

[www.carnegielibrary.org/future](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/future)

## Town Hall Meetings

Thursday, July 16 at 7 p.m.	CLP - Main; Lecture Hall, 4400 Forbes Ave.
Saturday, July 18 at 10 a.m.	Carrick High School; Auditorium, 125 Parkfield St.
Tuesday, July 21 at 7 p.m.	CCAC - Allegheny Campus; SSC Auditorium, 808 Ridge Ave.

### Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)
- Overview of the Library's Financial Situation (15 minutes)
- Public Comment Guidelines and Process (5 minutes)
- Public Comment Period (60 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

### Comment Period:

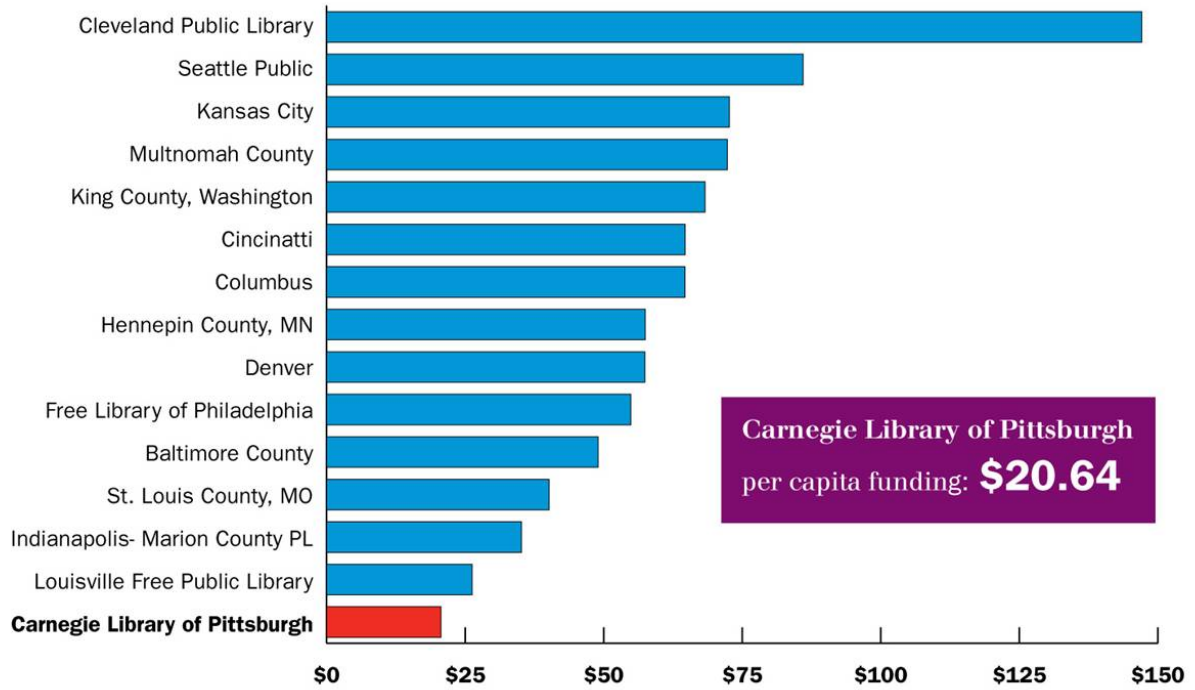
When the Comment Period begins, you will have the opportunity to address any one of the following questions. Comments will be limited to two minutes in length.

1. What do you appreciate most about our library system today in Pittsburgh?
2. If the Library system is forced to make significant budget cuts, what could you do without?
3. What would you say to the people who make the decisions about library funding – such as the City, the State, the County, the Regional Asset District – to make library funding a priority?

### Comment Guidelines:

- As the question you wish to address is called, please line up behind one of the microphones.
- Please raise your hand if you need to have our facilitator come to you.
- When we call for the next speaker, please state your name and the city neighborhood where you reside into the microphone. Comments will be limited to two minutes.
- If you have already commented, please allow others to have a turn to allow as many people as possible to comment.
- Please do not take photographs or video of this meeting. Let media cameras in attendance know if you do not wish to be included in any photo shoot or story.
- Please be respectful of the opinions and privacy of others.
- This meeting is to allow for public input. The Library's staff and board are here to listen and will not be answering questions.

# Total Operating Revenue Per Capita



Source: Public Libraries Survey, Fiscal Year 2007

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## Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Facts

- The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) system comprises 19 neighborhood locations within the City of Pittsburgh, including the Main Library in Oakland and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh serves customers well beyond the borders of the City. In fact, CLP reaches customers in nearly every ZIP Code in Allegheny County.
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the region's most-visited asset with 2.6 million people visiting in 2008. That's more than 7,000 people for every one of the 352 days the library is open each year.
- Annually, CLP generates more than \$132 million in economic return and value to the community. During its current capital improvement program, the numbers are even higher due to jobs and spending generated by renovations and construction.
- The Library has two separate budgets. One for operating funds and one for capital funds. Operating funds cover materials and collections, staff costs, utilities, routine maintenance and similar items. Capital funds cover major improvements to new or renovated facilities such as a new roof, heating and ventilation and other non-routine outlays. The two budgets are separate and funders often specify which budget they support. Donations to our Capital Campaign are restricted to renovate, build or relocate facilities.
- Andrew Carnegie did NOT ENDOW Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He provided money to build the original buildings, but did not provide a fund for ongoing operations.
- Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh receives just \$20.64 in funding for each person it serves. Many other similar libraries receive \$50, \$75 or even \$100 per person.
- The Library receives the majority of its funding (approximately 70% annually) from the Regional Asset District.
- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania budget proposals for 2010 include Library cuts of up to 50%. Such cuts would result in libraries losing Federal funding as well.
- The City of Pittsburgh provides \$40,000 to the Library's operating budget.
- The Library is projecting a \$6 million gap between revenue and expenses by 2014.
- Action must be taken now to avoid future crisis. That action includes both seeking additional funding as well as determining ways to cut expenses. Change of some kind will be needed.

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## How You Can Help

### Pittsburgh Protect Your Libraries

Do any or all of these things to help your Library:

#### Write

- Write a letter to library funders, elected officials and/or the local media about how important the Library is to you and how important sustainable funding is to the Library. Find contact information on our Web site.
- Write a comment on our blog.
- Submit a story on our Web site about how you use the Library.

#### Give

- Make a monetary donation to the Library. You can donate online, by mail or at any Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh location. Every gift counts.

#### Talk

- Talk to your friends and neighbors about what you've learned today and tell them how they can help.
- Attend public forums such as city and county council meetings, public hearings or other gatherings where public comment can be made.
- Call your state legislators regarding funding for libraries. Library Supporters "Call-In Week" is July 20-24, 2009. Please add your voice to the thousands of library supporters and advocates from across the Commonwealth and Protect Your Library! Call Governor Rendell's office and the offices of your State Senator and State Representative to urge them to say no to proposed cuts for libraries. Find contact information on our Web site.

**For more information or  
to post comments or questions:**

Visit: [www.carnegielibrary.org/future](http://www.carnegielibrary.org/future)  
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