

Chair's Report September 8, 2014

Children's services

Toronto Public Library is ramping up outreach initiatives for children, with concerted efforts to reach all kindergarten and Grade 4 students in Toronto, and students attending city-run after school programs. **Kindergarten Outreach** will deliver Ready for Reading-branded information packages to approximately 60,000 junior and senior kindergarten students. This year's package includes the new Ready for Reading branding and emphasizes the important role parents and caregivers play in their child's early literacy development. This fall, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Library, a **Grade 4 Outreach** package titled Operation Super Sleuth invites students to solve puzzles and to get to know their library branch staff with an exciting adventure that gets families excited about libraries. This summer, the Library expanded its support of **Toronto District School Board Model Schools for Inner Cities** by visiting the ten Model Schools that operate during the summer. Library staff visited approximately 3,000 students in Grades 1 through 8 and promoted the TD Summer Reading Club, Word Out, and resources, programs, collections and services at the Library for children. Library staff also visited children attending **after-school programs at Parks, Forestry and Recreation After-School Recreation Centres** this past spring, delivering programs to nearly 800 school-age children at 27 sites.

To support the Middle Childhood Framework, a series of **staff training workshops promoting programming ideas for after-school programs** will be offered this fall.
tpl.ca/middlechildhood

Residencies

Fall residencies at Toronto Public Library are giving Torontonians unprecedented access to expertise in a number of areas, including digital innovation, arts and culture, entrepreneurship, creative writing for teens, and children's illustration. The Library's second **innovator in residence**, presented by the Digital Innovation Hub at Toronto Reference Library between October 20 and November 30, will be award-winning filmmaker Sarah Goodman (tpl.ca/innovate). A new **Artists in the Library** program, in partnership with Toronto Arts Council, welcomes five renowned artists to celebrate the love of art in neighbourhoods outside of the downtown core with artists installed at Oakwood Village, Cedarbrae, Mimico Centennial, Downsview and Fairview branches from September to December (tpl.ca/artists). Sunny Verma will be **the Library's third entrepreneur in residence**; the program launches October 1 at Toronto Reference Library as CBC business commentator Michael Hlinka interviews Verma about his company TutorBright, exploring how Verma grew an idea to a successful operation covering 30 cities (tpl.ca/entrepreneur). For the second year running, the Library's Young Voices program for creative teens is offering online support for teen creative writers in the form of an **electronic writer in residence**, award-winning author of teen books Emily Pohl-Weary (tpl.ca/teens). And children's book author and illustrator, Patricia Storms, will offer a series of free workshops for aspiring illustrators and children's authors as part of the **Joanne Fitzgerald Illustrator in Residence program** at Northern District Branch throughout October (tpl.ca/illustratorinresidence).

Toronto Reference Library

Toronto Public Library and the Toronto Public Library Foundation are teaming up on September 19 to celebrate the multi-year, \$34 million **revitalization of Toronto Reference Library**, which will conclude this fall. Following a public event that will give customers a chance to explore the new features of the revitalized library, the Foundation will host a reception in The Bram & Bluma Appel Salon, to thank their donors for all that their generosity has helped enable. All Toronto Public Library Foundation supporters will also soon be recognized on a new Digital Donor Wall, with touch-screen functionality, which will be installed immediately adjacent to the entrance gates into Toronto Reference Library.

Justin Trudeau, Bruce Cockburn and Naomi Klein will headline the fall season at the **Bram & Bluma Appel Salon**, Toronto Public Library's signature event space for guests from the world of literature, the performing arts, politics and pop culture.

tpl.ca/appelsalon

A **new TD Gallery exhibition**, Dreaming Big, presented in partnership with Waterfront Toronto, is on until October 11 at Toronto Reference Library. The exhibit examines the passionate discussions and debates of Toronto's love affair with the water's edge and includes six visionary ideas about the future of the Gardiner Expressway.

tpl.ca/tdgallery

Programs

The eh List, Toronto Public Library's acclaimed Canadian author series, returns for its fifth year with a lineup of award-winning Canadian novelists including Scotiabank Giller Prize winners Joseph Boyden and Linden MacIntyre. This year's eh List includes a new partnership with The Word on the Street to celebrate the festival's 25th anniversary.

tpl.ca/ehlist

Sophie's Studio workshops were held at six Toronto Public Library branches across the city this past spring, with over 350 children aged eight to 12 participating. A new survey among participating children indicated that almost all of them expressed an increased level of enjoyment in creative writing as a result of the workshop.

tpl.ca/sophiesstudio

A partnership with libraries at the University of Toronto and York University will see Toronto Public Library host a number of **“Science Literacy”** programs in September at eight branches, and displays at 32 branches around the city.

This year marks **the centenary of the First World War**, and Toronto Public Library is commemorating this momentous occasion with WWI programming across the city, including three special exhibits, and lectures on the literature, art, cinema and history of WWI.

tpl.ca/ww1

A new **public art installation** at Fort York Branch, featuring artwork by Charles Pachter and poetry by Margaret Atwood, will be celebrated with an event at Fort York on September 23.

For the fourth consecutive year, Toronto Public Library will partner with Culture Days and Neighbourhood Arts Network to offer free, hands-on, interactive activities during **Culture Days @ the Library**, September 26 and 27.

Spaces

On July 26, Mayor Rob Ford and City Councillor Maria Augimeri were on hand for the opening of a new City of Toronto park, **Reading Sprouts Garden**, situated next to Jane/Sheppard Branch. The park was designed to encourage outdoor reading and a small amphitheatre is provided for use by community members, students of neighbourhood schools, and the library.

Collections

Earlier this summer, Toronto Public Library and the Toronto Star announced the gift of more than one million vintage **photographs from the Toronto Star's photo archive** to the Library's special collections. The collection represents the complete photographic archive of the largest daily newspaper in Canada and includes unparalleled coverage of Toronto news, changing daily life, fashion and economic and social developments in the city between the years 1900 and 1999.

Foundation

The Toronto Public Library Foundation recently announced that **phase one of the new tplfoundation.ca website** is live. The new site has a cleaner design, is much easier to navigate and has a more prominent call to action to donate throughout. Phase two of the redevelopment will launch later this fall when the Foundation unveils a more robust site with even greater functionality and more comprehensive information.

tplfoundation.ca

In support of Toronto Public Library Board-approved 2012 - 2014 fundraising priorities, the Toronto Public Library Foundation is pleased to announce two new major gifts: The **Michael & Sonja Koerner Charitable Foundation** has gifted \$25,000 to the Foundation in support of the theatre and music collection at the Toronto Reference Library. The Sonja and Michael Koerner Performing Arts Acquisition Fund will help enrich the vital theatre and music resources and services that the Library makes available to aspiring musicians and music aficionados alike. The Foundation has also secured a new gift of \$20,000 from the **Bell Let's Talk Community Fund** in support of the Library's outreach services to marginalized people.

Hush Hush, at Bloor/Gladstone on October 25, is the **Toronto Public Library Foundation's New Collection party** that targets Torontonians in their 20s, 30s and 40s to cultivate the next generation of library supporters. Last year's event raised \$50,000 and had over 300 guests in attendance.

hush-hush.ca

Prepared by Toronto Public Library staff