

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All

Letter From Board of Trustees Chair and President & CEO

We hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report, which represents some of the highlights of an extraordinary year, and take pride that HCLS continues as a premier library system in the region, state, and nation.

What sets HCLS apart?

- Our distinctive purpose: high-quality public education for all.
- An extraordinary team of innovative educators and support staff that delivers an award-winning curriculum (Self-Directed Education, Research Assistance & Instruction, and I Instructive & Enlightening Experiences) with exceptional customer service.
- Unmatched support from you, our dynamic community.

Highlights include A+ Partners in Education, with features like HCLS Spelling Bee, Battle of the Books, and Rube Goldberg Challenge—all geared to ensure academic success and close student achievement gaps. We strengthened our community through Choose Civility, with the Human Library and The Longest Table, and we expanded HiTech, our STEM education initiative, to adults and more branches.

Students of all ages visited our six branches nearly two million times last year. They borrowed a record-setting 8 million items—the highest per capita in the state—and benefited from 1.5 million research assistance interactions with HCLS instructors. Some 340,000 people attended our classes and events – a 10 percent increase over last year.

More important than ever in today's knowledge-based, innovation economy, education is a never ending process. HCLS is privileged to be a critical part of the education enterprise. Not surprising then, we desire continuously to improve! We're always interested in feedback, so please let us know what you like and what you would like.

Thank you for the many ways you support HCLS. We are honored to advance education for all, reinforcing Howard County's brand as a world-class community.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. Munns
HCLS Board of Trustees Chair (2017)

Valerie J. Gross
President & CEO (2017)

Public Education for All

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 ages.





*Howard County
Library System
is a jewel of
inestimable value
in our county!*

- HCLS customer



Awards

Howard County Library System (HCLS) President & CEO Valerie Gross won the Charlie Robinson Award from the Public Library Association for being a risk taker, innovator and change agent in a public library.

HCLS received international recognition by Hermes Creative Awards for its HCLS Now! campaign (Platinum Award), fall 2016 cover of *source* featuring bestselling author Forrest Pritchard (Gold Award), and HiJinx podcast episode 3: Thanks for the Memories (Honorable Mention).

Received PR Xchange Award for the fall 2016 issue of *source* by the American Library Association's Library Leadership and Management Association.



Building Projects

Construction began on a new **HCLS Elkridge Branch + DIY Education Center**, which will more than double the previous space. The new branch will feature a DIY Ed Collection (e.g., tools for household repair and gardening, bicycle repair kits) available for borrowing; DIY Ed Design Institute, a series of classes for children, teens, and adults, such as arts and crafts (e.g., Duct Tape Wallets), small building projects (e.g., Building a Birdhouse), and home repairs (e.g., Wallpapering Basics); and DIY Ed Studio, a “mess-friendly” classroom and workspace. Anticipated grand opening in March 2018.

The **HCLS Central Branch** reopened in June after a renovation that expanded the children's classroom by 50 percent, doubled the conference and study rooms, tripled the space for HCLS Project Literacy, added a STEM classroom, bolstered the collection by five percent, and included a refreshed lobby, new Customer Service & Research Desk, and new furnishings, lighting, paint, and carpet.



The **HCLS East Columbia Branch** closed for a renovation, which will double the space for quiet study areas and triple the meeting room capacity. The new teen center (TeenUp!) will include a Teen Time classroom, HiTech classroom, Homework Club classroom, and Student Design Center (dedicated space, complete with work counters and readily available project supplies where students can create and collaborate on assignments and projects). The East Columbia

Branch's lobby and entryway will be completely transformed, offering a new and welcoming experience for visitors.



Curriculum

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

- Summer Reading Clubs attracted 25,000 students of all ages, including K-12 students at HCPSS' Academic Intervention Summer School. Summer Reading by language read other than English amounted to 26 different languages, with Chinese, Spanish and Korean being the most popular.

- Enhanced HCLS Now!
 - Launched cloudLibrary with a collection of 1,790 eAudio titles and 4,400 eBooks.
 - Added the *Baltimore Afro-American* (1893-1988), *Baltimore Sun* (1837-1990), and 19th Century U.S. newspapers like the *Maryland Gazette*, *The Cherokee Phoenix*, and *The Polynesian* to HCLS' digital newspaper archives.
 - Launched ArtistWorks, an online class provider with accomplished Grammy and award-winning teachers who teach how to play various musical instruments.
 - Bolstered lineup of language instruction tools, added Rosetta Stone Online, enabling customers to select from 30 languages structured around core lessons in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- HCLS East Columbia Branch designated as a Monarch Waystation.
- Expanded Passport Photo Service systemwide.



Education is – and always will be – my highest priority, and included in Education are the school system, library system, and community college.”

- Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman
March 8, 2017

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

- HiTech:
 - Expanded HiTech classes to adults (e.g., 3D Printing, Computer Illustration and Editing) and to the Central and Glenwood Branches.
 - Coordinated site visits to STEM-related companies as part of Computer Science, Fashion, Engineering, and Infectious Disease Academies.
- A+ Partners in Education:
 - Introduced HCLS Homework Centers systemwide and its accompanying end-of-school-year Picture of Success component.
- Launched test proctoring systemwide.
- Partnered with the Maryland STEM Festival to teach classes for children and teens.
- Awarded External High School Diplomas to six students at HCLS Project Literacy Graduation & Awards Ceremony. In addition, 13 students attained U.S. citizenship, 200 students recognized for Outstanding Participation and Academic Achievement.
- Taught 1,069 A+ curriculum classes in schools and HCLS branches.



INSTRUCTIVE AND ENLIGHTENING EXPERIENCES

through cultural and community center concepts, events, and partnerships – such as A+ Partners in Education and Choose Civility.

- Raised a record \$110,000 at Evening in the Stacks: An International Affair.
- Hosted Community Safety Day in partnership with the Howard County Police Department and Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services.
- Partnered with the Columbia Association to host Culture Fest: Mexico and Central America, featuring cultural demonstrations, music, dance, food, and displays.
- Notable author events included: Chimamanda Adichie, Forrest Pritchard, Ray Suarez, Kate Hannigan.
- Awarded a pop-up Bill of Rights exhibition from the National Archives and Records Administration displayed at the Central Branch.
- Partnered with the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland to host Money Matters Scout Badge Day where Girl Scouts (grades K-5) earned their financial badges.
- Partnered with Howard County Arts Council to display public art sculpture, Silver Night by Cathrin Hoskinson for a one-year exhibit at the Central Branch.
- Partnered with Downtown Columbia Partnership to host Books in Blooms, a book festival featuring such bestselling and award-winning authors as David Ebershoff, Michael Eric Dyson, April Ryan, Laurie Frankel, and Alec Ross.

- Choose Civility:
 - Hosted Human Library, which featured 17 “living” books including people representing the Muslim and Sikh communities, LGBTQ community, and veterans with PTSD.
 - Organized Maryland’s first Longest Table for 320 members of the community who discussed community issues over an al fresco dinner.
 - Partnered with Howard County Animal Control and Adoption Center to provide HiTails Ambassadors, an initiative where students age 6 to 15 read to shelter animals in order to socialize the animals and strengthen students’ reading skills.
 - Partnered with HCPSS and CA Arts Center to host poster and video contest. John Browder, junior at the Applications and Research Laboratory, won the Grand Prize for his entry, “Reach Out. Spread Kindness”.
 - Organized inaugural Coding for Community Hackathon for 66 middle school, high school, and college-age students who competed in teams of middle and high school and college-age students to create online solutions to community issues.
- A+ Partners in Education:
 - HCLS Bumblebee celebrated a record 47 first, second, and third grade champions from 15 public schools and six private schools – a 21 percent increase.
 - HCLS Spelling Bee featured 67 contestants, representing 56 public schools, nine private schools, and two home school associations. Saketh Sundar, sixth grade student at Mayfield Woods Middle School, became the third two-time champ. At the National Spelling Bee, Sundar advanced to the final rounds – the first time a Howard County student advanced to this level.
 - Battle of the Books attracted a record 286 teams of fifth grade students (1,400 or 30 percent of Howard County’s fifth graders) at six venues.
 - HCLS Rube Goldberg Challenge drew 43 teams of 194 fourth and fifth grade students who invented complicated, wacky machines that unfurled a banner commemorating Columbia’s 50th birthday.



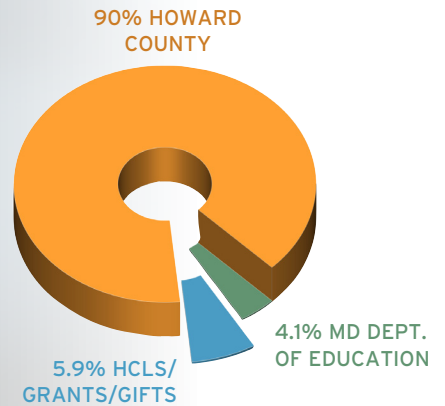


I'd rather lose my American Express card than lose my library card. That's how much I love HCLS.

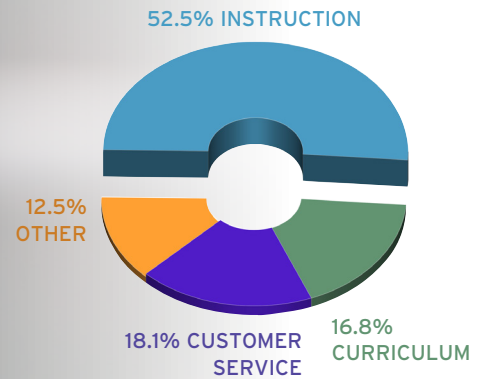
- HCLS customer



Revenue



Expenditures



Visits: 1.9 million
Borrowing: 8 million
Classes & Event Attendance: 340,000
Research Assistance Interactions: 1.5 million

Complete statistics and donor list at hclibrary.org.

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
9411 FREDERICK ROAD
ELLCOTT CITY, MD 21042
410.313.7750 | HCLIBRARY.ORG