

Leading the Way



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force released its *Leading on Opportunity* report last year. Organizations and individuals throughout our community are galvanizing in response to its recommendations around improving economic mobility for our city's children. Your Library is ready, because **providing access to opportunity is in our DNA.**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library has always been committed to improving lives and building a stronger community. Over 90% of Mecklenburg County residents view the Library as a champion for early literacy, digital inclusion and economic opportunity, and the Task Force recommendations resonate with our mission and record of success. *Leading on Opportunity* outlines interrelated determinants that influence a child's lifetime opportunities, and Library initiatives strongly align:

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

We were among the first libraries in the country to dedicate space for a children's department in the early 1900s, and in 2005 opened the award-winning ImaginOn children's library. Today's ONE Access partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and expanded Active Reading awareness trainings with Read Charlotte are a continuation of our

longstanding commitment to early literacy and student success.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Proven initiatives like College 101, DigiLit, VolunTeens and internships will expand under a newly introduced College and Career Connections suite of programs. The Library's Job Help Center, introduced at the height of the 2010 recession, will continue to add services in response to the needs of customers at every age and career stage.

FAMILY AND CHILD STABILITY

Your Library embraces families of all structures, and offers support for everyone from new parents and babies through seniors. We partner with Mecklenburg County and community agencies to provide programs on topics from mental health and parenting to financial literacy and new resident onboarding. These offerings will continue to grow and be widely available in branches, outreach locations and online.

BREAKING BARRIERS

Perhaps most critical to economic mobility are what *Leading on Opportunity* calls cross-cutting factors – the impact of segregation and importance of social

capital. Your Library brings people from all backgrounds to a common ground, free and welcoming to all who are curious. A walk through any of our twenty locations demonstrates the magic of people coming together around shared interests.

Providing access to the information, resources and connections that lead to opportunity remain at the core of the Library's mission and work, and going forward we are laser-focused on this community priority and our potential to collaborate with new partners for even greater impact. Your generous support keeps opportunity within reach.

“The capacity to transform lives motivated Andrew Carnegie to provide startup capital for thousands of public libraries, and that role is as essential today as it was when our library opened in 1903.”

LEE KEESLER, Library CEO

Andrew Carnegie donates \$25,000 for our public library

1901

Main Library opens on North Tryon Street

1903

\$1.6 million bond funds new Main Library and 9 branches

1952

New Main Library opens, system desegregated

1956

\$9.3 million bond funds expansion of Main Library and 4 new branches

1983

Main Library opens addition, expanding computer access

1989



The dictionary defines a continuum as a sequence in which adjacent elements are not perceptibly different from each other, yet the extremes are quite distinct. We think of our Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's story as a continuum.

The timeline along the bottom of this newsletter has no end, because our Library continues to evolve, meeting changing needs and priorities with new technologies and initiatives. Every day, Library users interact with the trusted, essential institution generations have come to rely upon. But over our 115-year history, the transformation of our Library and its impact in our community is remarkable: a story of growth, recovery and reinvention that reflects our New South city.

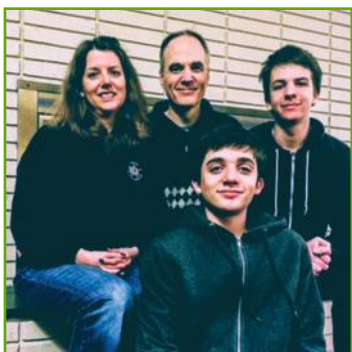
That transformation continues, as we stand in the present and plan a Library that will bring together future generations. Our actions today are part of the continuum. There is never a better time to improve lives and make our community stronger, for everyone always.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our shared, unfolding Library story.

LINDA LOCKMAN-BROOKS
Chair, Foundation Board

JENNI GAISBAUER, CFRE
Executive Director

Monthly Impact



Elizabeth Mosley values access. A teacher and an avid reader, she and her family are regulars at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library's Independence Regional location, where she sees the diversity of people who use Library resources and services. "Libraries bridge the growing economic divide in our country. Now more than ever, we all need a trusted

place we can turn to for reliable information, to form opinions and to learn."

Elizabeth and her husband Chris Mair support those connections, resources and opportunities through monthly gifts to the Library Foundation. The monthly giving program provides a steady, dependable flow of resources for the Library, and it's a simple and affordable way to invest in the community we share. Supporters designate a contribution of any amount, and the transaction is processed securely each month, with a year-end summary and tax receipt. Monthly contributions can be changed or cancelled anytime.

Learn more about monthly giving at foundation.cmlibrary.org/monthly-giving, or contact Teleia White, Director of Individual Giving, at twhite@cmlibrary.org or 704-416-0803.

"Supporting the Library is a priority for my family. The monthly giving option is convenient and easy, and I don't have to think about it."

ELIZABETH MOSLEY
Monthly donor and avid Library user



Bill Gates cuts the ribbon on Library's public computer lab

1996

ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center opens to international acclaim

2005

Library wins National Medal for Museum and Library Service

2006

Recession forces 39% budget cuts. Community support and demand for services peak

2010

Future of the Library Task Force offers recommendations for sustainability, restructure and regrowth

2011

An Uncommon Public Commons



Craig Dykers



Nick Anderson

When the international architectural firm Snøhetta, in partnership with North Carolina-based Clark Nexsen and brightspot strategy, was selected to bring our community's vision for Main Library as a public commons to life, the excitement was palpable. A look at their portfolio of public spaces explains why. We chatted with Snøhetta

founding partner Craig Dykers and senior architect Nick Anderson and learned they're excited too. This interview has been edited for length – the full conversation can be found at foundation.cmlibrary.org.

What appeals to you about this project?

The concept of a “public commons” is really exciting – we respect the choice to take a strong role in the coming civic conversations.

What inspires you?

Creating a sublime experience from common materials, or surprise from the familiar.

What do you want people to know about your design process?

We try to understand how people interact with their surroundings and with each other. Incorporating that knowledge makes our spaces more humane.

What is similar about our project to others you've worked on?

We've designed many libraries, but the aspirations of this project are also familiar to us: the determination to make something bold that will have a lasting positive impact in the public realm.

What special role can libraries play in creating great urban spaces?

Even the interior of a library is an urban space so ensuring the connections between inside and out is critical. Ancient libraries were built with a connection to outdoors, because knowledge is not limited to four walls and a ceiling.

What would you like to see in libraries that isn't commonplace?

An energy chamber, where you go to get invigorated. It would be filled with light and have good acoustics. There would be no television but there could be evolving light and sound art. The interior could be visible to anyone even if they don't use it.

Past Snøhetta Projects



Hunt Library at NC State University



San Francisco Museum of Modern Art expansion



Reconfiguration of Times Square pedestrian plaza



Why We Give

“ Our family strongly believes in encouraging everyone to read. The Library is one of the best places to invest for future generations. Growing up in India, we did not have this luxury but in this country, everyone has this opportunity. Please be assured that we will continue to support the Library in coming years. ”

ISHANI & KARTIK SHAH
Carnegie Circle members

Charlotte
Mecklenburg
Library Foundation
established

2012

County funds Morrison,
North County and South
County Regional Library
renovation projects

2013

North Tryon Vision
Plan reimagines uptown
district. Main Library
Reinvention Advisory
Committee convenes

2014

Vision for Main
Library as a public
commons unveiled,
\$65 million public
funding committed

2017

North County
and South
County Regional
renovations
underway

2018 - 2019



CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

310 N. Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Ready to Build a Better Future?

Including the Library Foundation in your estate plans allows you to continue to improve lives and build a stronger community for generations to come. Anyone can make a lasting impact through a retirement account, will, insurance policy or other estate plans.

Learn more about supporting what you love, long into the future, at foundation.cmlibrary.org/planned-giving or by contacting Karen Beach, Deputy Director, at 704-416-0802 or kbeach@cmlibrary.org.

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Events...

Final Draught
Quarterly, themed speaker series
finaldraughtclt.com

64U Books for Kids book drive
March 12 – April 20, 2018
64ubooksforkids.com

Summer Break
June 1 – August 12, 2018
summerbreak.cmlibrary.org

Community Read
September 15 – October 15, 2018

Verse & Vino
Thursday, November 1, 2018
Charlotte Convention Center

EpicFest
Saturday, November 3, 2018
ImaginOn: The Joe & Joan Martin Center



For the latest event information, visit foundation.cmlibrary.org.