



Prince George's County
Memorial Library System

FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT







The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) strengthened its role as an essential community resource over the past year. Library staff, trustees, volunteers, Friends groups, the PGCMLS Foundation, and partner organizations shared a common goal: to help neighbors access information resources and services that advance their individual needs and move Prince George's County forward. This year saw the opening of the new state-of-the-art Hyattsville Branch Library, the launch of Online 2Go borrowable Chromebooks, expanded summer programming for teens, growing partnerships with local and state organizations, new Summer Prince George's branding and programs for all ages, and constant creativity and adaptability among staff to meet the changing needs of customers. Library staff were also on the front lines of COVID-19 recovery, distributing self-test kits and KN95 masks, and hosting numerous vaccination clinics in 2021 and 2022.

As you enjoy this annual report, you are invited to consider ways that you can become a more vocal champion of the Library and its role in the community. PGCMLS customers are the Library's greatest advocates. By sharing your library story with friends and neighbors, you can inspire others to discover and pursue their interests with no cost barriers. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Nicholas A. Brown

Acting Co-Chief Executive Officer
COO for Communication and Outreach

Michael B. Gannon

Acting Co-Chief Executive Officer
COO for Support Services

Board of Library Trustees

Toni A. Smith, President
Brett Crawford, Vice President
Sylvia Bolivar
Samuel A. Epps, IV,
Dr. Hiram Larew
Dr. Arthuree R. M. Wright
Angela D. Smith

Chief Executive Officer

Roberta Phillips

County Executive

Angela D. Alsobrooks



FUNDING

Operating Budget:

Total Public Support (Local, State, Federal):

\$33,181,135

County: \$24,029,800

State: \$7,721,828

County Correctional Center Reimbursement:
\$82,400

Total Additional Revenue: \$4,695,721

Branch Revenue: \$169,645

Other Revenue: \$368,862

Use of Fund Balance: \$808,600

State Aid on Behalf of Retirees: \$2,254,118

Grants Proceeds: \$1,094,496

Total Budget (All Revenue): \$36,529,749

Expenditures

Total: \$37,327,313

Operating: \$34,715,669

Grant Expenditures: \$1,094,429

Capital Improvement Outlay: \$4,951,304

Net Surplus: \$436,168

Personnel

Total: 330

Full-time: 291

Part-time: 39

Note: Pre-audit figures



Halloween Outreach Event in College Park

MATERIALS



Circulated Materials

Total Circulated Materials: 3,417,386

Adult-Specific Materials: 492,415

Children & Teen-Specific Materials: 885,148

Electronic Downloads/Usage: 1,729,036

Other Materials: 119,931



Number of Library Visits

Number of Library Visits: 891,228

Registered Borrowers (Cardholders): 583,480

Website Page Views: 5,208,380

Library Programs: 2,296

Program Attendance: 55,966

Note: Indoor programs fully resumed in June 2022



Materials Owned

Total: 750,110

Physical Collection: 543,356

Digital Collection: 206,754

ILL (Received and Loaned)

Total Loaned: 19,492

OCLC: 379, Marina: 19,113

Total Received: 26,542

OCLC: 652, Marina: 25,800



Reference Questions

Total Questions Answered: 269,788

Adult Reference Transactions: 242,814

Children's Reference Transactions: 26,626

Unique Integrated Communications: 348



Children reading at the Hyattsville Branch Library



The restored Flying Saucer and Art in Public Places commission by artist Valerie Theberge.

Hyattsville Branch Library Grand Opening

PGCMLS opened the new 40,258 square-foot Hyattsville Branch Library to the public on Wednesday, March 30, 2022. This highly anticipated new library continues PGCMLS' track record of building award-winning sustainable, modern, and welcoming branches that serve as hubs for the community. 42,325 customers visited in the first 3 months.

"PGCMLS is proud that the new Hyattsville Branch Library design and features are directly informed by customer feedback that was collected during five community forums," said Michael Gannon, Chief Operating Officer for Support Services. "The top priorities identified were to maintain the same location, embrace sustainable design, keep the flying saucer, offer plentiful study and collaboration spaces, expand the children's area, and increase the availability of computers."



Opening day at Hyattsville Branch Library



Ribbon-cutting at Hyattsville Branch Library. From L to R: Council Member At-Large Mel Franklin, Council Member Deni Taveras, Roberta Phillips, County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks, Michael B. Gannon, Toni A. Smith, Council Member Dannielle M. Glaros, Mayor Robert Croslin, Curtis Woody



Children at Hyattsville Branch Library



PGCMLS Foundation limited edition merchandise

The Library includes PGCMLS' first-ever vegetative ("green") roof for stormwater mitigation, first parking garage, and the following features:

- 84 public computers for the public – the largest number at any PGCMLS branch library
- 2 meeting rooms
- Conference room
- Makerspace/Computer lab
- Art room
- 2-sided fireplace
- Vending café with bookstore area
- 8 study rooms (2 in the Children's Room)
- Reading terrace
- Reading garden featuring the restored flying saucer and art
- 2 Art in Public Places commissions – one interior and one exterior
- Prince George's Room with a collection focused on local history and genealogy
- Sustainability features: solar panels, light-colored PVC roofing, energy-efficient and "smart" HVAC system, electric vehicle charging stations, locally-sourced bricks, terracotta panels with long life cycles that will not weather or need replacement, metal panels made of recycled components.
- The "Discovery Village" children's area features elements of classical children's literature

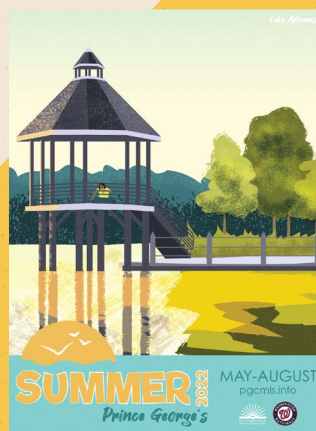


Summer Prince George's

PGCMLS and the Washington Nationals teamed up to celebrate summer in Prince George's County for the third consecutive year. This year's initiative, Summer Prince George's, invited Prince Georgians of all ages to connect with their community by reading, attending library or partner events (in-person or virtually), visiting branch libraries, and engaging with library resources. Book Crawl – a new series of bookish social events for adults – toured various local businesses, ranging from Denizens Brewing Co. in Riverdale Park to Robin Hill Farm & Vineyards in Brandywine.

"We are pleased to once again work with our friends at the Prince George's County Memorial Library System to encourage summer reading among Prince Georgians," said Gregory McCarthy, Washington Nationals Senior Vice President, Community Engagement. "Through this program, we hope to help readers of all ages discover a passion for books, while offering exciting incentives to help them meet their goal of reading at least 30 minutes a day, every day."

The 2022 edition of Summer Prince George's saw over 1.35 million minutes of reading logged by 3,371 participants. Reading minutes logged increased by 40% and program registration increased 30% over 2021 figures.





Summer Kickoff with the Washington Nationals at Walker Mill Regional Park



Summer Prince George's program



Summer Prince George's program



Book Crawl Event at
Vigilante Coffee, Hyattsville

Staff Innovation and Commitment to Community

Promoting Community Health & Wellness

As part of the Library's commitment to ensuring that Prince George's County residents have equitable access to public health services, PGCMLS hosted over 25 COVID-19 vaccine clinics at multiple branch libraries in FY22, which administered over 1,100 vaccinations. Prince George's County residents were also offered access to free COVID-19 Rapid Self-Test kits through PGCMLS. Part of a statewide effort to make 500,000 free kits available to the public to reduce COVID-19 rates, PGCMLS distributed 124,000+ self-test kits and 120,000+ KN95 masks to Prince Georgians. The Library partnered with the Maryland Department of Health, Prince George's County Health Department, and Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force to provide these important public health services.

Guide to Indigenous Maryland

Maryland's public libraries, under the auspices of the Maryland State Library Agency (MSLA) and PGCMLS, launched the beta version of the Guide to Indigenous Maryland mobile app (iOS and Android) and website (IndigenousMD.info). This new, free educational resource provides an engaging entry point for Marylanders of all ages to learn about the history of local Native and Indigenous people. The Guide leads users on a tour of 21 curated sites throughout Maryland that reflect how Native American and Indigenous heritage is an integral part of local history and contemporary life.



Developed between November 2021 and June 2022, the Guide was curated by Dr. Elizabeth Rule, Assistant Professor, American University. Dr. Rule is a member of the Chickasaw Nation and is renowned nationally as a leading proponent of engaging the general public with the Native and Indigenous heritage of local communities. She previously developed and launched a Guide to Indigenous DC and Guide to Indigenous Baltimore. Made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Maryland State Library Agency via PGCMLS.



Bilingual literacy program in Langley Park

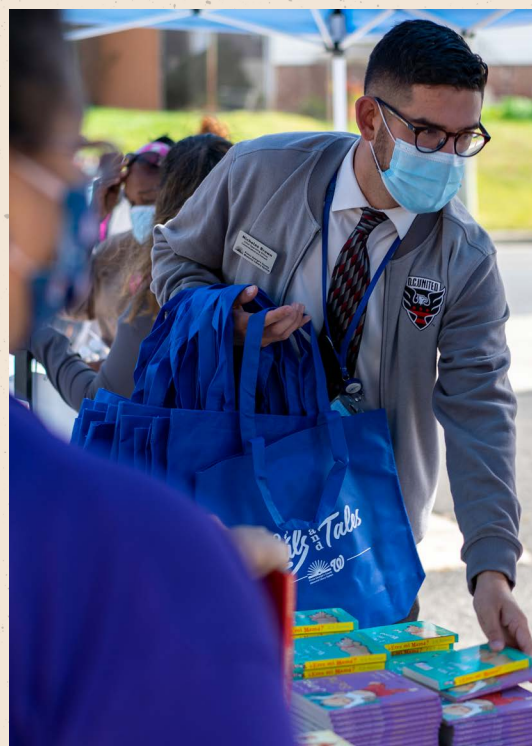
Library Launches "Immigrant Proud" Initiative

In winter 2022, PGCMLS launched "Immigrant Proud," a campaign to highlight the rich resources available to immigrants in Prince George's County. Supporting the 200,000+ immigrants and refugees who live and work in Prince George's County has long been a priority of the Library. Whether through adult English classes, cultural heritage programs, legal aid clinics, or expanding the Library's multilingual collection, PGCMLS offers the newest Prince Georgians with welcoming physical and virtual environments where they can access resources and services to advance their personal and family goals.

"Immigrant Proud" showcases curated collections of books and online resources to support language learning and legal needs, free citizenship bundles to support preparation for citizenship exams, as well as programs like English classes for English Language Learners, Kids Achieve Club virtual tutoring for students in grades 1-4, Leamos literacy classes for Spanish speakers, citizenship study groups, and language conversation clubs for informal practice. An overview of resources is available at the Library's "Immigrant Proud" webpage (pgcmls.info/immigrantproud) and on displays in branch libraries.



Health and Wellness Fair at Oxon Hill Branch



Essential resources distribution at Maryland Multicultural Youth Center



Embracing The Community Through Art & Culture

"In Freedom's Name"

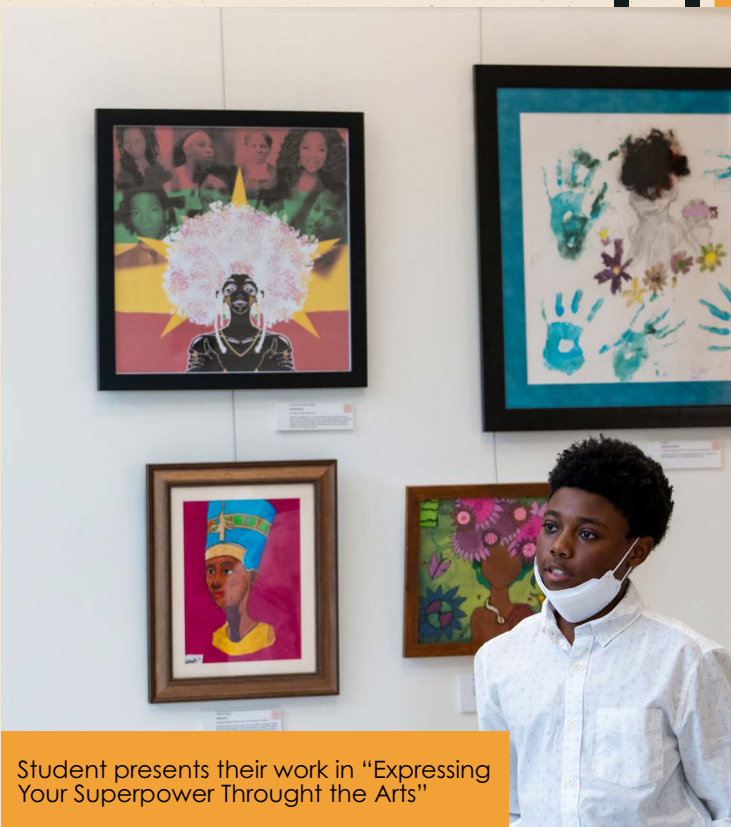
"In Freedom's Name" is a touring exhibit that celebrates the military service and sacrifice of Black Marylanders throughout U.S. history. The exhibit toured five branch libraries from February through July 2022. The exhibit features 38 panels that include 63 major stories and 245 photographs and images. It explores the stories of Marylanders and Prince Georgians whose courage and service are an inspiration for young people and adults alike. The exhibit closing was celebrated with a special appearance by Brigadier General Janeen L. Birkhead, Commander, Maryland Army National Guard.

"Black and Proud+"

"Black and Proud+" is a community art exhibit curated by the PGCMLS Black History and Culture Team and LGBTQ+ Team. It features work by Black and LGBTQ+ artists who call Prince George's County and the metropolitan Washington, DC area home. Works range from poetry to portraits that celebrate the strength and courage of Black Americans. Featured artists include: Ny'Lah Green (Student, Suitland High School), Live'N'Tune (Artist, Upper Marlboro), MotherPat (Artist, Cheverly), Shaymar Higgs (Artist, Upper Marlboro), Leigh Marget (Artist and Former Prince George's County Public Schools Educator, Laurel), Jasmine Lee (Student, Suitland High School), and Rae Akino (Artist, Prince George's County native.)



Children enjoying the Art Room at Hyattsville Branch Library



Student presents their work in "Expressing Your Superpower Through the Arts"

"The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen"

In collaboration with the Military Women's Memorial, PGCMLS hosted "The Color of Freedom: Honoring the Diversity of America's Servicewomen" touring exhibit. The goal of this exhibit is to shed light on the sacrifices and contributions of a selection of minority women who served in or alongside the U.S. Military throughout history.

The interactive display included the stories of twenty-one servicewomen of color and brought to light the impact that these women made while serving in various branches of the U.S. military. QR codes enabled viewers to access a selection of oral history recordings.

"Expressing Your Superpower Through the Arts"

PGCMLS and the Harbor City Maryland Chapter of The Society, Inc. launched this student, grades 7 through 11, art exhibit in the spring of 2022. "The Library celebrates the creative endeavors of our community youth and encourages expression through visual media in this incredible display. This collaboration with The Society also serves to strengthen the PGCMLS commitment to championing creatives," stated Rachel Zukowski, Program Services Manager.



Ready 2 Read Storytime:
Ages 3-5 at Laurel Branch

Partnerships

Pebble Pop-up Library

As part of ongoing efforts to expand access to library resources throughout Prince George's County, PGCMLS opened a self-service pop-up library at National Harbor in collaboration with the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC). The "Pebble Pop-up Library" contains a collection of 400+ books, with a focus on books about fine and performing arts for children, arts entrepreneurship books for adults, and more. The Library and PGAHC are longtime partners in service to Prince Georgians, frequently presenting joint programs and also collaborating on Art in Public Places commissions within county library buildings, like the Valerie Theberge and Curtis Woody installations at the new Hyattsville Branch Library.

Surratts-Clinton Branch Pop-up at Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation

PGCMLS partners with the Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation to provide a temporary space for customers to interact with the Library. "We're excited about the availability of the Clinton pop-up location to serve this community during the extended closure of the Surratts-Clinton Branch Library for major renovation," said Area Manager Melanie Townsend Diggs.

PGCMLS Collaboration with The SPACE

PGCMLS and the Friends of the Greenbelt Library partnered with The SPACE which stands for "Sharing Positive Artistic and Creative Energies"), a nonprofit in Greenbelt, to establish a pop-up library location at Beltway Plaza Mall to increase public access to technology and literature, attract participants with collaborative programming, and provide outreach to the significant population of immigrants, refugees, and Spanish-speakers living in the Greenbelt area.



"The Color of Freedom" panel discussion at Oxon Hill Branch Library. From L to R: Shane Warren, Brigadier General Janeen L. Birkhead, Council Member Mel Franklin Jr., Dr. James Dula

"Freedom Stories" - Two-Year Initiative to Examine the Legacy of Slavery

The Library and a coalition of local partners launched "Freedom Stories," a two-year multidisciplinary initiative that explores the histories, stories, names, and places where freedom from enslavement and oppression began in Prince George's County. Through dialogue facilitated by programs and the commissioning of a new stage work, "Freedom Stories" strives to connect legacy to present day Prince George's families and provide insight into the determination and resilience of Blacks living in Prince George's County in the 1700s. We explore history to create a more just and equitable present experience.

The first year featured the inaugural Prince George's County Reads program, which invited community members to share the experience of reading a book together. The book "A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War" by William G. Thomas III, was the launch point for conversations about the courageous enslaved Black residents of the County who challenged slavery in the courts between the late 1790s and mid-1800s.

The "Freedom Stories" coalition includes Joe's Movement Emporium, Prince George's County Memorial Library System, Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, and Prince George's Community College Center for Performing Arts.

Notable Author Events



Civil Rights Leader Dolores Huerta

Dolores Huerta is a legendary labor leader, women's advocate and civil rights advocate who co-founded the United Farm Workers (UFW) with UFW President César Chavez. She was the keynote speaker for the Library and Office of Human Rights joint programs for Hispanic Heritage Month 2021. In 2012, President Obama bestowed Huerta with her most prestigious award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. Huerta is one of the most important civil rights leaders in U.S. history and it was an honor for PGCMLS to host her.



Kendra Allen

Kendra Allen returned to the Library's joint virtual programs with the Office of Human Rights to discuss her new poetry collection, "The Collection Plate." Winner of the Iowa Prize and a leading new voice on the national literary scene, Allen braids together personal narrative and cultural commentary, wrestling with the beauty and brutality to be found between mothers and daughters, young women and the world, Black bodies and white space, prison and freedom, birth and death.



Oprah's Book Club Author Honorée Fanonne Jeffers

September 2021's featured Oprah's Book Club author Honorée Fanonne Jeffers appeared in a special event for PGCMLS. She is the author of recent titles "The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois" (Harper, 2021) and "The Age of Phillis" (Wesleyan University Press, 2020), among many others. The conversation was hosted by Kerry Sinanan, Assistant Professor of English, University of Texas-San Antonio. This event was part of the Library's robust anti-racism education programs for adults and was co-presented with the University of Maryland English Department and Center for Literary & Comparative Studies.



NBA Authors Tony Massenburg and Walt Williams at Oxon Hill Branch Library

NBA stars Tony Massenburg and Walt Williams visited the Oxon Hill Branch Library to discuss their experiences playing basketball at the University of Maryland and Len Bias's impact on their lives and careers. "Lessons from Lenny: The Journey Beyond a Shooting Star" is their book about one of the most representative players of the Maryland area in the '80s.



Reyna Grande at Hyattsville Branch Library

Bestselling author Reyna Grande discussed her novel "A Ballad of Love and Glory" with bookstagrammer Lupita Aquino (@Lupita.Reads) at the new Hyattsville Branch Library. Grande is the author of the bestselling memoir, "The Distance Between Us," (Atria, 2012) where she writes about her life before and after she arrived in the United States from Mexico as an undocumented child immigrant. Her other works include "A Dream Called Home," "Across a Hundred Mountains," and "Donde Somos Humanos."



Pilot Carole Hopson at South Bowie Branch Library

At the first hybrid livestream and in-branch author event since the COVID-19 pandemic began, pilot, author, and speaker Carole Hopson visited the South Bowie Branch Library to discuss her book, "A Pair of Wings: Based on the Life of Pioneer Aviatrix Bessie Coleman," and the 100 Pairs of Wings Project, which encourages Black women to become aviators.

Awards

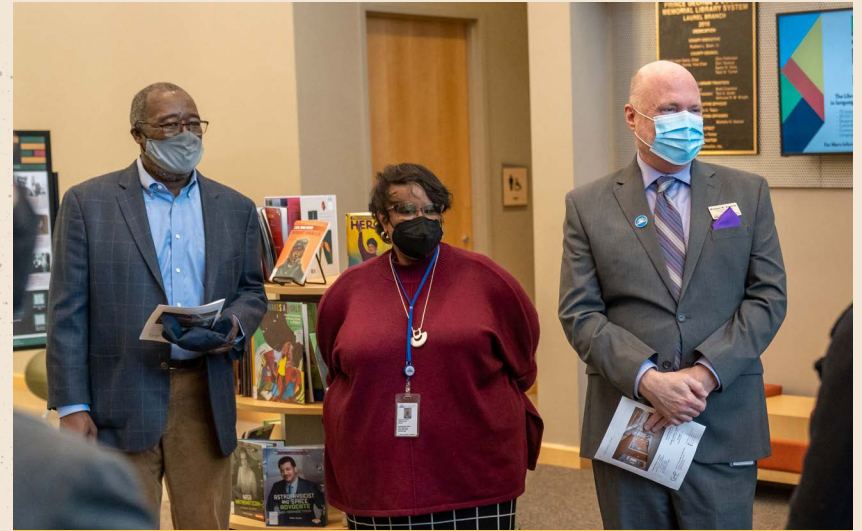
Library Journal 2021 Marketer of the Year: Nicholas A. Brown

Chief Operating Officer for Communication and Outreach
Nicholas Alexander Brown was named the 2021 Library Marketer of the Year by Library Journal, a leading national trade publication for the library industry. The award recognizes Brown and the Library's PR/Marketing and Digital Services Departments for their impactful, innovative, and creative approach to marketing library services and engaging the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Urban Libraries Council 2021 Top Innovator: Workforce and Economic Development

During the pandemic, PGCMLS formed a team to bridge employability gaps focused on the digital divide through innovative virtual programming, training, and community partnerships. The team developed a microsite and business wiki to improve equitable access to resources for all customers, including those transitioning into entrepreneurship. These programs and services have led directly to Prince George's County residents gaining employment during a period up to 11% unemployment.

The annual ULC Innovations Awards recognize transformative programs that address structural racism, bridge digital divides, provide lifelong education opportunities, meet the needs of under-resourced populations, and improve essential library service delivery from ULC's member library systems across the U.S. and Canada.



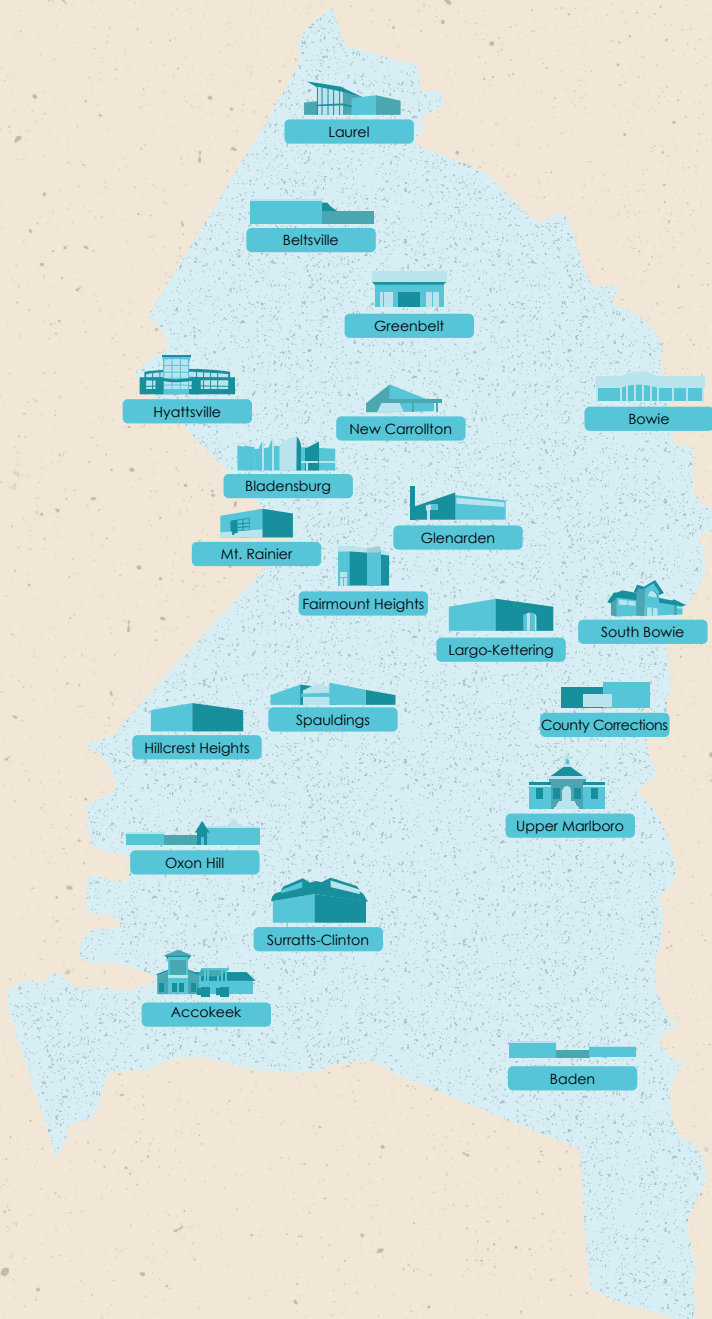
Grimm+Parker and library staff at Laurel Branch Library

Maryland Library Association Outstanding Member Award: Michelle Hamiel

Michelle Hamiel, Chief Operating Officer for Public Services, received the Maryland Library Association (MLA) Outstanding Member Award in recognition of her decades of service to Maryland libraries, statewide leadership in race and social equity, and founding MLA's Black Caucus.

Maryland Library Association Excellence in Marketing Award: Drew Clark

Drew Clark, Graphic Designer, was awarded MLA's Excellence in Marketing Award, which "recognizes the talent of communications and marketing personnel within Maryland libraries." Clark's award focuses on his creative design for the bilingual (English/Spanish) 2021 Summer @ Your Library ("Verano en su Biblioteca") program, "Tails and Tales," which was presented in partnership with the Washington Nationals.



Branches

Accokeek Branch Library
 Baden Branch Library
 Beltsville Branch Library
 Bladensburg Branch Library
 Bowie Branch Library
 County Correctional Center Library*
 Fairmount Heights Branch Library
 Glenarden Branch Library
 Greenbelt Branch Library
 Hillcrest Heights Branch Library
 Hyattsville Branch Library
 Largo-Kettering Branch Library
 Laurel Branch Library
 Mount Rainier Branch Library
 New Carrollton Branch Library
 Oxon Hill Branch Library
 South Bowie Branch Library
 Spauldings Branch Library
 Surratts-Clinton Branch Library
 Upper Marlboro Branch Library

**Not open to the public*





Prince George's County Memorial Library System

9601 Capital Lane, Largo, MD 20774 | Tel: (301) 699-3500 | Ask A Librarian: (240) 455-5451
TTY: Dial 7-1-1 for Maryland Relay | email: pr@pgcmls.info