

## PRESS RELEASE

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# Six months later: The impact of the Transformed Main Library and New Parsons Branch

**COLUMBUS**—As part of its 10-project aspirational building program, Columbus Metropolitan Library's (CML's) new [Parsons Branch](#) opened June 4, 2016 and the transformed [Main Library](#) opened June 25, 2016. Now, more than six months later, CML would like to share some numbers:

[Click here](#) to see a brief summary of the impact the new Parsons Branch has had on its community.

[Click here](#) to see a brief summary of the impact the transformed Main Library has had on central Ohio.

Both projects are 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 new **Northern Lights Branch** opened Sept. 24, 2016
- The new **Shepard Branch** opened Oct. 13, 2016
- The new **Northside Branch** broke ground on March 1, 2016 and is expected to be completed in 2017
- 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.

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.

**--More--**

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](http://columbuslibrary.org) for more information and to track progress of CML's ambitious building program.

Visit [columbuslibrary.org/press](http://columbuslibrary.org/press) to view other Columbus Metropolitan Library press releases.

*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, 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.*