A Year of New Beginnings, Challenges, Team Building, and Planning for a Brighter Tomorrow!

Annual Report 2014
In October of each year, our staff participates in Staff Training Day. It is about unifying us, bringing us all together to celebrate who we are and just how awesome we are as a team. The day is also about making us better—I think the best way to do that is to reflect on what we have done. Throughout the day, we are reminded of the many things accomplished since we were last together. Also, the library’s staff leader is typically asked to make comments on the “State of the Library.” Now, as I look over the entire year, I can continue to say as I did in October, “the State of the Library is strong.”

Our Pratt City Branch Library staff returned to a rebuilt and reinforced structure in February of this year. Deborah Drake Blackmon (Branch Manager) and her team, along with the Pratt City community, are all enjoying the bright and welcoming space. During February, we also added three new coordinator positions to our organization. It was the first time coordinator positions were added since 2011, when an IT Coordinator was hired. The new members of our leadership team include Karyn Davis-West, Central Public Services Coordinator; Felita Hawkins, Southern Region Coordinator; and Jared Millet, Collections Management Coordinator. In 2014, a total of 34 new employees were hired by the library and 27 staff members were promoted to new positions. By year’s end, BPL said farewell to nine employees—all new retirees. Collectively, they gave more than 210 years of service to the system.

Great investments were made in 2014 to upgrade equipment in buildings throughout our system. Staff and patrons showed a great deal of patience as we faced reduced hours of service at several locations due to HVAC malfunctions. Due to the frigid temperatures in January, heating and cooling coils were damaged beyond repair. This really became evident in April when we were unable to maintain cool temperatures in several buildings including the Central, North Birmingham, Powderly, and Southside Libraries. The Central Library did not return to its regular operating schedule until mid-June. This reduction is reflected in our statistics, especially those regarding our public PC usage.

In May, the Inglenook community celebrated the return to a newly renovated, “more than we ever could have imagined,” library. Karnecia Williams (Branch Manager) and her team members at the Inglenook Branch Library have been welcoming more visitors than ever before to the new building.

In 2014, we counted more than 2,186,700 visitors to our 19 libraries and just over 1,012,770 items were checked out. With 808,555 items in our collection—not including the Archives and Manuscripts collection—we had comparatively steady circulation numbers. In addition to building a world class collection, we were extremely busy in other ways. With 302 employees, we provided over 2600 public programs in 2014—including 505 summer reading programs. In all, we welcomed 60,958 program attendees.

On August 1, our Director Renee Blalock retired after serving as director for five years—she gave more than 32 years of service to the library system. Since that time, I’ve been in place as Interim Director—the system’s number one cheerleader on a daily basis. As I stated at Staff Day, until you actually sit in the “big chair,” it’s hard to fully understand just how much we do in our libraries each and every day. It’s also very apparent that we still have lots of work to do in letting the public know about the services we offer and just how vital our libraries are in the communities we serve. It will be our job to continue to tell our story and advocate for libraries on a regular basis.

October brought with it the realization of a bigger and better Eat Drink Read Write festival. The event, which took place over an eight-day period, brought with it more than 25 new partner organizations, a recipe competition for children, and a beautiful book of classic recipes printed by EBSCO to benefit the Birmingham Public Library. The year ended with hope for a brighter future for the Birmingham Public Library System. Phase One of our Central Library Complex Renovation Project was completed by the Robert A.M. Stern Architects working in conjunction with the local Hoskins Architecture firm. With guidance from the Birmingham Public Library Trustees and Foundation Boards, along with a Renovation Steering Committee, a preliminary design for both Central buildings has been completed. As the year came to an end, staff at our Wylam Branch Library had cause to celebrate. An architecture firm was selected for their rebuild project and the contract was approved by the Birmingham City Council. As the New Year kicks off, the branch staff will meet with architects to work on plans for the new facility.

The year 2014 brought many new beginnings and challenges to our system. Yet, in spite of the issues with our buildings, staffing, and overall funding cuts, our staff continued to provide quality service. We worked together, with board input, to find new ways to deliver services—instead of cutting back, we found new opportunities.
The Birmingham Public Library system has 19 library locations throughout the city limits of Birmingham. Its 302 employees manage and operate the libraries while providing quality service to the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours Open to the Public</th>
<th>48,516</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors to the Libraries</td>
<td>2,186,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>Items Checked Out from Libraries</td>
<td>1,012,776</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Items in the Collection</td>
<td>808,555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Public PC Users</td>
<td>416,757</td>
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<td>Reference Questions Answered</td>
<td>682,708</td>
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<td>Annual Visits to Website</td>
<td>1,034,586</td>
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<td>Public Programs</td>
<td>2,616</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Attendance</td>
<td>60,958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*both numbers include summer reading counts*

**SUMMER READING**
- Total Number Registered=7140
- Total Number of Certificates=3613 (for children and teens only)
- Total Number of Programs Offered=505
- Total Program Attendance=17,664
- Estimated Total Books Read=46,833
In 2014, the Birmingham Public Library hired a total of 34 new employees and 27 staff members were promoted to new positions. By year’s end, BPL said farewell to 9 employees—all new retirees. Collectively, they gave more than 210 years of service to the system.

2014 Retirees

Irene “Renee” Blalock
Phillip Clark
Lewis Gowdy
Diane Jones
James Lowe
Leroy Mauldin
Betty Pruitt
Marguerite Scott
Diane White

Pictured clockwise from top—Irene “Renee” Blalock, Lewis Gowdy, Marguerite Scott, and Edith Major, personnel officer.

James Lowe and his wife; Leroy Mauldin and his mother; Phillip Clark and Mary Stewart, head of Catalog Department.

BPL Coordinators (left to right)
Sandra Crawley, Felita Hawkins,
Jared Millet, Sandi Lee,
Phillip Willingham, Karyn Davis-West,
and Janine Langston.
In 2014, staff throughout the Birmingham Public Library system was encouraged to sign up for personnel training designed to help them perform their jobs better. Selected training was also mandatory for all staff.

Training for All Staff
- ADA Workshop
- Performance Evaluation
- Staff Development Day (October 16, 2014)
- Optional Staff Development Day

Sessions Included:
- Money Management: Retirement Planning for All Ages
- How To Build a Vision Board
- Utilizing Your Workplace for Healthier Living
- Bullying Beyond the Playground: Is It in Your Workplace?
Major Building Improvements

Completed Renovations

Pratt City Branch Library
Reopens February 10, 2014, $1,500,000

Inglenook Branch Library
Reopens May 22, 2014, $405,414

Building Upgrades/Studies and Plans

Central Library HVAC Coil Replacement, $49,000

North Avondale Branch Library Geo-Tech Study, $5,200

Springville Road Regional Branch Library Chiller Repair, $12,000

Titusville Branch Library Geo-Tech Study, $5,200

Wylam Branch Library Contract for Architects, $110,000
Selected Highlights From The Front Lines
What Staff at Our Branches and Central Have To Say

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

AVONDALE REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY—Our library patrons were happy to once again see the friendly faces of AARP’s Tax Assistance staff. They provided free tax assistance and have partnered with the Avondale Library for a number of years. The Black Nurses Association distributed flyers pertaining to heart disease and hypertension—the information was helpful to area residents. When representatives from the Chinese Consulate were in Birmingham to promote their partnership with the city, an event was held at the Avondale Library due to the proximity of Walgreens—a program supporter. The Chinese Consulate assisted attendees with passport registration. During the month of July, the library closed early several days due to HVAC issues. Portable air conditioning (A/C) units were installed to give some relief—we made it through the summer. New flooring was installed in the work room and break room areas to the cheer of all staff. We accomplished so much during the year—19 adult summer reading programs took place with 366 in attendance. Throughout the year, we presented 42 regular adult programs with 640 in attendance.

EAST LAKE BRANCH LIBRARY—During the past year we have hosted a variety of programs for children, teens, and adults. Each Thursday at the East Lake Library, we have preschool story time for families and daycare students in our community. When the Dali Lama visited Birmingham, the East Lake Library hosted a viewing of the Dalai Lama’s Awakening documentary with a discussion time for adults. In November, the library presented Chef E Holiday Cooking for teens and adults. The afterschool children had an opportunity to learn how to make nutritious holiday meals. In October, the East Lake Library hosted a Free Will Preparation program where community members were provided free assistance with will preparation by Legal Services of Alabama.

EASTWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY—The Eastwood Library had its biggest change this year when long-time branch manager William Darby became the branch manager at the East Lake Branch Library. Brandon C. Smith took over as the branch manager in June 2014. When the Eastwood Library had a break in during the month of November, the community really came together in support for the library and helped staff recover from the incident that took away the library’s “big sign” monitor—a flat screen TV. Circulation for the Eastwood Library has fallen by about 20% in 2014 when compared to 2013 and this became obvious as the year progressed. Only January of 2014 equaled or exceeded the numbers for the same month in 2013.

ENSLEY BRANCH LIBRARY—The Ensley Library experienced high temperatures during the summer months in 2014. The building operated with portable A/C units for a short while. Even with the heat outside, our summer reading program brought in better than average participants and numbers. Ultimately, we had a great year and look forward to a great 2015!

FIVE POINTS WEST REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY—On February 5, 2014, the Five Points West Library celebrated its 10th anniversary at the current location. This special
occasion was commemorated by creating a photographic display of former Central Park and Five Points West Library buildings and hosting an open house for patrons and community leaders. The celebration continued throughout the year with many new opportunities and programs for patrons and staff.

With funding from a LSTA grant, a public Computer Commons area was created with 20 new public computers, the former computer lab was updated with a wall mounted monitor to assist with computer classes, Wi-Fi capabilities were added to the meeting room, and two additional early literacy computers were purchased for the Youth Department. With the addition of the Computer Commons the library expanded and increased the variety and number of public adult computer classes offered. From January 2014 through November 2014, the Five Points West Library staff presented 61 computer classes with a total attendance of 511. In addition to basic computer use and Microsoft Office, the library offered classes on Google, using tablets, shopping on Amazon, BPL Databases, and improving job search/resume skills. The Five Points West Library celebrated its first PRIME TIME Family Reading Time event. We offered six sessions between September 23 and October 28, 2014, with 30 families participating and a total attendance of 400.

INGLENOOK BRANCH LIBRARY—In 2014, the Inglenook
Library's renovation was completed and, as a result, library visits increased. Community partnerships, which consist of monthly book deliveries from the Inglenook Library’s collection, were established with Inglenook K-8 School, Inglenook Recreation Center, and the Smart Kids Daycare. Other partnerships including UAB’s Writing Center, DHR JOBS Program, My Sister’s Closet, America’s First Credit Union, and Alabama Humanities Foundation, were established and resulted in meaningful and pertinent programming for the Inglenook community.

LITERACY AND OUTREACH OFFICE—Staff in Literacy and Outreach represent the Birmingham Public Library at a variety of venues and events including weekly outreach initiatives to the JOBS Program at the Family Guidance Center, License to Read and WILD Card school presentations, Early Literacy Parent Workshops at JCCEO Head Start Centers and Preschool Partners, DYS Cultural Arts Fair, Annual Youth Fishing Rodeo at East Lake Park, JCCEO Health Fair, Holiday at Railroad, and Babypalooza at the BJCC. Literacy and Outreach directs Ready to Read, a literacy program designed specifically for adults age 18 and over who want to improve their reading skills. The programs are held at the Central Library and the Five Points West Library. In 2014, the library offered 180 sessions with an attendance of 824. The Literacy and Outreach staff also serve as the project directors for the Family Place Libraries grant from the Junior League of Birmingham. The staff planned and facilitated 50 weekly 1-2-3 Play with Me sessions at various BPL locations. This is a program specifically designed for children ages birth through 3 years and their parent and/or primary caregiver.

NORTH AVONDALE BRANCH LIBRARY—In 2014, the North Avondale Library was committed to maintaining and developing new community partnerships, offering great programming for all levels, and meeting the daily needs of patrons. The library partnered with Hayes K-8 and Cornerstone schools for storytime with music and crafts. The library offered its long-standing book club and other programs which included the Hallo-Read Celebration, Harriet Tubman and George Washington Carver presentations, and a first-time program on couponing and shopping tips for adults. The staff worked diligently to provide support for community group meetings and informational workshops and made available a welcoming space for library users.

POWDERLY BRANCH LIBRARY—One of the greatest highlights for 2014 has been programming for senior adults. We have found that these adults are dependable, dedicated, and devoted to living and learning. The average attendance at our monthly Senior Adult Book Club/Game Day is eighteen; however, the attendance at other programs often exceeds this
number. These adults are energetic and also take advantage of the various computer classes and programs that are targeted to this age group. This year we made an effort to have programs that interested them. Programs such as Wills and Power of Attorney, Dental Education for Seniors, You Need to Know Your Voting Rights, Breast Cancer Awareness, and various other topics of concern were presented. This age group is a joy to work with.

**SMITHFIELD BRANCH LIBRARY**—During 2014, the staff at the Smithfield Library offered a variety of programs that supported the mission of the BPL system. There were lectures Through My Sister’s Eyes (foot soldier Gwendolyn Gamble shared her involvement in the Children’s March), an author showcase featuring Stephanie Perry Moore, and a career day to promote job readiness. The community appreciates our continued efforts to host parenting classes and tax preparation at our location. Whether it’s summer reading programs, crafts, movies, afterschool tutorials, health care awareness, gardening, or Thanksgiving basket giveaways, each activity is designed to effectively give back, motivate, and enlighten the community.

**SOUTHSIDE BRANCH LIBRARY**—Branch Manager Teresa Ceravolo served as moderator for the Circulation Round
Table of the Jefferson County Public Library Association. On Snapshot Day, 478 patrons visited the library and we posted photos to Flickr and sent them to the Alabama Public Library Service as well. We were extremely proud that we had 100% participation from our staff for United Way. Once summer reading was behind us, 291 total certificates were awarded, over 1,900 books read, and 11 programs offered. Limited air conditioning continued to plague the branch during the summer. From June 23 to July 12, the Southside Library was only open five hours per day to cope with the A/C issues. Repairs were made to the roof throughout the year—and that lasted a few months with leaks returning just as the year came to an end. Staff formed a new partnership with the Veterans’ Hospital during the year. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Darius Wilson commandeered two library computers to teach vets the basics of computer use.

SPRINGVILLE ROAD REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY—This location had a wonderful 2014 with many successful programs for all ages including great gardening programs, summer reading for all ages, and outreach in our community. Our newest addition to the Springville Road Library is the Ecoscape. A collaboration with the Southern Environment Center and Birmingham-Southern College yielded a grant that funded the first phase of the Ecoscape. The beginnings include great garden areas surrounding the library, a walking trail, an outdoor learning space, and an area for relaxation have all been created—more plans are on the horizon. Our fastest growing program during 2014 was our Crafts, Conversation, and Coffee group that meets each week for the opportunity to create, converse, and share a great cup of coffee. This group has seen an increase in attendance that has new participants joining each week and bringing a new friend. They have taken on several service projects to the community including creating Valentines for Veterans, making mats for the homeless, and working on knitted hats and gloves to send to the troops serving in deployed areas around the world. They also found time to create great projects for themselves as well as share their joy of crafting with each other. We had the opportunity to reach out to our schools with the
Children’s Art Gallery that displays pieces from our partnered schools in our community. Each new exhibit is celebrated with a reception for the artists and their families. We had great fun in conducting database training for a number of the middle school students at W.J. Christian. In an effort to help the students begin their research for term papers and other assignments, we conducted group training at the school and invited the students to come to the library to do further research with the opportunity for individual instruction. A database scavenger hunt was created and passed out for the children to return to the library and receive a small prize when they completed it. We saw a number of the children take the opportunity to visit the library and become more familiar with the databases and other activities that we offer for them year round. This was a great year. Bigger and better opportunities are waiting at the Springville Road Library in 2015.

TITUSVILLE BRANCH LIBRARY—The Titusville Library is on the main thoroughfare of Sixth Avenue, SW. We bridge Birmingham’s southside to the westside. The customers are varied with a multiplicity of needs. An integral part of what we do is front line work. We respond to basic ready reference questions, as well as offer services with similarities to a business center. Faxing, printing, and copying services are done extensively throughout the day. We have offered system-wide programming to our patrons, as well as local programs that specifically speak to the needs of our community such as Affordable Care Act assistance, personal finance, etc. Our space is comfortable and inviting. Some patrons come to relax and read. Most patrons like the idea of having information readily available within a few steps from home. Students from all levels of education come and study daily. On any given day, we will have nursing, law, and theology students in the building.

WEST END BRANCH LIBRARY—This has been a wonderful year of community involvement and support for the West End Library. Two of our longest running library programs—West End Afterschool Reading Program and West End Crochet Class—have been run by volunteers Willa McNeal and Joan Black, respectively. Our 2014 JCPLA Library Champions Representative John Rogers, Jr. and Birmingham City Councilor Sheila Tyson have funded many of our public programs. In addition, we partnered with local service provider Trudi Phillips to present a series of small business workshops at the West End Library. Phillips went on to conduct these workshops for other public libraries in Jefferson County.
WYLAM BRANCH LIBRARY—We began 2014 by making a list of what we would like to see in a renovated building and we are excited to now have plans underway for a whole new building. Staff continued the Wednesday programming begun in 2013. Our Library Assistant III, Connie Tolbert, developed and presented programs on gardening, jewelry making, and scarf making at the Wylam and Powderly Libraries, in addition to programs presented by outside speakers. In the fall of 2014, we began a book discussion group which has been very successful. We have read Lady Elect by Nikita Lynette Nichols, The Preacher's Wifey by DiShan Washington, and Skipping Christmas by John Grisham. Our children's storytime is enjoyed by the children from Alice Christian Daycare. Our afterschool children look forward to having BPL storyteller Candice Hardy come the first and third Wednesdays. She plays games and brings fun crafts. This year, staff was given the responsibility of selecting our own juvenile materials. This has been a very good decision. We are able to select materials better suited to the Wylam community. Finally, we are very appreciative of the donation Faith Chapel gives us every month. We are able to provide afterschool snacks and refreshments for our programs.

YOUTH SERVICES—BPL Youth Services directed several system-wide events including Reading with Ringling Brothers, the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scavenger Hunt, Valentines for Children’s Hospital, and summer reading. In 2014, the library registered 6005 children and teens for summer reading and presented 404 programs with a total attendance of 16,243 children and teens. BPL partnered with the Cotchery Foundation to provide the
CENTRAL

ARTS, LITERATURE AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT—Poetry-centric programs, coordinated by Arts, Literature and Sports (ALS) staff, brought in large numbers of participants. Bards & Brews, the poetry performance/beer tasting series, enjoyed a very successful year. We added new venues, which in turn brought in new poets and audience members. Twelve high schools participated in WORD UP!, the annual poetry slam for high school students in Jefferson County. The Eat Drink Read Write festival was a huge hit, bringing in about 1330 people to eight days of programs. We completed a major weeding and shifting project of the department's book collection, thus making the collection more attractive and accessible.

BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY and SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT—During 2014, much of the Business, Science and Technology and Social Sciences (BST/SE) staff’s time and effort was focused on public programming. The MakingCents grant activities wrapped up during the first six months of the year, and, of the 62 total programs offered by the Birmingham Public Library, 40 were held during 2014. BST/SE hosted 13 programs during the year, seven of which were held at the Central Library while seven were held at offsite locations. In conjunction with MakingCents, departmental staff also took part in the inaugural Alabama Money Expo, which was held on February 1, 2014, at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Center (BJCC). The Expo brought together a variety of organizations, businesses, and agencies that provide a variety of financial resources and services to the community.

BST/SE staff assisted with other library programming efforts that took place during the year. In celebration of the Dalai Lama’s visit to Birmingham in October, the staff assembled a bibliography of materials about His Holiness and also created a brochure that highlighted both these materials and the BPL location screenings of documentaries about the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. That same month, staff put together bibliographies of materials related to the Eat Drink Read Write festival.
COLLECTION MANAGEMENT DIVISION—In the 2014 calendar year, Collection Management added 38,000 new items to the BPL collection. At the beginning of the year, Collection Management staff worked diligently to get the new Pratt City Branch Library collection shelf-ready and in place for the grand reopening. A few months later, we did the same to get the Inglenook Branch Library’s collection back on the shelves for the renovated facility. Work on the Smart Investing initiative continued with staff training taking place at our monthly Collection Management meetings and with many new personal finance books added to the collection courtesy of the Smart Investing grant. In Interlibrary Loan, the new WorldCat Discovery interface was implemented on BPL’s and The Public Libraries In Jefferson County’s websites, making it even easier for Birmingham residents to borrow hard-to-find items from all over the country. In the fall, Elizabeth Swift implemented and trained staff on the new Program Registration software within our catalog, allowing libraries to advertise and register patrons for library programs within the catalog itself. And finally, come rain, snow, or blistering heat, Collection Management work has to go on. When the East Building became unlivable in May and June of this year due to HVAC issues, the Acquisitions and Catalog Departments’ staff packed up our equipment and crammed into the Linn-Henley Computer Center and Government Documents service areas in the research building so that our assistance to the other libraries in the BPL system could continue without a hitch—and it did!

SOUTHERN HISTORY DEPARTMENT—In 2014, the Southern History Department offered four specialized genealogy classes to patrons that were developed and taught by our own staff. This was in addition to the Introduction to Genealogy class that we offered throughout the year. The Birmingham Cultural Alliance Partnership (BCAP) continued in 2014. In March, we offered two weeks of afterschool programs for students at Green Acres Middle School and Hudson K-8 School. Miss Iwate, our Japanese Friendship Doll, was much in demand. On March 22, she was displayed at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens as part of the Annual Sakura Festival and on October 11, a lecture about Miss Iwate was given at the Birmingham Doll Club’s annual luncheon where she was displayed.

In June, the department was given a gift of $1,000 from the General Sumter Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2014, the Southern History Department staff represented BPL at events including The Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau Reunion Planners Workshop (June 21 and October 4, 2014) and Save Our African American Treasures presented by the National Museum of African American History and Culture (September 6, 2014). While the air conditioning was not working, we were happy to offer a cool refuge to staff from Catalog, Acquisitions, Youth, Fiction, BST, and ALS. We enjoyed sharing our space and getting to know our co-workers better.
Books and Articles Researched In BPL Archives

In 2014, the Birmingham Public Library Archives and Manuscripts Department, which serves as the official archives for the City of Birmingham, served researchers from 32 states and Washington, D.C. Researchers also visited from Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, and Russia. Our researchers used 91,079 files in 2014. Archives staff spent 661.25 hours researching and responding to out-of-town research requests. Researchers who visited our archives published 18 new books in 2014.

Books


**Articles, Conference Presentations, and Invited Lectures**


**Motion Picture Productions**


*Martin Luther King: Content of Character*. ESPN, 2014.

Stage Productions

*Revive.* Arova Contemporary Ballet (Birmingham, Alabama), 2014.

Exhibits


*Rolls Down Like Water: The American Civil Rights Movement.* The National Center for Civil and Human Rights (Atlanta, Georgia), 2014.

Exhibitions

Oscar V. Hunt Photography Exhibit
Five Points West Regional Branch Library
January 1-December 31, 2014

Ladies, Gentlemen and Bazards: The Art of Lois Wilson
Central Library, Fourth Floor Gallery
January 6-February 21, 2014

Release of the Inner Artist
Central Library, First Floor Gallery
February 5-March 29, 2014

Illuminations in Poured Color: Paintings by Starr Weems
Central Library, Fourth Floor Gallery
February 27-April 30, 2014

Debra Eubanks Riffe
"Every Line Tells a Story"
Central Library, Fourth Floor Gallery
July 24-August 26, 2014

Watercolor Society of Alabama
Annual Members' Showcase
Central Library, Fourth Floor Gallery
September 21-October 31, 2014

100 Lenses: Ensley
East Ensley Branch Library
November 5, 2014

Bob Moody's Birmingham: A City in Watercolor
Central Library, Fourth Floor Gallery
November 6, 2014-January 4, 2015
Grants

Alabama Power Foundation—Summer Reading $15,000
Alabama Public Library Service—Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) $11,185
Alabama State Council on the Arts—Bards & Brews $1,700
Alabama State Council on the Arts—Teen Poetry Initiative $4,900
Goodrich Foundation—After School Programs for Children $10,000
Junior League of Birmingham—Family Place Libraries $3,335
Regions Bank—Adult Programming $1,000
Susan Mott Webb Foundation—Ecoscape Project at Springville Road $10,000

Awards and Honors

Library Leadership and Management Association of the American Library Association and EBSCO names BPL as a 2014 John Cotton Dana Award recipient for its Worldwide Celebration of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter From Birmingham Jail

Jefferson County Public Library Association names State Representative John Rogers, Birmingham City Councilor Sheila Tyson, and volunteer Hope Cooper as 2014 Library Champions

BPL Director of Public Relations Chanda Temple named One of Twenty Birmingham Magazine’s Women Who Make A Difference

Livability.com names Birmingham Public Library’s Youth Department as a Top 10 Library for Children

BPL Finishes in 8th Place during Impact Alabama’s 2014 Birmingham’s Brightest Company
Special Supporters

Irene S. “Renee” Blalock Challenge

$50,000 In Support of the Birmingham Public Library’s Central Renovation Project

The gift was a result of donations from Blalock’s children, Brooke Coleman and Daniel Hartzog; the library’s Foundation Board; and special friends of the library. “We are just proud of our mom. She was an inspiration to us and we wanted to inspire other people,” Coleman said.

Donors Included

Dr. Paul and Gwendolyn R. Amamoo
Drs. John and Regina Ammon
Lanier and Michelle Brown
Daniel and Brooke Coleman
John Coleman
Drs. Will and Liesel French
Daniel Hartzog and Lorrin Thomas
David Herring
Sol Kimerling
Jay and Courtney Pigford
Tony and Jackie Smoke
Judge Scott and Cameron Vowell
Lyord and Katrina Watson
James H. and Marjorie White

Selected Gifts for 2014

Alagasco for Second Printing Birmingham’s Best Bites
Anonymous Gift to BPL Foundation $15,000
Estate of Pauline Tutwiler $25,000
EBSCO for Original Publishing and Printing Birmingham’s Best Bites
Hope and Mitchell Cooper $2,700
Phillip Morris Gift to Archives $10,000
Community Partners

A. G. Gaston Boys and Girls Club, Inc.
Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Jefferson County Office
Alabama Genealogical Society
Alabama Health Info-Net
Alabama Holocaust Education Committee
Alabama Public Library Service
Alabama Public Television
Alabama Sports Hall of Fame
American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)
Arc Light Stories
Avondale Brewing Company
Back Forty Beer Company
Barnes & Noble
Beer Engineers
BIG Communications
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham Children’s Theatre
Birmingham City Schools
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
Birmingham Cultural Alliance Partnership (BCAP)
Birmingham Genealogical Society
Birmingham Historical Society
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center
Birmingham Doll Club
Birmingham Metro NAACP
Birmingham Museum of Art
Birmingham Parks and Recreation Board
Birmingham Pledge Foundation
Birmingham to Beijing Project
Birmingham Zoo
Blue Pants Brewery
Books-A-Million
Cahaba Brewing Company
Cathead Distillery
The Collins Bar
 Committee to Protect the Homeless
Copper Pot Kitchen
Cottagey Foundation
Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham
The David Mathews Center for Civic Life at Montevallo University
Deep South Magazine
Dreamland Bar-B-Que
Druid City Brewing Co.
Family Violence Center
Friends of Rickwood Field
Full Moon Southern-Style BBQ
Girls Inc. of Central Alabama
Good People Brewing Company
Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitors Bureau—Reunion Planners Workshop
Haiku Society of America
Higher Ground Coffee Roasters
Hop City Beer and Wine Birmingham
Impact Alabama
The J. Clyde
Japan America Society of Alabama
JCCEO Positive Pathways Program
Jefferson County Beekeepers Association
Jefferson County Historical Commission
Jefferson County Office of Senior Citizens
Jones Valley Teaching Farm
Junior League of Birmingham
Lawson State Community College’s Culinary Arts Program
LINKS, Incorporated (Magic City Chapter)
Literacy Council of Central Alabama
Martie Knows Parties
Mayor’s Office Division of Youth Services
McWane Science Center
Pepper Place Market: Birmingham Saturday Market
Pet Supplies Plus

Public Libraries In Jefferson County
Rally’s Hamburgers, Inc.
Reach Out and Read Alabama
Reading with Ringling Brothers
Real Life Poets
Red Cat Coffeehouse and Gourmet Coffee Roasters
Red Mountain Park
Rock Creek Graphics
The Rotaract Club of Birmingham
Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve
Southern Environmental Center—Birmingham-Southern College
STAIR Reading Program - Westminster Presbyterian Church
Tau Poco
Terrapin Beer Company
The Theo Hawthorne Insurance Agency - State Farm
Todd English P.U.B.
The Historic Tutwiler Hotel- Hampton Inn & Suites
United States Bartenders’ Guild
United Way of Central Alabama—Read and Romp
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Vulcan Materials Company
Vulcan Park and Museum
Birmingham Public Library Trustees

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