

# BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY



**PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**



## FY 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT





## 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



*Executive Director Floyd Council*

## SUMMARY FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In my capacity as Executive Director of the City of Birmingham Public Library, my team and I are honored to present to the Library Board of Trustees, City Government, and community stakeholders our annual report for 2019. The BPL team made history on April 9, 2019 with all staff appearing at City Council in celebration of National Library Workers Day and being honored by the City on Library Appreciation Day. The biggest highlight of the year was BPL's National feature in the Atlantic- Rethink publication promoting digital skills and education on the workforce development digital skills gap.

During the past calendar year, Birmingham Public Library celebrated a historic year as the community place for "Everyday People" and the "digital living room" for Birmingham and Jefferson County, as the only Urban Library Council Library and largest public library system in the State of Alabama. BPL is the community place where equity, diversity, and inclusion is celebrated in a space where rich and poor enjoy the provisions of a progressive library systems transitioning to 21st Century service excellence. The library is now the place to become a superstar at our Bards & Brews Open Mic program, get a new passport, get married "right at the library" via notary service, access thousands of ebooks and audio books, take your favorite movies and tunes to the Beach, develop your small business, and so much more. With a vibrant 134 year history as the People First Library, we have accomplished major milestones toward our strategic goals in our areas of focus for Community, Education, and Technology. This year we saw the reality of a new Wylam Branch Library and the funding of the beautiful Central East Monumental Stairs renovations. Our multifaceted programs, services, and partnerships find us turning outward to take Library services outside the walls of our 20 Library buildings with a talented family of trustees, staff, retirees, volunteers, and an amazing list of community partners.

With a talented Executive leadership team, a passionate Friends Foundation Board, an impactful Library Board of Trustees, and the most progressive City Government in Birmingham's history, BPL is agile across multiple strategic alignments. We look forward to a bright future of preserving the past and explore the future as we contribute to our Mayor Randall Woodfin's mission of building community through servant leadership and leadership theme of "Putting People First." BPL is the People First Library. During the next calendar year, we are excited about reconciling our past 5 year plan, developing a new 5 year strategic plan, and interactively producing the city's core values as a Customer Service, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Transparency, and Accountability driven Public Library System.

*Floyd G. Council Sr.*

Floyd G. Council Sr.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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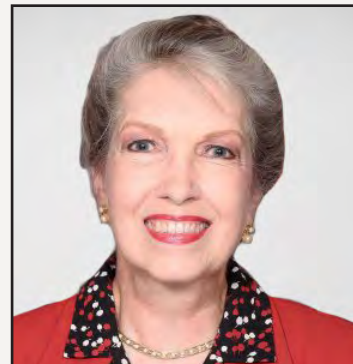
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Floyd Council  
*Executive Director*



The Honorable Randall Woodfin  
*Mayor, City of Birmingham*



The Honorable Valerie A. Abbott  
*President, Birmingham City Council*



Service Area:  
City of Birmingham



Population:  
209,880



Neighborhoods: 99



Communities: 23



Library Outlets: 19



Funding:  
City of Birmingham



Governance:  
Public Library Board

## FY 2018-19 BUDGET

### REVENUES

#### Cash Receipts

	Unaudited Birmingham Library Fund 6/19	Unaudited City of Birmingham Library Fund 6/19
Local	\$ 264,936	\$ 14,571,770
Federal/State	298,706	
Grants	64,450	
Benefactor	75,755	

#### Total Receipts

<b>\$ 703,848</b>	<b>\$ 14,571,770</b>
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### EXPENDITURES

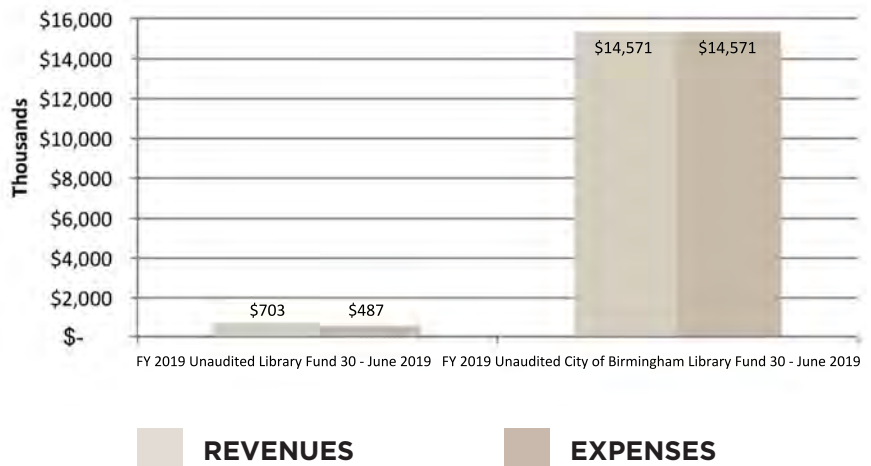
Personnel	\$ -	\$ 12,332,872
Public Service	144,200	55,432
Business Operations	343,427	2,183,466

#### Total Disbursements

<b>\$ 487,627</b>	<b>\$ 14,571,770</b>
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## LIBRARY FUND

### TOTAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES



# LIBRARY STAFF



## 2018 STAFF DAY

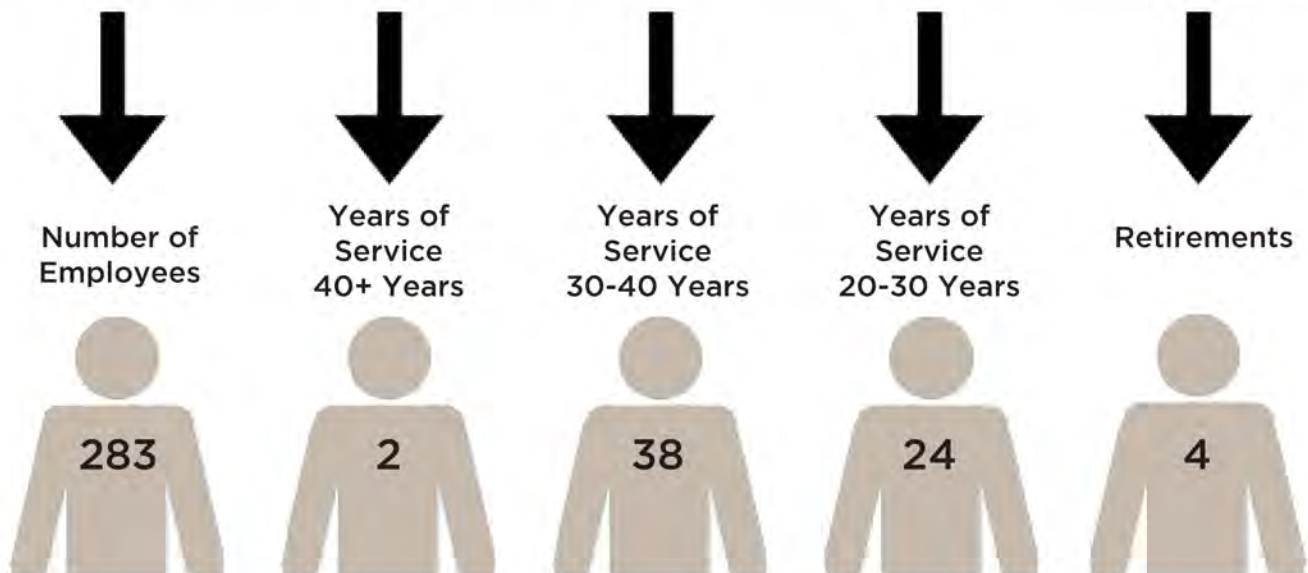
In October 2018, the annual BPL Staff Day was held in the Central Library East Grand Reading Room. All 19 libraries were closed so staff gathered to hear motivational messages, attended educational workshops, and recreational activities such as Henna tattoos.

Birmingham City Hall hosted a special Birmingham Public Library Appreciation Day at the Boutwell Auditorium in March 2019. All 19 libraries closed for the day and participated and fellowshiped together eating a meal provided by the city. A number of BPL employees packed the Birmingham City Council meeting together where library employees were thanked by Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin for their contributions to help the city by "Putting People First."

## 2018 INVENTORY DAY

Each library location worked on special projects. The Security Department and the Building Service Department took advantage of this opportunity to provide additional training for their staff.

## BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF NUMBERS



FY 2018-19

# SERVICE PERFORMANCE

## LOCATIONS

Avondale	Performance Areas	Performance	Strategic Impact
Central	Hours Open to Public	45,851	C,E,T
East Ensley	Visitors to the Libraries	1,307,802	C,E
East Lake	Meeting Room Bookings	1,363	C
Eastwood	Library Card Accounts	132,200	C,E,T
Ensley	New Library Cards	7,098	C,E,T
Five Points West	BPL Website Visits	556,973	C,E,T
Inglenook	BPL Collection Size	712,625	C,E
North Avondale	Print Checked Out	630,989	C,E
North Birmingham	Book Checked Out	424,402	C,E,T
Powderly	Other Physical Checked Out	357,526	C,E,T
Pratt City	Digital Checked Out	243,218	C,E
Smithfield	Total Checked Out	942,602	C,E
Southside	Holds Placed	91,259	C,E
Springville Road	Holds Filled	122,082	C,E,T
Titusville	Public Computers	275	C,E
West End	Public Computers Usage	392,363	C,E
Woodlawn	Public Programs	3,381	C,E
Wylam	Program Attendance	72,706	C,E,T
	Summer Learning Registrations	3,315	C,E,T
	Volunteer Hours	6,578	C,E,T

C=COMMUNITY, E=EDUCATION, T=TECHNOLOGY

## SYSTEM-WIDE

# LIBRARY VISITS & RANKING

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Rank	Region	Location	Visits
1	Central Region	Central	319,405
2	Southern Region	Avondale	146,100
3	Eastern Region	Springville Road	117,134
4	Western Region	Five Points West	101,082
5	Southern Region	Southside	96,164
6	Eastern Region	East Lake	76,723
7	Western Region	Smithfield	49,321
8	Northern Region	North Birmingham	48,108
9	Northern Region	Pratt City	47,646
10	Southern Region	Titusville	41,100
11	Southern Region	North Avondale	40,518
12	Western Region	West End	40,055
13	Eastern Region	Woodlawn	33,082
14	Northern Region	East Ensley	32,158
15	Western Region	Wylam	29,879
16	Western Region	Powderly	27,763
17	Northern Region	Ensley	24,984
18	Southern Region	Eastwood	21,005
19	Eastern Region	Inglenook	15,575
<b>Total Visits</b>			<b>1,307,802</b>

SYSTEM-WIDE

# LIBRARY CIRCULATION & RANKING

Rank	Region	Location	Adult	Teens	Children	Circulation
1	Central Region	Central	157,509	5,587	33,788	196,884
2	Eastern Region	Springville Road	80,427	2,551	38,558	121,536
3	Southern Region	Avondale	61,879	2,242	45,909	110,030
4	Western Region	Five Points West	46,119	1,274	21,558	68,951
5	Southern Region	Southside	41,599	1,037	10,893	53,529
6	Northern Region	North Birmingham	23,951	631	9,896	34,478
7	Southern Region	Eastwood	22,251	413	4,142	26,806
8	Eastern Region	East Lake	19,228	276	4,144	23,648
9	Western Region	Powderly	18,032	387	3,661	22,080
10	Eastern Region	Woodlawn	17,528	231	3,041	20,800
11	Southern Region	Titusville	14,691	171	3,386	18,248
12	Western Region	West End	12,759	758	4,138	17,655
13	Northern Region	Pratt City	13,573	182	3,769	17,524
14	Western Region	Smithfield	14,448	124	2,915	17,486
15	Eastern Region	Inglenook	7,341	365	8,728	16,434
16	Southern Region	North Avondale	10,522	148	3,606	14,276
17	Northern Region	East Ensley	8,963	115	3,720	12,798
18	Northern Region	Ensley	10,300	198	2,130	12,628
19	Western Region	Wylam	7,213	75	1,607	8,895
<b>Total</b>			<b>552,795</b>	<b>16,765</b>	<b>209,588</b>	<b>814,686</b>



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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## Summer Learning

The Birmingham Public Library experienced great success with the 2019 Summer Learning Program – A Universe of Stories. The library registered 3,315 participants including children, teens, and adults. These participants recorded over 19,970 reading hours. During June and July the library presented a total of 658 Summer Learning programs with a total attendance of 16,306.

## Pen Craft Summer Learning Program

Ink pens always come in handy, and the Birmingham Public Library stepped up to help as part of its 2019 Summer Learning programming. Rachel Marable, a Library Assistant III at the Central Library, hosting a series of "Pen Craft" workshops at several BPL locations. Participants decorated ink pens that can be used for display or given away as fun gifts. Crafters were able to incorporate seasonal themes to their artwork while displaying their love for learning.



## Rollin Beats @ BPL Summer Learning Program

Gavin Tucker of the Central Library's Create205 Learning Lab taught young patrons in Birmingham a chance to create their own music during BPL's 2019 Summer Learning activities. Tucker offered a program called "Rollin' Beats" at nine different BPL locations. Rollin' Beats is an introduction to digital music creation and manipulation. Teens learned drum sequencing and editing techniques using digital and live samples with professional software such as Pro Tools and MPC Studio.

## Bards & Brews

Bards & Brews celebrated its 10th year of existence the past fiscal year and remains one of BPL's most popular signature programs. A combination of spoken word poetry and free craft beer held monthly from January through November. Bards & Brews, with host Voice Porter, attracts a diverse group from across metro Birmingham and talented spoken word artists. In fiscal 2019, BPL hosted 10 open mic events and one poetry slam competition with the 3 winners taking home cash prizes.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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## Science is Big at Our Libraries!

### The Burks:

Several of BPL's 19 libraries host science programs for our young patrons throughout the year. Elinor and Winfield Burks, who have hosted science programs at Ensley Branch Library for several years, found fun ways to teach youth about science at several BPL locations during Black History Month and as part of our Summer Learning activities.

### The Science Lady:

Jan Mattingly, better known as "The Science Lady," entertains hundreds of young patrons at our libraries every year by presenting her popular science programs as part of our Summer Learning activities.



### Girls Coding Camp:

The Central Library hosted its first Girls Coding Camp in the summer of 2019, with dozens of young girls learning how to do computer coding.

## Grow With Google

On August 6, 2018 in the Central Library East Grand Reading Room, the Birmingham Public Library became Alabama's first library to host Grow With a Google, a daylong series of computer training Google is now offering nationwide. The initiative aims to help job seekers and small businesses learn the digital skills they need to succeed through onsite instructional training led by visiting Google teams, presenters and coaches. Grow With Google attracted hundreds of business owners and individuals, who participated in workshops led by Google representatives that focused on digital skills, coding, online safety, data analytics, and improving online presence. Google also provided onsite training for library, nonprofit and education professionals on how they can use Grow with Google's free tools and resources to help small businesses & jobseekers in their own communities.



Since hosting Grow With Google, BPL's partnership with Google has led to multiple free Google workshops teaching patrons how to use Gmail, Google Calendar and other services, and providing business owners with tips on how to take their company to the next level. BPL's partnership with Grow with Google also led Google to select BPL for a June 2019 feature in The Atlantic Magazine that provided positive national exposure.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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## Local Authors Expo

Birmingham Public Library hosted its annual Local Authors Expo at the Central Library in August 2018. More than 40 authors from across Alabama participated.

## Quilting Programs

From beginners classes to experienced workshops, quilting programs are popular at the Birmingham Public Library. The Riley Center Quilters, a group of about 25 members based in southwestern Birmingham, took their "Underground Railroad Quilts" traveling exhibit to the Central Library in August 2018. The group has also had their quilts on display at the Powderly Branch Library and the Birmingham CrossPlex. The quilts, all made by Riley Center Quilters, are similar to quilts during the 1800s that contained hidden messages quilters once used to help slaves escape bondage. The Pratt City Branch Library also has a group of senior patrons who make quilts on-site and often donates some of their work to residents of Birmingham nursing homes.



## 123 Play With Me

BPL's 1-2-3 Program, offered at several of our libraries, allows parents to bond with their young children while experiencing the joy of reading. Playing with your baby is not only important for bonding but also offers an educational experience for your child. The five-week program is for children birth through ages three and their parents/caregivers.

## Sixteenth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture (Jan. 2019)

Young writers and musicians from Birmingham-based nonprofit Real Life Poets performed original poetry and songs paying tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 16th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecture, presented the Sunday before MLK Day at the Avondale Regional Branch Library.



## Family History Month

In October 2018, BPL's Southern History Department hosted its inaugural Family History Month. All month long, Southern History hosted nearly a dozen workshops on such topics as genealogy as BPL celebrated the importance of knowing your family history.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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## Growing Kings

The Growing Kings is a special male mentoring program. They have had numerous one day field trips at various BPL locations. During these excursions, the boys have participated in a number of library programs including STEAM, Codey Rockys, learning Scratch coding, competing in Vex robotic games, training on iPads and Mac Books.

## 2019 Passport Fair

The Central Library hosted BPL's first Passport Fair in May 2019. Citizens from across Alabama are now using the Birmingham Public Library to start the process of getting a passport to travel overseas.



## Anthony Ray Hinton Book Signing

Hinton, who was released from prison in 2017 after three decades on Alabama's Death Row, held a book signing of his new memoir "The Sun Does Shine" at North Avondale Branch Library during the summer of 2019.

## Dolores Hydock "A Christmas Memory"

Hydock's popular one-woman performance of Truman Capote's acclaimed "A Christmas Memory" draws a crowd to the Central Library every Christmas.

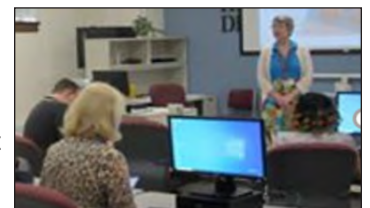


## "Meet Miss Fancy" Author Irene Latham

Author Irene Latham hosted a program and book signing of "Meet Miss Fancy," the famous elephant who used to hang out in Avondale, at the Avondale Regional Branch Library during 2019. Patrons packed her lecture and lined up to buy copies of her book.

## Genealogy at Birmingham Public Library

Birmingham Public Library's Southern History Department hosts a variety of free genealogy programs, including its popular "Intro to Genealogy" workshops at libraries across Birmingham and Jefferson County every year.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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## Reading Between The Wines

The Birmingham Public Library hosted its inaugural “Reading Between the Wines” event on April 12, 2019 in the East Grand Reading Room of the Central Library. The event showcased four authors - Cindy Wilson, R. Earl Muir, Ethel Morgan Smith, and Larry D. Thornton - for an evening of reading and discussion, wine tasting, light hors d’oeuvres, and live music. Reading Between the Wines culminated BPL’s observance of National Library Week, an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

## Nonprofit Management Workshop Series, Steps to Starting Your Business Workshops at BPL

The Central Library’s Business, Science, & Technology Department host a variety of workshops throughout the year featuring business experts giving back to the community. Steps to Starting Your Business is a monthly workshop series sponsored by BPL, the City of Birmingham and Birmingham Chapter of SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives). Other programs held in 2019 fiscal year included the Nonprofit Management Class Series, Business 101 for Artists Workshop, How to Start a 501©3 Organization, Grant Writing. The Central Library also became the new home for the Magic City Toastmasters Club. The two most popular programs were Steps to Starting Your Business and the Nonprofit Management Class workshop series. The Nonprofit Management Class was a one-hour monthly workshop series offered as part of a collaboration between BPL and the Harvard Club of Birmingham. The series instructor was Dr. John Whitman, who has taught leadership and management courses at universities across the country. The class topics included: How to Start a Nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization, Introduction to Grant Writing, Assessment and Evaluation of Nonprofit Programs, Logic Models and Theory of Change, and Tools for Social Change.



## The Fourth Floor Gallery, Central Library

The Central Library East Building’s 4th Floor Gallery hosts major art exhibits featuring artists from across Alabama. Among the highlights of fiscal year 2019 were Sacred Sounds of Alabama: An Exhibit of the Alabama Folklife Association and Downtown: Photographs from the Archives' Collection.

# COMMUNITY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

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## Avondale Regional Branch Library

Avondale Library stretches the boundaries of library service by being the first library in BPL to circulate ukuleles and video games. Avondale offers adult programs such as monthly arts and crafts/ jewelry making, book clubs, adult coloring workshops, gentle yoga classes, and "Exercise Your Brain" stations. Youth programs include

monthly "Pizza" programs for teens, preschool story times, afterschool programming, and 1-2-3 Play with Me for children. Avondale also hosts all-ages Family Nights and Ukulele 101 classes.



## Central Library

The Central Library consists of two buildings, Central East and the historic Linn-Henley Research Building located at 2100 Park Place next to Linn Park downtown. Besides the traditional library services offered at BPL's other 18 locations such the ability to check out books, CDs and other items,

Central also offers specialized services which range from Archives, Business, Genealogy, Southern History, Science Technology and much more. Outreach is also a great part of our services and Central staffers routinely speak and provide programs at schools, neighborhood meetings and other community events.

The Central Library Youth/Teen Department offers tons of programs and events on a regular basis for our 100 plus students daily that attend our after-school programs. Our youth "Beyond the Bell" programs range from Teen Engineers BHM to Computer Coding, a music studio in our Create205 Lab where young patrons can record their own records, Crafts to Life Lessons like "I Am Not My Hair" and "Social Media Do's and Don'ts." Central has over 30 computers available for patrons needing internet access to apply for jobs or search news articles online as well as a Computer lab which teaches a range of classes for free for our patrons. Many of our locations offer Faxing, Scanning, Passport and Notary Services. Central Library, which has 20 passport agents, offers walk in service for passports has passport Fairs on a regular basis.



## East Ensley Branch Library

The East Ensley Branch partnered with the Ensley and Tuxedo Neighborhood Associations to provide iPads and inventor kits for youth, plus teen programs focusing on STEM learning. These library programs enabled our patrons to express themselves creatively, gain hands-on learning, and build social skills by working together to achieve a goal.

# COMMUNITY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

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## East Lake Branch Library

In fiscal 2019, East Lake Branch Library added a variety of new interactive reading materials for patrons, including children's VOX books and teen QR code biographies. The library also partnered with neighborhood associations, volunteers and parents to provide a meeting space for after-school tutoring and social workers. Free chess lessons for patrons, led by East Lake resident David Harris, gained exposure in Birmingham area media. East Lake Library also partnered with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute to offer children and teen programs during Black History Month in February 2019. East Lake's Summer Learning 2019 featured a variety of programs including Rollin Beats Music Lab, Teen Robotics, chess instruction and Google Job search workshops.

## Eastwood Branch Library

Eastwood Branch Library provides a variety of services for Birmingham's Eastwood community and surrounding municipalities. The Eastwood library's popular board game collection, BPL's only available for check-out by patrons, expanded to include children's games and other family games. The Eastwood Library also supports several local retirement communities and has an active book club for seniors.



## Ensley Branch Library

The Ensley Branch Library facilitated its first ever Adult Basic PC and Basic Internet computer workshops to meet the needs of patrons desiring better technological skills. After introducing computer classes to the Ensley community, Ensley Branch was featured in the July issue of the Atlantic Magazine highlighted under the topic of "Digital Skills for All." In addition, the Ensley Branch Library received \$1,000 through community service grants from State Senator Linda Coleman Madison for the second consecutive year.

## Five Points West Regional Branch Library

The Five Points West Library in 2018 partnered with a local JCCEO Head Start Center to offer a series of bilingual family literacy programs, PRIME TIME Family Reading Time, funded by a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation. The library also offered multiple sets of coding courses developed to expose patrons to higher technology fluency. Different classes, designed from kids to senior adults, had various themes ranging from web and game design to beginner coding technique.



# COMMUNITY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

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## Inglenook Branch Library

In fiscal 2019, Inglenook Library continued to provide programs relevant to the community while working on new strategies to enhance existing community partnerships. “The Royal Tea Party,” designed to encourage and inspire positive personal growth and self – esteem in young girls ages 7-12, allowed the library to provide a new approach to reaching out to young patrons. The

bi-monthly “An Expression of Appreciation for Women in the Inglenook Community” has grown astronomically in popularity among adults. Pastor Ralph Garth of True Vine Evangelical Church began using the Inglenook Library women’s program as the activity as a source for spiritual and personal development among women in his congregation.

## North Avondale Branch Library

2019 proved to be another exciting year for North Avondale Library to provide great service and programming to patrons. North Avondale hosted a special author talk and book signing event featuring Anthony Ray Hinton, author of “The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row.” Hinton’s talk generated media coverage on several television stations and print/online media. This summer, North Avondale Library hosted its second “Boots, Books and Cowboys” program, showcasing real horses and allowing kids to meet black cowboys and cowgirls. Horseback rides, free books and school supplies were all part of the fun.



## North Birmingham Branch Library

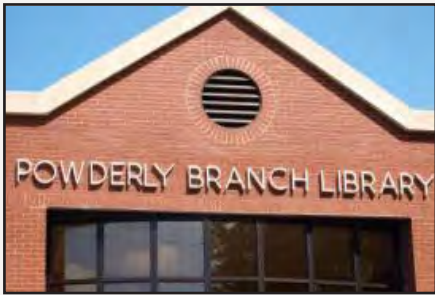
In fiscal 2019, North Birmingham Library hosted several successful children and adult activities. Among its most popular youth programs: Art Attack, Eatable Creations, Grub-down, Cinemania, Teens Engineer Birmingham. Popular adult programs included Tuesday Mornings at the Library with guest speakers on important

topics; Midday Movies for Adults; Missing and Abandoned African American Cemeteries with Wanda Looney from the Birmingham African American Genealogy Group. One of the highlights of North Birmingham’s summer learning programs for all ages was the Zoobrary. Maintained by the Youth Department, it allows patrons the opportunity to see animals housed in the North Birmingham Library on a daily basis and interact with animals during the popular Grub-down program.



# COMMUNITY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

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## **Powderly Branch Library**

The Photography/Mentoring Camp was the highlight of Powderly Library's Summer Learning activities. This camp, held bi-weekly for three weeks, ran on donations and through the guidance of Ms. Lakisha Cohill. Over 20 young men participated each week. Ms. Cohill entertained and educated the children with visits from local comedians, producers, rappers, photographers, and other speakers. The program concluded with a Photography/Mentoring Reception allowing the children to display their paintings and photographic works for parents, grandparents and visitors. They all walked the isle modeling and displaying various talents while enjoying music from a guest DJ. Powderly Library also continues to offer its popular weekly Adult Line Dance class.

## **Pratt City Branch Library**

The Pratt City Library enjoyed an exciting year of providing programs for patrons of all ages, and enjoyed record attendance of its Summer Learning programs. "Needles and Threads," an adult crafting program offered twice a week, gained new participants. On Mondays, the program offered sewing including pattern sewing allowing patrons to show off their new designs and creations. Wednesdays drew quilting talents who began working on a community quilt to honor Pratt City in connection with the Jefferson County Memorial Project and the mining tradition in the area. A new crochet class has begun, headed by a senior intern. A new program called "Bead Buddies" engages participants in jewelry making. Pratt City Library also began collaboration with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute's Heritage Alive program that offers stellar story time programs for nearby youth and gives them books. The adult book club, the Pratt City Readers, continued to thrive in 2019.



## **Smithfield Branch Library**

In fiscal 2019, the Smithfield Library updated its printer and copier for both staff and public use and updated its front entrance doors for ADA compliance. Smithfield Library also implemented new popular programming, such as a monthly slime lab, yoga classes, and computer classes. Its gaming systems and board games were also expanded for afterschool programs. The Smithfield Adult Book Club remains strong with 18 members who gather monthly. Smithfield Library also participated in the 2019 Smithfield Fun Day and connected with a new organization, United Ability, providing movie days and game days for senior patrons.

# COMMUNITY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

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## Southside Branch Library

During 2019, the Southside Branch Library partnered with The Junior League and UAB to offer the family playtime "1, 2, 3 Play With Me." In partnership with The Veteran's Hospital, Southside hosted the monthly Veteran's Support Group. Southside continued to offer programs for patrons of all ages, computer access, and meeting space for neighbors and other groups.

## Springville Road Regional Branch Library

Springville Road Library added to its popular offering of programs. For adults, Springville Road Library offers weekly craft, exercise, games, and wellness programs, two monthly book clubs, along with quilting and sewing classes. "Brain Jam," a new program begun in the spring of 2019, provides learning opportunities to help fight cognitive decline. This program involves musical instruction as well as foreign language, and was a 2019 finalist for an Awesome Foundation grant. Due to her innovative programs, Springville Road Adult librarian Kelly Laney was chosen as a District 1 Super Citizen by Councilor Clinton Woods. Springville Road also hosted Eastern residents for the first series of A Citizen's Experience program offered by the City of Birmingham. Outreach to local teens has included STEM and crafting programs. Youth department staff increased their outreach to local schools in fiscal 2019, performing weekly story times, offering programs featuring the Springville Road animals (both in and off-site), crafting activities, Family Fun Nights, 1-2-3 Play With Me, and the annual Halloween Carnival.



## Titusville Branch Library

Titusville Library expanded its variety of programs and services for patrons of all ages in fiscal 2019. Black History Month debuted one of the library's most unique activities, the "Young, Black, and Gifted" program, allowing patrons to show off their talents. Library staff worked with Titusville youth to develop creative skits, moving speeches, and inspirational songs as a tribute to both the historical and contemporary African American experience.

# COMMUNITY LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

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## West End Branch Library

The West End Branch is fortunate to have the support of Alabama State Representative John W. Rogers, Jr., Jefferson County Commissioner Sheila Tyson and the neighborhoods in the West End Community. Because of their support, West End Branch offered the following programs in fiscal 2019: the Annual West End Christmas

Musical, Black History Programs, Crochet Classes, Youth Chess Class, Line Dancing and UAB's "Broadway Today" performance of the Musical "Hamilton." The Christmas Musical, crochet classes by Joan Black and UAB Broadway Today were featured in the Birmingham Times and on Fox 6.

## Woodlawn Branch Library

The Woodlawn Neighborhood Association was gracious enough to purchase a flat screen TV for the Woodlawn Branch Library, allowing the library to expand programs such as video gaming for the teens, movies for all ages and support technology needs for various programs. For the ninth year, Woodlawn Branch Library partnered with Impact Alabama to provide the free Community: SaveFirst Tax Service for low income families in the community. The library provides space for IRS-trained workers from SaveFirst to file tax documents for citizens in the community. In the 2019 tax season, 464 tax returns were filed at the Woodlawn Library, securing families over \$910,000 in tax refunds and saving them approximately \$185,000 in commercial tax preparation fees.



## Wylam Branch Library

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Wylam Branch Library was held on June 10, 2019, fulfilling a project the neighborhood had sought for over 20 years. The old 2,000 square foot building erected in 1962 is being replaced with a 5,400 square foot building that is scheduled to open in February 2020. The larger space will allow for more programs and expanded services for the

community. It will include a programming/meeting room, outdoor courtyard with seating, improved parking and an expanded fiction, non-fiction and media collection among other features. This civic investment will continue making a positive impact on patrons of all ages and the Wylam community for future generations.



[WWW.COBPL.ORG](http://WWW.COBPL.ORG)