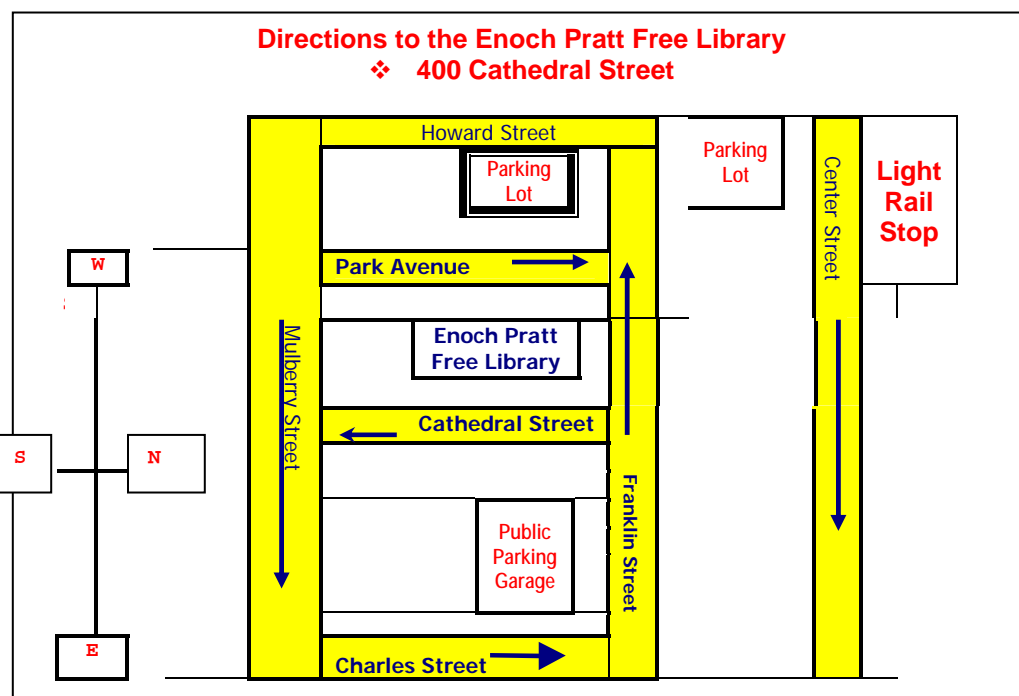


**ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY (CENTRAL LIBRARY)**  
 400 CATHEDRAL STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21201-4484  
 VOICE: 410-545-3108/ FAX 410-361-9610  
 CONTACT *Gordon E. Krabbe*

The Pratt Library's Central Hall, with its three-story skylit atrium and terrazzo floors, is a grand space ideally suited for large gatherings of dancers, minglers, and nibbling networkers.

- **Capacity:** 200-250 Banquet, 400 Reception  
Using rooms adjoining the Central Hall can accommodate larger crowds
- **Availability:** Contact: Gordon E. Krabbe
- **Reserve:** Three (3) months in advance
- **Rental Rates:** \$3,000 for event of 4 hours or more
- **Restrictions:** No smoking
- **Catering:** No restrictions; contract and insurance requirements.
- **Accessibility:** Full wheelchair accessibility.

• **Parking**  
SEE MAP



The Central Library, Maryland's State Library Resource Center first opened to the public in January 1933. Occupying an acre of land, the building replaced Enoch Pratt's original Central Library of 1882, which faced Mulberry Street.

Striking in its simplicity, the present building was designed by architects Clyde and Nelson Friz of Baltimore, in association with Edward Lippincott Tilton and Alfred Morton Githens of New York. The team worked in close consultation with Library Director Joseph Wheeler and the Pratt Board of Trustees, who believed that a great building should combine "beautiful design and sensible convenience."

The street-level entrance, dramatic show windows, and decorative iron grillework above the Cathedral Street doorway gave the building a bright, inviting look that was a marked departure from the intimidating mausoleum style characteristic of the public libraries of the day.

The great Central Hall is decorated with the devices of famous printers and publishers. Murals at the north and south ends picture Gutenberg and Caxton. Paneling and wainscoting of Loreda chiaro and Pyrenees black and white marble, with walnut woodwork, give the interior warmth and brightness.

Other arresting features are the ornate ceiling of the Audio-Visual Sights and Sounds Department, adapted from a design in the Vatican, the illuminated skylight above the Central Hall, and the decorative brass grillework throughout the building.

The six life-size portraits, which hang in Central Hall, constitute a series of historical paintings without parallel in the United States. They portray an entire dynasty of colonial proprietors, the barons of Baltimore. On the wall to the right of the Social Science and History Department entrance is a painting by Paul Hallwag of Enoch Pratt, founder of the Enoch Pratt Free Library.