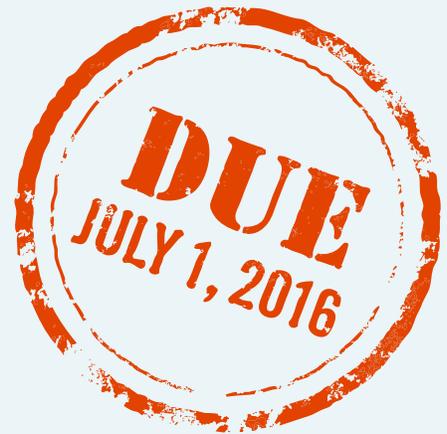


SPECIAL REPORT | MARCH 2016

STILL OVERDUE:



NEW YORKERS NEED MORE FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES



**KEEP INVESTING IN
LIBRARIES**
KEEP INVESTING IN NEW YORKERS!



New York
Public
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STILL OVERDUE: NEW YORKERS NEED MORE FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES

New Yorkers depend on their libraries. They are not only the place to go for books, information, and community events—they're also on the front lines of tackling inequality. From providing free resources like after-school programs, job search assistance, and adult learning classes to connecting immigrant communities with ESOL classes and access to IDNYC, our libraries are an important resource for all New Yorkers, especially working families.

Thanks to the \$43 million we received from the City last year, we were able to add more staff and expand programming to help millions of New Yorkers. Our libraries are now open longer so that working people can visit their branches on weekends and evenings. Library programs and free public-use technology are also more accessible.

Though last year's investment was significant, we still can and must do more. Our libraries haven't recovered from years of cuts. In fact, funding is still \$22 million below 2008 levels, while demand for services and programs continues to increase. Half of the money secured in FY16 was a one-year-only appropriation, meaning many branches will be forced to cut back on six-day service if last year's full \$43 million increase isn't reinstated.

If our City doesn't keep investing in libraries, vulnerable populations who rely on our services will suffer. Our libraries receive over 40 million visits a year—more than all of NYC's museums and sports teams combined—stretching our librarians and facilities to their limits. And many of our libraries need critical building upgrades and repairs.

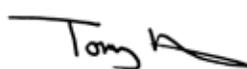
In order to address this chronic maintenance crisis and ensure the continued expansion of much-needed services, we must keep investing in libraries. That means:

- Securing the remaining \$22 million of the original \$65 million budget restoration in order to expand access to our much-needed programming
- Baseline the FY16 \$43 million increase plus any further increase to preserve citywide six-day service and expanded programming New Yorkers deserve from their local branches
- Funding \$100 million in FY17 of our more than \$250 million total critical building needs to address the chronic maintenance crisis plaguing branches across the city

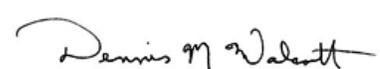
We present this report as an urgent appeal for continued City action on the infrastructure and program crisis in our branches. We take great pride in our libraries and their importance to local communities, and are committed to ensuring that they can continue to provide New Yorkers with the high quality service they expect and deserve.



Linda E. Johnson
President & CEO, Brooklyn Public Library



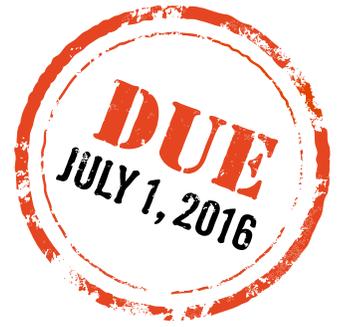
Tony Marx
President, The New York Public Library



Dennis M. Walcott
President & CEO, Queens Library



STILL OVERDUE: FUNDING FOR EARLY LITERACY



70% of NYC 3rd graders don't read at grade level

Libraries play an essential role in providing literacy support and resources for families across New York City. Over the past year, the city's three systems increased children's programs and hired 90 children's librarians. But with added funding, our libraries are poised to provide even more services to ensure that all New York City students meet state standards in reading by 2nd grade.



SPOTLIGHT:

Mott Haven Library | Bronx

The New York Public Library

This fall, thanks to increased funding from the City, Mott Haven Library in the South Bronx was able to add extra opening hours and hire a second children's librarian to serve the large numbers of children and their families who rely on the branch for essential early literacy support.

The impact has been dramatic. Since joining the branch, January Sanalak and other staff have added story times, created a Pre-K corner filled with books, and increased outreach. The branch now provides services to nearly two dozen local daycare and school classes a month, including visits to the schools as well as class visits to the library. "We supplement the schools," says Sanalak, adding that more is needed. "The sooner we can catch children and give them the literacy skills they need, the more successful they can be in school."

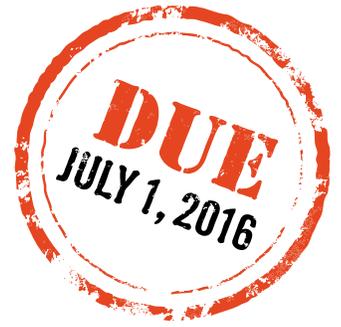
**LOCAL IMPACT:
BY THE NUMBERS** 42 Children's librarians
added at NYPL in FY16

328,000 Attendees at NYPL early
literacy programs in FY16

145% Increase in outreach to
schools and daycares
over last year

STILL OVERDUE:

FUNDING FOR ESOL CLASSES FOR IMMIGRANTS



Nearly 1 in 4 New Yorkers needs help learning English

New Yorkers come from more than a hundred different countries, but they share a common need: they must learn to read, write, and speak English to reach their full professional and personal potential. In FY16, our city's libraries increased the number of slots in free ESOL classes to about 15,000, but the unmet need is still staggering.



SPOTLIGHT:

East Flushing Community Library | Queens Queens Library

Now that the branch is open six days a week, Peruvian immigrant Julio Silarayan is delighted to be enrolled in Saturday ESOL classes at East Flushing Community Library. "My interest is for learning more English," says Silarayan, a server for a catering company. He wants to improve his English for many reasons, but most of all so he can advance at work.

Silarayan has been in New York for 10 years. Although he attended ESOL classes in the past, his demanding work schedule hasn't permitted him to continue learning—until now. Even so, Silarayan is lucky to have gotten a seat in one of Queens Library's free ESOL classes. Officials expanded the program in FY16 by adding more classes, more locations, and more weekend sessions, but an estimated 1,100 would-be learners were still turned away because there was simply no room for them.

LOCAL IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

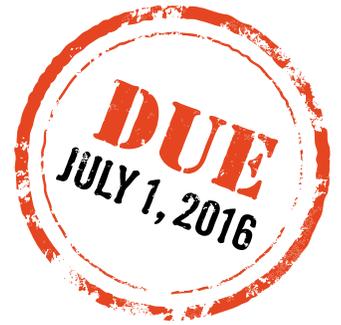
3,200 Number of seats offered in ESOL classes at Queens libraries in FY16

40 Number of Queens branches that added weekend hours this year

30% Materials borrowed from Queens libraries that are in languages other than English

STILL OVERDUE:

FUNDING FOR CAREER & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



More than
230,000 New
Yorkers are
unemployed

New Yorkers across the city rely on our libraries for career and small business help—from assistance with applying for jobs online to resume coaching and business plan support. City libraries were able to expand these services this year. But to provide even more for more New Yorkers, our libraries need added funding for much-needed staff, training, and technology.



SPOTLIGHT:

NEW LOTS LIBRARY | BROOKLYN

Brooklyn Public Library

Brooklyn librarian Christine Zarett knows firsthand what it is like to be out of work and looking for a new opportunity. After losing her job in the recent downturn, Zarett embarked on a second career as a librarian and, thanks to increased City funding, was hired at New Lots Library in East New York. The funding also enabled Zarett to attend a series of trainings on providing job search, career, and resume help for her patrons.

Zarett has set up a regular resume lab in the branch's computer room, where she offers classes and one-on-one guidance. The library bustles with job seekers and other patrons, but is plagued by over \$5 million in needed upgrades. More funding in FY17 would mean an improved space for New Lots patrons, as well as expanded programs and technology there and at other locations.

LOCAL IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

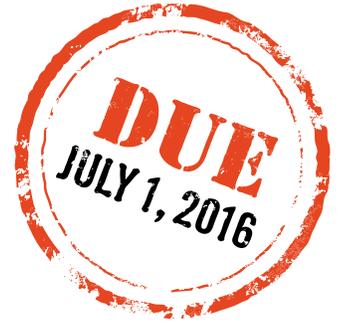
52% Increase in job search sessions at BPL

20 Number of adult librarians hired at BPL this year

217 Additional hours each week for job seekers at BPL in FY16

STILL OVERDUE:

FUNDING FOR COMPUTER TRAINING & ACCESS



27% of NYC households don't have home Internet access

With technology's ever-growing role in daily life, libraries face more requests than ever for public computers, Internet access, and training—from basic skills to advanced coding classes. Expanded hours and more courses, staff, and computers help, but demand still outstrips supply, leaving many New Yorkers on hold in the digital age.



SPOTLIGHT:

St. George Library Center | Staten Island
The New York Public Library

Over the last year, The New York Public Library has used increased funding to upgrade technology in its branches and expand capacity in its computer training classes. But even with the continued growth, demand for free tech training continues to surge—particularly for more advanced classes. NYPL doubled the number of seats in its introduction to coding classes, but was still forced to waitlist 5,000 would-be students due to lack of space.

Rose Mary Perez is a tutor from Staten Island who is eager to learn coding to advance her career. Taking the class on Staten Island will save her, and others like her, from making a three-hour round-trip commute to a library in Manhattan. “We need these classes here, too,” she says. With added City funding, the Library will increase coding by nearly 150%, including on Staten Island, while also adding other advanced classes.

LOCAL IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

5,000 NYPL users currently on waitlist for coding

150% Projected increase in coding classes at NYPL in FY17

5,000 Library HotSpots to be distributed in FY17 citywide

STILL OVERDUE:

FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS



30% of NYC high school students don't graduate in 4 years

Our libraries provide safe, learning-rich environments for children and teens after school, providing essential services from homework help to STEM programs. This year, we increased staff, hours, and programs to serve even more students—but it is not enough. With added funding, libraries can provide more support, ensuring more students stay on the path to success.



SPOTLIGHT:

Queens Village Community Library | Queens Library

Every day after school, newly hired librarian Erica Anthony provides homework help and other services for the scores of children and teens who flock to her library. This year, the branch will host more than 10,000 school-aged children, many recently arrived in the U.S.—but there is not enough room or resources.

Parents must stand during homework help sessions, while their children sprawl on the floor. And with 40 children clamoring for attention each afternoon, one librarian is simply not enough. Anthony is also busy during school hours with story times, picture book sessions, and toddler groups that result in measurable educational gains to pave the way for academic success.

Even with these strides, the library needs more staff, technology access, materials, and parental resources in order to meet even the most basic educational needs of this growing community.

LOCAL IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

515,000 Children and teens who will attend Queens Library programs in FY16

70,370 Children and teens in Queens who took part in summer reading last year

140 Adults who earned high school diplomas through Queens Library's Adult Learning Centers

STILL OVERDUE:

FUNDING FOR OUTREACH SERVICES



More than
100,000 children
have a parent
incarcerated in
New York State

Along with serving patrons within branches across the city, our reach extends far beyond our walls—from serving the homeless to the incarcerated, as well as those in senior centers, hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. In FY16, New York City’s libraries increased outreach programs, but as need continues to grow, we require more staff and materials to reach even greater numbers of New Yorkers.



SPOTLIGHT:

Connecting with Telestory | Brooklyn Brooklyn Public Library

For the past year, Brooklyn’s Central Library has provided children with an incarcerated parent the chance to read books together via live video link from a special room filled with books and toys. Before the first session, librarians give the parents tips on literacy and how to engage their children through singing, talking, and reading.

FY16 funding increases allowed BPL to begin expansion of this program to four more sites in Brooklyn, giving even more families the chance to stay connected through reading. Meanwhile, the additional funding has allowed BPL to hire 95 new library staff members and double its off-site programs—from story times at family shelters to family days at City jails and prisons. “We’re doing traditional library work, but with new technology and outside our walls,” says Nick Higgins, Director of Outreach Services at Brooklyn Public Library.

LOCAL IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

1,142 Number of off-site programs offered by BPL to date in FY16

552 Number of unique outreach sites for BPL in FY16

81% Increase in Outreach Services programs at BPL this year

STILL OVERDUE:

FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE



NYC Libraries have more than \$250 million in FY17 critical needs

To provide essential programs and services for greater numbers of users, our libraries depend on functioning buildings. Unfortunately, as noted in a recent report by the Center for an Urban Future, a chronic lack of funding for libraries has left them with more than \$1 billion in capital needs. Added funding in FY16 began to address the issue—but far more is needed.



SPOTLIGHT:

115th Street Library | Manhattan
The New York Public Library

A once-vibrant community room in the basement of the 115th Street Library in Harlem is now sitting damaged and unusable, due to a chronic leak from a nearly 100-year-old underground pipe that has destroyed the floor.

Without that key space—which has been out of commission for years—the crowded library has had to reduce its programs for adults and has no dedicated space for teens, despite being located near a large number of schools. “This is such a loss for the neighborhood,” says Library Manager Tequila Davis. “Our teens have nowhere to go in the branch. We have to hold adult programs on the reading room floor.”

In the FY17 budget, NYPL is requesting additional capital funding for the branch as part of a larger project to replace the pipe and restore the room for public use. “It would change everything for the community,” says Davis.

LOCAL IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

\$112M In FY17 critical maintenance needs across NYPL

47 Number of NYPL branches with critical maintenance needs

52 NYC libraries that are at least 100 years old

6-DAY LIBRARY SERVICE FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

AS OF NOVEMBER 2015, ALL 217 LIBRARIES ACROSS THE CITY ARE OPEN AT LEAST 6 DAYS A WEEK.

