

PRESS RELEASE

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Library opens new Northside Branch Seventh new library to open since 2014

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) has cut the ribbon on its new Northside Branch.

The new Northside Branch has:

- Approximately 25,000 square feet of space (more than three times the size of the former branch)
- An interactive children's area with more space for programs and areas for children to read, study and use computers
- A Teen area with computers, study space and comfortable seating
- A Homework Help Center where students can get free after-school help
- A Ready for Kindergarten area where preschoolers and their families can prepare for kindergarten
- A robust collection to meet the community's needs
- A Learning Lab with computers where customers can create resumes and apply for jobs
- Three meeting rooms with movable walls and audio visual projection for the community to gather and meet
- Four study rooms for individual or small group use
- A Reading Loft with sweeping views along North High Street
- Environmentally friendly design that includes lighting that automatically adjusts with natural light

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Ribbon cutters participating in today's dedication include:

Tim Frommeyer - *President, Columbus Metropolitan Library Board of Trustees*
Adam Hochstetler - *Northside Branch Manager, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
The Honorable Priscilla Tyson – *Council President Pro Tempore, Columbus City Council*
The Honorable Kristin Boggs - *State Representative, District 18*
Jeffrey Lyttle - *President, Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation Board*
Dr. Michael Drake - *President, The Ohio State University*
Patrick Losinski - *Chief Executive Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Trudy Bartley, *Associate Vice President for Community Relations, The Ohio State University*
John Behal, *Owner, Behal Sampson Dietz*
The Honorable Elizabeth Brown, *Member, Columbus City Council*
Bob Carroll, *Director, Performance Management and Meter Services Support, American Electric Power*
Katie Chatas, *Community Leader*
Alison Circle, *Chief Customer Experience Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Melanie DeAscentis, *Community Volunteer*
Alex Fischer, *President and CEO, Columbus Partnership*
DeeDee Glimcher, *Community Volunteer*
Ted Goodman, *Architect, F.A. Goodman Architects*

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Kelley Griesmer, *Sr. Vice President, The Columbus Foundation*
Jennifer Hadden, *Community Volunteer*
Matt Hansen, *Executive Director, University District Organization*
The Honorable Shannon Hardin, *Member, Columbus City Council*
Marihelen Hatcher, *Public Services Director, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Cindy Hilsheimer, *Managing Principal, BeecherHill*
Amanda Hoffsis, *President, Campus Partners*
Wendy Tressler Jasper, *2020 Vision Program Manager, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Tom Katzenmeyer, *President and CEO, Greater Columbus Arts Council*
Grant Lynch, *Chief Administrative Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Jordan Miller, *Regional President, Fifth Third Bank*
Paula Miller, *Chief Financial Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Brian Mooney, *General Manager, Turner Construction Company*
AJ Montero, *Partner, NBBJ*
William Murdock, *Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission*
Betsy Pandora, *Executive Director, Short North Alliance*
Ron Pizzuti, *Chairman and CEO, Pizzuti Companies*
Carl Powell, *Chief Information Officer, Columbus Metropolitan Library*
Ellen Rhoades, *Managing Director, Waverly Partners, LLC*
Amanda Sage, *Community Volunteer*
Ellen Short, *Central Ohio Regional Representative, Office of U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown*
Barbara Siemer, *Community Volunteer*
Stephen Smith, *Community Volunteer*
Timothy Wolf Starr, *Interim Director, Connects Columbus*
Rick Stillings, *Store Manager, Kroger*
The Honorable Michael Stinziano, *Member, Columbus City Council*
The Honorable Charleta Tavares, *State Senator, District 15*
Robert Weilbacher, *Outreach & Military Liaison, Office of U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty*
Michael Wilkos, *Director of Community Research, The Columbus Foundation*

The Northside Branch project is part of CML's 10-project aspirational building program:

- The new **Driving Park Branch** opened July 12, 2014
- The new **Whitehall Branch** opened April 11, 2015
- The new **Parsons Branch** opened June 4, 2016
- The transformed **Main Library** opened June 25, 2016
- The transformed **Northern Lights Branch** opened Sept. 24, 2016
- The new **Shepard Branch** opened Oct. 13, 2016
- Planning is underway for a new **Martin Luther King Branch**
- Planning is underway for a new **Hilliard Branch**
- Planning is underway for a new **Dublin Branch**

CML hopes to have all 10 projects completed by 2020.

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The former Northside Branch, located on the same site as the new branch, was one of the smallest buildings in CML's 23-library system with approximately 7,700 square feet. When it opens June 22, the new branch will offer approximately 25,000 square feet of space, more than tripling its size. The architect for the new branch is NBBJ.

Since CML closed the former Northside Branch for construction of the new building, it has [provided temporary services](#) out of its bookmobile in the Kroger parking lot at 1350 N. High St. In preparation for the June 22 grand opening, this temporary location closed to the public on June 15. The new branch's book drop opened on Friday, June 16, allowing customers to return materials ahead of the grand opening.

CML understands that great libraries create stronger communities, and each branch is an essential hub that reflects the unique needs of the neighborhood it serves. Some of CML's 23 locations are 40 to 50 years old and inadequate to meet the demands of a growing 21st century community. Demands and expectations will continue to grow, along with the population of Franklin County.

CML's aspirational building program is the result of a community-wide process that will continue to serve the needs of Franklin County well into the future. The plan is a multi-phased comprehensive blueprint that reinvents and revitalizes the entire 600,000 square feet maintained by the library.

In addition to being a vital community asset, Columbus Metropolitan Library strives to minimize its environmental footprint. With each new building or renovation project, CML plans to use sustainable building materials, incorporate glass for natural light to reduce energy costs and introduce other design and building elements friendly to the natural environment.

Phase one of CML's aspirational building program is transforming and significantly upgrading seven urban branches (Driving Park, Whitehall, Parsons, Martin Luther King, Northside, Northern Lights, Shepard) and two suburban branches (Hilliard and Dublin). In addition, changes to Main Library represent a major investment in downtown Columbus and the Discovery District.

Visit columbuslibrary.org for more information and to track progress of CML's ambitious building program.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club and Ready for Kindergarten. The library's Strategic Plan supports the vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails," which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. Columbus Metropolitan Library has been rated a 5-Star Library by Library Journal for seven of the eight years the magazine has published its industry ratings.