Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL)
System Board of Trustees
15 Members, appointed by the Erie County Executive and the Erie County Legislature

The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System Board of Trustees consists of 15 members who serve five-year terms on a rotating schedule. The trustees are appointed by the Erie County Executive, who appoints ten members (two each calendar year), and the Mayor of Buffalo, who appoints five members (1 each calendar year). All recommended trustees are subject to confirmation by the Erie County Legislature.

B&ECPL System Director
Appointed by B&ECPL Board

The director serves as the administrative, executive and fiscal officer of the B&ECPL under the supervision and jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees. The director oversees business affairs, administration and employees of the Central Library and the eight Buffalo branches.

Contracting Libraries
Contract for Services from Library System

Each of the 22 contracting libraries has its own Board of Trustees. Libraries annually contract with the System for services, including circulation, technology, programming, materials, etc. The system provides funding for almost all of the operations of member libraries while the local municipality or membership association provides for the library building and capital needs.

Association of Contracting Libraries (ACT Board)
Acts as a Liaison

Promotes cooperation among member libraries, provides a forum for exchange of information and ideas and is a mechanism for liaison between the contracting libraries, their trustees and staff and the B&ECPL trustees and staff.


*Includes Central Library, all member library branches and the Library on Wheels bookmobile
Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Funding Picture

**Taxpayers/Erie County Property Owners**
Library Property Tax $24,910,939 in 2019

A local law, the Library Protection Act, dedicates a portion of Erie County’s real property tax for library purposes and guarantees that funds appropriated by the Legislature cannot be reappropriated to cover mid-year shortfalls elsewhere in the County budget.

**Library Fines and Fees**
Payments of overdue or lost materials such as books, processing and other related fees and charges $660,159 in 2019.

**Fund Balance-Onetime Sum**
The Library System Board of Trustees voted to utilize $506,529 in unassigned fund balance in 2019.

**New York State Aid**
Formula aid is provided by the Governor & State Legislature for public library systems. State aid supports programs & services such as Interlibrary loan delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation & internet access. Direct formula aid to assist individual public libraries is provided by the Local Service Aid program through library systems. Libraries that meet minimum standards set by the Education Department can receive this aid. $2,250,363 in 2019.

**Other**
Revenues include but are not limited to fundraising. $422,160 in 2019.

**Total 2019 Operating Budget** $28,750,150

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System Board has four main committees:

- **Executive Committee**
  - Acts on behalf of the Board if necessary, between Board meetings; has all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees.

- **Budget and Finance Committee**
  - Has general management of the finances, funds and investments of the corporation. With the Director, prepares a budget request as required by Erie County.

- **Policy Committee**
  - Supports the development of policies for HR, circulation of materials, collection development, access to Library facilities and resources and matters for effective operations.

- **Building Oversight Committee**
  - Ensures that adequate facilities are designed, situated, constructed and maintained to meet B&ECPL’s mission of service to the community.

System Board appoints director to manage staff

- **Director**
  - Acts on behalf of the Board if necessary, between Board meetings; has all the powers and duties of the Board of Trustees.

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Director and staff administer services to contract libraries

ASSOCIATION FOR CONTRACTING LIBRARIES

2/2019