



Inside

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Libraries
Are for
Everyone**

“Living in New York as an immigrant is hard... I felt like I had to do something to help others—even if I’m helping just one person learn how to read.”

— Chantal, high school student &
Literacy Leaders mentor
Washington Heights Library, Manhattan

Member Report 2017

Libraries Are for Everyone



For more than 100 years, The New York Public Library has served as a safe haven for all who seek knowledge, information, and personal growth. In today's often-turbulent times, it's vital to reaffirm our commitment to helping all who seek our services.

No matter who you are, where you come from, or what you believe, our doors are open to you, because libraries truly are for everyone.

The strongest way to demonstrate this unwavering commitment is not through words, but through actions. That's why I'm so proud to share with you a closer look at the impact the Library has made across our communities in 2017. This year, our community outreach services were more vibrant than ever, including our literacy education services for all ages, ESOL classes for non-native English speakers, and citizenship programming for new Americans.

Without the generosity of our supporters, none of these achievements would be possible. On behalf of all of us at the Library, we thank you for the role you've played in

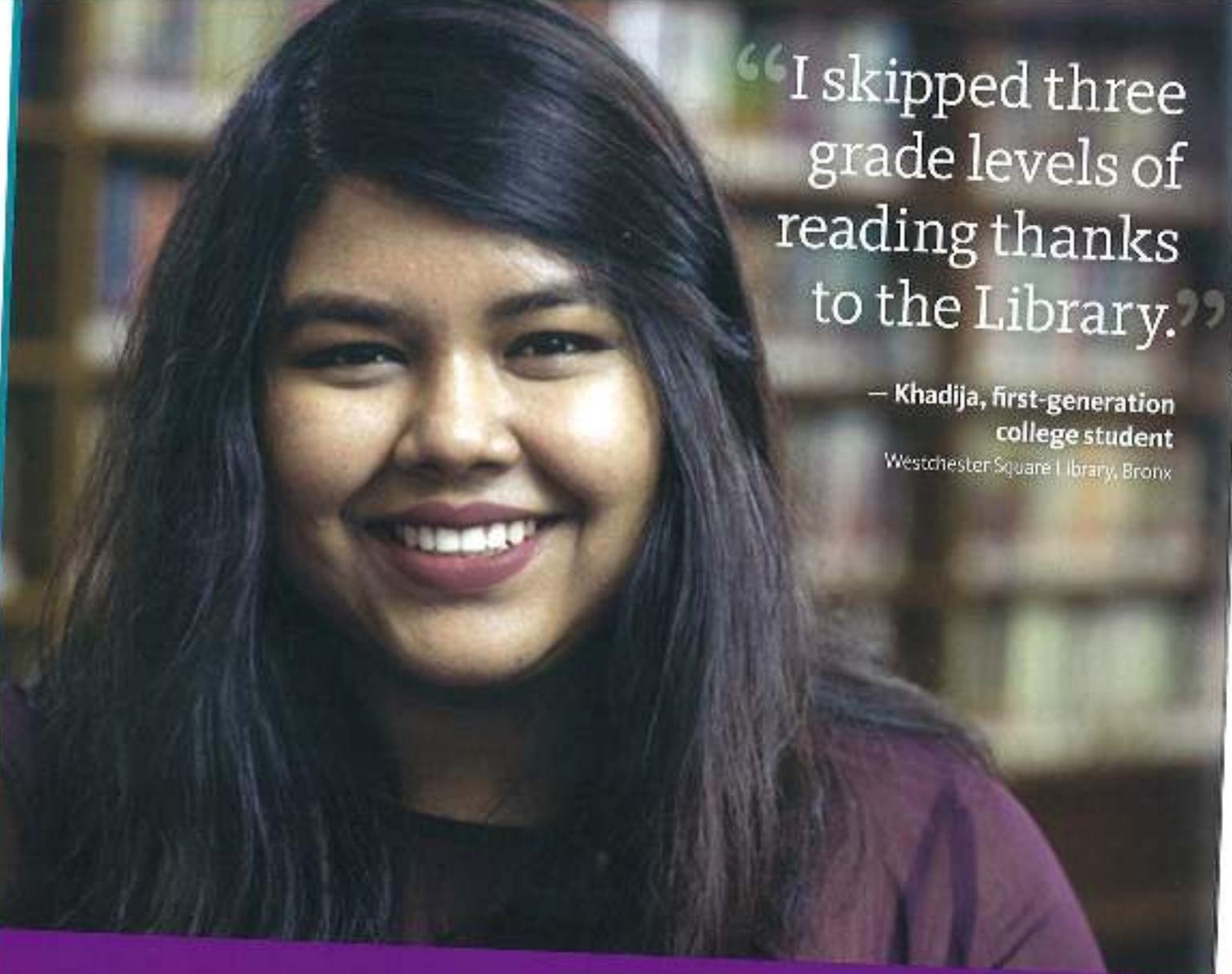
furthering this important work and ensuring that the Library remains an open, welcoming, freely accessible fount of opportunity for generations to come.

The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations, is a private, not-for-profit corporation chartered for public service.

Inside The New York Public Library is published three times a year for library donors who contribute \$50 or more annually toward the needs of the Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Marx". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Tony Marx
President, The New York Public Library

A young woman with long, dark, wavy hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark purple or maroon top. The background is a blurred library with bookshelves filled with books.

“I skipped three
grade levels of
reading thanks
to the Library.”

— Khadija, first-generation
college student

Westchester Square Library, Bronx

**We Believe in
Literacy for All**

The New York Public Library has been a vital center for reading and literacy education for all ages since its founding. Today, we are more committed than ever to ensuring that all students, regardless of age, income, or birthplace, have the same opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Helping All Kids Succeed

Over the past year, the Library was particularly invested in making sure all young patrons have equal access to the tools they need for school success. This fall, NYPL teamed up with Brooklyn Public Library and Queens Library to forgive all outstanding fines on all kids' and teens' library cards across the city.

This Initiative, made possible by The JPB Foundation, enabled us to forgive fines on 400,000 youth NYPL cards. Among them, 75,000 of the youth cards had been blocked due to fines—but can now be used to check out our invaluable free resources once again.

Another critical area of investment has been in our ongoing expansion of early literacy services—both within our branches and beyond. In FY17, the Library attracted more than 747,000 early literacy attendees, more than twice the number of young children and families served over the prior year. In addition, we are scaling our

enhanced programs to 86 locations—nearly every NYPL branch—while expanding our outreach services. This includes story times and workshops at preschools, daycares, and homeless shelters, ensuring free access to school readiness resources for all children.

More People Reading More

These efforts in early literacy have had a major impact in another key area: circulation. As the Library has expanded its children's initiatives and attracted more schools and families to our programs, we have sparked a surge in children's circulation.

This increase, combined with additional upticks in teen and adult circulation, has contributed to an overall growth in print circulation of nearly 7 percent. The Library is particularly proud of this accomplishment because it reverses a nationwide trend in print circulation at libraries, as e-book circulation continues to grow. ●



AN ESSENTIAL EDUCATION PARTNER

The Library's educational programs are poised for even greater impact thanks to a remarkable \$20 million gift from **the Honorable Merryl Tisch and her husband, Library Trustee James Tisch**. The gift establishes a new leadership position, the Merryl H. and James S. Tisch Director of Education, that will oversee a further expansion of the Library's educational offerings.

Major support for children's and young adult programming is provided by the Andrew C. Dracopoulos Family Endowment for Young Audiences.

Additional major support is provided by the Mr. and Mrs. Dorothy S. Barzatt Endowment for Children's and Young Adult Programs and Services.

Additional support is provided by Bethwald Christopher for the The Learning Sciences Research Center for the Future of Children.

Schapiro Fund, Baker E. Sumner Field Foundation, Inc., Epstein Center, Philanthropic, Mr. and Mrs. John Klingenstein and The Edith Gink Shusterman Children's Foundation.

Support for the early literacy initiative was generously provided by the Andrew C. Dracopoulos Family Endowment for Young Audiences, The Lisa C. Jacobs Early Literacy Initiative, the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, the Gray Foundation, New York State Library's Family Library Library Services Program.

Foundation, HROD, Richmond County Savings Foundation, The Strub Fund, and an anonymous donor, with additional support through City's First Readers, an initiative made possible with funding from the New York City Council. Speaker William Walsh-Vivetto, Council Member Antonio Reynoso and Council Member Stephen Loria.

A New Start is supported by The JPB Foundation.

Programs and services are made possible by the generous

Libraries Extend Beyond Walls



The Library has long offered a safe haven for newcomers. Especially in these critical times, it is our renewed mission to welcome and provide opportunities to those who need them most—including new immigrants, non-native English speakers, and others who seek the tools they need to contribute to our society.

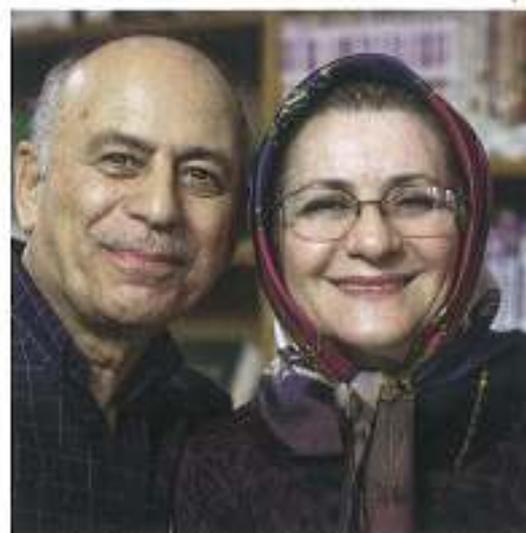
Opening New Doors

New York City is home to more than 3 million people born outside of the U.S., and half of all New Yorkers speak a language other than English. By supporting New Yorkers from all backgrounds, the Library plays a key role in upholding the ideals of an inclusive, civic-minded, and informed society.

This year, the Library has continued to further the best of these democratic traditions. To meet the growing demand for English language learning, we expanded our English for Speakers of Other Languages courses to offer more than 12,000 seats. Our students came to the Library from over 90 countries, speaking more than 50 native

languages, to help build their language skills over the 10-week intensive ESOL courses. Attendance also increased at the Library's drop-in speaking groups, with more than 20,000 English language learners attending in FY17.

Citizenship support is another way the Library has been an essential resource for newcomers. Since 2015, the Library has helped more than 5,200 immigrants on their path to becoming U.S. citizens. This year, attendance more than quadrupled in our citizenship programs. And in July, NYPL again hosted a United States naturalization ceremony in our iconic Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, where nearly 200 new Americans took their Oath of Allegiance. ●



“I’m very thankful for the opportunity that this library made possible for me. It is my dream.”

— Hassan and Zahra, English language and citizenship students
Temples Square Library, Manhattan

INVESTING IN NEW YORKERS

City leaders know how important libraries are to all New Yorkers, especially those most in need. After years of budget cuts following the economic downturn, City leaders began a historic

reinvestment in libraries four years ago, allowing NYPL to expand hours, hire librarians, and increase vital programs both within our branches and beyond. This includes free ESOL and computer training classes as well as outreach to homeless shelters or to the incarcerated.

Major support for the Library's adult literacy, English language programs and technology training is provided by the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development; Arthur W. Koenig, The Paulson Foundation; NYC Connected Communities, a program of the New York City Department of Information

Workforce Investment Act; Title II funding administered through the New York State Education Department.

Additional support is provided by the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity; Alvarado Foundation; funding from the

the Pagan Fund; New York State Coordinated Outreach Services Program; Bank of America; The Balfour Beatty Foundation for English Language Learning Programs; in memory of Susan Goodstein Lerner and her commitment to the ESOL program; New York State Library's Adult Literacy Library Services grant program.



“Some of the family history is already being lost with the next generation. I want to make sure that doesn't happen.”

— Jennifer, family genealogist

Stephen A. Schwarzman Building,
Manhattan

**We Preserve
Knowledge**

The New York Public Library's world-renowned collections have served as a deep well of information to all users for more than a century. Today, the Library continues to build upon our ongoing commitment to preserving the past through new important acquisitions and increased digital access.

Notable Acquisitions

Over the past year, the Library has made remarkable additions to its research collections, ensuring their continued prominence and relevance for future generations. This spring, the Library's Music Division acquired the personal archives of music icon Lou Reed, which was celebrated with special pop-up displays and a series of events at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building and the Library for the Performing Arts. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

acquired the papers of writer James Baldwin and the archives of jazz legend Sonny Rollins. To celebrate these and other important acquisitions, the Library opened a new exhibition this fall at the Schwarzman Building, *What's New? Recent Acquisitions*, which runs through February 2018 and features other highlights, such as the set design for the musical *In the Heights*.

Digital Collections

Along with broadening our collections, we are also committed to assuring their

preservation and expanding online access to both our research and circulating collections. This year, we completed a major effort to digitize more than 68,000 pages of Early American manuscripts, thanks to support from The Polonsky Foundation, making them available to researchers from around the world. Meanwhile, we continued to reach new audiences with our free e-reader app SimplyE, including through the Subway Library campaign, a major partnership with the MTA that brought free library e-books to commuters. ●



ENSURING NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Library's renowned collections will continue to expand for the next generation of researchers thanks to a \$15 million gift in May from Library Trustee Kathy Rayner. The gift establishes the Katharine J. Rayner Fund for Special Collections, allowing the Library to continue to acquire historic archives and rare books.

Libraries Build Community



Libraries are for everyone—and so are our buildings. To meet the growing and ever-changing need for the Library's services, we must continuously invest in our 92 locations, from research centers to neighborhood branches, to ensure they are modern, accessible, and welcoming spaces for all.

Strong Libraries, Strong Neighborhoods

Our neighborhood libraries serve as essential community centers and engines of opportunity for an ever-growing array of users. Yet, many of our buildings are more than 100 years old, or have suffered from decades of insufficient public investment, which means that capital improvements must be a top priority.

To that end, the Library is in the midst of an unprecedented capital investment in our branches thanks to both private support and the historic increase in City funding for the city's three library systems in FY16. At NYPL, this reinvestment will bring full renovations in the coming years at five historic "Carnegie" branches—Melrose and Hunts Point in the Bronx, Fort Washington and 125th Street in Manhattan, and Port Richmond in Staten Island.

Other major new renovations include Woodstock Library in the Bronx, which reopened this spring after a multiyear restoration. Improvements to the more than 100-year-old library—one of the

“Now more than ever, our branch is a core community hub thanks to these improvements.”

—Corey Rodriguez, Library Manager
Woodstock Library, Bronx

first Carnegies—including expanded programming space, a larger children's area, and a new teen space, along with technology and accessibility upgrades.

New Chapter at the Schomburg Center

This fall, NYPL proudly announced the completion of a \$22 million renovation at the Schomburg Center in Harlem. With an updated facade, auditorium, and shop, plus a new gallery space and updated reading rooms, the Schomburg is now better equipped than ever to serve as a vital research and community center for future generations. ●



A NEW MIDTOWN LIBRARY

NYPL's largest circulating branch, Mid-Manhattan Library, is getting a full renovation—and a new name. This fall, the Library announced a \$55 million gift from the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation** that will make possible a major renovation of the busy but aging branch. The location closed for the project in August, with interim services available at the Schwarzman Building. It will reopen in 2020 with a new name: The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library.

Friends of the Library

The New York Public Library
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A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Look for your 2017 renewal notice and membership card in the mail in late December. Please note that Friends, Conservators, and Tilden Conservators levels operate on the calendar year and are eligible for renewal at the start of each year. By renewing in January, you help us to better allocate our funds through the year. We hope you'll respond promptly. Thank you! For membership inquiries, contact us at friends@nypl.org or 212.930.0653.



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**Libraries
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“Here’s
why I
support
the
Library.”

Writer and scholar Joan Templeton has been a longtime user of The New York Public Library. She credits the Schwarzman Building as her “home away from home” whose resources helped make her four books possible.

Joan is also a passionate supporter of The New York Public Library’s mission and has generously chosen to help the Library maintain and grow its collections by arranging for a bequest in her will that will support the acquisition of new works.

For more information:
212.930.0557 | plannedgifts@nypl.org



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