Introducing Heidi Daniel

The Enoch Pratt Free Library is proud to name Heidi Daniel the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Library.

A highly experienced leader, Daniel has served as Executive Director of The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County in Ohio since 2012. Heidi Daniel has the perfect combination of vision and talent to lead the Pratt into the changing library world. She has a wealth of experience in meeting the challenges and opportunities of urban libraries,” says Pat Lasher, Chair of the Pratt Boards of Trustees and Directors. “My passion for public libraries led me to seek the job at the Pratt,” says Daniel. “It is one of the crown jewels of public libraries in the country, and I believe it is an integral part in the future success of Baltimore.”

Daniel currently oversees 15 branch libraries in the Youngstown area. She led the system through the construction of two new buildings, completed the re-model of a library, and recently began supervising the building of another new branch. She’s started innovative new services, including a Pop-Up Library and the circulation of mobile Wi-Fi hotspots. In 2015, she was named Ohio Librarian of the Year. Prior to Youngstown, Daniel worked at both the Houston Public Library and the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma City.

“Heidi Daniel

Daniel says, “As my career has progressed, I’ve really held onto the feeling of libraries as a transformer for people’s lives. It’s what’s driven me to get up out of bed every morning because we never know who we’re going to impact today.” She will start at the Pratt Library later this summer.

Mobile Job Center Launch

“Meeting the needs of customers outside library doors

SOMETIMES, THE PEOPLE WHO NEED Pratt Library programs and access to the most are those least able to visit the library. The Mobile Job Center Powered by BGE/Exelon, a roving one-stop-shop for workforce development, is the latest Pratt effort to meet customers outside library doors. The Center is officially on the road at the Touchpoint Baltimore community resource center at Mondawmin Mall.

“It’s the Library on wheels,” says BGE CEO and Pratt Board member Calvin Butler. “The Mobile Job Center represents hope and opportunity. Just walk inside and you will be amazed. There are 13 computer workstations, state-of-the-art workforce software, mobile wi-fi, employer reference materials, access to Library databases and resources and so much more.” BGE/Exelon provided funding for the vehicle and everything inside, and the Pratt Board of Trustees and Directors led the construction of the building.

The path from unemployment to a stable job is difficult for many residents of Baltimore’s most challenging neighborhoods. The gulf between no job and a stable one isn’t spanned in a single leap, but rather by a bridge composed of several milestones.

“The Library on wheels.”

“Meeting the needs of customers outside library doors.”

“Sometimes, the people who need Pratt Library programs and access to the most are those least able to visit the library. The Mobile Job Center Powered by BGE/Exelon, a roving one-stop-shop for workforce development, is the latest Pratt effort to meet customers outside library doors. The Center is officially on the road at the Touchpoint Baltimore community resource center at Mondawmin Mall.

“It’s the Library on wheels,” says BGE CEO and Pratt Board member Calvin Butler. “The Mobile Job Center represents hope and opportunity. Just walk inside and you will be amazed. There are 13 computer workstations, state-of-the-art workforce software, mobile wi-fi, employer reference materials, access to Library databases and resources and so much more.” BGE/Exelon provided funding for the vehicle and everything inside, and the Pratt Board of Trustees and Directors led the construction of the building.

The path from unemployment to a stable job is difficult for many residents of Baltimore’s most challenging neighborhoods. The gulf between no job and a stable one isn’t spanned in a single leap, but rather by a bridge composed of several milestones.

“It’s the Library on wheels.”

Establishing an email account, developing a resume, and job searching online are all steps in the process. The Pratt Library’s Mobile Job Center provides the access and education for patrons to reach these milestones.

“This extraordinary new vehicle allows us to take the job services we offer in all our library branches to the people where they live,” says Interim CEO Gordon Krabbe. “We know how desperately workforce development is needed in our community. Just last year, Pratt librarians helped conduct more than 113,000 job search sessions and offered 221 job and career programs attended by more than 1,000 people.”

The Mobile Job Center’s work is focused on 14 Baltimore neighborhoods where unemployment is 50 percent or higher. The Center travels to community agencies, malls, grocery stores and other public areas in underserved neighborhoods where residents do not have easy access to library branches.

“We know how desperately workforce development is needed in our community. Just last year, Pratt librarians helped conduct more than 113,000 job search sessions and offered 221 job and career programs attended by more than 1,000 people.”

The Mobile Job Center’s work is focused on 14 Baltimore neighborhoods where unemployment is 50 percent or higher. The Center travels to community agencies, malls, grocery stores and other public areas in underserved neighborhoods where residents do not have easy access to library branches.

“We know how desperately workforce development is needed in our community. Just last year, Pratt librarians helped conduct more than 113,000 job search sessions and offered 221 job and career programs attended by more than 1,000 people.”
A steady stream of loyal customers keeps the Forest Park branch humming through the day. The branch has a “homey character to it; our customers are pretty loyal. They have been coming here for years. They came here as children,” says Manager Anjanette Wiggins. And now many of them who have lived in the neighborhood their entire lives are returning to the branch with their own children to find books and so much more.

Today you’ll find local community groups meeting to discuss education and social services, job seekers receiving one-on-one resume help from carefully trained librarians, school children using 3D printers, even families learning to knit and sew together. It’s this kind of programming, alongside the books and computers that keep residents coming back. “They are very engaged and have high expectations, they expect the Library to be engaged with the community as well.”

And it is. Wiggins attends meetings in the community to find information on services to share with library patrons, children spend hours in the branch after school and in the summer until their parents can pick them up, and the branch is a refuge for many seniors who live in an apartment center directly across the street.

But as hard as the staff works, there are physical limitations to the Forest Park location, and all of the Library’s branches. The children’s area, computer area, and meeting rooms have all suffered water damage and windows in the staff section leak during rainstorms. To that end, the Library’s staff and Boards of Directors and Trustees have embarked on a new initiative that will help address critical issues at 22 locations throughout the city. The Branch Improvement Fund will help ensure that the buildings that house life-changing services daily are equipped to do that for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can support the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s new Branch Improvement Fund, please contact Cindi Monahan, the Library’s Director of Institutional Advancement. Cindi may be reached at 410-396-5314 or cmonahan@prattlibrary.org.

Branch Spotlight: Forest Park

Comfortable, family oriented, with a vibe “that’s the right amount of busy,” the Forest Park branch is one of the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s oldest locations and remains an anchor for the unique, vibrant community it serves.

Steady Stream of Loyal Customers keeps the Forest Park branch humming through the day. The branch has a “homey character to it; our customers are pretty loyal. They have been coming here for years. They came here as children,” says Manager Anjanette Wiggins. And now many of them who have lived in the neighborhood their entire lives are returning to the branch with their own children to find books and so much more.

Today you’ll find local community groups meeting to discuss education and social services, job seekers receiving one-on-one resume help from carefully trained librarians, school children using 3D printers, even families learning to knit and sew together. It’s this kind of programming, alongside the books and computers that keep residents coming back. “They are very engaged and have high expectations, they expect the Library to be engaged with the community as well.”

And it is. Wiggins attends meetings in the community to find information on services to share with library patrons, children spend hours in the branch after school and in the summer until their parents can pick them up, and the branch is a refuge for many seniors who live in an apartment center directly across the street.

But as hard as the staff works, there are physical limitations to the Forest Park location, and all of the Library’s branches. The children’s area, computer area, and meeting rooms have all suffered water damage and windows in the staff section leak during rainstorms. To that end, the Library’s staff and Boards of Directors and Trustees have embarked on a new initiative that will help address critical issues at 22 locations throughout the city. The Branch Improvement Fund will help ensure that the buildings that house life-changing services daily are equipped to do that for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can support the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s new Branch Improvement Fund, please contact Cindi Monahan, the Library’s Director of Institutional Advancement. Cindi may be reached at 410-396-5314 or cmonahan@prattlibrary.org.

Branch Spotlight: Forest Park

Comfortable, family oriented, with a vibe “that’s the right amount of busy,” the Forest Park branch is one of the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s oldest locations and remains an anchor for the unique, vibrant community it serves.

Steady Stream of Loyal Customers keeps the Forest Park branch humming through the day. The branch has a “homey character to it; our customers are pretty loyal. They have been coming here for years. They came here as children,” says Manager Anjanette Wiggins. And now many of them who have lived in the neighborhood their entire lives are returning to the branch with their own children to find books and so much more.

Today you’ll find local community groups meeting to discuss education and social services, job seekers receiving one-on-one resume help from carefully trained librarians, school children using 3D printers, even families learning to knit and sew together. It’s this kind of programming, alongside the books and computers that keep residents coming back. “They are very engaged and have high expectations, they expect the Library to be engaged with the community as well.”

And it is. Wiggins attends meetings in the community to find information on services to share with library patrons, children spend hours in the branch after school and in the summer until their parents can pick them up, and the branch is a refuge for many seniors who live in an apartment center directly across the street.

But as hard as the staff works, there are physical limitations to the Forest Park location, and all of the Library’s branches. The children’s area, computer area, and meeting rooms have all suffered water damage and windows in the staff section leak during rainstorms. To that end, the Library’s staff and Boards of Directors and Trustees have embarked on a new initiative that will help address critical issues at 22 locations throughout the city. The Branch Improvement Fund will help ensure that the buildings that house life-changing services daily are equipped to do that for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can support the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s new Branch Improvement Fund, please contact Cindi Monahan, the Library’s Director of Institutional Advancement. Cindi may be reached at 410-396-5314 or cmonahan@prattlibrary.org.

Branch Spotlight: Forest Park

Comfortable, family oriented, with a vibe “that’s the right amount of busy,” the Forest Park branch is one of the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s oldest locations and remains an anchor for the unique, vibrant community it serves.

Steady Stream of Loyal Customers keeps the Forest Park branch humming through the day. The branch has a “homey character to it; our customers are pretty loyal. They have been coming here for years. They came here as children,” says Manager Anjanette Wiggins. And now many of them who have lived in the neighborhood their entire lives are returning to the branch with their own children to find books and so much more.

Today you’ll find local community groups meeting to discuss education and social services, job seekers receiving one-on-one resume help from carefully trained librarians, school children using 3D printers, even families learning to knit and sew together. It’s this kind of programming, alongside the books and computers that keep residents coming back. “They are very engaged and have high expectations, they expect the Library to be engaged with the community as well.”

And it is. Wiggins attends meetings in the community to find information on services to share with library patrons, children spend hours in the branch after school and in the summer until their parents can pick them up, and the branch is a refuge for many seniors who live in an apartment center directly across the street.

But as hard as the staff works, there are physical limitations to the Forest Park location, and all of the Library’s branches. The children’s area, computer area, and meeting rooms have all suffered water damage and windows in the staff section leak during rainstorms. To that end, the Library’s staff and Boards of Directors and Trustees have embarked on a new initiative that will help address critical issues at 22 locations throughout the city. The Branch Improvement Fund will help ensure that the buildings that house life-changing services daily are equipped to do that for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can support the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s new Branch Improvement Fund, please contact Cindi Monahan, the Library’s Director of Institutional Advancement. Cindi may be reached at 410-396-5314 or cmonahan@prattlibrary.org.

Branch Spotlight: Forest Park

Comfortable, family oriented, with a vibe “that’s the right amount of busy,” the Forest Park branch is one of the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s oldest locations and remains an anchor for the unique, vibrant community it serves.

Steady Stream of Loyal Customers keeps the Forest Park branch humming through the day. The branch has a “homey character to it; our customers are pretty loyal. They have been coming here for years. They came here as children,” says Manager Anjanette Wiggins. And now many of them who have lived in the neighborhood their entire lives are returning to the branch with their own children to find books and so much more.

Today you’ll find local community groups meeting to discuss education and social services, job seekers receiving one-on-one resume help from carefully trained librarians, school children using 3D printers, even families learning to knit and sew together. It’s this kind of programming, alongside the books and computers that keep residents coming back. “They are very engaged and have high expectations, they expect the Library to be engaged with the community as well.”

And it is. Wiggins attends meetings in the community to find information on services to share with library patrons, children spend hours in the branch after school and in the summer until their parents can pick them up, and the branch is a refuge for many seniors who live in an apartment center directly across the street.

But as hard as the staff works, there are physical limitations to the Forest Park location, and all of the Library’s branches. The children’s area, computer area, and meeting rooms have all suffered water damage and windows in the staff section leak during rainstorms. To that end, the Library’s staff and Boards of Directors and Trustees have embarked on a new initiative that will help address critical issues at 22 locations throughout the city. The Branch Improvement Fund will help ensure that the buildings that house life-changing services daily are equipped to do that for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can support the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s new Branch Improvement Fund, please contact Cindi Monahan, the Library’s Director of Institutional Advancement. Cindi may be reached at 410-396-5314 or cmonahan@prattlibrary.org.

Branch Spotlight: Forest Park

Comfortable, family oriented, with a vibe “that’s the right amount of busy,” the Forest Park branch is one of the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s oldest locations and remains an anchor for the unique, vibrant community it serves.

Steady Stream of Loyal Customers keeps the Forest Park branch humming through the day. The branch has a “homey character to it; our customers are pretty loyal. They have been coming here for years. They came here as children,” says Manager Anjanette Wiggins. And now many of them who have lived in the neighborhood their entire lives are returning to the branch with their own children to find books and so much more.

Today you’ll find local community groups meeting to discuss education and social services, job seekers receiving one-on-one resume help from carefully trained librarians, school children using 3D printers, even families learning to knit and sew together. It’s this kind of programming, alongside the books and computers that keep residents coming back. “They are very engaged and have high expectations, they expect the Library to be engaged with the community as well.”

And it is. Wiggins attends meetings in the community to find information on services to share with library patrons, children spend hours in the branch after school and in the summer until their parents can pick them up, and the branch is a refuge for many seniors who live in an apartment center directly across the street.

But as hard as the staff works, there are physical limitations to the Forest Park location, and all of the Library’s branches. The children’s area, computer area, and meeting rooms have all suffered water damage and windows in the staff section leak during rainstorms. To that end, the Library’s staff and Boards of Directors and Trustees have embarked on a new initiative that will help address critical issues at 22 locations throughout the city. The Branch Improvement Fund will help ensure that the buildings that house life-changing services daily are equipped to do that for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can support the Enoch Pratt Free Library’s new Branch Improvement Fund, please contact Cindi Monahan, the Library’s Director of Institutional Advancement. Cindi may be reached at 410-396-5314 or cmonahan@prattlibrary.org.
Calvin Butler makes a difference wherever he goes.

As CEO of Baltimore Gas and Electric, Butler is dedicated to ensuring the company connects to every customer and serves as a community leader in Baltimore. As a Pratt Library Board member, he was a driving force behind securing funding for the new Mobile Job Center.

“The Library is much more than a building,” Butler says. “It is a critical service, meeting critical needs.” But not everyone who needs access to Pratt Library information and services can make it to the library. Lack of transportation, schedule conflicts with working hours and lack of knowledge about services can all be barriers. That’s why Butler and other leaders at BGE/Exelon decided to make a significant gift, providing funding for the Mobile Job Center and for the Central Library Renovation.

“We are bringing the Library out to the community,” he says. “If people are struggling to find a computer to use and fill out job applications, let’s break down the barriers and bring the Library to them. BGE is part of the community — we are the community — and so is the Pratt Library. It is a natural partnership.”

An Evening with Ron Chernow

Calvin Butler, CEO of Baltimore Gas and Electric


Mr. Pratt Presents

Mr. Pratt Presents is the Pratt's annual benefit gala. While large-scale springtime fundraisers are a Pratt tradition, the new Mr. Pratt Presents format combined the best of author-focused Pratt Presents and the music and dancing-filled Mr. Pratt's Party. The sold-out event raised $430,000, including $50,000 from a live auction that became even more exciting when Chernow donated two of his own house seats to the Pratt Library.

Mr. Pratt Presents was a magical evening that offered nearly 500 attendees an intimate glimpse into the musical's backstory — access that could not be found anywhere but with the Pratt Library. The hard work of Event Chairs Sandy and Bob Hillman and the committee was evident in the program, decor, dinner and reception.

While the 2018 Mr. Pratt Presents is in the earliest stages of planning, it promises to be just as special. All Pratt Society members are invited to purchase tickets and will receive more information in late winter.

Sandra P. Gohn, partner at DLA Piper

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

For information, CALL THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AT (410) 396-5283.
Pratt Contemporaries members Jen Clements, Kelley Squazzo, and Elice Garcia-Baca participate in the Mayor’s Cleanup Day, beautifying the streets and green spaces around the Patterson Park Library.

Board member Sandra Gohn and her father, Alvin Pomerantz, enjoy a hard hat tour of the Central Library renovations.

The Pratt Insiders affinity group launches with a special Eat, Drink, Read event at Clavel in Remington.

Board members Elizabeth Moser and Ted Delaplaine take a selfie on the Library’s roof during a hard hat tour of the Central Library renovations.

Pratt Contemporaries test their knowledge at their annual Trivia Night, this year at the Baltimore Visitor Center.

Mr. Pratt Presents …AN EVENING WITH RON CHERNOW:

- Senator Barbara Mikulski with Robert Meyerhoff and Rheda Becker.
- Board Chair Patricia Lasher with Pulitzer Prize-winner Ron Chernow, and new Pratt Library President and CEO Heidi Daniel.
- The Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke with Mr. Pratt Presents MC Tom Hall and Dr. Patricia Schmoke.
- Chairs Bob & Sandy Hillman with Ron Chernow.

Thank You Pat Lasher

For your leadership and service as Chair of the Pratt Boards from 2013–2017.

AN INNOVATIVE NEW LIBRARY PROGRAM for children 0-5 years old, Books for Me helps level the playing field. Books for Me empowers parents and caregivers to be their child’s first and most important teacher and gives each child five beautiful new books to start their own home library.

Your gift of $75 will provide Books for Me programming to our most vulnerable children.

You Can Give Our Neediest Kids A Head Start
Sponsor a child today

To give, visit prattlibrary.org/prattkids, or mail your donation to the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

Kids That Start Behind Stay Behind

Only 11% of Baltimore City Public Schools fourth graders read at proficient level in 2015.*

*DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS, 2015.