2015

NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Annual Report

NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people…"

Andrew Carnegie,
19th century steel magnate and renowned library philanthropist

THANKS TO NEW ORLEANS VOTERS, 2015 laid the groundwork for an impressive revival of the New Orleans Public Library system. In May, by a 75% majority, voters approved a 2.5 millage increase. While almost half of the new revenue will be used to stabilize funding, the remaining additional funds will be used to increase library service hours and support a range of service and program enhancements. The millage election victory could not have happened without the dedication and enthusiasm of our Board of Directors, Library staff, and supporters.

For a community like ours in which many youngsters struggle to identify letters, numbers, and colors by the time they enter school; where school-age students largely lack at-home access to print and computer resources required to successfully support classroom instruction; where many adults have neither access to nor the necessary skills to use a computer (an essential tool to apply for almost any type of job today), the "gift" this community has given itself of an improved, more accessible public library can serve as a priceless resource in encouraging and promoting personal advancement as well as a powerful deterrent and asset in addressing many of the current social, economic, and educational challenges our community faces. For many, it also serves, simply, as a positive addition to the overall "quality of life" for those of us who are fortunate to call New Orleans "home."

It's been a long 10 years since the devastation caused by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, but this year, thanks to the voters of New Orleans, the New Orleans Public Library has an extremely bright future.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Brown,
Executive Director/City Librarian

2015 NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bernard Charbonnet, Jr. - *Chair*
William A. Settoon, Jr. - *Vice-Chair*
Vonda Flentroy-Rice - *Secretary*
Arnel W. Cosey, Ph.D.
Raquel Dufauchard
Laurance Eustis III
Phala Kimbrough Mire
Lee C. Reid
Duane Stelly

MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS

Mitchell J. Landrieu

2015 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Stacy Head - *Councilmember-at-Large*
Jason Rogers Williams - *Councilmember-at-Large*
Susan Guidry - *District A*
LaToya Cantrell - *District B*
Nadine M. Ramsey - *District C*
Jared C. Brossett - *District D*
James Gray - *District E*

Financial Report

REVENUES:

Library Millage	$9,487,497
General Funding	$200,000
Reserve Funding	$3,000,000
Fines and Fees	$150,635
State Aid	$21,875
Trust Funds	$131,250
Total Revenues	**$12,991,257**

EXPENDITURES:

Salaries	$5,978,495
Benefits	$2,888,374
Library Materials	$1,379,505
Supplies	$91,601
Equipment	$203,428
Facilities	$263,980
Technology	$483,583
Other Operating	$434,052
Total Expenditures	**$11,723,018**

These are unaudited figures.

1,182,493 Items

were checked out from the Library

26,274 Library Cards

issued to New Orleanians

1,136,967 Library Visits

54,944 People

attended

2,893 Library Programs

374,376 Sessions

on Library Computers

NEW ORLEANS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MILLAGE PROPOSITION ELECTION

VOTE
May 2
2015

In May, by a 75% majority, voters approved a 2.5 millage increase to stabilize the Library's funding and to support an overall improvement in library services and programs. The Library staff was instrumental in achieving this overwhelming election victory by providing outstanding service and mobilizing an impressive community outreach effort.

The 2015 Superhero themed Summer Reading Program had the highest participation rate since Hurricane Katrina with 8,377 children, teens, and adults participating. The program featured kickoff parties at every Library and a finale party at the Keller Library & Community Center, with hundreds of programs held during June and July.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES PLANNING:

In October, the Library began the process of defining its future strategic directions. Part of that process included asking the community to provide input through a series of meetings and surveys that focused on outreach, services, collections, and technology.

Over the course of the year, the Library held over 2,893 programs for children, teens, and adults. While the Library has always provided excellent programs for children, this year brought the introduction of many more programs for teens and adults including a very popular adult wine and coloring series, a teen acting competition, many readings by prominent local and national authors, multiple teen design contests, and much more.

Main Library – MN
219 Loyola Ave. • 596-2560

Algiers Regional Library – AR
3014 Holiday Dr. • 596-2641

Alvar Library – AV
913 Alvar St. • 596-2667

Central City Library – CC
2405 Jackson Ave. • 596-3110

Children's Resource Center Library – CRC
913 Napoleon Ave. • 596-2628

East New Orleans Regional Library – ENO
5641 Read Blvd. • 596-0200

Cita Dennis Hubbell Library – HU
725 Pelican Ave. • 596-3113

Rosa F. Keller Library & Community Center – KE
4300 S. Broad St. • 596-2660

Martin Luther King Library – KG
1611 Caffin Ave. • 596-2695

Milton H. Latter Library – LA
5120 St. Charles Ave. • 596-2625

Mid-City Library – MC
3700 Orleans Ave. • 596-2641

Norman Mayer Library – NM
3100 Gentilly Blvd. • 596-3100

Nix Library – NX
1401 S. Carrollton Ave. • 596-2630

Robert E. Smith Library – SM
6301 Canal Blvd. • 596-2638

ENO
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MC
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HU
NX
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AR

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