

# OUR STORY to TELL

2017 Annual Report

Lorain Public  
Library!  
System

# TELLING OUR STORY

*2017 has been a year of amazing stories for our library system—stories that center on people, places, technology, and programs that make our community great.*

**W**e have the spent the year striving to help this community grow and advance. Listening to our patrons has helped us pursue many new partnerships and programs. Building lasting relationships with our partners has been vital to providing much needed services and new and innovative ideas to our libraries.

2017 has also been a year of physical transformation for our libraries—updating our buildings, meeting spaces, and our collections to provide our community with new spaces to come together and learn in new ways.

In these pages, we hope to share with you some of our stories from this past year, understanding

that our larger story is not complete without our patrons, the community, and our supporters.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you in 2018



**ANASTASIA DIAMOND-ORTIZ**  
*Director, Lorain Public Library System*







## OUR STORY IS ABOUT PEOPLE

*We believe our people are our greatest asset! Without the help and support of our board, staff, community partners, and patrons, we could not have achieved the successes we have in 2017.*

### STAFF ENGAGEMENT

**I**n 2017, we rededicated ourselves to our staff, working to ensure they have the training, resources, and culture they need to continue making LPLS a great place to work and patronize. We also

developed new HR policies and engagement practices to give our staff an active role in determining the future for our libraries.

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## OUR BOARD

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**Garalynn Tomas**  
*President*



**Homer Virden**  
*Vice President*



**Philip Dore**  
*Secretary*



**Gloria Badillo, N.D.**



**Ethel Schiemann**



**Milagros Torres**



**Keith Belanger**



**Susan Hatch**



**Elaine Novak**

# OUR STORY IS ABOUT PLACES

*We believe in creating places that help communities thrive! 2017 saw numerous projects to update our spaces, including a system-wide facilities study, a new meeting room in our North Ridgeville branch, and most notably, the renovation of the South Lorain Branch.*



## SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH RENOVATION

The fall of 2017 was a time of physical transformation for the South Lorain Branch. The branch underwent a complete renovation, including new carpets, paint, furniture, and more. The new design includes a colorful design palette, which is made up of shades of green, brown, and teal, meant to enhance and reflect the colors in of the trees and greenery of the South Branch's spacious lot.

An important part of the renovation was creating a redesigned children's area to provide a new place for our children to learn and grow.

During the renovation, the South Lorain Branch stayed open to the public, allowing the community to watch the transformation happen for themselves. To celebrate the building's physical transformation and express

gratitude to the community, the South Lorain Branch also held an open house with refreshments, great conversation, and a special musical performance by South Lorain's own Latin City Soul Band.

# OUR STORY IS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

*We believe embracing technology is the key to our future! From introducing new equipment throughout our branches, to establishing new courses, we are committed to providing our community with what they need to stay ahead of the technological curve.*

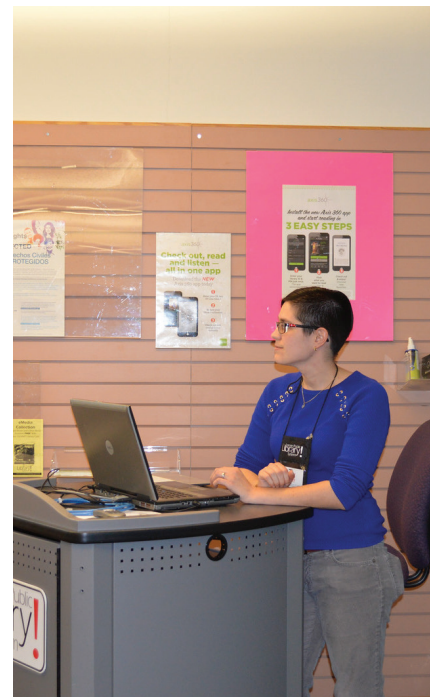
## TEACHING KIDS TO CODE

In 2017, the Lorain Public Library System dove into classes that teach kids the basics of computer coding. From using sticky notes to learning the basics of binary language and creating their own video games, we are helping kids build real skills for future careers.

At the Main Library, 3rd-5th graders gathered every week during the school year to work on a new project and build problem-solving skills by exploring coding and technology concepts and being creative in their solutions. The Avon Branch Library also featured local teens from the

high school robotics club teaching the “Scratch” programming language created by MIT.

Other branch locations are also taking steps to introduce coding, while staff members throughout the system are working together to share new ideas and programs that work for our young patrons.





# OUR STORY IS ABOUT COMMUNITY

*We believe the services and programs we offer are making Lorain County a better place. This year we have focused not only on improving the overall patron experience, but piloting new programs to help the families we serve in tangible ways. As a result, we have formed deeper relationships with new and existing community partners to bring you new programs, including: Avon's Every Child's playground, BOLD Beginning, Summer Lunches.*

## SUMMER LUNCHES

Lorain Public Library System partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Lorain County to provide lunches in our libraries for children and teens during the summer of 2017. Meals were provided at our Main Library (Lorain), Domonkas Branch Library (Sheffield Lake), and the South Lorain Branch Library.

Each library also hosted a series of fun programs during these lunch events. Throughout the summer, 670 children participated in the summer lunch program.







## BOLD BEGINNING

Brain development in first five years of a child's life is critical to a successful future. With this in mind, BOLD Beginning is a free school readiness program to keep children healthy and get them ready for Kindergarten. The

Lorain Public Library System was able to launch this pilot program with funding from the Family and Community Engagement pilot program as part of Ohio's Early Learning Challenge Grant. We were one of only ten

libraries in Ohio to be awarded this grant. We wrapped up our pilot program with a Carnival Day at the Main Library, drawing more than 100 participants from all over Lorain.

# OUR STORY IN NUMBERS

## 2016 ELIBRARY STATISTICS

138,612	<i>eBook, Digital Audiobooks and Video Storybooks (Axis 360, BookFlix, hoopla, OverDrive)</i>
13,321	<i>Downloaded Music Tracks and Music Videos (Freemusic)</i>
5,396	<i>Digital Magazines (Overdrive Nook)</i>
2,693	<i>Digital Movies and Television (hoopla)</i>
1,889	<i>Streaming Music Albums (hoopla)</i>
251	<i>Online Education Course Enrollments (Gale Courses)</i>
122	<i>Online Education Courses Completed (Gale Courses)</i>

## 2016 SYSTEM STATISTICS

314,574	<i>Library Visits</i>	131,855	<i>Computer Bookings</i>
16,065	<i>Open Hours</i>	511	<i>Meeting Room Bookings</i>
61,638	<i>Library Cardholders</i>	1,073,083	<i>Website Visits</i>
2,693	<i>Programs Offered</i>	2,531	<i>Facebook Likes</i>
86,971	<i>Programs Attendance</i>	1,684	<i>Twitter Followers</i>
493,504	<i>Materials Owned</i>	58	<i>Full-Time Employees</i>
1,376,420	<i>Materials Loaned (not including eMedia)</i>	77	<i>Part-Time Employees</i>
314,574	<i>New Materials</i>	669	<i>Total Volunteers</i>
16,065	<i>General Questions Answered</i>	3,252	<i>Total Volunteer Hours</i>

## 2017 FINANCIALS

REVENUE SOURCE DOLLARS	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
<i>Public Library Fund</i>	<i>\$3,970,472</i>	<i>40%</i>
<i>Levies</i>	<i>\$5,257,359</i>	<i>51%</i>
<i>State Rollbacks &amp; Transfers</i>	<i>\$706,522</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>\$365,352</i>	<i>4%</i>
<b><i>Total Revenues</i></b>	<b><i>\$10,299,705</i></b>	<b><i>100%</i></b>

EXPENDITURES	DOLLAR AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL
<i>Materials</i>	<i>\$1,095,934</i>	<i>11%</i>
<i>Personnel</i>	<i>\$5,405,770</i>	<i>60%</i>
<i>Capital</i>	<i>\$697,446</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Contracts</i>	<i>\$1,630,969</i>	<i>18%</i>
<i>Supplies</i>	<i>\$150,953</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>\$40,149</i>	<i>0%</i>
<b><i>Expenditures Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$9,021,221</i></b>	<b><i>100%</i></b>

# MAIN BRANCH

351 W. Sixth Street, Lorain, OH 44052

**33** Number of Volunteers

**1,100** Total Volunteer Hours



## CELEBRATING LOCAL HISTORY

Our Public Services Coordinator, Valerie Smith, hosted five lunchtime Local History programs this year. In conjunction with one of the most popular programs, “Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Lorain Lighthouse,” she also helped to compile a book in partnership with the Lorain Lighthouse Foundation. The library then published the book under the title, “History of the Lorain Lighthouse 1917 - 2017.”



## GIVING BACK

Due to the efforts two of amazing staff members, we were able to spend part of 2017 giving back to other communities in need. Library Assistant Lisa Work spearheaded an initiative to help the people of Puerto Rico—who suffered so much loss to Hurricane Maria—prompting the library to divert patron fines From October through December to the Hurricane Maria Relief Fund in cooperation with El Centro. System-wide, \$4,585.21 was ultimately collected during this period, with many generous patrons stepping in to make additional donations.

Meanwhile, Library Associate Stephanie Brown led an effort to collect books for Ellis Memorial Library in Port Aransas, Texas, which lost its entire collection in Hurricane Harvey. Through the generosity of many patrons and with the help of Friends of the Lorain Public Library, we ultimately collected and shipped 1,015 books to Texas to help this Library rebuild its collection.



# AVON BRANCH

37485 Harvest Drive, Avon, OH 44011

**337** Number of Volunteers

**519** Total Volunteer Hours



## CONNECTING GENERATIONS

In 2017, the Avon Branch began a program called Story Time for You and Me at the Rose Senior Living facility in the Memory Care Unit. Children from Primrose School walk to the facility to enjoy the program alongside residents, while interacting with them during activities. Local parents also joined in, bringing their children to enjoy the story time with residents. The Avon Branch has plans to continue growing these important relationships in 2018.

## AVON'S EVERY CHILD'S PLAYGROUND

The Avon Branch became a partner in the Every Child's Playground initiative in 2017, building both a wooded story area and a "Story Trail." The Friends of the Avon Library also became stewards to two new Little Free Libraries, built by Lowe's at the playground. Look for programming to begin in 2018!

*"One of the most exciting things for us this year has been planning the Story Trail and Story Time in the woods, which will begin in April 2018 at the new Every Child's Playground in Avon. We hope you will enjoy the playground and join library staff for these fun outdoor programs while you are there!"*

**DONNA KELLY  
SPRINKLE**

*Avon Branch  
Librarian Supervisor*

# COLUMBIA BRANCH

13824 W. River Road, North Columbia Station, OH 44028

**79** Number of Volunteers

**134** Total Volunteer Hours



## A TITANIC DINNER PARTY

The Columbia branch meeting room was packed on April 12, for a special dinner party on the Titanic. A portion of the menu from the ship was recreated for patrons as they socialized, listened to period music, competed in a trivia contest, and examined historical documents from the tragic voyage. Due to the popularity of this event, it ended up as the maiden voyage for an annual themed dinner party at the library!

## NEW TECHNOLOGY COURSES

This year we welcomed Librarian Samuel Lewis who has developed several new technology courses in response to need in our community, and also provided one-on-one technology help to residents received throughout the year. Look for more from Sam in 2018!

*"I always enjoy looking back over the amazing things that have happened in the library over the course of the year, but I'm even more excited about the possibilities of the coming year. Look forward to the continuation of great service and resources from the Columbia Branch in 2018, along with some exciting new opportunities. Better yet – stop in, share your thoughts and become a part of our future."*

**SUSAN SPIVEY**

*Columbia Branch Manager*

# DOMONKAS BRANCH

4125 E. Lake Road, Sheffield Lake, OH 44054

**59** Number of Volunteers

**402** Total Volunteer Hours



## INTRODUCING VOX BOOKS

The Domonkas Branch started a collection of Vox Books for children in 2017. Each book has an audio box attached with instructions for the child to turn the page when they hear a certain sound. We started with a approximately a dozen books and couldn't keep them on the shelves! We now own 27 Vox books and are looking to expand the collection in years to come.

## WE'RE GOING BACK TO HOGWARTS

A family-geared event that is part of our annual Harry Potter celebration in the fall, this year's event was themed on the first and second books in the series. Attendees were first sorted into houses and earned points throughout the day competing in various themed games such as, No Post on Sundays, Don't Wake Fluffy, a potions class and many more. We look forward to continuing this annual event in 2018!

*"Libraries are the center of any community, not only providing materials and electronic resources, but providing programs and space for the citizens to come together. We are the front porch of the community, so come join us. The view is spectacular!"*

### MARLEEN WATLING

*Domonka Branch  
Librarian Supervisor*

# NORTH RIDGEVILLE BRANCH

35700 Bainbridge Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039

**161** Number of Volunteers

**1,097** Total Volunteer Hours



## A NEW MEETING ROOM

The North Ridgeville Branch built a new meeting room in 2017 and have been continuing to furnish it throughout the year, even adding stained glass to the doors and windows with the help of the Friends of North Ridgeville Library. A large stained glass art installation is also planned for the future!

## IN THE COMMUNITY

The North Ridgeville Branch participated in numerous community activities throughout the year. Highlights included hosting a booth at the local Corn Festival, providing refreshments at the Noon Year's Eve Party, and participating in the city-wide Holiday on the Ridge, sponsored by the local visitors bureau.

*"We offer a variety of popular programs for all ages at this busy library location. We provide new technologies as well as a growing selection of materials in many formats to support learning for all ages. We appreciate the continued support of the local Friends of the Library group who sponsored numerous library programs and activities during 2017 and helped to create a beautiful new community conference meeting space."*

**KAREN SIGSWORTH**

*North Ridgeville Branch Manager*



# SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH

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2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain, OH 44055

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## A PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW

In addition to the overall renovations, the branch also added a redesigned children's area, complete with creativity-boosting toys, activities, furniture, and special family computers so caregivers can work with their children nearby.

## WELCOMING NEW STAFF

In 2017, the South Lorain Branch welcomed a new full-time librarian. Our increased staff is helping us respond to the community's need for more programming, including increased teen programs, STEAM based programs, and a new assortment of story times.

*"2017 was a year of changes as we brought you many improvements to your Library. It was a privileged to be able to give back to the people of South Lorain in the form of a renovated building, and it continues to be an honor to be part of such a wonderful community."*

### CHERYL GRIZZELL

*Assistant Director,  
South Lorain Branch*





# YOUTH & OUTREACH

## RISING TITANS

**I**n December, the Main Library hosted the kickoff event for Rising Titans, a collaborative of preschools, public agencies, and the Lorain City Schools designed to make sure children in the city of Lorain are entering Kindergarten ready to learn. The library will be joining this collaborative and taking on family engagement projects to get the whole community excited about literacy and learning!

## SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

As always, our summer reading program was an amazing success. 1,761 children, teens, and adults participated in the program throughout the system. Attendance at summer programs for all ages saw 15,533 total participants! We look forward to another amazing summer helping our community in 2018!



# THANK YOU

*Our story doesn't exist without  
our community. Thank you for making  
us a part of your story in 2017!*



**LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM**

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