

“

The library helps everyone  
in the community by...

”

Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2014

“

I can't imagine my life  
without the library because...

”

# 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.



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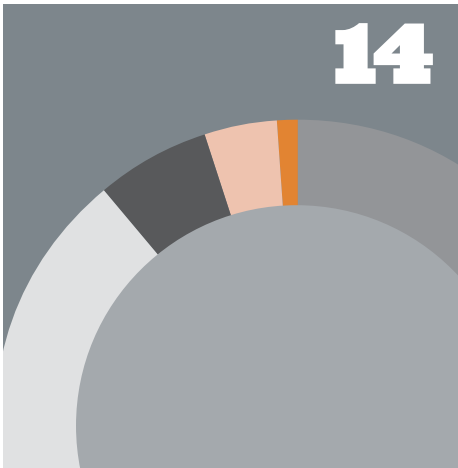
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# Letter from the Chair



**NICHOLAS A. GRAVANTE, JR.**

As we reflect on another successful year at Brooklyn Public Library, I am especially proud that so many Brooklynites came together to support BPL in 2014.

The Brooklyn Eagles, a community of young professionals who volunteer their time and raise funds for the Library, helped BPL expand its outreach to new audiences whose support will be crucial to our plans for the years ahead.

Our Friends of the Library groups grew more numerous and more active, raising funds for individual branches and hosting free programs to serve the unique needs of their particular communities.

In February, donors and patrons attended BPL's seventeenth annual gala to celebrate the work of Brooklyn-based author Martin Amis and the Charles H. Revson Foundation, founder of the NYC Neighborhood Library Awards. We also honored outgoing BPL Board of Trustees Chair Anthony Crowell, a leader who saw the Library through many noteworthy achievements, including the opening of the Shelby White and Leon Levy Information Commons

at Central Library, the launch of BPL's strategic plan and the construction of Brooklyn's first new branch in over 20 years. It is my great privilege to succeed such a committed and effective board chair.

We're grateful to the many patrons, donors, trustees, elected officials and volunteers who make it possible for the Library to continue its legacy of service to the borough. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, thank you for a great year at Brooklyn Public Library.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nicholas A. Gravante, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicholas A. Gravante, Jr.  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*  
*Brooklyn Public Library*



# Letter from the President & CEO

It has been a memorable year for Brooklyn Public Library and the more than one million patrons we serve.

Several of our 60 branches had new beginnings in 2014, as we reopened libraries devastated by Hurricane Sandy and completed significant renovations at Stone Avenue and Clinton Hill. Kings Highway Library opened a new passport center to serve one of Brooklyn's largest and most diverse neighborhoods, while Central Library, also home to a passport center, now hosts the new Four & Twenty Blackbirds café.

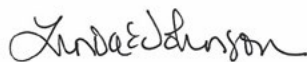
Local history buffs celebrated as our Brooklyn Collection launched the Brooklyn Newsstand, a digital archive that gives the public free access to the full run of *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (1841 to 1955), which had, for a time, the nation's largest daily circulation and boasted Walt Whitman as its editor.

BPL programs welcomed a record number of participants in 2014. The Telestory initiative employed video conferencing technology to help children read and bond with their incarcerated fathers. Aspiring

Brooklyn entrepreneurs competed in the PowerUp! business plan contest to win startup capital for their innovative ideas. Today's Teens, Tomorrow's Techies (T4) helped Brooklyn students develop digital skills and gain real-world experience in the workplace. Brooklynites of all ages, from every walk of life, turned to us for help in achieving their dreams.

As we look to the future, we will continue to provide library services in new and creative ways, drawing inspiration from the ingenuity of the Brooklynites we are so honored to serve.

Very truly,



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



**LINDA E. JOHNSON**

# BPL Timeline

**Fiscal Year 2014**



**6.13**

## **BookOps**

BPL's shared technical services collaboration with New York Public Library is successfully launched in the spring.

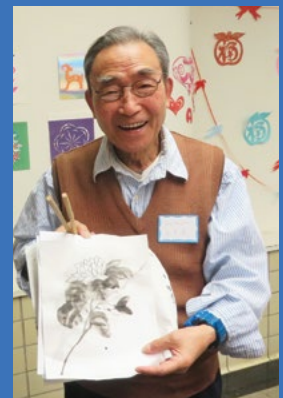


**10.13**

**A new passport office opens at Kings Highway Library.**

## **Outreach Services Department**

With funding from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, BPL creates a department to serve Brooklyn's immigrant, older adult and transitional populations.



**2013**

**7.13**

## **Brooklyn Eagles**

The Brooklyn Eagles are founded to support Brooklyn Public Library by fundraising, advocating and volunteering.



**9.13**

## **Unveiling of Central entrance**

BPL receives \$250,000 to renovate its historic entrance after winning a grant from Partners in Preservation and American Express.

## **Charles H. Revson Foundation NYC Neighborhood Library Awards**

Macon, Sheepshead Bay and Kings Bay libraries are awarded for outstanding service to the community.

**11.13**

## **Mobile Libraries at NYC Correctional Facilities**

BPL operates four mobile satellite libraries and partners with NYPL's Correctional Services Department to provide library services at additional facilities.



# 1.14

**The Information Commons** marks its one-year anniversary.



# 3.14

**Four & Twenty Blackbirds**

The renowned Brooklyn pie shop opens a café at Central Library on Pi Day.

**The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt 2014**

Central, Kensington and Coney Island libraries raise money for Asia's endangered elephants and New York children.



# 5.14

**Second Annual Bike the Branches**

A charitable bike ride through BPL's network of 60 neighborhood libraries.

**IC Skillshare**

A free day-long skillshare with classes and workshops led by community members.

**New blue library card, with fob, debuts!**



# 2.14

Welcome new BPL Board of Trustees Chair **Nicholas A. Gravante, Jr.**

## WHITMAN circle

Planning begins for the formation of the Whitman Circle in early spring. This new community of high-level donors generously supports BPL's programs through annual membership.

# 4.14

**Brooklyn Newsstand**

BPL launches a free digital newspaper archive, available through its Brooklyn Newsstand portal, in collaboration with newspapers.com.

**Our Streets, Our Stories** is an oral history project that records patrons' stories about Brooklyn's neighborhoods.



# 6.14

**Summer Reading** kicks off with a science and technology theme.

**New York Life Foundation** awards BPL a two-year grant to expand the Brooklyn Connections program.



**Steve Keene, BPL Artist-in-Residence**, hosts an exhibition, workshops and live painting program in front of Central Library.

**BCAPteen** offers a summer filmmaking program for adolescents.

# 2014



# **The Library helps everyone in the community**







## PATRON

### **HAROLD JONES, Brooklyn native, frequent visitor to Central and Flatbush libraries**

When Harold Jones retired two years ago, he decided it was time to learn how to use a computer. He enrolled in free classes at BPL, and today, Mr. Jones is Mac- and PC-proficient. He is also an avid reader who has used the library in some capacity all his life: *The library has contributed to my education more than any school. BPL has been an invaluable resource.*

Brooklyn Public Library offers many programs and events designed to help seniors participate more fully in the life of their communities. These include lectures, films, performances and classes that reflect the diverse interests of Brooklyn's older adults.



## PowerUP! WINNER

**NIDHI JALAN**, former  
**PowerUP! Business Plan  
Competition winner, owner  
of Masala Mama**

*The Library gave me the motivation and knowledge to write a plan for my business and then gave me the funding to launch it.*

For over 10 years, BPL's **Business & Career Library** has hosted the **PowerUP! Business Plan Competition** with support from Citi Foundation, offering Brooklyn entrepreneurs the chance to win up to \$15,000 for their start-ups.





## TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE SPECIALIST

**SHABRINA TOMA,**  
**T4 graduate and Technology**  
**Resource Specialist at the**  
**Shelby White and Leon Levy**  
**Information Commons**

*The T4 program changed me as an individual. It helped me perceive the world and my life in a different perspective. It opened paths for me that I didn't even imagine. I was able to build a professional network through the program and eventually it became a family to me.*

*The T4 program made me realize that I was great at helping others, whether by teaching or just giving a little knowledge.*

**The Today's Teens, Tomorrow's Techies (T4)** program teaches digital skills to students 14 to 18 and prepares them for volunteer positions at BPL, where they help patrons make use of the Library's many free technology resources.



## LIBRARIAN



**ELEANOR BUKOWSKY,**  
**a native Brooklynite and**  
**librarian at Midwood**  
**Library for over 20 years**

*The public library helped me develop my love of learning and passion for reading fiction and nonfiction. As a professional librarian, I am proud that our library is a center for social services, a workshop for budding artists and writers, a quiet locale for chess players to hone their skills, a safe place for children to interact with their peers and grow intellectually and a mecca for scholars and casual readers who seek books, DVDs and magazines to enlighten and entertain them.*

Brooklyn Public Library is the nation's fifth-largest library system, with 60 branches located throughout the borough. Brooklynites visit our libraries to learn, to be entertained and to connect with their neighbors. Our librarians and staff develop programs that serve Brooklynites of all ages, from every walk of life.



**STEFANI S., student and stay-at-home mom**

Stefani visits Central Library to participate in the Televisit program.

*This is a great program. I think it's family-oriented and they accommodate us. This is my fiancé's first child and he left when our baby was only 2 months old.*

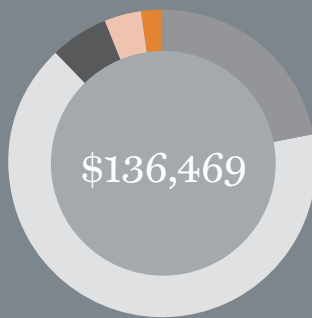
Stefani also brings her fiancé's elderly mother to the library for Televisits.

*I think this program is fantastic. My fiancé looks forward to these visits with our son.*

In April 2014, **Outreach Services** set aside a room in Central Library for children to read books with their incarcerated parents through a live video feed. These visits are designed to foster stronger bonds between parent and child. All sessions are free and aim to supplement, not replace, in-person visits.

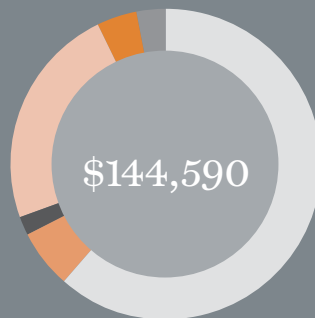
# BPL by the numbers

## FISCAL YEAR 2014



**FY 2014 TOTAL EXPENSES**  
in thousands

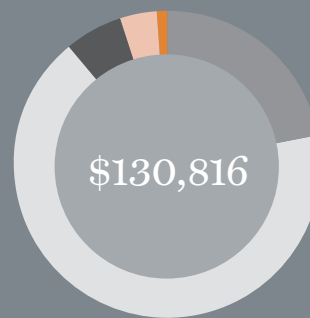
- 22% Central Library
- 66% Neighborhood Libraries
- 6% Special Programs
- 4% Management and General
- 2% Fundraising



**FY 2014 TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT**  
in thousands

- 61% City of New York
- 6% State and Federal Govt.
- 2% Contributions
- 23% Contributed Facilities & Utilities
- 4% Net Investment Income
- 3% Other

## FISCAL YEAR 2013



**FY 2013 TOTAL EXPENSES**  
in thousands

- 22% Central Library
- 67% Neighborhood Libraries
- 6% Special Programs
- 4% Management and General
- 1% Fundraising



**FY 2013 TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT**  
in thousands

- 59% City of New York
- 8% State and Federal Govt.
- 3% Contributions
- 22% Contributed Facilities & Utilities
- 3% Net Investment Income
- 5% Other

## FINANCIAL RATIOS

Fiscal Year 2014			Fiscal Year 2013		Fiscal Year 2012	
	\$ in 000s	%	\$ in 000s	%	\$ in 000s	%
Total Operating Expenses						
Central Library	30,122	22%	29,163	22%	29,992	22%
Neighborhood Libraries	90,670	66%	87,136	67%	90,029	68%
Special Programs	7,710	6%	7,425	6%	7,661	6%
Management and General	5,887	4%	5,463	4%	4,671	3%
Fundraising	2,079	2%	1,629	1%	1,268	1%
	<b>\$ 136,469</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$130,816</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 130,621</b>	<b>100%</b>
Total Revenue & Support						
City of New York	88,398	61%	85,705	59%	86,081	63%
State and Federal Govt	9,278	6%	12,055	8%	10,933	8%
Contributions	3,008	2%	3,786	3%	3,621	3%
Contributed Facilities & Utilities	33,721	23%	33,041	22%	32,316	24%
Net Investment Income	5,252	4%	4,255	3%	(587)	-1%
Other	4,933	3%	7,491	5%	4,429	3%
	<b>\$ 144,590</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$146,333</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 137,095</b>	<b>100%</b>

The accompanying statement of financial position was taken from the audited financial statements as of and for the year ending June 30, 2014, 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, 2014	June 30, 2013
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash And Cash Equivalents	\$ 14,938	\$ 33,006
Receivables, Net	6,543	7,538
Investments	39,942	28,987
Due From Broker		32,512
Property And Equipment, Net	27,775	25,132
Other Assets	77	100
	89,275	127,275
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and advance	\$ 5,393	\$ 6,736
Accrued wages and related liabilities	11,284	10,734
Due to broker		24,744
Loan payable		995
Deferred revenue	1,585	19,161
Total liabilities	18,262	62,370
Net assets:		
Unrestricted		
Corporate	53,540	51,807
Board-designated for building renovation	5,000	
Board-designated for use in next fiscal year	5,939	5,939
Total Unrestricted	64,479	57,746
Temporarily restricted	4,026	4,656
Permanently restricted	2,508	2,503
Total net assets	71,013	64,905
	<b>\$89,275</b>	<b>\$127,275</b>

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES** *in thousands*

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	Permanently Unrestricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Unrestricted	Permanently Unrestricted	Total
<b>Operating support and revenues:</b>								
City of New York	\$ 88,398			\$ 88,398	\$ 85,705			\$ 85,705
State of New York	7,066			7,066	6,763			6,763
Federal government	1,136			1,136	2,114			2,114
Contribution income	1,198	1,804		3,002	1,086	1,828		2,914
Purchase discount reimbursement contribution	1,169			1,169	1,098			1,098
Contributed facilities and utilities	33,301			33,301	32,722			32,722
Net investment income	1,345	157		1,502	1,277	123		1,400
Contributed goods and services	420			420	319			319
Special events, net of direct benefit to donors of \$97 and \$75 in 2014 and 2013, respectively	406			406	392			392
Fines, royalties and other revenue	3,277			3,277	2,829			2,829
	137,716	1,961		139,677	134,305	1,951		136,256
Net assets released from restrictions for operations	2,267	(2,267)		0	2,373	(2,373)		0
Total operating revenues and support	139,983	(306)		139,677	136,678	(422)		136,256
Operating expenses:								
Program services:								
Central library	30,122			30,122	29,163			29,163
Neighborhood libraries	90,670			90,670	87,136			87,136
Special programs	7,710			7,710	7,425			7,425
Total program services	128,502			128,502	123,724			123,724
Supporting services:								
Management and general	5,888			5,888	5,463			5,463
Fund-raising	2,079			2,079	1,629			1,629
Total supporting services	7,967			7,967	7,092			7,092
Total operating expenses	136,469			136,469	130,816			130,816
Change in net assets from operating	3514	(306)		3,208	5,862	(422)		5,440
<b>Non-operating activities:</b>								
Grants and contributions	1,076	1		1,077	3,178	867		4,045
Permanently restricted contributions			5	5			5	5
Insurance Proceeds	165			165	3,185			3,185
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(84)			(84)	(13)			(13)
Depreciation	(2,013)			(2,013)	(1,630)			(1,630)
Investment gains (losses) not designated for current operations	3,356	394		3,750	2,594	261		2,855
Net assets released from restrictions for capital expenditures	719	(719)		0	1,745	(1,745)		0
Change in net assets from non-operating activities	3,219	(324)	5	2,900	9,059	(617)	5	8,447
Change in net assets	6,733	(630)	5	6,108	14,921	(1,039)	5	13,887
Net assets – July 1	57,746	4,656	2,503	64,905	42,825	5,695	2,498	51,018
Net assets – June 30	\$64,479	\$4,026	\$2,508	\$ 71,013	\$ 57,746	\$4,656	\$2,503	\$ 64,905

# Donors

## FY 2014 DONORS

### \$1,000,000+

Carnegie Corporation of New York\*

### \$100,000+

Altman Foundation\*

Booth Ferris Foundation\*

Charles H. Revson Foundation\*

Citi Foundation

FINRA Investor Education Foundation\*

The Hearst Foundation, Inc.\*

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The National Trust for Historic  
Preservation\*

New York Life Foundation\*

### \$50,000+

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JPMorgan Chase Foundation

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### \$25,000+

Anonymous

Ambrose Monell Foundation

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Bloomberg Philanthropies

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Charina Endowment Fund

Con Edison

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### \$15,000+

Astoria Bank

The Durst Organization, L.P.

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Anonymous

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