Cleveland READS: The Impact You Made

In 2023, Cleveland Public Library, in partnership with local nonprofit organizations, businesses, corporations, associations, media and government answered the call issued by Mayor Justin Bibb to host a city-wide reading campaign to build our city’s literacy levels. The original goal was for the entire city to collectively read one million books and/or one million minutes in 2023 and raise awareness on the importance of reading literacy & to nurture a love of reading.

Now, thanks to you...

We are proud to share some of the results of this campaign which far surpassed our original goals:

- **Over 28,000 readers!!**
- **Nearly 400,000 new free books distributed!**
- **Hosted 116 outreach events!**
- **Nearly 80,000 people attended to sign-up for Cleveland READS and receive books.**

We Appreciate Your Participation!

Your support and partnership played a key role in the success of this inaugural year of Cleveland READS.

Cleveland READS enabled the library to make progress toward our strategic priority to Close the Gaps, addressing inequalities facing our city. The benefits of a literate community are not limited to education and students, but affect social welfare, workforce development and even health care.

Evidence of the impact Cleveland READS made was illustrated in surveys conducted with participants of Cleveland READS.

Out of 419 completed surveys, the results were resoundingly positive:

- **96%** learned something new from what they read or experienced.
- **90%** read more often.
- **91%** enjoy reading more.
- **92%** want to use the library more often.

In addition, library circulation from CMSD students increased 234%, up from 6,768 to 22,606 this past year!

CPL routinely mounts exhibitions of rare and valuable treasures from its vast collections, to educate and inspire the public within our Main Library Special Collections Department.

Our inaugural exhibit highlighted treasures relating to Egypt from the famed John G. White Collection.

“Due to the extraordinary foresight and generosity of our esteemed donors, the Library is once again able to showcase large items such as folio volumes, architectural plans, and maps—something we lacked the means to do for several decades.”

Michael Ruffing
Director of Special Projects
Cleveland Public Library

Helping Seniors Live Their Best Life

In March 2023, Cleveland Public Library hosted a day for Seniors or those considering retirement to focus on their minds, bodies, and spirits. In partnership with Medical Mutual, the Senior Showcase was held at two Library locations: Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch and the West Park Campus. From digital needs to fitness and public safety, Senior Showcase was a one-stop shop for Seniors to connect with health and safety resources to enhance all facets of their lives.

Special Thanks to An Anonymous Donor

A generous donor made a $50,000 gift to the Cleveland Public Library Foundation to acquire two custom designed, state-of-the-art oversized archival display cases.
Groundbreaking of Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Workforce and Senior Digital Innovation Lab

Cleveland Public Library announced the largest gift in its 155-year history.

The $3.25 million grant from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation will support the creation of a new digital innovation lab for adults and seniors at the Library’s Glenville Branch.

The gift will be part of a $7 million commitment we are making to the Glenville Branch as part of the Facilities Master Plan (FMP). The vision is to design a creative, collaborative, and educational space that will provide access to advanced software, emerging technologies, STEM education, and workforce and career development opportunities for Glenville residents.

The Groundbreaking for the Glenville Renovation was held in February 2024; the new branch is expected to open in 2025.
Support the Cleveland Public Library Foundation
Your contribution directly supports the Cleveland Public Library Foundation which is dedicated to supporting Cleveland Public Library and their efforts for the Cleveland community and beyond.

A Donation of:
$50 represents at least 3 new, diverse books to help students build their own home library.
$100 is an investment in program supplies for our early literacy programs.
$150 connects patrons to new mobile hotspots throughout the library.
$300 purchases a new computer to help seniors learn digital literacy skills.

Ways to Give
Scan the QR code, log onto www.cplfdn.org/donate, or send a check and mail to:
Cleveland Public Library Foundation
325 Superior Avenue East
Cleveland, OH 44114

We are currently working to form new partnerships for the 2024 program year. If your company or organization would like to invest in Cleveland Public Library’s literacy initiatives, please contact Tracy Martin at (216) 623-2831 or tracy.martin@cpl.org.

Studio 525 is a vibrant cutting edge tech space for teens located in our Louis Stokes Wing downtown that blends the latest technology in a dynamic, interactive environment. Creativity meets technology in this hands-on learning lab to explore, create and innovate.

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525 Cleveland Public Library
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Partnership Opportunities
Our corporate partners provide considerable support throughout the year, fueling transformative programs designed to tackle educational barriers and equip individuals with essential life skills.

Black, White & REaD
Friday, October 25, 2024
Main Library, Downtown Cleveland
CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION ANNUAL EVENT

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Prism: Seeing Beyond Mass Incarceration, An interdisciplinary initiative platforming art and justice

In 2023, the Cleveland Public Library received a grant of $1.25 million from the Art for Justice Fund.

Established by Cleveland-born philanthropist Agnes Gund. This grant aims to support the endeavors of artists and advocates dedicated to ending mass incarceration and fostering a future of collective safety.

Working alongside consultants & co-project managers LAND studio and Shooting Without Bullets, CPL is developing an 18 month interdisciplinary initiative to examine the role of the library in ending mass incarceration; facilitating the creation of art and programming that furthers dialogue and advocacy efforts in Cleveland.

The project's goals include commissioning and installing a minimum of 5 artworks across various branches of the Cleveland Public Library system. Through these installations, the project aims to activate public spaces, spark community engagement, and catalyze conversations that reshape narratives surrounding mass incarceration in Cleveland.

Scan the QR code to watch the Art for Justice segment featured in the 2024 Martin Luther King, Jr. Special