

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



BIRMINGHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY

MISSION

The mission of the Birmingham Public Library is to provide the highest quality experience to our community for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment.

VISION

The Birmingham Public Library will play a vital role in the city by recognizing the potential of our community and transforming lives through community, education, and technology.

CORE VALUES

The Birmingham Public Library is committed to:

- Service
- Employees
- Leadership
- Learning
- Innovation
- Respect
- Diversity
- Integrity



Mayor Randall Woodfin and Executive Director Floyd Council

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Summary

As the largest library system in the state of Alabama, the Birmingham Public Library (BPL) continues to "preserve the past and explore the future" with the public service delivery, community programs, and the provision of books, digital resources, relevant reference, and archival access. After 130 years of historic service, BPL continues to transition and transform to 21st century digital services, programs, and partnerships that meet the needs of everyday people in the city of Birmingham. As an active member of the Jefferson County Library Cooperative for 39 years, BPL concurrently represents American public libraries in company with cities such as Nashville, Tennessee; New Orleans, Louisiana; Atlanta, Georgia; and Jacksonville, Florida. In 2017, the Birmingham Public Library continued to shine as a profound beacon in the Southeastern United States with direct community impact in all 99 neighborhoods and 23 communities in the city of Birmingham. Impactful library service to a population of approximately 212,000 residents via 19 library locations resulted in services, programs, partnerships, and community engagement strategically focused on [education](#), [technology](#), and [community](#).

The successful service delivery and progression at BPL is consistent with active library board leadership, a talented library staff, an impactful new strategic plan, the hiring of a new chief financial officer, and a national executive search which led to the hiring of new executive director, Floyd Council. In my capacity as executive director of the Birmingham Public Library, the purpose for this annual report is to render to the library board a report of the operations of the library system for the preceding twelve months, consistent with the Birmingham Public Library Board bylaws.

Floyd Council
Executive Director



BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Floyd Council
Executive Director



The Honorable Randall Woodfin
Mayor, City of Birmingham



The Honorable Valerie A. Abbott
President, Birmingham City Council



BUDGET FY16-17

Service Area: City of Birmingham

Population: 212K

Neighborhoods: 99

Communities: 23

Library Locations: 19

Funding: City of Birmingham

Governance: Public Library Board

LOCATIONS

Avondale

Central

East Ensley

East Lake

Eastwood

Ensley

Five Points West

Inglenook

North Avondale

North Birmingham

Powderly

Pratt City

Smithfield

Southside

Springville Road

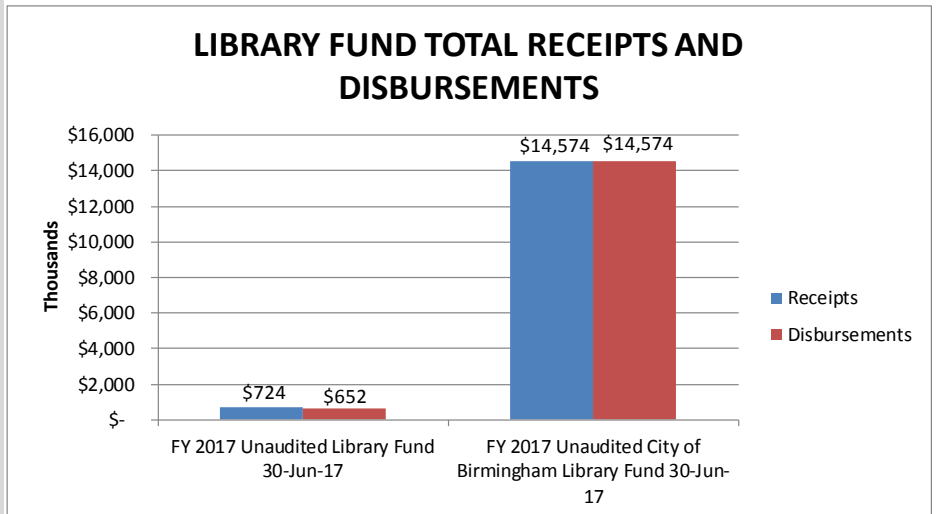
Titusville

West End

Woodlawn

Wylam

	<u>Unaudited</u> <u>Birmingham Library Fund</u> <u>6/30/17</u>	<u>Unaudited</u> <u>City of Birmingham</u> <u>Library Fund</u> <u>6/30/17</u>
<u>Cash Receipts</u>		
Local	\$255,787	\$14,573,525
Federal/State	\$295,620	
Grants	\$104,201	
Benefactor	\$68,575	
Total Receipts	\$724,184	\$14,573,525
<u>Cash Disbursements</u>		
Personnel	—	\$12,295,784
Public Service	\$151,211	\$16,678
Business Operations	\$500,817	\$2,261,063
Total Disbursements	\$652,027	\$14,573,525



BPL STAFF

2016 Staff Day

Held at the Southern Museum of Flight, staff were assigned to sit with fellow co-workers they normally would not see on a regular basis. Staff participated in a question and answer series on the library's Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

What was your favorite part of Staff Day?

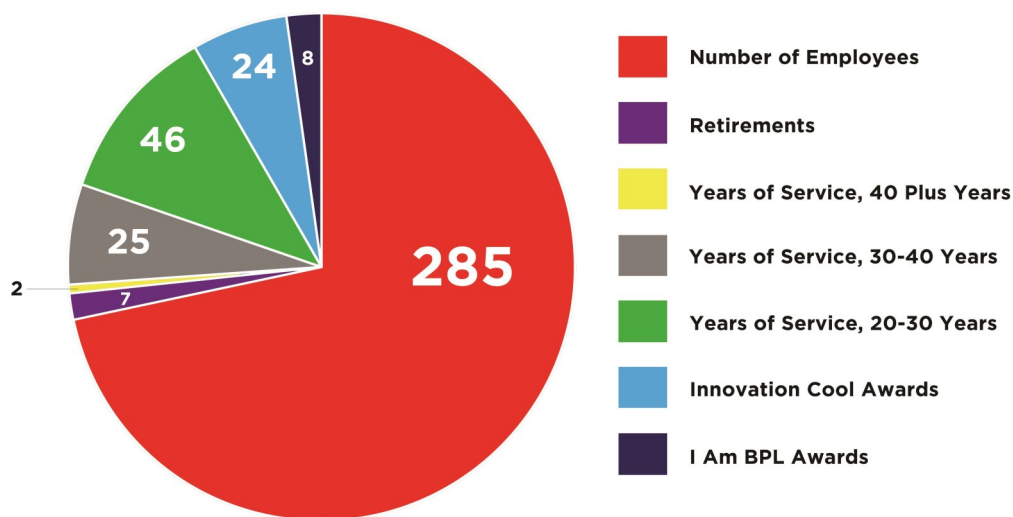
“Getting the opportunity to sit with people I did not know and learn about them and the jobs they do.”

“I enjoyed the guest speakers. If employees were listening/engaged to the message of the speakers, they were given an opportunity to self correct actions and attitudes.”



2016 Inventory Day

Each location was responsible for working on projects to clear out old equipment, straighten shelves, inventory books, or discard old items.



Public Service Performance: FY 2016-2017

Performance Areas	Performance	Strategic Impact
Hours Open to Public	44,176	C,E,T
Visitors to the Libraries	1,506,908	C,E
Meeting Room Bookings	2,488	C
Library Card Accounts	151,039	C,E,T
New Library Cards	1,156	C,E,T
BPL Website Visits	709,971	C,E,T
BPL Collection Size	728,388	C,E,
Print Checked Out	751,328	C,E,
Digital Checked Out	58,019	C,E,T
Total Checked Out	857,881	C,E,
Holds Placed	80,398	C,E,
Holds Filled	133,253	C,E,
Public Computers	282	C,E,
Wireless Sessions	585,095	C,E,T
Reference Questions	412,360	C,E,
Public Programs	2,837	C,E,
Program Attendance	58,485	C,E,
Summer Reading Registrations	5649	C,E,T
Volunteer Hours	7582	C,E,T

C=Community
E=Education
T=Technology

System-Wide: Library Visits & Ranking

Rank	Region	Location	Visits	Adjusted Visits*
1	Central Region	Central/Henley	310,585	376,435
2	Southern Region	Avondale	163,521	168,693
3	Eastern Region	Springville Road	136,894	137,843
4	Western Region	Five Points West	114,246	114,246
5	Southern Region	Southside	96,670	96,670
6	Eastern Region	East Lake	70,896	70,896
7	Northern Region	Pratt City	63,856	63,856
8	Western Region	West End	51,115	51,115
9	Southern Region	Eastwood	49,484	49,484
10	Southern Region	Titusville	48,534	48,534
11	Northern Region	North Birmingham	48,450	48,450
12	Western Region	Smithfield	44,118	44,118
13	Northern Region	Ensley	36,590	38,661
14	Eastern Region	Woodlawn	38,316	38,316
15	Western Region	Wylam	34,847	34,847
16	Southern Region	North Avondale	34,400	34,400
17	Western Region	Powderly	28,270	27,370
18	Northern Region	East Ensley	27,253	27,253
19	Eastern Region	Inglenook	24,543	24,543
	Total Visits		1,422,588	1,495,730

* Values are estimated and adjusted when gate counters are temporarily out of commission

System-wide: Circulation & Ranking

Rank	Region	Location	Adult	Teens	Children	Circulation
1	Central Region	Central/Henley	587,676	17,641	19,4545	173,310
2	Eastern Region	Springville Road	79,101	2,528	30,339	111,968
3	Southern Region	Avondale	52,379	2,395	37,671	92,445
4	Western Region	Five Points West	37,930	881	18,178	56,989
5	Southern Region	Southside	37,102	896	12,737	50,635
6	Southern Region	Eastwood	22,042	289	4,055	26,386
7	Northern Region	North Birmingham	17,567	258	6,592	24,417
8	Eastern Region	East Lake	18,006	180	4,610	22,796
9	Western Region	Powderly	16,564	550	5,398	22,512
10	Eastern Region	Woodlawn	17,314	225	3,093	20,632
11	Southern Region	Titusville	14,040	1,137	3,044	18,221
12	Western Region	Smithfield	10,572	322	6,634	17,528
13	Western Region	West End	12,718	786	2,750	16,254
14	Northern Region	Pratt City	11,434	165	4,202	15,801
15	Southern Region	North Avondale	10,767	217	4,681	15,665
16	Eastern Region	Inglenook	7,319	293	7,886	15,498
17	Northern Region	East Ensley	9,788	295	4,798	14,881
18	Northern Region	Ensley	9,934	240	3,802	13,976
19	Western Region	Wylam	8,628	107	2,078	10,813

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Eat Drink Read Write 2016

The Eat Drink Read Write festival, October 1-7, 2016, was a week-long culinary and literary adventure that featured James Beard Foundation award-winning chef, author, and food-justice activist Bryant Terry. Participants also sampled fermented and foraged fare, sipped literary cocktails, shared cuisine-inspired spoken word performances and enjoyed a children's art contest.



Summer Reading

The goal of 2016 library Summer Reading was to encourage children to read for pleasure. The library offered special events and incentives to encourage children of all ages, from infants to teens, to read what they enjoy, and to read often. Parents, grandparents, and other caregivers were also invited to participate and to help pre-readers enjoy books and develop a love of reading.



Bards & Brews

Bards & Brews offered the Birmingham community local craft beer, creative poetry, and original music. For the sixth year, this popular program provided a platform for aspiring artists to showcase their talents through open mic nights and poetry slams.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Teen Engineers BHM

The Central Library Youth Department has created a partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham's School of Engineering called Teen Engineers BHM, which provides UAB engineering students who mentor elementary and high school students about new technologies, such as robotics and computer programming.

Sweet Home: Alabama's History in Maps

In March 2017, Birmingham Public Library began its celebration of Alabama's bicentennial with the exhibit *Sweet Home: Alabama's History in Maps*. The 54 maps from BPL's world-class cartography collection tell the story of Alabama over 450 years of exploration, expansion, and development. Jay Lamar, head of the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, called *Sweet Home: Alabama's History in Maps*, "one of the most exciting, beautiful, and stimulating exhibitions I have ever seen. People will discover things about Alabama that they never knew or imagined by experiencing these lovely, remarkable maps." The exhibit, funded in part by Alabama Humanities Foundation, will travel around the state during the three-year bicentennial commemoration.

Birmingham Public Library Board Awards

24 INNOVATIVE AND COOL AWARDS

The Birmingham Public Library Board established this award to assist library staff by sponsoring an innovative or "cool" program. The board awards each library up to two \$50 awards per year to help improve an existing program or to develop a new innovative or "cool" program for patrons. Twenty-four unique programs were awarded with the Innovative and Cool Awards in FY 2016-17.

8 I AM BPL AWARDS

The I Am BPL Award is a quarterly stipend in the form of a \$25 gift presented directly to a BPL staff member who, through their work and commitment to the BPL mission, suggests an idea for (1) a cost-saving measure, (2) improving work efficiency, (3) improving work environment, or (4) that expands/improves the value of services of BPL. Eight staff members who submitted or were nominated received an I Am BPL Award in FY 2016-17.

**SWEET HOME:
ALABAMA'S HISTORY IN MAPS**

MARCH 1 - APRIL 30, 2017
FOURTH FLOOR GALLERY
BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
2100 PARK PLACE, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205

200 ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL **ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION**

WWW.BPLONLINE.ORG/ALMAPS

COMMUNITY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS



Avondale

Avondale Regional Branch Library's Ukulele 101 workshops provided free lessons for patrons on how to play the ukulele. The library has offered free checkout of ukuleles for patrons since receiving a donation of the instruments in 2015.

Central

Civil Rights Through the Eyes of a Young Poet – In June 2017, the Central Library's Create205 Learning Lab and BPL Archives Department partnered with John Paul Taylor of Real Life Poets, Inc. to offer a summer camp in which teens heard speakers share real-life stories of life in Birmingham during the civil rights movement and then wrote and performed spoken word poems to express modern-day views of the civil rights movement.



East Ensley

On Fridays, East Ensley Branch Library's FreePlay program offered STEM-based learning and play activities using KEVA planks, Legos, and Picasso tiles to supplement school learning in the fields of math and science.

East Lake

On Tuesdays beginning in early 2017, East Lake Branch Library's Tech Tuesday program taught patrons basic Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and how to create email accounts and apply for jobs online.



Eastwood

Eastwood Branch Library's 10 public computers provided internet services for patrons who cannot afford home access or do not have the skills to use computers.

Ensley

Ensley Branch Library's Science Club, an after-school program for kids taught by Winfield and Elinor Burks, met on Mondays in 2016-17. Students learned how to charge a lightbulb, the inner workings of gadgets, and other scientific experiments.



Five Points West

Senior citizens gathered weekly during 2016-17 for Five Points West Regional Branch Library's Active Living, a program that offered weekly activities including dance classes, crafts, and books.

Inglenook

An Expression of Appreciation for the Women of the Inglenook Community – This bi-monthly program at Inglenook Branch Library, a recipient of a BPL Board of Trustees Innovative and Cool Award, began in May 2017 to provide women in the community with programs that empower them and uplift the community. The library also partnered with Dr. Adrienne Starks, CEO of STREAM Innovation, and in June 2017 hosted a summer coding boot camp to help students develop and explore their passion for Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM).



North Avondale

North Avondale Branch Library hosted Cowboy, Boots, and Books, in which cowboys talked to 4th graders from Hayes K-8 School about life as a cowboy, and AWESOME On Purpose, a program in which women mentors helped teen girls from Hayes K-8 school boost their self-esteem. The Cowboys, Boots and Books program was funded by the BPL Library Board's Innovation and Cool Awards program.

North Birmingham

Zoobrary at the North Birmingham Regional Branch Library introduced patrons to its zoo creatures.





Powderly

Powderly Branch Library hosted its Annual Southwest Community Black History Month concert featuring the Wenonah High School Choir in February 2017. The library also hosted a popular weekly Adult Line Dance class.

Pratt City

Pratt City Branch Library hosted weekly Chair Aerobics classes for seniors, especially residents of the Dugan Avenue Senior Apartments community center the library partners with to promote library programs and resources.



Smithfield

Smithfield Branch Library hosted ACT Prep and Power Hour. Power Hour was a one-hour tutoring session for elementary and middle school patrons. ACT Prep was a program throughout the year to help high school students improve their ACT skills through Learning Express Library, BPL's free database.

Southside

Southside hosted From Page to Stage—A Reader's Theater Workshop for Children in partnership with the Junior League of Birmingham, Birmingham Children's Theatre, and BPL. During 2017, the library also hosted Ramsay High School students who participated in Teens Engineer BHM, a partnership between BPL and UAB's School of Engineering.



Springville Road

Coffee, Conversation, and Crafts, Springville Road Regional Branch Library's weekly adult crafting program, attracts dozens of senior patrons who gather to do crafts such as crocheting and other activities.

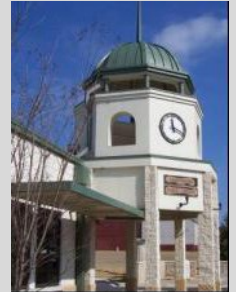


Titusville

A crochet class met every Thursday in fiscal 2016-17 at the Titusville Branch Library, allowing patrons of all ages to get to know each other while crafting.

West End

Filmmaking Workshop for Teens at West End Branch Library - Denzale Butler, a young African American filmmaker, led a four-week workshop teaching teenagers the ins and outs of making a film using a cell phone.



Woodlawn

Woodlawn Branch Library partnered in with Impact Alabama's SaveFirst program, offering free tax services for low-income families.

Wylam

The Summer Push program was a collaborative effort between Faith Chapel Church, Wylam Elementary School, and Wylam Branch Library offered in June and July 2017. Constance Blaylock, a second grade teacher at Wylam Elementary School, met with the students every Tuesday in the months of June and July teaching mini-lessons on reading skills.



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www.bplonline.org