Martin Luther King Branch celebrates one year of service

Anniversary coincides with two highly visual programs

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) celebrates the 1-year anniversary of its new Martin Luther King Branch tomorrow. The community has embraced the new branch, which has seen a 55 percent increase in customer visits, a 40 percent increase in the checkout of children’s books and more than 1,700 new library cards issued.

Coinciding with the 1-year anniversary, the branch will host two highly visual programs:

Oge Mora Author Visit
Thursday, Oct. 17 from 6-7 p.m.
CML welcomes 2019 Caldecott Medal honoree Oge Mora, the author and illustrator of Thank you, Omu!, for a presentation and book signing. Mora also happens to be a former summer VolunTeen at the Martin Luther King Branch. For families.

Opera Columbus presents The Voice of Freedom: Civil Rights
Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Opera Columbus presents The Voice of Freedom: Civil Rights, a celebration of music inspired by African-American culture. All ages.

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 has transformed and significantly upgraded 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 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.