

It is the mission of Brooklyn Public Library to ensure the preservation and transmission of society's knowledge, history and culture, and to provide the people of Brooklyn with free and open access to information for education, recreation and reference. It is our vision that Brooklyn Public Library will be a vital center of knowledge for all, accessible 24 hours a day, and will be a leader in traditional and innovative library services which reflect the diverse and dynamic spirit of the people of Brooklyn.



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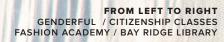
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# Letter from the President & CEO and Chair



LINDA E. JOHNSON



SUSAN MARCINEK

The public library has become one of the most versatile institutions in America. More than a century after Brooklyn Public Library was founded, our patrons still stream through our doors to check out books, but they also come to learn how to play new musical instruments, to seek free legal advice on the path to citizenship, and to debate headlines alongside policy experts and neighbors. Each of the snapshots included in this report represents the incredibly varied and vital roles each of our branch libraries play in their neighborhoods.

Because the Library is extraordinarily versatile, it is also extraordinarily inclusive. Our lobbies, community rooms, computer labs and reading rugs are a reminder of what genuine democracy looks like: an energetic and ever-shifting mix of entrepreneurs and artists, students and veterans, gathered across the tired divisions of class, race and age.

This year, we celebrated the breadth of the resources we offer and the patrons we serve, reaching a milestone of one million people participating in 70,000 programs. We also brainstormed how to maintain this momentum with unity, focus and unwavering commitment to quality. With input from BPL staff and trustees, our new strategic plan identified the core principles that define our many services, and challenged us to become more adaptable, nimble and responsive to the needs of complex communities.

With an eye toward the future—and keenly aware that flexible institutions require flexible spaces—we also embarked on a renovation of Brooklyn Public Library's flagship location at Grand Army Plaza. Over the course of several years, Central Library will be transformed to accommodate how people use the library today and anticipate how they might use it tomorrow.

Generations of Brooklynites have been inspired by Central Library's gilded entrance and soaring lobby—the gateway to vast collections and myriad programs there, and throughout our 59 branch libraries. With the support of our donors, trustees, elected officials and volunteers, we hope that Brooklyn Public Library will continue to inspire generations to come, in the ways we always have, and ways we haven't yet imagined.

Very truly,

Linda E. Johnson President & CEO

Xnda&Jalingon

Susan Marcinek Chair, Board of Trustees

Dusan Marinel





The simple, impactful phrase was coined in early 2017 by librarians and patrons at Bay Ridge Library. In an effort to emphasize BPL's core values of diversity and inclusion, a children's librarian began each day by putting out a sign that stated, "You are welcome here. You are loved." Soon enough, visitors of all ages reinforced the message by contributing their own feelings about the library. "We let them take over the chalkboard," said Rita Meade, Bay Ridge's library information supervisor. "They started writing things like 'Everyone is welcome here' and 'We're happy to see you."

Everyone Is Welcome Here is such an accurate reflection of the Library's mission that BPL was inspired to name an entire program after it; the **Everyone is Welcome Here World Language Family Series** highlights the borough's diverse communities and honors traditions from around the globe. Underwritten by Apple Bank, the 2017 series included 20 multilingual family cultural programs at Brighton Beach, Kings Highway, Midwood, Crown Heights, Borough Park, Sunset Park, Mapleton, New Utrecht and Fort Hamilton libraries.

Everyone Is Welcome Here was just one of the year's programs designed to empower patrons of all ages and backgrounds. In August, Central Library hosted a documentary-style theater performance. We Hold These Truths. to promote the Adult Basic Education program and give voice to BPL's student population. In October, our children's and young adult librarians partnered with the nonprofit If You Want It! for Genderful!, an event celebrating gender diversity through crafts, storytelling and musical performances. In the spring, BPL provided a unique space for citizens to step out of the daily deluge of news and

information; the **Democracy Lab** was an inflatable, semitransparent dome that spent a week at Grand Army Plaza's iconic Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch. Alongside architects, urban planners, writers and artists, Brooklynites were invited to consider the most important questions of contemporary American public life at a series of workshops, conversations and performance art.

BPL recognizes the institution's inherent kinship with students and educators both within and beyond Brooklyn — and this year was no different. The Library launched Change Agents, a series of free professional development workshops designed for K-12 educators and librarians working in diverse schools, institutions and libraries. The initiative, supported by longtime donor Paula Silver, models empathy, inclusiveness, mutual respect and understanding for the benefit of New York City's youth. Next year we look forward to broadening Change Agents programs for patrons in our branches. On National School Walkout Day, BPL placed 17 empty desks in Central Library's grand lobby to honor the victims of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting. As part of the powerful memorial, patrons shared their condolences, hopes and fears on post-it notes that were available on the desks. At branches throughout the borough, the Library continued to provide citizenship assistance to immigrants, including free legal advice and exam preparation classes.

In 2017, BPL's Outreach Services team received **Route Fifty's Navigator Award** for expanding the Library's traditional reach in order to connect with an often overlooked population: inmates at correctional facilities and their families on the outside. The Outreach Services team developed TeleStory, a library-based video visitation program designed for families separated by incarceration.

Reading is a critical bonding experience for parents and children, and forms the foundation for all future learning. We are incredibly proud of the Outreach Services team for all of the vital programs and resources they deliver for the community.

**Linda E. Johnson**President & CEO of
Brooklyn Public Library

Every day, all year round, our staff members work hard to ensure that everyone feels welcome at the Library's 59 branches — and while no one gets into the library business for the glory, it is always nice to be acknowledged for a job well done.







Thanks to the support of The JPB Foundation, New York's three library systems were able to offer one-time, citywide fine forgiveness to children and teen patrons. On October 19, 2017, any outstanding fines and fees were cleared for kids ages 17 and under with a card from The New York Public Library, Queens Library or Brooklyn Public Library. Since unpaid fines had deterred affected patrons from using their libraries, NYPL, Queens and BPL held a series of welcome back events and distributed print materials to promote the array of programs and resources available for cardholders. After the fine forgiveness day, nearly 30,000 kids returned to BPL and used their cards to place holds or borrow books.

After attending BPL's new literacy program, Team Up To Read, a six-yearold participant gave the kind of feedback librarians love: "I learned that books are fun!" The free program is sponsored by the Altman Foundation and led by experienced educators who work with children ages 5-9 and their parents/ caregivers to strengthen independent reading skills. Over a six-week period, families enjoy interactive read-alouds, develop literacy techniques and learn how to continue practicing at home. In the fall, Team Up To Read launched its second series; educators at 10 library locations are teaching young Brooklynites to fall in love with books.

While it can be notoriously difficult to attract teenagers to the library, BPL found success this year with the launch of two teen-focused initiatives: Librarians of Tomorrow and BookMatch **Teen**. Understanding that teenagers don't respond to "one size fits all" programming, BPL librarians designed programs that would offer safe spaces for teens to explore, create and build professional experience. A handson internship program, Librarians of Tomorrow is for 10-12th graders from diverse backgrounds who have an interest in library careers. Made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the rigorous internship is a crash course in

librarianship. All Librarians of Tomorrow interns earn a stipend, meaning our teen participants don't have to choose between earning money and doing work they value.

"We really see a need for paid teen internships—279 teens applied and we could only accept 60," said Jennifer Thompson, the Librarians of Tomorrow program coordinator. "These teens really want to give back to their community. The internship looks good on their resume, it looks good on college applications and quite a few are interested in pursuing librarianship as a career."

BookMatch Teen is based on our popular librarian service, Bklyn BookMatch, and it teaches teens how to recommend books to their peers. Over the course of two months, participants learn how to conduct reader interviews, write compelling book reviews and curate book lists. The teens earn a stipend, gain workforce preparation, professional job training and exposure to a variety of career options, as well as guidance in writing and self-expression.

"BookMatch Teen is incredibly fulfilling because it's rare to work with the same group of teens every week," said librarian Lisa Goldstein, one of the program's leaders.

It's great to watch them get to know each other and to see them get more involved and comfortable with BPL. I hope they feel more engaged with libraries and know we value them.

**Lisa Goldstein** BookMatch Teen program leader

The Library closed out the fiscal year by inviting children and families to **Summer Jam**, a weekend packed full of celebratory events to kick off the start of BPL's Summer Reading program. Over 36,000 patrons visited their local

library during the open house-style weekend to attend storytimes and concerts—and more importantly, to learn about the variety of family services available to them at BPL. Lead support for the Summer Reading program was provided by the National Grid Foundation. Additional support was provided by Con Edison, Macy's, Williams, and the ELSAM Fund, with CBS2/WLNY as the official media partner.







Visit Central Library in Grand Army Plaza and you might walk out with a book, a cup of coffee—and maybe even a ukulele. This year, BPL's Art & Music division launched the first musical instrument lending library in the New York City area. Library patrons 18 and up can borrow a violin, acoustic guitar, keyboard and more for a period of four weeks, all for free. The musical instrument lending library was launched through BKLYN Incubator, a BPL program that helps staff develop and launch fresh, creative programs. BKLYN Incubator was founded in 2015 and is supported by generous funding provided by the Charles H. Revson Foundation and Robin K. and Jay L. Lewis.

"BKLYN Incubator is such a great way to spark innovation with staff," said Christine Schonhart, the assistant director of Central Library. "The team wanted to take this on because they felt it would fill a need with our patrons. It's perfect for someone trying out an instrument for the first time, for someone who maybe can't afford to purchase an instrument right now or for the seasoned musician who wants to try a different instrument."

Another Incubator-funded project brought the catwalk to BPL. A comprehensive, 16-week program for aspiring women's wear designers, **Bklyn Fashion Academy** participants received mentoring from industry experts and attended classes on sustainability, sourcing, design and market research, all while creating a clothing collection to showcase on the runway at their grand finale fashion show.

Brooklynites planning a night at the movies should check the Library calendar before buying theater tickets. This winter, BPL debuted **LitFilm**, a six-day festival celebrating films from around the world that focus their lenses on the great playwrights, poets, writers and literary characters from the late 19th century through the present day. Made possible through generous support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the

free festival also featured director Q&As, panel discussions and staged readings with filmmakers, critics and actors.

Now, patrons can even turn to the Library to receive a higher education. BPL partnered with Bard College to create a tuition-free college degree program for students who face the greatest barriers to education. An accredited Associate in Arts degree program funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Pell grants, **Bard at BPL** started in January with an initial cohort of 17 students.

"Bard at BPL is the first college degree program in a public library in the country," said Linda E. Johnson, President and CEO of Brooklyn Public Library. "By combining the deep experience and diverse resources of both Bard and BPL, we can provide people who have previously been discouraged or excluded from higher education access to toptier, college-level liberal arts courses on a campus in the heart of Brooklyn. This program is the logical next step in BPL's commitment to providing New Yorkers with the highest quality academic resources, at every point of their lives and at absolutely no cost."

In the spring, the Library released its 2018 Strategic Plan. Designed to address the complexity in which libraries operate today—working on the front lines of information access and offering a dizzying array of educational and cultural programs—the plan is based on five core principles. They are: to foster literacy and the love of learning; to supply up-to-date information resources; to connect residents to economic and educational opportunities; to promote civic engagement and strengthen relations between residents; and to provide inclusive and inspirational places.

"The Strategic Plan articulates who we are: an institution that offers everyone the dignity and exhilaration of learning," said Linda E. Johnson. "It also articulates who we are striving to become: a truly public forum that transcends well-worn divides

to gather people together, generate genuine dialogue and energize a sense of possibility. Taken as a whole, it is proof that the public library—extraordinarily versatile and fiercely democratic—is as vital as ever."

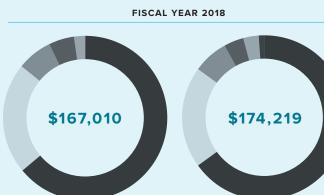
More change and innovation is on the horizon for BPL, as it rebuilds branches across the borough. This year, BPL leadership announced an ambitious, \$135 million capital plan to reimagine Central Library. The plan will address Central Library as it is today—helping to reorganize the branch to create a more common-sense layout, and address infrastructural needs such as modernizing elevators and renovating the outdoor plaza. It will also look to the future of Central—opening new sections of the building that have not previously been accessible to the public, and working closely with the community to identify what they want from dramatically increased and improved flexible space. The overarching goal is to create inspiring, innovative public spaces for our patrons as we restore this iconic Brooklyn landmark.

# Libraries are the beating heart of neighborhoods across the city.

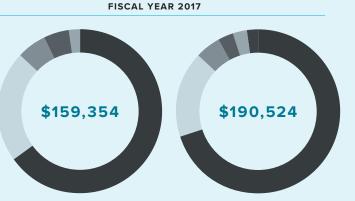
Mayor Bill de Blasio

Mayor Bill de Blasio said in response to BPL's announcement, "Now, the whole borough of Brooklyn will be better served by newly renovated, modern spaces in Central Library. These upgrades will make the library more accessible and better able to serve the needs of the community for generations to come."

# **BPL** by the Numbers







### **TOTAL EXPENSES** in thousands

- 22% Central Library
- 64% Neighborhood Libraries
- 5% Special Programs
- 7% Management and General
- 2% Fundraising

### TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT in thousands

- 65% City of New York
- 7% State and Federal Govt.
- 3% Contributions
- 20% Contributed Facilities& Utilities
- 1% Net Investment Income
- 4% Other

### TOTAL EXPENSES in thousands

- 22% Central Library
- 65% Neighborhood Libraries
- 5% Special Programs
- 6% Management and General
- 2% Fundraising

### TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT in thousands

- 70% City of New York
- 5% State and Federal Govt.
- 2% Contributions
- 17% Contributed Facilities& Utilities
- 3% Net Investment Income
- 3% Other

### Financial Ratios (in thousands)

		FY 2018	FY 2017		FY 2016		
Total Operating Expenses	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	
Central Library	\$ 36,000	22%	\$ 34,440	22%	\$ 33,286	21%	
Neighborhood Libraries	107,247	64%	103,045	65%	101,308	65%	
Special Programs	9,144	5%	8,776	5%	8,591	6%	
Management and General	10,913	7%	9,966	6%	9,507	6%	
Fundraising	3,706	2%	3,127	2%	3,039	2%	
	\$ 167,010	100%	\$ 159,354	100%	\$ 155,731	100%	
Total Revenue & Support							
City of New York	\$ 113,824	65%	\$ 132,980	70%	\$ 108,055	66%	
State and Federal Govt	11,468	7%	9,955	5%	10,956	7%	
Contributions	5,637	3%	4,537	2%	3,314	2%	
Contributed Facilities & Utilities	34,504	20%	32,523	17%	33,909	21%	
Net Investment Income	2,508	1%	4,807	3%	447	0%	
Other	6,278	4%	5,722	3%	6,914	4%	
	\$ 174,219	100%	\$ 190,524	100%	\$ 163,595	100%s	

The accompanying statements of financial position and statements of activites were taken from the audited financial statements as of and for the year ending June 30, 2018, for Brooklyn Public Library.

For a complete copy of the audited financial statements, please write to: Finance Department, Brooklyn Public Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11238

## Statements of Financial Position (in thousands)

	JUNE 30, 2018	JUNE 30, 2017
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents		
(including restricted cash of \$107 in both years)	\$16,608	\$21,266
Receivables, net	11,875	8,964
Investments	65,334	44,071
Restricted cash segregated account	662	21,686
Prepaid and other Assets	\$365	267
Property and equipment, net	42,559	38,541
	\$137,403	\$134,795
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and advances	\$8,408	\$9,506
Accrued wages and related liabilities	14,610	14,294
Deferred revenue	\$2,295	1,750
Total liabilities	25,313	25,550
Commitments and contingencies		
Net assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Corporate	71,779	66,262
Board-designated for building renovation	5,830	7,350
Board-designated for use in future fiscal years	5,439	5,439
Total unrestricted	83,048	79,051
Temporarily restricted	26,421	27,579
Permanently restricted	2,621	2,615
	112,090	109,245
Total net assets	\$137,403	\$134,795

## Statements of Activites (in thousands)

t	Jnrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total June 30, 2018	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total June 30, 2017
Operating support and revenues								
City of New York	\$ 113,824			\$ 113,824	\$ 110,980			\$ 110,980
State of New York	7,620			7,620	7,810			7,810
Federal government	1,258			1,258	1,187			1,187
Contribution income	2,400	\$ 3,231		5,631	1,304	\$ 3,212		4,516
Purchase discount reimbursement contribution	856			856	834			834
Contributed facilities and utilities	34,146			34,146	32,058			32,058
Net investment income	1,658	191		1,849	1,588	182		1,770
Contributed goods and services	358			358	465			465
Special events, net of direct benefit to donors of \$187 and \$157 in 2018 and 2017, respectively	1,025			1,025	581			581
Fines, royalties and other revenue	4,397			4,397	4,307			4,307
	167,542	3,422		170,964	161,114	3,394		164,508
Net assets released from restrictions for operations	2,950	(2,950)		0	2,936	(2,936)		0
Total operating support and revenues		472		170,964	164,050	458		164,508
Operating expenses:								
Program services:								
Central library	36,000			36,000	34,440			34,440
Neighborhood libraries	107,247			107,247	103,045			103,045
Special programs	9,144			9,144	8,776			8,776
Total program services	152,391			152,391	146,261			146,261
Supporting services:	102,001			102,001	,			,20.
Management and general	10,913			10,913	9,966			9,966
Fund-raising	3,706			3,706	3,127			3,127
Total support services	14,619			14,619	13,093			13,093
Total operating expenses	167,010			167,010	159,354			159,354
Increase in net assets from operating activities  Non-operating activities:	3,482	472		3,954	4,696	458		5,154
Grants and capital contributions	2.500	2.445		6.025	050	22.000		22.050
for improvements	2,590	3,445	\$6	6,035	958	22,000	¢ 21	22,958
Permanently restricted contributions  Capital grants expenditures		(3,445)	<b>Þ</b> 0	(3,445)			\$ 21	21
Losses on disposals of property and equipment	(354)	(5,445)		(354)	(59)			(59)
Recovery of underwater funds and tran	, ,	(1)		(554)	(59)	(4)		(59)
Depreciation and amortization	(4,010)	(1)		(4,010)		(4)		(3,593)
Investment losses not designated	(4,010)			(4,010)	(3,593)			(3,583)
or current operations	617	42		659	2,918	119		3,037
Net assets released from restrictions for capital expenditures	1,671	(1,671)		0	314	(314)		0
Change in net assets from non-operating activities	515	(1,630)	6	(1,109)	542	21,801	21	22,364
Change in net assets	3,997	(1,158)	6	2,845	5,238	22,259	21	27,518
Net assets – July 1	79,051	27,579	2,615	109,245	73,813	5,320	2,594	81,727
Net assets – June 30	\$83,048	\$26,421	\$2,621	\$112,090	\$79,051	\$27,579	\$2,615	\$109,245

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**McKinley Park Library** 

6802 Fort Hamilton Parkway

718.748.8001

Midwood Library

975 East 16th Street

718.252.0967

Mill Basin Library

2385 Ralph Avenue

718.241.3973

New Lots Library

665 New Lots Avenue

718.649.0311

New Utrecht Library

1743 86th Street

718.236.4086

Pacific Library

25 Fourth Avenue

718.638.1531

Paerdegat Library 850 East 59th Street

718.241.3994

Park Slope Library

431 Sixth Avenue

718.832.1853

Red Hook Library

7 Wolcott Street

718.935.0203

Rugby Library

1000 Utica Avenue

718.566.0054

Ryder Library

5902 23rd Avenue

718.331.2962

Saratoga Library

8 Thomas S. Boyland Street

718.573.5224

**Sheepshead Bay Library** 

2636 East 14th Street

718.368.1815

**Spring Creek Library** 

12143 Flatlands Avenue

718.257.6571

Stone Avenue Library

581 Mother Gaston Boulevard

718.485.8347

Sunset Park Library

4201 Fourth Avenue

718.435.3648

**Ulmer Park Library** 

2602 Bath Avenue 718.265.3443

Walt Whitman Library

93 St. Edwards Street 718.935.0244

Washington Irving Library

360 Irving Avenue

718.628.8378

Williamsburgh Library 240 Division Avenue

718.302.3485

Windsor Terrace Library

160 East Fifth Street 718.686.9707



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