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East Cleveland, Ohio—The East Cleveland Public Library received \$50,000 from the Cleveland Foundation to support expanded performing arts programming over the next two years. These funds are earmarked to grow one of the Library’s key strengths: providing enriching and consciousness raising cultural activities that reflect the community.

The Library’s commitment to community through literacy is evidenced by the innovative programming offered in this space, which makes musical, cinematic, theatrical, literary, and related performing arts available to all. The Center has welcomed an incredible array of celebrated artists, including Evelyn Wright, Robert Lockwood, Jr., Vanessa Rubin, the Jazz Heritage Orchestra, and many other performers via participation in the Tri-C Jazz Fest and other collaborations. Executive Director, Ms. Sheba Marcus-Bey said, “The role of the creative arts is increasingly recognized for its value in place-making and community building, and the East Cleveland Public Library is grateful to the Cleveland Foundation for the opportunity to strengthen the rich and diverse performing arts capacity with these funds.”

The Center, named in honor of a former director at the Library, remains the centerpiece of the East Cleveland Public Library. With a seating capacity of 230 and state of the art audio-visual platforms, the Center offers guests a place to experience performances by renowned artists in an intimate setting. From welcoming local filmmakers and spoken word artists to world-class musicians, the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center exemplifies exciting new directions and possibilities for Libraries as cultural centers and places for people to gather.