The Pratt Promotes Digital Literacy with New Wash & Learn Program

This summer the Pratt and community partners transformed laundromats into pop-up libraries!

Creating partnerships is putting a new spin on doing your laundry. According to research, the average American spends 90 minutes a week in a laundromat with only half of that time spent doing laundry. Combine this with a tangible need for digital access and training in Baltimore City, and you’ve got Wash & Learn (WALI), an innovative initiative that is placing the library’s much-needed resources in four local laundromats.

“The more the Library can be a presence in the community, the better” says Pratt President and CEO Heidi Daniel. “WALI is about removing barriers and making sure all Baltimoreans can take advantage of the myriad of services that the Pratt offers as a 21st-century library. It’s exciting to offer our programs in spaces that act as community anchors in the same way our branches do.”

In partnership with The Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, Media Democracy Fund, and Libraries Without Borders, the Pratt has equipped four laundromats with technology installations, providing laptops and iPads for use whenever the laundromat is open. Customers can take a seat and follow basic technology tutorials, search for jobs, or connect with community resources, while children can develop early literacy skills, emotional intelligence, and basic coding skills on iPads. These tech stations look to promote digital equity, offering access and opportunities to connect.

Two of these laundromats will also feature the Pratt Promotes Digital Literacy. Through the years, your support has been crucial in building this institution, and I want to sincerely thank you. With your help, the Pratt Library will remain a beacon of hope and a place of possibility for years to come.

HEIDI DANIEL, President & Chief Executive Officer
After more than 20 years of planning and 3 years of work, the renovation of the historic Central Library is nearing completion. Preserving the past, positioned for the future...

“The library plays such an extraordinary role in the community. So many of the branches are located in underserved neighborhoods that are facing tough issues like food deserts and joblessness.”

We both realized that if you don’t create job opportunities for people, including young people, we will never address the difficult issues facing our city,” says Butler. “When we do open up those opportunities, we create a sense of hope in the future among our residents that otherwise would not exist.”

Nancy is thrilled about the other community-based initiatives the Pratt’s President and CEO Heidi Daniel is creating. “She is bringing the Library even more into the 21st century,” Nancy says. Butler agrees. “The library continues to be a place for collaboration that offers much needed resources to the community,” he says. “That’s the roadmap Heidi is putting together.”

On September 14, Nancy’s tireless work as a Board member and co-chair of the highly successful Pratt Campaign for Central Library Renovations will be on full display as city residents celebrate the grand re-opening of the newly refurbished Central Library. “I’m very proud of this city, but we all must be,” Nancy says. “We need everyone’s ideas for how to make us better.”

Giving to the Pratt is easy. Go to WWW.PRATTLIBRARY.ORG/GIVE to make an online credit card donation.
Trying to decide what to read next? Save a little time and take a page from us. We asked Pratt President & CEO Heidi Daniel for some of her favorite recent reads. Make sure to check these books out from your local library branch!

**The Great Believers**
by Rebecca Makkai

This beautifully written novel tells the story of Chicago’s gay community as it deals with the AIDS crisis in the 1980s alongside a gripping tale of a mother searching for her daughter in modern day Paris. What I loved about this book was its ability to create both a logical and emotional context for the AIDS epidemic, while also acknowledging that the pain of those losses are very much, still very much, with us. As the book unfolds, with a lyricism that gave me goosebumps, I couldn’t help but imagine the triumph of those who lived and loved and survived the very real and very present reality of the AIDS epidemic.

**Maid**
by Stephanie Land

Memoirs have always been one of my favorite genres of books. Land’s powerful first book is a reminder of exactly why. An unplanned pregnancy, a job as a maid. As the book unfolds, with a lyricism that gave me goosebumps, I couldn’t help but imagine the triumph of those who lived and loved and survived the very real and very present reality of the AIDS epidemic. If you’re looking for something to read on the beach, look no further! Reid crafts a delightful oral history of a fictional 70s rock band led by Daisy Jones. The characters are richly drawn, the situations wild, and the style is constantly fresh and funny. You’ll finish the book and be instantly ready for the movie!

**The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls**
by Taylor Jenkins Reid

When I first heard this book described as a cross between “An American Marriage” and “The Mothers,” I knew I had to read it. I was not disappointed. The story explores the relationship between mothers and daughters (complicated, as you can imagine). It’s also about how families come together in difficult times to take care of each other and provide “home” for each other. It’s incredibly specific and universal at the same time.

**Dear Martin**
by Nicola Yoon

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Pages from the Pratt
Pratt Potpourri

1. Pratt President and CEO Heidi Daniel and Librarians of Congress Carla Hayden in a special conversation about the Pratt "then and now" to thank major donors to the renovation campaign.
2. Mr. Pratt Potpourri event chair Anna Crook and Jacob Hober and Wendy Jackson & Jeffrey Schen with Susanee Carl Magazen.
3. The 1960s Bookworms' Breakfast welcomed James Forman, Jr.
4. The Studio 54-inspired 50th Anniversary Black & White Party welcomed over 1,000 guests.
5. Award-winning author N. Stone met with Baltimore city school students during 2 visits to Baltimore.

Coming to the Pratt*

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>Rebecca Makkai, <em>The Great Believers.</em></td>
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<td>Sep 19</td>
<td>Valerie Jarrett, <em>Finding My Voice.</em></td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Rick Atkinson, <em>The British Are Coming.</em></td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td><strong>SAVE THE DATES!</strong></td>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td><em>Writers LIVE!: David Grann</em></td>
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See the latest issue of Compass or check out prattlibrary.org for a complete list of upcoming speakers and programs.

Get a Sneak Peek at the Pratt Central Library
The Pratt: A Place of Possibilities
6 - 10 PM | September 7, 2019 | 400 Cathedral Street
You won’t want to miss this special sneak peek at the renovated Central Library! Enjoy delicious food and cocktails followed by a moderated conversation celebrating the special place the Pratt holds in Baltimore and beyond!
The conversation will include Pratt President and CEO Heidi Daniel, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Kurt Schmoke, and John Brothers.
Tickets: $150 | Cocktail Attire
For tickets visit prattlibrary.org/sneakpeek or call 410-545-3114
Reopening activities are made possible in part by a generous gift from Sandra R. Berman
The Estate of Ms. Howard Hubbard
Robert Meyerhoff & Rheda Becker

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Have you included the Pratt Library in your will and estate plan?

For information, CALL THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY AT 410-396-5283.