

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library 2022-2026 Central Library Plan

Background

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL) System consists of the Central Library and 8 branches located in the City of Buffalo, a Bookmobile, and 22 contract member libraries located throughout the County of Erie. The Central Library maintains an extensive collection; provides reference, research and outreach services; serves as a venue for public programs; and offers consulting and coordinative services to meet the needs of member libraries and their users.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the Central Library Plan (Plan) is to describe services provided by the Central Library which are funded by New York State aid programs: Central Library Development Aid (CLDA), and Central Library Book Aid (CLBA).

This Plan will ensure that expenditures are consistent with the B&ECPL's Five Year Plan of Service, as well as any supplemental System Goals and Objectives and/or Organizational Competencies. Strong integration of the Central Library Plan with System initiatives, in a manner consistent with New York State guidelines, will remain a priority.

Goals

Funds from the CLDA and CLBA will support the Central Library's function as a major reference, information and electronic resource in the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System. In addition, funds will be used to support improved and/or new service initiatives and major programming and/or exhibits to benefit member libraries as well as residents of the County of Erie and beyond.

Intended Results

The Central Library Plan will ensure that CLDA funds provide collaborative outreach and programming opportunities; technology support; access to Central Library reference services (in person or via telephone, email and chat); and access to current special and rare collections. CLBA funds will support collection development and access to electronic resources.

CLDA will help to sustain the Central Library's Grosvenor Room (local history, genealogy and rare books) where staff members utilize the resources in these collections to address the majority of the Library System's specialized reference requests from users countywide, nationally and worldwide.

In addition, the Special Collections Department will continue to promote and exhibit rare books and other valuable items from the B&ECPL's collection, making the Central Library a focal point for tourism and research throughout and beyond the County of Erie.

In September 2020, the **B is for Book Exhibit** opened in the Central Library's Collections Gallery. <https://www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening/b-book>. From fables and fairytales, ABC and lesson books, to picture books, modern readers and beloved stories, children's literature has evolved over the centuries to provide delight and inspiring life lessons for countless children. Hundreds of wonderful examples have been a part of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's collections since 1896 when the Buffalo Public Library opened one of the first reading rooms designed specifically for children. The Library's programming teams created many virtual and online programs complementing the exhibit. <https://www.buffalolib.org/b-book/programs-events>

CLDA will help supplement wages and fringe benefits for staff members who are a major resource when planning and implementing many of the programs and exhibits held at the Central Library, especially those related to items from the Rare Book Collection.

As result of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to technology training and outreach services have become increasingly valuable to our patrons. CLDA will also supplement wages and fringe benefits for public service staff at the Central Library to assist with technology training and outreach services.

CLBA will be used to provide access to major databases and/or materials, which will supplement the B&ECPL's book collection and print subscriptions. The B&ECPL will ensure quality databases to support the informational, educational and research needs of Erie County residents.

Evaluation Methods

Annual budget applications for CLDA and CLBA will be reviewed by appropriate staff to ensure that they meet New York State guidelines and that expenditures are consistent with the B&ECPL's Five Year Plan of Service, as well as any supplemental System Goals and Objectives.

Services and programs supported by New York State aid will be reported on an annual basis.

Adopted by the B&ECPL Board of Trustees on June 17, 2021.