



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Contact for more information:

Eileen Force Cahill: (414) 286-3032 or 793-4543 (c)

eforce@milwaukee.gov

Milwaukee Public Library Unveils New Mitchell Street Branch

Newest, largest neighborhood library opens to the public

Milwaukee Public Library Director Paula Kiely and Mayor Tom Barrett opened the doors today of the new Mitchell Street Branch at 906 W. Historic Mitchell Street. Joining in the celebration were Alderman Jose Perez, MPL Board President John Gurda and many partners, community leaders and neighbors. The Mitchell Street Branch is a \$5.7 million investment in the historic commercial corridor and replaces the former Forest Home Branch. The complex financing package includes tax credits, City of Milwaukee financing and significant support from the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation. Features of the new library include:

- 23,000 square feet – the largest neighborhood branch—housed inside the former Hill’s Department Store, originally built in 1920 and named The Lion Store.
- Three levels of service, including a mezzanine with private study spaces and a large conference room; a “makerspace” in the basement complete with a digital recording studio, video and sound editing bays, graphic design, art supplies and a kitchen for culinary arts programming; and on the main level there is a gathering/reading area with fireplace and a “social stairs” with data and electrical outlets for connecting and convening. Of course there are also designated spaces and collections for teens, adults and children.
- Above the library are 52 market-rate luxury apartments offered by Gorman & Co. Behind the library in a freestanding structure to the north are eight townhouses. Built at a cost of \$15 million, this mixed-use development replicates successful projects MPL has initiated at the Villard and East branches.
- Original terrazzo floors, ornate plaster columns and original mahogany railings have all been restored and replacement floor-to-ceiling windows showcase a bright inviting space.
- In addition to the features outlined above, Mitchell Street will house a collection of up to 50,000 items for circulation, high-speed internet access and free Wi-Fi.
- Free surface parking for customers and multiple community spaces available for reservation.

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About Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 14 locations, and more than three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves more than one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe who use its resources at www.mpl.org. To offer this wide array of free programming, MPL relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support Milwaukee Public Library at mpl.org/support.

