

PRESS RELEASE

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Library offers customers the opportunity to be a part of the new Martin Luther King Branch's history Customers can sign panel to be used in construction

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) is opening its new Martin Luther King Branch at 1467 E. Long St. on **Thursday, Oct. 18**. Before the new branch opens, however, CML is offering the community the chance to be a part of the library's – and community's – history. Customers can sign their names to a commemorative panel that will be permanently installed in the staff office area of the new branch. This panel will be on display at the current Martin Luther King Branch (1600 E. Long St.) beginning **Monday, Sept. 10**. Customers are advised to act quickly. Once it is filled with signatures, the panel will be taken away for installation. The Martin Luther King Branch is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

In preparation for the Oct. 18 grand opening of the new Martin Luther King Branch, the current branch will close to the public at **9 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10**. Items can be dropped off at the new branch's outdoor book return beginning Thursday, Oct. 11.

The new Martin Luther King Branch is part of CML's 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 on June 25, 2016
- The new **Northern Lights Branch** opened on Sept. 24, 2016
- The new **Shepard Branch** opened on Oct. 13, 2016
- The new **Northside Branch** opened on June 22, 2017
- The new **Hilliard Branch** opened on June 21, 2018
- Construction is underway on a new **Dublin Branch**, scheduled to open in 2019

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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.

Visit columbuslibrary.org/press to view other Columbus Metropolitan Library press releases.



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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 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 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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