

# BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **Mission**

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.

### **Vision**

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.



# CONTENTS

| Letter from the President & CEO and Chair | 4  |
|---|----|
| BPL in 2016                               | 5  |
| A High Honor                              | 6  |
| Systemwide Six-Day Service                | 7  |
| For Readers and Writers                   | 8  |
| Learning at the Library                   | 10 |
| Reaching Out                              | 12 |
| BPL by the Numbers                        | 14 |
| Donor List                                | 18 |

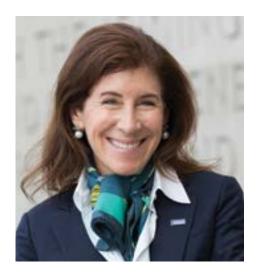








# LETTER FROM PRESIDENT & CEO AND CHAIR



LINDA E. JOHNSON



NICHOLAS A. GRAVANTE, JR.

We began 2016 as we begin every day at Brooklyn Public Library, by opening our doors to the people who need us—and this year, thanks to the support of Mayor de Blasio and the New York City Council, our doors were open earlier, later and wider than they have been in some time. Increased city funding made it possible for us to offer at least six days of service in every branch, and increase the number of branches open seven days. As a result, more patrons were able to visit their local libraries in the evening and over the weekend, and attendance at our programs reached an all-time high of nearly one million.

While the scope of our work has expanded to meet an almost endlessly wide range of needs, literacy and literature remain at the core of the Library's mission. This year, in addition to devoting more resources to our print and digital collection, which now includes over four million items, we celebrated great literature with a pair of new awards. The Brooklyn Eagles Literary Prize recognized fiction and nonfiction by authors who have lived in Brooklyn, portrayed the borough in their work or addressed themes relevant to its life and culture, while the Ned Vizzini Teen Writing Prize, named for an author who did some of his best writing at Central Library, encouraged students in all five boroughs to express themselves in poetry and prose.

Our year concluded with a visit to the White House, where First Lady Michelle Obama presented Brooklyn Public Library with the Institute of Museum and Library Services' National Medal, the nation's highest honor for libraries. "You are all doing such inspiring, innovative and impactful work," Mrs. Obama told us. "In so many communities, our libraries and museums don't just preserve and promote our cultural treasures; they also enrich and enlarge our lives."

We could not have said it better.
Brooklyn Public Library has been proud to serve the borough for more than a century, and with the help of our public and private supporters, we look forward to enriching and enlarging lives for many, many years to come.

Very truly,

Linda E. Johnson President & CEO

Lindersdenson

Nicholas A. Gravante, Jr. Chair, Board of Trustees

Sidle a Cute, fr.

# **BPL IN 2016**

Offered over
64,000 free programs,
with nearly
1 million attendees

Circulated more than

14.9 million materials,
including books and
electronic media

Provided **2.2 million** computer sessions on **1,400** devices

Logged a total of **85,000** volunteer hours contributed by **2,000** volunteers

Welcomed

8.7 million visitors to our branches

# MOST POPULAR BOOKS IN 2016

#### **Fiction**

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

Rogue Lawyer by John Grisham

My Name Is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

The Nightingale

by Kristin Hannah

NYPD Red 4

by James Patterson and Marshall Karp

by Danielle Steel

Private Paris
by James Patterson
and Mark Sullivan

The Girls
by Emma Cline

Fates and Furies by Lauren Groff

### Nonfiction

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up by Marie Kondo

Modern Romance

by Aziz Ansari and Eric Klinenber

*M Train*by Patti Smith

*Spark Joy* by Marie Kondo

Why Not Me?
by Mindy Kaling

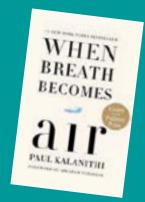
Troublemaker: Surviving Hollywood and Scientology by Leah Remini and Rebecca Paley

H Is for Hawk
by Helen Macdonald

by Matthew Desmond

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City





## A HIGH HONOR

First Lady Michelle Obama presented Brooklyn Public Library with the 2016 Institute for Museum and Library Services' National Medal, the nation's highest honor for libraries, at a special White House ceremony in June. For 22 years, the National Medal has celebrated institutions that embrace innovation to make a difference for individuals, families and communities. The Library was recognized in part for the work of its Outreach Services Department, which offers citizenship classes for new Americans, creative aging workshops for older adults, an oral history project for veterans and the Books-by-Mail program for the homebound.

Patron Kim Best joined BPL President and CEO Linda E. Johnson to accept the award. Born in Guyana, Kim had lived in the United States for decades and was the mother of a nine-year-old son when she learned that she was not, as she had always believed, an American citizen. "My entire life was turned upside down," Kim said. "Because my mother was naturalized after I turned 18, I was not a citizen of the country I loved and had lived in nearly all my life."

Unsure at first where to turn, Kim enrolled in a free citizenship preparation course at the library. With help from her teacher and the support of her classmates—and the encouragement of her son, Ibrahim—Kim became a naturalized American citizen in October of 2015. "I would recommend the classes to anyone," she said. "They changed my life."

The National Medal is a tribute to the hundreds of librarians, staff members and volunteers who make Brooklyn



Public Library a resource for the entire community, a place where all people can come to pursue their dreams and do their best thinking. In Mrs. Obama's words: "Day after day, year after year, our nation's libraries and museums are here for our communities."

In Brooklyn, that community includes children discovering the joys of literacy, students visiting our branches after school, families on the wrong side of the digital divide, immigrants eager to become United States citizens and the entrepreneurs who have remade Brooklyn's image and economy. More people are visiting the library than ever before, and it is our honor to serve them.

photos: (left) First Lady Michelle Obama presents the National Medal for Museum and Library Service to patron Kim Best and BPL President & CEO Linda E. Johnson.

# SYSTEMWIDE SIX-DAY SERVICE

There was good news for Brooklyn Public Library in New York City's 2016 budget: an increased investment of \$12 million that allowed us to hire new librarians, increase our hours of operation and improve library facilities throughout the borough.

Thanks to the support of Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Mark-Viverito and the members of New York City Council, universal six-day library service returned to Brooklyn in October 2015, while the number of libraries open seven days increased as Macon, Mapleton, New Lots and Ryder joined Central and Kings Highway. With our extra days of service came additional evening and weekend hours, making it much easier for working families to visit their local branches. As always, the

members of the City Council's Brooklyn delegation generously supported the libraries in their districts—for example, we were also able to offer Sunday hours in Borough Park and Midwood, neighborhoods home to many Orthodox Jewish patrons, thanks to support from New York City Council Members David Greenfield and Brad Lander and a \$100,000 grant from the David Berg Foundation, which is funding the Library's expansion of programs and services for the Orthodox community.

In total, twenty-two branches added an extra day of service this year, and BPL provided an additional 218 hours of public service per week throughout the system. More than half of the new librarians hired to help staff the expanded hours are children's and young adult specialists who contribute to the Library's work on early literacy and school preparedness.

The year was also noteworthy for several branch improvement projects. Eastern Parkway reopened with a new roof and completely renovated interior. Arlington Library is now home to our third passport office. And at Coney Island, we partnered with BRIC to open a television studio at which patrons can attend free or low-cost classes to learn about video production and broadcasting.

Though the Invest in Libraries campaign was successful, much remains to be done. Brooklyn Public Library continues to partner with our sister systems, the New York Public Library and Queens Library, to make the case for libraries. We are grateful for the public and private funders without whose support we could not offer such a broad range of services to the millions of New Yorkers who visit us each year.



## FOR READERS AND WRITERS

"I tend to go off on tangents," Toni
Morrison told an audience of 1,200 during
her appearance at Brooklyn by the Book,
an evenings-with-authors series presented
by the Library in partnership with
Community Bookstore and Congregation
Beth Elohim. Though the crowd was large,
Morrison's conversation was intimate
and, as she noted, wide ranging, with
stories from her childhood, insights into
her writing process and candid, even
conflicted reflections on her characters.

Toni Morrison was one of four Nobel Prize winners to visit the Library in a span of nine months, along with economist Joseph Stiglitz, novelist Orhan Pamuk and journalist Svetlana Alexievich.

By the end of the year, thousands of New Yorkers had attended readings and discussions at BPL with authors like Pete Hamill, Cokie Roberts, Frank Bruni, A. O. Scott, John Irving, Salman Rushdie and Pharrell Williams, who debuted his children's book, *Happy*, at Central Library.

In addition to hosting authors and making their books widely available, this year Brooklyn Public Library developed an award to recognize writers who have portrayed the borough in their work or addressed themes relevant to its life and culture. The Brooklyn Eagles Literary Prize, (now called the Brooklyn Public Library



Literary Prize), named for and presented by BPL's community of young, engaged supporters, is unique among literary awards in that its nomination process is driven by bookstores and librarians. Inaugural nonfiction winner DW Gibson (The Edge Becomes the Center: An Oral History of Gentrification in the 21st Century) and fiction winner Atticus Lish (Preparation for the Next Life) accepted their awards at the Brooklyn Classic, the Eagles' annual fundraiser, held at the beautiful Park Slope Library.

Generous support from the Peck Stacpoole Foundation helped to underwrite the cash awards, author readings and the purchase of winning titles.

The Library hosted another awards ceremony for BPL's citywide Teen Writing Contest in June, one meant to recognize

and encourage a new generation of writers. The Ned Vizzini Teen Writing Prize is named for the late author whose hilarious, heartbreaking books—several of which were composed in part at Central Library—continue to inspire readers and writers of all ages. Brooklynite Stina Trollbäck earned first prize in prose for "Zeroed Out," a dystopian work of science fiction in which the value of human life is negotiable (and, at times, negligible), while Manhattan resident Kat Snoddy won top honors in poetry for "A Meal," a surreal meditation on the transience of life. The purpose of the Vizzini Prize was articulated by Ned's wife, the writer Sabra Embury, who said, "When someone believes in, early on, what you're trying to accomplish as a creative, it makes a world of difference."



# LEARNING AT THE LIBRARY

Learning at the Library is not confined to the books on our shelves. Children develop essential literacy skills at our storytimes, teens receive help with their homework and patrons can attend free classes on subjects ranging from art history to computer programming. In 2016, the Library continued to expand its educational initiatives for patrons and librarians.

The BKLYN
Incubator develops
and funds new
initiatives by
librarians and staff,
with training and
mentoring on how
to design successful
programs, build
partnerships, manage
projects and document
outcomes.

Hundreds of patrons have participated in Incubator-supported programs since its launch in 2015 with initial funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Highlights have included Girls Report Now! at Leonard Library, a biweekly journalism course for girls ages 12 to 17; the Future Leaders Career Awareness Series at Cypress Hills Library, where working professionals advised teens on potential career paths; and Reading the Rhythm at DeKalb Library, a combination dance class and book discussion program for high school students. With BKLYN Incubator, BPL has developed a model that other libraries can replicate to empower



their staff and develop more innovative programs at the branch level. Thanks to a multi-year grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Incubator program expanded in 2016 to guide participants through a series of workshops on how to think entrepreneurially, identify community partners, manage programs and measure outcomes. Thus the BKLYN Incubator is less a competition than an opportunity for professional development.

The spring of 2016 saw the debut of Library Lab, a weekend STEM program for children 6-10 and their families developed with funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Participants conducted experiments in a lab-style setting designed to encourage children to explore science, technology, engineering and math concepts in a friendly and welcoming environment. Held in 28 branches, Library Lab served more than 1,600 children. The Library expanded

the program to 52 branches, reaching an additional 4,000 children.

The Library also got creative with the 2016 Summer Reading program, in which a record 143,000 people participated. Families were able to track their reading using Beanstack's user-friendly, mobilefirst interface. The service helped families with young students log their reading and discover great library books and branch programs. In addition, we partnered with Luna Park, New York City's largest amusement park, to encourage the borough's youngest residents to keep reading over the summer. More than 13,000 readers brought their completed Summer Reading game boards or challenges to the park to enjoy free, unlimited rides. Support for the Summer Reading program was provided by the National Grid Foundation, Astoria Bank, Con Edison, Macy's and the New York Community Trust's ELSAM Fund. CBS2/ WLNY was the official media partner for Summer Reading 2016.



# REACHING OUT

Brooklyn is one of the most diverse communities in the world, and patrons appreciate the Library's multilingual and multicultural offerings. In the words of librarian Jodi Shaw, "When children are young, their brains are like sponges, and at the Library they learn that the world is bigger than their own neighborhoods." BPL's coordinator of services for older adults, Taina Evans, says that "patrons love hearing and speaking their own language. To participate in a library program they can fully understand is so meaningful for them."

Through an ongoing partnership with Apple Bank, BPL became the first library system in New York City to offer Language Line, a telephone service that makes it possible for speakers of different languages to communicate with each other through an interpreter. The service is now available at every BPL branch, enabling staff to communicate with patrons in over 100 languages. Apple Bank also sponsored the Library's World Language Family Series, which included Lunar New Year celebrations, Russianlanguage concerts, Hispanic Heritage Month programs and the first annual World Language Family Day.

Aspiring Haitian- or Kreyol-speaking entrepreneurs competed in the Library's second annual PowerUP! KREYOL Business Plan Competition. Inspired by the contest that helped launch Bogota Latin Bistro, Redbeard Bikes, Greenlight Bookstore and other Brooklyn favorites, PowerUP! KREYOL awarded a total of \$10,000 in startup funding to three innovative business plans in 2016. In addition to cash prizes, the competition, developed in partnership with the NYC Department of Small Business Services, provided free classes for participants on subjects like marketing, business finance and the utilization of library resources.



"Brooklyn has a large entrepreneurial community whose members do not have easy access to resources in their native languages," said program liaison Winnie Siclait.

"Now, we're able to provide them with the business classes, counseling and capital they need to get their ventures up and running."

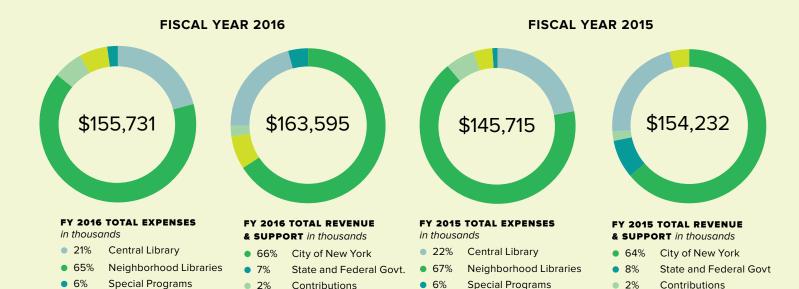
For the Library, serving Brooklyn means meeting the needs of the borough's most vulnerable residents. Studies have shown that having an incarcerated mother or father can be as painful to children as the death of a parent—and that the combination of trauma, shame and stigma unique to incarceration can have a particularly detrimental effect on a child's development. BPL created the TeleStory program to facilitate virtual storytimes, sing-alongs and other bonding activities for incarcerated parents and their children. With a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Library expanded TeleStory to serve a total of 12 branches in 2016. The TeleStory branches, located in neighborhoods with high rates of incarceration, host family video visits in warm and welcoming rooms filled with toys, stuffed animals and coloring materials; participants have access to the same books, allowing them to read together—a powerful bonding experience.



# BPL BY THE NUMBERS

Management and General • 21%

6%



| • 2% Fundr                  | raising    | & Utilities  O% Net Invest  Other | • 1% ment Income | Fundraising      | <ul><li>0%</li><li>4%</li></ul> | & Utilities<br>Net Investment<br>Other |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--|
|                             |            | Fiscal Year 2016                  |                  | Fiscal Year 2015 |                                 | Fiscal Year 2014                       |
| Total Operating<br>Expenses | \$ in 000s | %                                 | \$ in 000s       | %                | \$ in 000s                      | %                                      |
| Central Library             | 33,286     | 21%                               | 31,972           | 22%              | 30,122                          | 22%                                    |
| Neighborhood<br>Libraries   | 101,308    | 65%                               | 97,060           | 67%              | 90,670                          | 66%                                    |
| Special Programs            | 8,591      | 6%                                | 8,236            | 6%               | 7,710                           | 6%                                     |
| Manager                     | 0.507      | 60/                               | 6405             | 40/              | F 007                           | 40/                                    |

Contributed Facilities

**4**%

Management and General

**22**%

Contributed Facilities

| Neighborhood<br>Libraries             | 101,308                 | 65%  | 97,060    | 67%  | 90,670     | 66%  |  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|-----------|------|------------|------|--|
| Special Programs                      | 8,591                   | 6%   | 8,236     | 6%   | 7,710      | 6%   |  |
| Management and<br>General             | 9,507                   | 6%   | 6,195     | 4%   | 5,887      | 4%   |  |
| Fundraising                           | 3,039                   | 2%   | 2,252     | 1%   | 2,079      | 2%   |  |
|                                       | \$ 155,731              | 100% | \$145,715 | 100% | \$ 136,468 | 100% |  |
|                                       | Total Revenue & Support |      |           |      |            |      |  |
| City of New York                      | 108,055                 | 66%  | 98,691    | 64%  | 88,398     | 61%  |  |
| State and Federal<br>Govt             | 10,956                  | 7%   | 11,855    | 8%   | 9,278      | 7%   |  |
| Contributions                         | 3,314                   | 2%   | 3,732     | 2%   | 3,008      | 2%   |  |
| Contributed<br>Facilities & Utilities | 33,909                  | 21%  | 33,413    | 22%  | 33,721     | 23%  |  |
| Net Investment Income                 | 447                     | 0%   | 633       | 0%   | 5,252      | 4%   |  |
| Other                                 | 6,914                   | 4%   | 5,908     | 4%   | 4,933      | 3%   |  |
|                                       | \$ 163,595              | 100% | \$154,232 | 100% | \$ 144,590 | 100% |  |

The accompanying statement of financial position was taken from the audited financial statements as of and for the year ending June 30, 2016, 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

| CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION in thousands |               |               |  |
|--|---------------|---------------|--|
|  | June 30, 2016 | June 30, 2015 |  |
| Assets   |               |               |  |
| Cash And Cash Equivalents                                  | \$ 20,015     | \$ 15,603     |  |
| Receivables, Net   | 8,358         | 11,229        |  |
| Investments  | 42,114        | 43,032        |  |
| Property And Equipment, Net                                | 36,198        | 30,205        |  |
| Other Assets   | 83            | 102           |  |
|  | 106,768       | 100,171       |  |
|  |               |               |  |
| Liabilities and Net Assets                                 |               |               |  |
| Accounts payable, accrued expenses and advances            | \$ 10,287     | \$ 9,307      |  |
| Accrued wages and related liabilities                      | 14,407        | 12,884        |  |
| Deferred revenue   | 348           | 902           |  |
| Total liabilities  | 25,042        | 23,093        |  |
| Commitments and contingencies                              |               |               |  |
| Net assets:  |               |               |  |
| Unrestricted:  |               |               |  |
| Corporate  | 62,573        | 56,144        |  |
| Board-designated for building renovation                   | 5,800         | 7,900         |  |
| Board-designated for use in subsequent fiscal year         | 5,439         | 5,439         |  |
| Total unrestricted   | 73,812        | 69,483        |  |
| Temporarily restricted                                     | 5,320         | 5,079         |  |
| Permanently restricted                                     | 2,594         | 2,516         |  |
| Total net assets   | 81,726        | 77,078        |  |
|  | \$106,768     | \$100,171     |  |

#### **CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES** in thousands Unrestricted Temporarily Permanently Total Unrestricted Temporarily Permanently Total Unrestricted Unrestricted June 30, Unrestricted Unrestricted June 30, 2015 2016 Operating support and revenues \$ 108,055 \$ 108.055 \$ 98.691 City of New York \$ 98,691 State of New York 7,614 7,614 7,393 7,393 1,156 Federal government 1,156 1,180 1,180 1048 2,188 3,236 786 2,938 3,724 Contribution income 2,214 2,214 1,407 1,407 Purchase discount reimbursement contribution 33.531 33.531 33.327 33.327 Contributed facilities and utilities Net investment income 1,188 145 1,333 1,375 168 1,543 378 378 86 86 Contributed goods and services Special events, net of direct 688 688 425 425 benefit to donors of \$151 and \$176 in 2016 and 2015, respectively 4,012 4,012 4,076 Fines, royalties and other revenue 4,076 159,884 2,333 162,217 148,746 3,106 151,852 1,902 (1,902)0 1,957 (1,957)0 Net assets released from restrictions for operations 161.786 431 162,217 150.703 1.149 151.852 Total operating revenues and support Operating expenses: Program services: Central library 33,286 33,286 31,972 31,972 Neighborhood libraries 101,308 101,308 97,060 97,060 8,591 8,591 Special programs 8.236 8.236 143,185 143,185 137,268 137,268 Total program services Supporting services: 9,507 9,507 6,195 6,195 Management and general Fund-raising 3,039 3,039 2,252 2,252 12,546 12.546 8 447 8,447 Total support services 155,731 155,731 145,715 Total operating expenses 145,715 Change in net assets from 6,055 431 6,486 4,988 1,149 6,137 operating activities Non-operating activities: Grants and contributions 1,986 200 2,186 3,282 3,282 78 78 8 8 Permanently restricted contributions Loss on disposal of fixed assets (351) (351) (102) (102) Underwater funds transfer (5) 5 (2,865)(2,865)(2,349)(2,349)Depreciation Investment losses not (691) (195)(886)(814) (96)(910) designated for current operations 200 (200) Net assets released from restrictions for capital expenditures Change in net assets from (1,726)(190)78 (1,838)17 (96)8 (71)non-operating activities 4,329 241 78 4,648 5,005 1,053 8 6,066 Increase in net assets 69,483 5,079 2,516 77,078 64,478 4,026 2,508 71,012 Net assets - July 1 Net assets - June 30 \$73,812 \$5,320 \$2,594 \$ 81,726 \$ 69,483 \$5,079 \$2,516 \$ 77,078



### **DONORS**

#### **FISCAL YEAR 2016 DONORS**

#### \$1,000,000+

Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin\*

#### \$100,000+

Altman Foundation\*
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation\*
The Pinkerton Foundation
Charles H. Revson Foundation\*
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#### \$50,000+

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WME

Joanne Witty & Eugene Keilin

Zipcar, Inc.

Kate Zuckerman & Simon Lipskar

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Linda & Earle Altman

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Christopher Cox John Coyne

Carla E. Craig & Stuart D. Freedman Louise de la Fuente & Mace Rosenstein

Nancy & Chad Dickerson

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