



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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PRESS RELEASE

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Newark Public Library Director to Retire

Wilma Grey, Director of the Newark Public Library, today announced her plan to retire later this year following forty-six years of service. She has held the post of Director since 2005.

“Wilma has been a passionate and tireless advocate for the Library, and we are grateful for her years of dedicated service and inspired leadership,” said Timothy Crist, President of the Library Board of Trustees. “She is the consummate librarian -- always focused on helping others whether she is providing reference services, expanding young adult programs, or managing the community branch libraries. She has made an extraordinary contribution not only to the Library but to the City of Newark.”

The Library Board has formed a committee, chaired by Vice President, Trish Morris Yamba, to conduct a search for a new Director. At the same time, the Board has asked Ms. Grey to remain in her position until the new Director has been named, and she has agreed.

Ms. Grey, a Newark native, joined the Library staff in 1969, after graduation from Howard University and working for two years at Boston University’s School of Education. She received her Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University. During her tenure at the Library she provided literacy programs for children and adults, introduced services for sight and hearing impaired patrons, and greatly expanded the Library’s outreach to diverse cultural and ethnic groups. She also oversaw the renovation and refurbishment of eight neighborhood branches.

Ms. Grey has long been a key participant in Newark’s cultural life. She is a board member of many organizations in Newark and New Jersey, including the Newark Black Film Festival Committee, the New Jersey Center for the Book, Newark 350 Celebration, Inc., and the Advisory Board of the Jewish Museum of New Jersey. She has also served as a trustee of The Newark Arts Council, the Newark Literacy Campaign, and the South Orange Public Library.

In announcing her retirement, Grey remarked, “I am incredibly lucky to have found a career that sustained and challenged me for so many years in the City that I have always loved. I’ve met fascinating and wonderful people during my time at the Newark Public Library, and I have been privileged to work with and learn from a dedicated and talented staff. I will miss my colleagues greatly, but I am excited about embarking on a brand new personal adventure. I am also very happy that the Newark Public Library has a full complement of engaged, forward-thinking Trustees who will make sure that the Library is a strong community anchor for many years to come.”

The Newark Public Library is planning an event in the fall to honor and celebrate Ms. Grey’s decades of service to the Library and to the City.

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