



For Immediate Release: March 29, 2024  
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**ISAÍAS GONZÁLEZ-SOTO BRANCH LIBRARY IN BUFFALO  
TEMPORARILY CLOSURES FOR PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION**  
*Closure starts Monday, April 1*

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The Isaías González-Soto Branch Library, located at 280 Porter Avenue on Buffalo’s Lower West Side, will be temporarily closed for construction beginning Monday, April 1. The project calls for renovating the balance of the facility, including restrooms, installation of a handicap lift to the lower level stage, restoration of the parking lot, sanitary/storm piping, lighting, new electrical and data outlets, shelving, repair of exterior sidewalk, and more. The 58-year old library will be closed for several months. Funding for the project is from New York State Library Construction Aid, the City of Buffalo and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System.

In October 2018, the Niagara Branch Library was renamed the Isaías González-Soto Branch after the founding father of Buffalo’s Puerto Rican community. Born in 1921, Isaías González-Soto served in World War II before coming to Buffalo in 1950. Active in many Hispanic organizations, he was a grocery store owner who was known for assisting newly arrived Puerto Ricans with housing, food, jobs, and legal assistance. He also worked for the City of Buffalo and hosted a decades-long Spanish language radio show.

**Nearby Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries include:**

**Downtown Buffalo Central Library** 1 Lafayette Square (Washington Street between Broadway & Clinton), 716-858-8900

**Crane Branch Library**, 633 Elmwood Avenue (at Highland), 716-883-6651  
Requested materials from the González-Soto branch will be available at Crane.

**Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. Branch**, 1324 Jefferson Avenue (at East Utica), 716-883-4418.

**Elaine M. Panty Branch Library**, 820 Tonawanda Street (at Prairie), 716-875-0562.



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