Message from the Director

It is with excitement and gratitude that I share news of ECPL’s strategic plan results. After reviewing feedback from community surveys, Board of Trustee members, and staff, ECPL has identified four strategic goals that will facilitate the Library’s ability to continue serving patrons and the community.

The dynamic process engaged more than 200 people, and I hope you will continue to share your feedback and interests with the ECPL staff as we venture into the future. The results are available online which include a full report of Library statistics, mission, vision, values, and goals, so you can review the outcomes in detail. I am also pleased to share a quick introduction that highlights the four main goals:

• Increasing literacy through technology infrastructure and new programs.
• Elevate the Library’s status as a beacon of African American culture and history through increased staff knowledge, collection development, and programming.
• Maximize resources through partnerships by seeking funding opportunities, developing programming partnerships, and staff engagement.
• Create an organizational environment of pride and respect through training opportunities, providing excellence in patron services, and empowering patrons with a sense of ownership in the Library.

These results confirm the importance of annual community events, concerts, and other programs. I am grateful to everyone who participated in the surveys and evaluations here at the Library! Though the strategic planning process has entered implementation phase, I invite you to continue making use of program evaluations to provide the Library with your important feedback.

September also welcomes National Library Card Sign-up Month. Another way to get connected and stay involved is to make sure you and your family are making the most of ECPL’s collection of the latest books, periodicals, music, movies, and more – all available for free with a current Library card.

SMB

National Library Card Sign Up Month

What’s the most important school supply that doesn’t cost a cent? A Library card! Celebrate Library Card Sign Up Month by visiting ECPL this September to get a Library card for everyone in the family! Children and Teens can also obtain a 3forMe Library card without a parent/guardian signature, so they can checkout up to three children’s books and never leave the Library empty handed. Get the school year off to the best possible start and sign up for a Library card today!
Ongoing Programs

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

- **Kids’ Café**, Monday–Friday, 3:30 PM
  Enjoy an after school snack.
- **Storytime**, Mondays & Thursdays, 11:00 AM
- **Pee Wee Reading Roundtable** and **Just Dance**, alternating
  Thursdays, 4:30 PM
- **Lego Lab**, Second Tuesdays, 4:00 PM Lego time!
- **Chess Club**, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays 3:30–5:30 PM
  Learn and Play with Chess Mentor, Donald McClendon.
- **After School Tutoring** resumes this fall. Drop in for homework help!
  No appointment needed; visit Children’s Department for details.

TEEN PROGRAMS

- **Job Readiness** Every other Monday, 4:30 PM, September–October.
  Series for youth aged 13-19 with classes about job applications, social
  media, mock interviews, resumes, and more.
- **Tell It All Tuesdays** Every other Tuesday, 4:30 PM, September–December.
  Join a community of teen writers for dynamic writing workshops. We will explore many genres, writing prompts, share work, and more.

ADULT PROGRAMS

**ICT Computer Literacy Program for Older Adults**, 
Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Classes start the first Monday of each month, and introduce
Windows, email, Internet basics, and more. Next session begins
Wednesday, September 5 (due to Labor Day holiday).

**Wednesday Writers** *(3rd Wednesdays)*
Develop skills and craft! Bring in work for feedback, editing tips, 
publication sources, and more at these drop-in sessions. Open to all, 
facilitated by local published authors and special guests.

4:45-5:30 PM Get Real: Nonfiction. Drop in with essays, memoir chapters, grant applications or other nonfiction projects.

5:45-6:45 PM Get Creative: Poetry, novels, short stories. Discussion topics vary and include a resource round up of local opportunities.

**ECPL Book Club**, 5:30-6:45 PM *(4th Tuesdays)*
SEPTEMBER 25: *The Blood of Emmett Till*
  by Timothy B. Tyson
OCTOBER 23: *Blast the Sugar Out!*
  by Ian K. Smith, MD
NOVEMBER 27: *Tap into Wellness*
  by Karen M. McFadden

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**New at ECPL!**

We appreciate all our patrons at the East Cleveland Public Library, and we are excited to announce a brand new monthly program designed to reward our loyal patrons! Whether patrons attend events or visit the Library once a week or once a day, many patrons have been coming to the Library for years.

As a part of our extended ECPL family, we are proud that we have been able to serve you and the community, and we'd love to *share some of your favorite experiences* of ECPL over the years. What have you enjoyed learning about? What has been a memorable event or experience? We want to hear your story and how the Library has been part of your past and present!

**What's Involved:** Patrons are invited to share a story *(or two, or three!)*. Every story shared creates a new chance to be named Patron of the Month. Each month, entries are collected and a new patron story will be selected to highlight. Honored patrons will receive a prize and be featured in the ECPL newsletter and other promotions. Only patrons with current Library cards are eligible, and frequent Library visitors that checkout materials, attend programs, or join special events are given highest consideration. We are delighted to launch this new recognition and are looking forward to hearing from you! *Visit the Circulation Desk to pick up an entry form today.*
No one likes to be told what to do, and banning books is a form of censorship. Censorship can take many forms, from removing a book from the shelves to challenging an item on display. The American Library Association (ALA) supports everyone’s right to read and access materials—no matter how controversial, unpopular, edgy, or unusual the content—and so does ECPL.

The ALA has been tracking book challenges since the 1990s, and reading titles from ten or more years ago can reveal a lot about what was considered “controversial.” Many highlight issues of diversity, discrimination, and social justice, demonstrating a backlash against books that reflect social differences and inclusivity.

Benefits to checking out challenged/banned books:

- **Support the Right to Read:** Every checkout at the Library helps keep these books available and on the shelves!
- **Rebel with a Cause:** Reading challenged and banned books provides insight into diverse viewpoints and experiences.
- **Historical Context:** Revisiting older challenged books provides insight on changing social norms and uncovers common themes and issues in history.
- **Social Context:** A look at today’s frequent challenges is a powerful way to take the pulse of issues and changes facing society. For instance, as the Black Lives Matter movement continues to gain momentum, pushback confronted Angie Thomas’ popular new book, *The Hate U Give*, and the book made the latest ALA Top Ten Challenged Books of 2017. Check it out at ECPL.
- **Deep Conversations:** Share your interest in reading challenged books with friends and start a conversation that gets people thinking.
- **Find Out What’d Be Missing:** Decide for yourself what to read!

Every year, the ALA hosts Banned Book Week in September to celebrate the Freedom to Read. This year, it’s September 23–29. Visit ECPL's book displays during Banned Books Week and get involved online by sharing Banned Book posts. Teens are invited to participate in a Banned Books Brown Bag Game on September 25 at 4:30 pm – Can you guess the titles of the most contested books?

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**Children’s Literacy Corner - School in Session**

As little ones return to school, this is a great time to consider how to support their reading skills and successes. Enjoy these eight simple tips to support family literacy:

- **Have a Reading Pal:** Make twenty minutes of the day reading time. A child can read at home to a stuffed animal, sibling, parent, or friend.
- **Time to Read:** Setting a special time for reading helps establish a reading habit and builds reading skills and enjoyment.
- **Space to Read:** A special chair or pillow can create a cozy reading nook at home; add a few age-appropriate books and reading time becomes special and fun. Keep the space free of distractions (games, music, etc.).
- **Be a Reading Pal:** A little read-together time goes a long way! Be patient, ask questions, and give lots of positive feedback. If a correction is needed, try re-reading together.
- **Pick the Right Book:** Try to select books that are challenging but not frustrating. Generally, if a child makes more than five mistakes on a page, the book may be too hard; if a child makes no mistakes, it may be a little too easy.
- **Game Night:** Playing games is a great way to strengthen literacy skills. In addition to being fun, card games, board games, and other games reinforce literacy, problem solving, and other skills.
- **Audiobooks:** Listen to a book together!
- **Visit ECPL:** Stop by ECPL to checkout books, attend programs, and more.

**BACK TO SCHOOL FAVORITES AT ECPL**

- **Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and her family’s fight for desegregation** by Duncan Tonatiuh, 2014. DVD (Children’s AV)
- **Elizabeti’s School** by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, 2007.
- **Sumi’s First Day of School Ever** by Soyung Pak, 2003.

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**READ BANNED BOOKS**

"I can’t change where I come from or what I’ve been through, so why should I be ashamed of what makes me, me?"

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**STARR CARTER**

*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
**Special Events / Save the Date**

**CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES**
AGES 5–12, 4:30 PM
(Unless noted otherwise)

- **Bookmark Craft**
  *Wednesday, September 5, 4:00 PM*
  Create a one-of-a-kind bookmark.

- **Grandparents Day Card Craft**
  *Thursday, September 6*
  Make a pop-up card for your grandparents at this special storytime and craft.

- **Talk Like a Pirate Day**
  *Wednesday, September 19*
  Do you speak pirate?

- **Rhythm, Ready, Read!** (PreK-Gr. 2)
  *September 10–October 15, Mondays, 4:30–5:00 PM*
  Attend one or all, and enjoy movement, melody, and more!

**TEEN ACTIVITIES**
AGES 13-19, 4:30 PM

- **TAG! Ask the Teens**
  *Thursday, September 20*
  Join this activity session to have a voice in planning upcoming Library events.

- **Brown Bag Game**
  *Tuesday, September 25*
  Participate in a banned books Brown Bag Game and try to guess the titles of the most contested books.

- **Blackout Poetry**
  *Wednesday, September 26*
  Make a Blackout Poetry Board and explore creativity with recycled materials.

- **Online Touch Typing Class**
  *Wednesday, September 26*
  Step-by-step fun typing lessons for speed and accuracy.

**ADULT ACTIVITIES**

- **Specialty Computer Class: Windows 10**
  *Tuesday, September 4, 4:00-5:30 PM*
  Learn how to add desktop icons, explore settings, use task manager, understand Windows Defender, uninstall programs, and more.

- **National Literacy Month**
  *September 13, 20, 27, 3:45 PM*
  What does literacy mean to you? Explore many ways to incorporate literacy into your life!

**Check Fall Program Guide for More!**

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**Luca Mundaca in concert**

**Saturday, September 15**
**3:00 pm**

**FREE ADMISSION!**

**Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center**

Internationally acclaimed and award winning musician Luca Mundaca comes to ECPL for an afternoon concert! Mundaca’s musical style blends melodic tunes and Brazilian bossa nova beats into an unforgettable contemporary musical experience. **Don’t miss it!**