

2016 ANNUAL REPORT | HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

A young girl with dark hair in two braids is smiling. She is wearing a pink zip-up jacket. On her head is a headband with a large yellow '7' and a pink '5'. A blue star with an orange butterfly is attached to the headband. She is holding two pinwheels, one orange and one yellow, in front of her. The background is a blurred outdoor scene.

Celebrating 75 Years of
Education for All





Celebrating **75 YEARS** *of* **EDUCATION** **FOR ALL**

Howard County Library System's year-long 75th Diamond Anniversary celebrations culminated with Celebrate 75: A Community Anniversary Fest, which drew 1,600 people in October. The event opened with the Chapters-of-Our-Lives Time Capsule Ceremony, setting into motion a 75-year plan. The Time Capsule comprises three containers to be filled in 2015, 2040, and 2065 – all to be opened in 2090.

- To connect HCLS' past, present, and future, 136 Howard County middle school students were inducted as the "Class of 2015 Guardians." They placed into the 2015 container a photo of themselves, and an essay predicting the future.
- These Guardians will return in 2040 to pass on their duties to a new set of Guardians. Together, the two generations will open, re-seal, and replace the 2015 capsule and fill the 2040 container.
- This process will occur each quarter-century until the final opening of all three capsules by the Class of 2065 Guardians in 2090, HCLS' sesquicentennial.

In December, Guardians returned for the HCLS Chapters-of-Our-Lives Time Capsule Installation Ceremony. The sealed 2015 container along with the yet-to-be-filled-and-sealed 2040 and 2065 containers were placed into a circular seating feature in the HCLS Central Branch lobby. A plaque relays the story of the Time Capsule.

Our mission and vision continue the traditions of the past 75 years, with HCLS an essential educational component for generations to come.



LIBRARIES = EDUCATION

SELF-DIRECTED
EDUCATION RESEARCH
ASSISTANCE &
INSTRUCTION INSTRUCTIVE &
ENLIGHTENING
EXPERIENCES

VISION: A vital component of Howard County's renowned education system, we deliver excellence in education for everyone, advancing the economy and quality of life.

MISSION: We deliver high-quality public education for all.



OUR CURRICULUM

SELF DIRECTED EDUCATION through vast collections of items in print, audio and electronic formats; and thousands of online research tools.

- Enrolled 29,000 students of all ages in Summer Reading and attracted more than 2,000 people to Summer Reading Kickoff. New this year, we tracked participation by language read other than English. Participants read in 22 different languages!
- Added Lynda.com, PressReader, Pronunciator, Beanstack, and Niche Academy to HCLS Now!
 - Lynda.com: 3,600 streaming online classes
 - PressReader: 4,000 current newspaper and magazine titles from 100 countries in 60 languages
 - Pronunciator: 4,000 online language courses in 80 languages
 - Beanstack: customized book recommendations to parents of young readers up to age 10
- Introduced Launchpads, rechargeable Android tablets for children with pre-loaded, ad-free learning apps grouped by age and grade level.
- Hosted Overdrive's Bookmobile, attracting 200 customers for e-content show and tell.
- Instituted automated renewals, enhancing customer convenience for items on loan.
- Introduced 3D printers for customer use in conjunction with online classes, 3D printing demos, and user forums.

MOST POPULAR TITLES

BOOKS

The Girl on the Train

by Paula Hawkins

The Crossing

by Michael Connelly

All the Light We Cannot See

by Anthony Doerr

HCLS Now!

Digital magazines and newspapers

- *The Economist*
- *New Scientist*
- *The New Yorker*

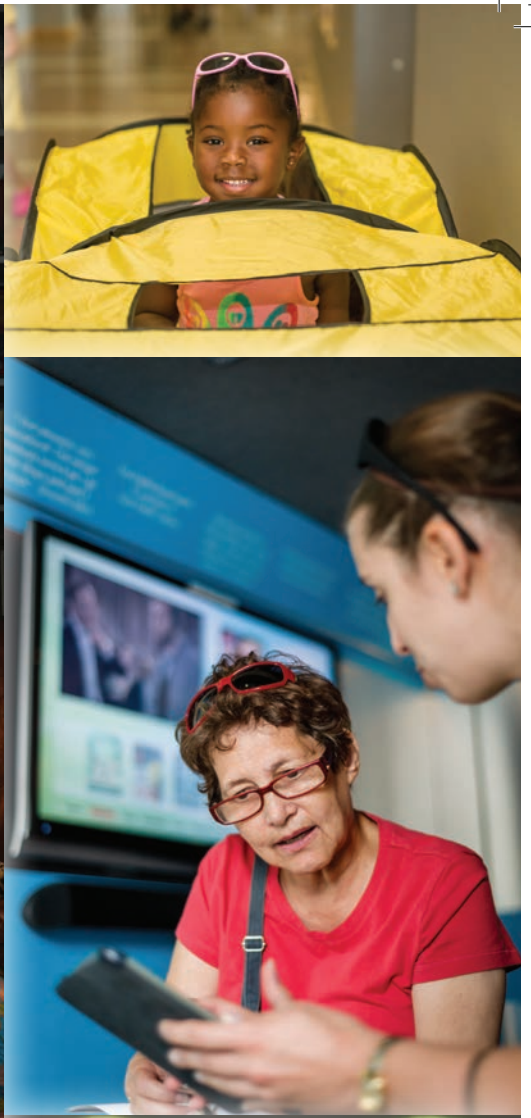
Online classes

- ITIL Foundations
- CompTIA A+ Exam Prep (220-801)
- Access 2016 Essential Training

Streamed & downloaded media

- *2016 Grammy Nominees*
- *NOW That's What I Call a Workout 2016*
- *Adele*

“Kudos to the incredible HCLS staff for maintaining (and exceeding) the galactic awesomeness and innovation of my favorite library system. Via the magic of your HCLS library card, you can access online courses from Lynda.com focused on business, technical and creative skills; learn a language using the Mango app; get book recommendations; and stream music. For FREE.”





Cal Ripken, Jr. author appearance; March 2016; Audience: 350

"I greatly enjoyed the last 3Film series movie by John Cassavetes. This series is such a terrific opportunity and something I would never have come across elsewhere. I am in a film class in the Hopkins/Osher continuing education program, and I'm going to take the information about your new DVD release series and 3Film series and let everyone know about it. Thanks so much!"

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE & INSTRUCTION for individuals and groups. This pillar includes classes, seminars and workshops for all ages, taught by HCLS instructors.

- Partnered with **U.S. Patent and Trademark Office** to present a series of classes designed for artists, inventors, entrepreneurs, makers, and students, to address intellectual property and how to prepare patent and trademark applications.
- Prepared Kindergarten and middle school students for the first day of school through **Kindergarten Here We Come!** classes featuring boarding a school bus, and **Movin' Up to Middle School**, with locker combination time trials.
- Expanded curriculum at **HiTech**, HCLS' STEM education initiative for teens. Launched two academies.
- Tripled attendance at East Columbia Branch's **Homework Club** for third through sixth grade students.

INSTRUCTIVE AND ENLIGHTENING EXPERIENCES through cultural and community center concepts, events, and partnerships – such as *A+ Partners in Education*, *Well & Wise*, and *Choose Civility*.

- Hosted notable authors for children, teens, and adults: Cal Ripken, Drew Magary, Nadia Hashimi, Kerry Hannon, Brady Barr, Marc Tyler Nobleman, Tom Angleberger, Cece Bell, Sue Eisenfeld, Grace Burrowes, Denise Lisi DeRosa, Sarah Pekkanen, and Madan Vasishtha.
- Collaborated with the Downtown Columbia Partnership to present the Discover Downtown Columbia 5K and Fun Run, which attracted 300 people who ran through and past downtown Columbia's iconic landmarks, including HCLS Central Branch.
- Raised more than \$103,000 at Evening in the Stacks: Black-Eyed Susan Ball that featured the University of Maryland's Mighty Sound of Maryland Band and noted chef, cookbook author, and restaurateur John Shields.
- Continued Well & Wise partnership with Howard County General Hospital: A Member of Johns Hopkins Medicine through classes and the Well & Wise blog.



- Focused on social media responsibility as part of Choose Civility. Malindu Nethmin Talagala, first grade student at Worthington Elementary School, won the Choose Civility Poster Contest Grand Prize for his entry.
- Launched Million Pollinator Challenge as part of nationwide movement to increase the health and numbers of creatures that transfer pollen within and between flowers by establishing the habitats they favor. #hoco1Mgardens
- Partnered with Howard County Arts Council to display a public art sculpture, *Knife, Fork and Spoon Sun* by Andrew Yff, for a one-year exhibit at Central Branch.
- Partnered with the Columbia Association's International Exchange and Multicultural Program to present Eastern Europe and Russia, as well as Western Europe Culture Fests, featuring demonstrations, music, dance, food, and displays.
- A+ Partners in Education:
 - HCLS Bumblebee celebrated 39 first, second, and third grade champions from 15 elementary schools.
 - HCLS Spelling Bee featured a record 67 contestants who represented 56 public schools, nine private schools, and two home school associations. Saketh Sundar, fifth grade student at Bellows Springs Elementary School, advanced to the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC.
 - Battle of the Books attracted a record 283 teams of fifth grade students (1,400 – or 40 percent of Howard County fifth graders) at six venues.
 - HCLS Rube Goldberg Challenge drew a record 97 teams of fourth and fifth grade students from 20 HCPSS elementary schools and one homeschool. Contestants were challenged to erase a whiteboard.
 - Invited to White House ConnectEd Library Challenge Summit as a leader in partnerships between libraries and schools.

Thank you for such a wonderful event! Battle of the Books was well run and I was extremely impressed by the time and attention that went into holding an event of that size at six different schools. Well done!"



adult

Howard County Library System
AWARD-WINNING Classes and Events Guide

source

V 20 N3

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Friends of Howard County Library System
Jun - Aug 2015



teens&kids?
FLIP!
over

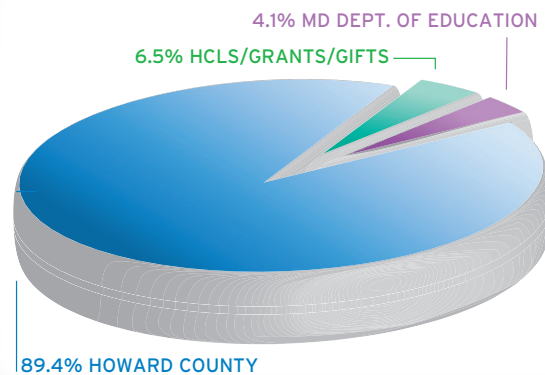
MEET Marc Tyler Nobleman
Boys of Steel author | Details p. 3.

JOIN the Club
Adult Summer Reading | Details p. 3.

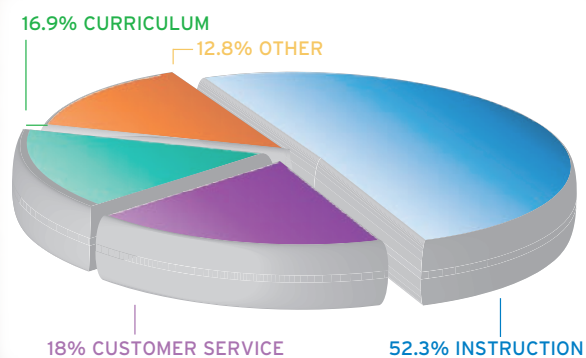
2016 Platinum Award Winner; see back cover.

Meet Batman!
May 30, 2015 | Miller Branch
Summer Reading Kickoff

REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



Visits: 2.2 million

Borrowing: 7.9 million items – the highest borrowing per capita in the state and among the highest in the country

DONORS

See hclibrary.org

Research assistance: 1.8 million

Attendance at classes and events: 308,000 – a 16 percent increase over the previous year, and the highest participation level in Maryland

Complete statistics at hclibrary.org



AWARDS

HCLS Head of Children's & Teen Curriculum Cari Gast won the **Alli Beth Martin Award** from the Public Library Association for her range and depth of knowledge of children's literature.

HCLS received international recognition by **Hermes Creative Awards** for the cover photos on its 2015 summer issue of *source*. The cover, *Batman Reads!* featuring the late Lenny Robinson, was awarded the 2016 Platinum Award, the organization's top honor.

HCLS President and CEO Valerie J. Gross was named a 2015 **Innovator of the Year** by *The Daily Record* for developing a 21st-century vision for libraries that provides equal opportunity and education for everyone.

BUILDING PROJECTS

An enthusiastic crowd gathered at the HCLS Elkridge Branch in May to celebrate the groundbreaking for a new HCLS Elkridge Branch + DIY Education Center. More than doubling in space, the new **Elkridge Branch + DIY Education Center** will include a DIY collection available for borrowing, a Design Studio, and a Design Institute (a series of DIY classes for students of all ages).

The **HCLS Central Branch** closed in April for a renovation that, when complete, will include an expanded Children's classroom, a dedicated HCLS Project Literacy space that more than triples its former size, a new STEM classroom, along with updated finishes and new carpet throughout the branch.

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