



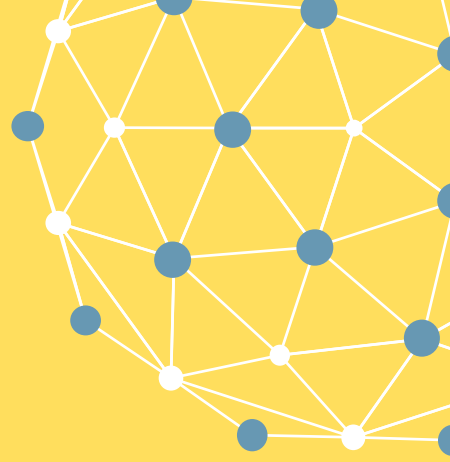
CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

INSPIRED BY YOU



MISSION

To foster literacy , enable exploration, and create connections with all our neighbors.



2025 IS HERE!

NOW THAT WE'RE ONE YEAR INTO OUR 2024-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN, IT'S IMPORTANT TO US THAT WE PROVIDE THE COMMUNITY WITH AN UPDATE ON OUR PROGRESS – HOW WE'RE DOING SO FAR TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS IN OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND WHAT'S STILL TO COME.

Community Connections

In March 2024, we launched our new **Vivian Ann Davidson Hewitt Initiative** to celebrate and support BIPOC members of our community. The **Hewitt Artist in Residence series** ran March–June as we hosted four artists specializing in diverse art forms at our East Liberty, Hill District, Homewood, and Main Library locations. In April, we hosted the **inaugural Hewitt Lecture** with remarks from Dr. Carla Hayden, the first woman and first African American to serve as Librarian of Congress.

Summertime was action-packed as we held 2024’s Summer Reading Program, **Read-a-Palooza Book Bowl**, in partnership with the Carnegie Science Center and CitiParks! Each branch competed as neighborhood teams for reading glory. Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) adopted our Summer Reading Program as their own, and PPS scholars comprised **nearly 20%** of our total registrations. There was a significant increase in Summer Reading participation from 2023 with a 16% increase in total registrations and a 43% increase in total books logged. At our signature Summer Reading Extravaganza celebration on August 11th, the Sheraden Gladiators were awarded the Gold medal after seeing a **1,600% increase** in books logged compared to 2023!

Also in the summer, we introduced **two new teen internship programs** at CLP. Our IDEA department led the 7-week Teen CEO internship program in partnership with the Homeless Children’s Education Fund, and we led a new 16-week CLP Teen Internship program in 8 of our branches, supported by the Eden Hall Foundation and Partner4Work. Both programs ended with a **100% retention rate** with all teen interns successfully completing their experience.

As the 2024–2025 school year rolled in, we fully launched **CardFest** in partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools and the City of Pittsburgh and supported by The Heinz Endowments and The Frank J. Lucchino KIDS Fund. In October, **14,000 specially-designed, already-activated library cards** were mailed directly to the homes of all PPS scholars who did not already have a library account. As CardFest continues, for every new school year, library cards will be created for kindergarteners, new students to the district or those whose cards may be expired or lost.

Responsive Services

March 11th marked a new beginning as we expanded hours at all our locations (excluding CLP – Downtown and LAMP). Our larger locations are now open until 8 pm four days a week and smaller locations are open until 8 pm three days a week, in addition to regular weekend hours. This **93-hour increase in library service hours** per week is the largest increase in decades (at least!), and CLP saw an increase of **249,468 visitors** in 2024 compared to 2023. That’s nearly a quarter-million more people that came through our doors in 2024! With more accessible hours, CLP is excited to offer Pajama Storytimes and other engaging programming in the evenings at all our locations!

On April 17th, we hosted the American Library Association’s Association for Library Services to Children 2024 lecture given by renowned children’s author, Rita Williams-Garcia. Continuing our work to expand services to and involving diverse authors, we led the third annual **Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books** on May 11th at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. More than one-third of the authors who participated in the festival were authors of color. We onboarded a new Coordinator of Reader Services; onboarded a new Coordinator of Diverse and Inclusive Collections and Programs; and launched an internal staff Author Events project team. We hosted author events throughout our branches and were thrilled that extraordinary authors like Terrance Hayes, D. Angel, Rachael Lippincott, Neema Avashia, and Menah Pratt (to name a few) joined us to discuss their books and more.

As a way to enhance our virtual programming capabilities, we installed Poly Studio audiovisual systems at several of our locations: East Liberty, Homewood, Mt. Washington, LAMP, and the Main Library. With these upgraded technology systems, we were able to **launch hybrid programming** that takes place at one branch but can be livestreamed at other locations. Some of the hybrid programming we offered throughout the year focused on jobs & careers, civic engagement, and Banned Books.

CLP debuted some exciting new items in our “**Library of Things.**” A selection of approximately 380 board games and outdoor activities are now available to borrow from all CLP locations. 93% of these items circulated by the end of the year. We also began activating the spaces around our buildings. We’ve added tables and benches outside of the Main Library for our neighbors to read a book, have a snack, or chat with friends. In partnership with BikePGH, a traffic-calming mural was added to the street outside of our Woods Run branch.

Regional Cooperation

Throughout 2024, we expanded the number and capacity of shared services programs that are part of our **Cooperative Allegheny Libraries Support (CALS)** initiative. The Collection Boost+ pilot program launched at the beginning of 2024 to provide collections support to various under-resourced county libraries by purchasing new, in-demand titles for them to add to their collections. The CALS Fund Development program was redesigned by the CLP Development team, and we onboarded a part-time Development Associate dedicated to supporting county libraries. “Love Your Library” was a huge success in 2024, and Allegheny County residents really showed their library love. **More than 9,400 donors** gave more than \$1.7 million to our county libraries in September, with \$977,902 eligible for matching. This was a **30% increase** from 2023! Additionally, we saw a 40% increase in county library participation in the Acquisitions and Receiving program; launched a Website Design & Management project with five county libraries; and onboarded a new Coordinator of Shared Digital Platforms.

2024 was the first year of the **RAD Summer Staycation** program, available through RAD Pass (radpass.org), to expand the number of opportunities available for county residents to visit select area attractions for free. Originally intended to run from May 15th through August 31st, the program was so popular that multiple partners chose to extend their passes through September. **More than 100,000 free admissions** were offered, and library card holders throughout Allegheny County placed 31,006 reservations.

July 3rd marked our **1-year anniversary** managing operations of the Allegheny County Law Library (ACLL) in partnership with Allegheny County. Aligned with our systemwide hours expansion, we made ACLL meeting rooms available for reservation and added them as a location for patrons to pick up and drop off library materials. Additionally, new informational programming at ACLL is available to the public, including relevant legal topics to our community such as legal literacy and estate planning.

Organizational Excellence

CLP held its first **Staff Development Day** in more than 15 years on February 19th. All Staff gathered at the Main Library to unveil and review the new strategic plan and engage in informational learning from different departments and specialized locations within our system. Additionally, we've implemented a new "first-year experience" onboarding plan for new hires and enhanced manager training to prepare new managers and refresh best practices for existing ones.

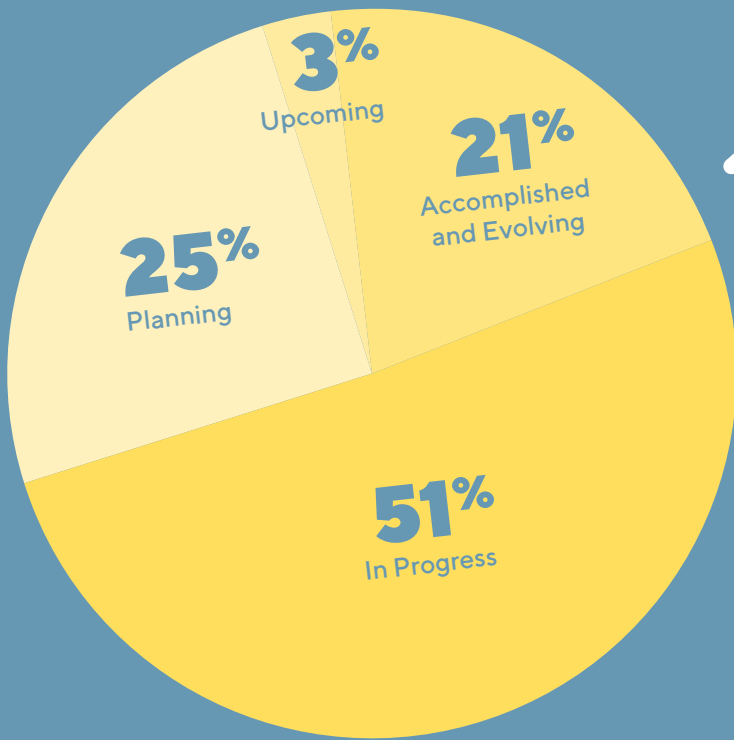
In October, real estate company CBRE completed a **systemwide facilities assessment** of our libraries, which is a vital step toward creating a systemwide project priority list, maintenance and sustainability plan, and capital maintenance budget. We have received CBRE's reports and are developing our plans for next steps.

Our Senior Staff leadership team developed **metrics assessing our IDEA Foundational Practices** for each of their departments, which will be implemented in 2025 and tracked on a quarterly basis.

eiNetwork completed a **cybersecurity review** of our systems in December. They have presented their findings, and we are developing plans to implement recommendations in the report.

In 2024, we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$4,160,608 and raised \$4,402,549! We continued our development efforts throughout the year and hosted a new fundraising event, the Bookish Bash, which brought together young professionals and library enthusiasts to enjoy and explore the Main Library during after-hours with light refreshments and fun activities.





**Strategic
Plan Progress!**

WE WERE BUSY IN 2024!

WE'RE EXCITED TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING INTO 2025 AS WE CONTINUE EVOLVING SOME OF THE INITIATIVES ACCOMPLISHED AND WORK TOWARD ACHIEVING THOSE INITIATIVES THAT ARE IN PROGRESS OR PLANNING STAGES.

CLP IS BEYOND GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY, AND WE'RE SO HAPPY TO BE ON THIS JOURNEY WITH YOU.

VISION

A strong inclusive community with the Library at its heart that nurtures individual and collective achievement, access to knowledge, and a sense of joy and belonging.



SAVE THE DATES

April 8

(CLP - Main Lecture Hall in Oakland)

2025 Vivian Ann Davidson Hewitt Lecture with Kelvin Watson,
Executive Director of Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

May 31

(CLP - Main in Oakland)

2025 Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books

June 1 through August 10

(All locations)

2025 Summer Reading Program

August 10

(CLP - Main in Oakland)

2025 Summer Reading Extravaganza

And more to come!



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh | 4400 Forbes Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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