

CONTACTS:

Gregg Dodd, Director of Marketing
Columbus Metropolitan Library
(614) 849-1043 office, (614) 205-7816 cell
gdodd@columbuslibrary.org
www.columbuslibrary.org

Ben Zenitsky, Marketing & Communications Specialist
Columbus Metropolitan Library
(614) 849-1045 office, (614) 315-3766 cell
benitsky@columbuslibrary.org
www.columbuslibrary.org

Columbus Metropolitan Library

Media Fact Sheet

CML's Mission:

Since 1873, CML has kept a promise to the citizens of Franklin County to be the place to inspire reading, share resources and connect people, with a vision of a thriving community where wisdom prevails.

With millions of books, eBooks, digital products and tools; welcoming community spaces; friendly and knowledgeable staff – and an open to all philosophy – CML's 23 locations are the cornerstones of the communities they serve.

Our library is steadfastly committed to adapting its strategies and tactics to deliver the programs, services and facilities that our communities need, focusing its strategic planning on the areas where the library's efforts will have the most impact.

CML's history:

The library system that would become CML got its start as the Public Library Reading Room, which opened in 1873 in City Hall (on the site of what is now the Ohio Theatre). In 1903, a \$200,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie provided the funding for Main Library, which was built on a plot formerly occupied by the Governor's Mansion. The building opened to the public in 1907. Four additions were made to the building, most recently in 1991.

CML has embarked on an aspirational building program that includes:

- A major renovation of **Main Library**
- Building a new **Driving Park Branch**

- Building a new **Whitehall Branch**
- Building a new **Parsons Branch**
- Renovating and expanding the **Northern Lights Branch**
- Building a new **Shepard Branch**
- Building a new **Northside Branch**
- Building a new **Martin Luther King Branch**
- Building a new **Hilliard Branch**
- Building a new **Dublin Branch**

Here are some fun firsts:

- **1892:** The library purchases its first typewriter.
- **1909:** The audiovisual program begins at Main Library.
- **1928:** The fountain with statue of Peter Pan is donated by Charles E. Munson in memory of his son. It is dedicated to the children of Columbus.
- **1928:** The first four branches are dedicated: Clintonville, Hilltop, Linden and Parsons.
- **1955:** Library circulation passes 1 million for the first time.
- **1963:** Paperback collection begins.
- **1977:** The first public computers are provided for customers.
- **1978:** Videos are added to the collection.
- **1978:** Collections are labeled with barcodes for the first time and the public card file catalog is removed.
- **1996:** Self-serve checkout begins.
- **1997:** The library offers customers Internet access.
- **2004:** The first Homework Help Center opens at the Linden Branch.
- **2009:** The first Ready to Read Corps is launched.

CML has:

- 23 library locations in Franklin County, including Main Library and 22 branches, totaling roughly 600,000 square feet of space
- A dedicated staff of more than 800
- 627,000 cardholders
- Homework Help Centers in each library location
- Partnerships with 13 other central Ohio library systems as a member of the Central Library Consortium

In 2016, CML had:

- A circulation of 16.1 million
- 5.3 million in-person visits
- 9 million web visits
- 1.5 million computer reservations
- 1.6 million digital downloads
- Nearly 60,000 kids, teens and adults participate in Summer Reading Club
- 95,000 visits to the Homework Help Centers in all library locations
- 26,000 Reading Buddies sessions focused on improving reading skills of K-3 students

CML serves:

- 10 school districts
- 72.2% of the population of Franklin County
- 63.4% of the county's geographical area

CML received:

- The 2011 National Medal by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums
- A 5-star rating for seven of the eight years the *Library Journal's* industry standards rating program has existed
- The 2010 National Library of the Year by *Library Journal*
- The honor of helping Columbus be named the host city for the 2016 International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress
- *CEO of the Year* honors for Patrick Losinski by *Columbus CEO* magazine in 2015
- National Number Ones honors in 2015 by the Columbus Foundation, which also named CML among its *5 Nonprofits to Watch* in 2016

CML leadership:

- Patrick Losinski – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Alison Circle – Chief Customer Experience Officer (CXO)
- Grant Lynch – Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
- Paula Miller – Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- Carl Powell – Chief Information Officer (CIO)