



ENOCH PRATT
free LIBRARY
your journey starts here

Pages FROM THE Pratt

for donors and friends of the library

FROM HEIDI DANIEL

On Being Nice

This summer, the Enoch Pratt Free Library was named one of the Nicest Places in America by Reader's Digest and Good Morning America.

WHILE THE ARCHITECTURAL details of our Central Library are spectacular, in this case the word "nice" runs deeper. Recently, a customer posted on social media that the Pratt Library opened more doors for her than her degree from Harvard.

This year, the Library is opening even more doors by going fine-free on all Pratt-owned materials. We're breaking down barriers for customers who may not be able to afford the cost of overdue fines. The Pratt is leading the way for other libraries in



HEIDI DANIEL
PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

this initiative, becoming the first major urban public library system on the East Coast to go fine-free. In the short time the policy has been in effect, we've seen more people and more materials coming back to the library.

People turn to the Pratt for many different reasons. It is a place where someone having issues with housing or food insecurity can find a social worker. In its first year, our *Social Worker in the Library* program helped hundreds of library customers. More than 14,000 people have received job search and resume help from our Mobile Job Center, which has been in high demand since it hit the road in May 2017.

This year, we've increased the hours at all Pratt locations by 30%. That means more parents and children can come for free educational programming at all of our 22 branches. Computers are available for more hours to help bridge the digital divide. And if you don't know how to use the technology, we now have more staff that can step in and help.

At the Pratt, we're embracing the message that we're *Free to Bmore*. We want customers to have the ability to be more creative, be more inspired, be more engaged. The Enoch Pratt Free Library offers opportunities to expand horizons and help people be their best selves. Our staff is making a lasting impact on the lives of our customers and in the direction of our city.

And that's pretty nice.

HEIDI DANIEL, *President & Chief Executive Officer*

Social Workers at the Pratt Make a Meaningful Difference



Pratt Social Worker in the Library team with UMD partners.

This spring marked the conclusion of our pilot year of *Social Worker in the Library*, and what a year it was!

SERVING OVER 600 CUSTOMERS at four Pratt Library branch locations, the *Social Worker in the Library* program in partnership with the University of Maryland School of Social Work, is making a meaningful difference.

Social work interns located at our Southeast Anchor Library and Brooklyn, Hamilton, and Pennsylvania Avenue branches provided training to librarians on identifying and assessing needs, managing crisis situations, and intervention strategies. The interns worked directly with library patrons on a variety of challenges including poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, drug abuse, and unemployment.

After identifying the unique needs at each branch location, interns designed programming to address the most pervasive challenges. At the Pennsylvania Avenue Branch and the Southeast Anchor Library, *Coffee and Conversation* provided a designated time for customers to get to know and trust social workers and eventually share concerns and issues. *Pop in @The Pratt* at the Brooklyn Branch engaged customers in a variety of interactive and informational activities designed to address various social needs. Engaging youth in after-school activities was one of the key areas of service at the Hamilton Branch where the student-driven *Homework Club* served over 100 kids!

In addition to identifying and filling program needs, social workers also served individual customers through case work and referrals. Over the course of the year, social work interns made 106 referrals to

social service agencies: 42% related to economic crisis; 23% to homelessness; 17% to mental health issues; 10% to health; 8% to family issues; and 1% related to substance abuse.

... the program ... is making a meaningful difference.

In year two, *Social Worker in the Library*, will expand to additional branches and add a full-time social worker to the library staff. It is our hope that with additional funding, these services can sustain and expand to meet the needs of the many individuals that use the library across all of our 22 branches.

Social Worker in the Library is made possible through the generous support of PNC Bank, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the University of Maryland School of Social Work.



Pennsylvania Avenue social work interns, Sara and Schlomo with Library customer, Caleb.

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BRANCH IMPROVEMENT FUND

Pratt IN THE Community

When Heidi Daniel arrived in Baltimore to begin her tenure as the President and CEO of the Pratt, she had several priorities on her agenda.

FIRST AMONG THEM was to visit all 22 Pratt Library branches. From Pennsylvania Avenue to Canton, Brooklyn to Herring Run, each of the Library’s locations is as distinct as the neighborhood it serves. “I believe that when any child visits the Library, they deserve to see something beautiful, a place that inspires them, that allows them to dream beyond their surroundings,” says Daniel. To that end, when visiting the branches a clear focus entered her mind—how could the Pratt take action to ensure that all Baltimore neighborhoods have the Library they deserve? Daniel was delighted to learn that the Pratt had recently launched the *Branch Improvement Fund* to do just that.

“... a place that inspires them, that allows them to dream beyond their surroundings.”

Last year the *Branch Improvement Fund* supported a mini-renovation of the popular Patterson Park Branch, including roof repairs, new carpeting and lighting, freshly painted walls, and a total re-design of the library square garden.

The Pratt is thankful to the entire community of donors who have already chosen to support this important initiative. In particular, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation has committed significant funding to support upgrades to technology, equipment, and renovations to children’s areas in



The Patterson Park library’s renovated interior and exterior garden.



several branch locations. “It means so much to me personally, and to the whole Pratt family, that the Weinberg Foundation would support the branches in such a significant manner on top of their leadership gift to the Central Library renovation,” says Daniel. This gift will allow the Pratt to continue to make meaningful improvements like those at Patterson Park.

To learn more about the *Branch Improvement Fund* or to make a gift, please contact Cindi Monahan at 410-396-5314 or cmonahan@prattlibrary.org.

Regarding Central

Transformations Revealed

If you have been to the Central Library lately you will know that things are not as they were!

WITH THE \$115 MILLION RENOVATION WELL UNDERWAY, completed spaces are now temporarily housing collections while their former homes are being renovated. The children’s collection is in the new Center for Teen Learning and Leadership, and the humanities

collection is in the new Creative Arts Center. Check-out is on the second floor hallway, and the infamous storefront windows are boarded up. Yes, this is temporary.

Look beyond the scaffolding and dust, and I am sure you will be awed and amazed at the transformation of this architectural gem. The Earl Center for Teen Learning and Leadership has been restored to its original grandeur, with refurbished windows, a complete restoration of the historic painted ceiling, new lighting, and much more. A state-of-the-art recording studio, creation station, and 3D printer will inspire eager and enthusiastic artists, and inviting furnishings will encourage teens to relax, collaborate, and explore. Just down the hall, the Creative Arts Center and Poe Room are equally impressive with refurbished paneling, flooring, and lighting. These public spaces will be available for meetings, author talks, and small live performances.

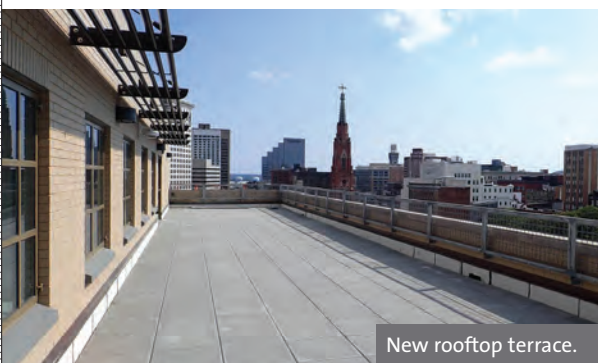
On the third floor, a new space dedicated to adult literacy and young women’s leadership will be a wonderful addition. Inspired by and named in honor of Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, the room will include an exhibit of several personal mementos on

loan to the library that highlight the Senator’s storied career. Mikulski, a lifelong friend of the Pratt, understands the importance of the Library to Baltimore. At a recent reception announcing the gift Mikulski said, “The [Library] has played such an important role in my life. It helped to educate and inspire me—as it has for so many. It is open to everyone, free of charge...I want to give back to an institution that has given so much to me and to our community. These historic artifacts are from key moments in my career. I hope they inspire others to learn and to serve.” Artifacts include her Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Obama, the pen President Obama used to sign Rosa’s Law, and campaign memorabilia from City Hall to the U.S. Senate.

Currently the Central Library remains open every day, free of charge, providing services that empower, enrich, and enhance the quality of life for all. The renovation is expected to be completed in the fall of 2019.



Senator Barbara A. Mikulski with Pratt CEO, Heidi Daniel.



New rooftop terrace.



Librarian workspace.



The Earl Center for Teen Learning and Leadership.

Giving to the Pratt is easy.

Go to WWW.PRATTLIBRARY.ORG/GIVE to make an online credit card donation.

GIVING

Donor Affinity Groups Raise More than \$825,000 for Pratt Library Programs Each Year

The Enoch Pratt Free Library offers three donor affinity groups to allow our most committed supporters to connect with library programs and services and with other devoted friends of the Pratt.

SUPPORT FROM THESE DONOR AFFINITY GROUPS provides crucial funding for more than 8,200 free programs enjoyed by nearly 130,000 people each year. From emergent literacy to workforce development, from Pennsylvania Avenue to Canton, the Enoch Pratt Free Library is a place where residents of the City are *Free to Bmore!*



The Pratt Contemporaries is a diverse group of young donors, primarily in their 30s, who raise awareness of and funding for the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Through unique events and outreach efforts, this group unites emerging creative thinkers and leaders who want to establish a lifeline

between their library, their city, and their communities.

The Contemporaries currently has more than 300 members across various membership levels ranging from \$100–\$1,000+ annually. Events are held monthly for members and guests, including happy hours, game nights, and the popular Black & White Party (January 19, 2019).

Pratt Contemporaries fundraising efforts support child and teen literacy programs at the Library. Since its inception ten years ago, the group has raised over \$1.5 million!



The Pratt Insiders, our newest affinity group, bridges our current Pratt Contemporaries and Pratt Society membership circles and offers unique, stimulating, and engaging programs and special events that suit a busy lifestyle. Many Pratt Insiders are former Pratt Contemporaries members and leaders.

In just 18 months the Insiders have gathered for seven events, including the launch of the re-designed Pratt Book Buggy at the Govans Branch, a private mezcal tasting at Clavel, an inside peek at the Sagamore Pendry Hotel, a reception with author Van Jones, dinner with new CEO Heidi Daniel, a preview of spring books with publishers from Penguin Randomhouse, and just recently, a tour of the Central Library renovations. We look forward to welcoming new members and suggestions as we continue to grow this new group of Library supporters.



The Pratt Society, our first and longest-running affinity group, was founded in the 1980s during a time when public funding for libraries was shrinking and private support became critical to maintaining free programs and services. The generous contributions of these vital donors help sustain programs and services that benefit all those

who walk through our doors. Pratt Society members gather throughout the year to meet and hear from Pulitzer-Prize winning authors, attend social events, and explore the Library with exclusive access. The Pratt Society is a community of more than 200 members, with giving levels ranging \$1,250 to \$50,000 annually. Membership gifts to the Pratt Contemporaries or Pratt Insiders over \$1,250 also include a Pratt Society membership.

Support from donor affinity groups provides crucial funding for a wide range of Library programs and services that would otherwise not be possible. For more information on how to join, renew, or get involved, contact Shelly Terranova at mterrano@prattlibrary.org or 410.396.1963.

From left to right: Pratt Contemporaries Annual Trivia Night; Pratt Insiders Chairs Chris Espenshade and Beulah Sabundayo; and Pratt Society members enjoy Mr. Pratt Presents.



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COMMUNITY

Innovative Initiatives

Peace and anti-violence is certainly top of mind for most Baltimore City residents.

AT THE PRATT WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY in meaningful activities and programming that promote a healthier and safer world. This spring we partnered with Baltimore Ceasefire on their city-wide initiative to go one full weekend without any gun violence. Funded through a Choose Civility Affiliate grant from Howard County



Public Library, Enoch Pratt was able to partner with Ceasefire to host moderated community conversations about living and working civilly in Baltimore. Participants received a copy of *Choose Civility* to continue the conversation within their neighborhoods. One attendee commented in the evaluation that, “There needs to be more opportunities to have open dialogue in the community.”

This coming fall, The Pratt will provide just that through the *One Book Baltimore* initiative sponsored by the T. Rowe Price Foundation. The collaboration among several

During the November weekend event, all 22 Pratt Library branch locations will host a special “ceasefire” activity.

local organizations will provide opportunities for Baltimore City 7th and 8th graders, their families, and community members to connect through literature by reading the same book.

Discussions and programming will be held in Pratt Library branches throughout the city to spark conversations focused on peace and how to promote change in our community.

For this pilot year, the book will be *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone. “We selected *Dear Martin* because it shows a young African American teen grappling with issues of anti-violence, peace, and injustice. The novel is engaging, speaks the language of today’s teens, and has many areas for discussion and community engagement,” said Pratt Coordinator for School and Student Services Deb Taylor. Taylor was on the book selection committee and will oversee library programming related to this initiative.

The project will officially launch at the Baltimore Book Festival September 28th–30th where Nic Stone will be a guest speaker and conclude with the November Ceasefire weekend. During the November weekend event, all 22 Pratt Library locations will host a special “ceasefire” activity.

One Book Baltimore is a collaboration with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore City Public Schools, Maryland Humanities, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, Maryland Book Bank, Baltimore Ceasefire, First Book and the CityLit Project.

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

For information, CALL THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AT (410) 396-5283.



Pages FROM THE Pratt

Pratt Potpourri!

- 1 Mr. Pratt Presents Chairs celebrate raising over \$375,000 to support Pratt programming.
- 2 Mr. Pratt Presents honorees, P.J. O'Rourke and Carl Bernstein.
- 3 The 2018 Havana-themed *Black & White Party* welcomed over 1,000 attendees.
- 4 Pratt insiders Marguerite Mugege and Michael Gill get an inside peek at the Central Library renovations.
- 5 Walbrook Branch block party, featuring a free to BMORE mural.
- 6 and the Pratt's Mobile Job Center.
- Pratt insiders Megan Brune and Alexa Corcoran enjoy the view on the Pratt's new rooftop terrace.

Coming to the Pratt*

- Sep 11** April Ryan, *Under Fire*. Church of the Redeemer, 7:30 p.m.
- Sep 26** Joy Moore, *The Power of Presence*, with her son Wes Moore. Church of the Redeemer, 7 p.m.
- Oct 13** Pratt Society Publisher's Preview Johnny's of Roland Park, 11 a.m.
- Oct 23** Susan Orlean, *The Library Book*. Peabody Library, 7 p.m.
- 2019** SAVE THE DATES!
Jan 19 • Black & White Party
April 13 • Mr. Pratt Presents

* See the latest issue of *Compass* or check out prattlibrary.org for a complete list of upcoming speakers and programs.



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ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Arts @ The Pratt

Arts @ The Pratt provides free arts programming at all 22 Pratt library locations.

FROM POETRY CONTESTS TO CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOPS TO FAMILY MUSIC CONCERTS, each Pratt location is committed to enriching customers' lives with top-quality arts activities and programs.

Librarians understand intrinsically why the arts are important and needed in their branches. Research consistently confirms that an education rich in the arts enhances creative thinking, builds problem-solving skills, and promotes literacy. For many city children and adults, the library may be their only access point for these kinds of programs.

Partnering with local artists, area non-profits, and other community organizations, the Pratt offers a variety of enriching activities all free of charge. After-school art workshops with staff from The Walters Art Museum at our Edmondson Avenue Branch, creating decorative envelopes with artist Karen Hoffman at the Hampden Branch, and FazaFam Family Jam presented by Dance & Bmore at Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Central, and Southeast Anchor are just a few of the offerings each month.

Additionally, the Pratt is committed to nurturing and supporting Baltimore's thriving cultural community. We regularly display local artists' work in the

Central Library and our branches and new this year, launched an initiative focused on beautifying library branches with original art, most notably with wall murals. After an open Request for Proposals and a review by a panel of local arts experts, LaToya Peoples was selected to paint a mural on the children's area wall at the Orleans Street Branch. LaToya Peoples is a Baltimore-based mixed media visual artist and educator. She holds a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and a certification in Art Education. She has exhibited at various venues including The Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, MICA's Meyerhoff Gallery, Artscape, and Jubilee Arts Gallery. In addition, Peoples teaches drawing, painting, and digital arts across Baltimore City.

Arts @ The Pratt is supported by the William G. Baker Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios, www.BakerArtist.org.



Paintings by LaToya Peoples: *Braids and Ferns*; *Untitled*

