Library and Foundation partner with PCs for People to provide low-cost computers
Retired library tech would otherwise be recycled

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) and the Columbus Metropolitan Library Foundation (CMLF) have partnered with PCs for People to provide computers and laptops to eligible families and students. These retired items are no longer used in CML locations and would otherwise be recycled.

To support this effort, the CMLF participated in the nationwide #GivingTuesdayNow philanthropic campaign on May 5, raising more than $12,000 for its new Innovation Fund. With this fund, CML and the CMLF will continue to be creative and evolve to meet the critical and ever-changing needs of our community.

PCs for People was the first project funded by the CMLF Innovation Fund, and $6,000 is being used to reduce the typical $80 fee for a computer or laptop down to $20.

“As a public library, one of our primary missions is to bridge the digital divide that continues to widen in the communities we serve,” said CML CEO Patrick Losinski. “As our 23 locations remain closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more critical than ever that we work to ensure equal access to technology for our customers.”

Income-eligible individuals are required to pre-register to reserve a computer or laptop. Click here to learn more about eligibility, registration and the curbside pickup day on Tuesday, May 19.

All CML locations have been closed since March 14. While CML locations remain closed for this extended period of time, digital library resources are available at columbuslibrary.org, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines, movies and music, plus research and learning tools.

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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 Challenge 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 and career 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. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

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