their interests.
- The following branch projects will be completed in collaboration with the Chicago Housing Authority by the end of 2018, all including early learning play spaces, YOUmedia for teens, technology, community meeting spaces and study rooms. All are currently in the design phase:
 - A new 16,000 square foot **Roosevelt Branch** co-located with 73 multi-family housing units at 1328 W. Taylor Street zoned in PD 896.
 - A new 16,000 square foot **Northtown Branch** will be co-located with 44 units of senior housing in a new planned development at 6800 N. Western.
 - A new 16,000 square foot **Independence Branch** will be co-located with 44 senior housing units in a new planned development at 4022 N. Elston.
 - A new stand-alone 10,000 square foot **Altgeld Branch** will be built on a shared campus with a childcare center within the Altgeld Gardens public housing.
 - The **Chicago Bee Library**, located in a **landmarked** building at 3647 S. State St., will undergo a \$2.32 million complete renovation and expansion of library services to the second floor of the building.
- CPL will also construct a new 17,000 square foot 21st Century library branch in the **West Loop** to serve the fastest growing neighborhood in Chicago.
- The **Whitney Young Branch**, located in the Chatham neighborhood at 7901 South Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, closed in October 2017, for a complete renovation to the existing 10,210 square foot, one-story building, as well as a new 4,172 square foot addition. The branch will include all aspects of a 21st Century public library, including an early learning play space and a YOUmedia lab for teens. This project will have a new programmatic elements linked to the Chatham economic development and jobs, in collaboration with the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership.
- The **Kelly Branch**, an existing 15,000 square foot branch, will undergo a \$1.95 million rehab and renovation project, funded by the Englewood Neighborhood TIF. The scope includes improvements to the envelope of the building, as well as a complete refresh of the interior and development of an early learning play space and YOUmedia lab for teens.

- CPL will create a more robust approach and set of resources for parents' and caregivers' education of childhood development. This citywide campaign will include increased programmatic offerings, tip sheets about how to support a child's healthy development and learning.
- In partnership with the Chicago Police Department, the Library will deliver programs for **tweens (10-14) about internet safety, social media and cyberbullying** at CPL libraries.
- CPL will begin hosting local **Maker Spaces/Entrepreneurship Center** in the Maker Lab to host "Office Hours" to offer more resources to our patrons and provide connections to Chicago's entrepreneur and manufacturing ecosystem. Our first organization will be mHUB (innovation center for physical product development and manufacturing).
- CPL will participate in the **2018 Art Design Chicago** initiative through a program grant awarded to the Chicago Public Library Foundation from the Terra Foundation for YOUmedia programming. YOUmedia art instructors will develop curriculum in collaboration with CPL Special Collections to explore Chicago connections to the practice of printmaking. Participants will create original work in the same medium and then help mount an exhibition that will travel to six branch locations. Printmaking workshops will also be available at the exhibition locations.
- CPL will collaborate with New York-based GoodCapp Arts to support a theatrical performance at Steppenwolf for youth-performed and youth-focused production, ***Now That We're Men***. Program elements will be integrated into the 2018 ChiTeen Lit Fest. The theatrical performance is designed to engage teens on the topics of gender equality and identity. The performance will be promoted through online engagement that challenges teens to make video products that give voice to their views and experiences.

Thanks to the support of Mayor Emanuel, the members of the City Council, the Chicago Public Library Board, the Chicago Public Library Foundation and the members of the Chicago City Council, Chicago Public Library is a national and international leader in libraries and learning. We will continue serving Chicagoans with innovative ideas, impactful programs and enlightening resources.