

The Newark Public Library
Annual Report 2010



POETRY ○ FICTION ○ PHILOSOPHY ○ THEOLOGY ○ MEDICINE ○ HISTORY ○ ARCHITECTURE ○ PAINTING ○ SCULPTURE ○

“Libraries are
magical places
filled with
important
information.”

Lynnea

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THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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THE CITY OF NEWARK

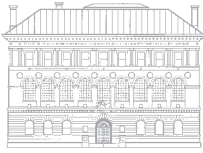
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“I love the library.” Lilith

Special thanks to Rutgers-Newark professors Leo Aristimuño, Robin Gaby Fisher, and Nick Kline, and to their students for documenting many of the Library's activities and the budget crisis through words and images as part of their coursework. Several student photographs are included in this publication.



A Message from the Director

Like so many of our sister libraries across the nation, The Newark Public Library suffered a severe cut to its annual budget. The reduction in revenue stemmed principally from the domino effect of the downturn in the global economy. The City of Newark, our primary funder, was hit especially hard. In consequence, the City subtracted \$2.45 million, or about 20%, from a budget that was already anemic from a 9% cut the year before.

Since the reductions were not announced until mid-year, immediate adjustments were required in staffing and services. All discretionary spending was either eliminated or pared to a bare minimum. The materials budget was mercilessly trimmed. Main Library hours were cut back. Branches were closed on Saturdays. With great reluctance, 31 of our staff were let go. Two branches, both small but active storefront locations, were closed permanently. And finally, an unprecedented 38 unpaid furlough days were imposed on all employees.

While the budget cuts caused a serious jolt to the system, some very positive things also happened. The Board of Trustees initiated effective advocacy efforts. Library staff demonstrated just how resourceful and dedicated they were by working exceptionally hard to maintain as many services as possible. Patrons quickly mobilized to help the Library in a variety of ways. For example, an extraordinary mother-daughter team created a website that posted information about the library's status and encouraged people to contact the mayor and city council about restoring funds. A community activist marshaled a group of people from various areas of the city to organize demonstrations and read-ins at most library locations and to make presentations before the city council. An impressive, successful 24-hour read-in was held in front of City Hall on a sweltering August day.

These and other actions by our patrons served as a reaffirmation of the community's affection for the Library and the need for services such as access to the 1.3 million book and materials collections, online job searches, computer instruction, children's educational programs, local history research materials, ESOL classes, American Sign Language classes, lectures, book signings, and personal assistance from trained librarians.



The administration and staff were so deeply moved by the community's response to the budgetary crisis that they were inspired to redouble their efforts to serve library patrons. The citizens of Newark deserve nothing less.

Respectfully,

Wilma J. Grey
Director, The Newark Public Library

"The facility is the hub of our community — it is more than a library; it is a place to share our life experiences, exchange information, bring our youth and families together and build our futures. . . the library is a resource that empowers the underprivileged!" Elaine

“The Newark Public Library is a valuable and extraordinary resource that provides important services and programs to the community.” Diana

Programs and Exhibits

A regular schedule of programs, special events,

Black History Celebration



Dreams from Our Fathers: a panel discussion about lawyers, their lives, the values that shaped their successes, and the struggles that they overcame. Pictured are panelists Judge Felix R. Neals, his son the Honorable Julien X. Neals; Candace Kelley, Esq., moderator, former host for NJN's *Another View*; Tamara Britt, Esq., her father Judge Randolph Jackson; Judge Harold Fullilove Sr. and his son, Judge Harold Fullilove Jr.

The opening reception for the exhibit, *Fiat Justitia, Let Justice Be Done: The History, Struggles, and Civil Rights Accomplishments of African American Lawyers and Judges*, featured a panel discussion moderated by Jacquelyn R. Rucker, Esq., retired from the Education Law Center. Speakers responded to the question “How Do We Navigate Race and Racism in This Age of Obama?” Panelists included Dr. S.E. Anderson, Brecht Forum Board of Directors; Lawrence Hamm, Founder and Chairman, People’s Organization for Progress; and Joan Gibbs, Esq., Professor, Medgar Evers College, CUNY.

Other programs included:

A film screening of *Judge Robert L. Carter: Civil Rights Pioneer*

A book discussion of *Aunt Sarah’s Recipes for a Long and Spirit-Filled Life: Wisdom and Soulful Lessons from a 105-Year-old Matriarch* by Caryl R. Lucas

Musical performances by the Camille Thurman Quartet and the Courtney Bryan Trio

Hispanic Heritage Celebration



Coloring Outside of the Identity Lines: Upside and Downside of Being a “Latina” Author panelists: Linda Nieves-Powell, writer, director and producer; Dahlma Llanos Figueroa, author of *Daughters of the Stone*; Elizabeth Lorente, writer at *The Record*; Michele Carlo, writer/performance artist; Caridad Piñeiro, paranormal and romantic suspense novelist; Marcela Landres, *Latinidad* publisher; and Rachel Ortiz, media producer.

Esmeralda Santiago, best-selling author, gave the keynote address for the opening of the exhibit *Latina Voices and Visions* which showcased the work of Hispanic women artists in diverse art forms and explored the images of Hispanic women in our culture.

Other programs included:

Latina Filmmakers Series:

New Muslim Cool, Jennifer Maytorena Taylor, director; introduction by Cynthia López, executive Vice President of American Documentary/POV

Short Films by Latina Filmmakers, introduced by Bienvenida Matias, filmmaker: *Urban Lullaby*, Sonia González-Martínez, director; *Living in America*, Camila Arévalo, director; *Dirty Laundry*, Cristina Ibarra, director

Latinas Out Loud: Epistles, by Latino Flavored Productions, Inc. Twenty Latinas read their own poetic letters exploring personal, social, or political issues through the art of letter writing.

Martha Silva of the National Alliance on Mental Illness presented Mental Health and the Latino Community, a workshop series on topics including mental health disorders, depression, and ADHD.

“Libraries are the root of mental evolution & change for the positive.” James

and exhibits highlights the diversity of both the Library’s collections and the communities that it serves.

Additional Programs

Music

A lecture on The History of African American Music by Gwen Moten, voice coach, and music teacher B. Dexter Allgood, Ph.D.

Great Women in Jazz, Blues, and Gospel,
Carrie Jackson Sextet

Performance by the
Grupo Cultural
Tradiciones del Perú

Literature and History

The Star-Ledger: A Proud Past, an Uncertain Future, panel discussion organized by the Newark History Society;

Panelists: Bob Braun, *Star-Ledger* columnist; George Jordan, retired *Star-Ledger* reporter; Jonathan Lazarus, former *Star-Ledger* news editor; Allan Wolper, Professor of Journalism, Rutgers-Newark; moderator Guy Sterling, retired *Star-Ledger* reporter

Justice: A Dialogue through Film, *Revolution’67*, Dr. Leslie Wilson, Montclair State University, moderator; Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno, filmmakers. Sponsored by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities



Sponsored by the Prudential Foundation, the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. lecture featured political analyst and journalist, Donna Brazile. Gabriella Morris, President, The Prudential Foundation & Vice President, Community Resources Prudential Financial, Inc.; Donna Brazile; Mary Puryear, Program Officer, Prudential Foundation and Wilma J. Grey, Library Director.

James Brown Lecture Series

The Blacksmith’s Daughter,
Minnette Coleman

America through the Eyes of Langston,
Sandra L. West

Deception, Jackie White

The African Presence in Christianity,
David “Trust” Graham, Director of
Afrikan Echoes Study Group in Newark

Do I Have to Be a Starving Artist in the
21st Century, Hisani P. Dubose,
filmmaker

The Status of Pan-Africanism, Dr. Akil
Kokayi Khalfani, Director of Africana
Institute at Essex County College

Author Appearances

Becoming Billie Holiday,
Carole Boston Weatherford

Historic Photos of Newark,
Sharon and Elizabeth Hazard

The Mirror,
Morgan MacKinnon

All but One Thorn,
Dr. Issiac Reese

Health

Beyond the Eyes:
Strengthening and Uplifting
Minorities Who are Blind
and Visually Impaired,
Councilwoman Mildred C.
Crump, guest speaker

Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society

The Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society, chaired by Dorothea Moore, presents a regular schedule of book discussions and special programs highlighting the African diaspora. The extraordinary Black History month event, Writing Our Story: Reflections of Us; included speakers Junius Williams, Esq., director of the Abbott Leadership Institute; Sibyl Moses, Library of Congress librarian and author; Carol Graves, former Newark Teachers Union president; Betty Crawley, Elizabeth School District librarian; Juliet Grant, welfare rights activist; and Dr. Ellen Culver, People’s Organization for Progress.

“The experience of meeting people from all walks of life at a cultural program is a wonderful resource in itself!” Patricia

"I perform historical tenant research and the materials the Newark Libra

Exhibits

Photographic Books and Prints from the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library

The Combat Paper Project: Healing Through Art (on loan from The Combat Paper Project, Burlington, Vermont)

The European Grand Tour: Visiting the Old World through the Collections of the Newark Public Library

The Mission: Gilberto Concepción de Gracia and His New York Years/La Misión: Gilberto Concepción de Gracia y sus años en Nueva York

Entitled to Art: A Selection of New Art Books

America by the Numbers: A Look at the Census Bureau, "Factfinder for the Nation"

GlassBook Project: Newark (on loan from the GlassBook Project at Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey)

Programs Corresponding to Exhibits

GlassBook Project: Newark

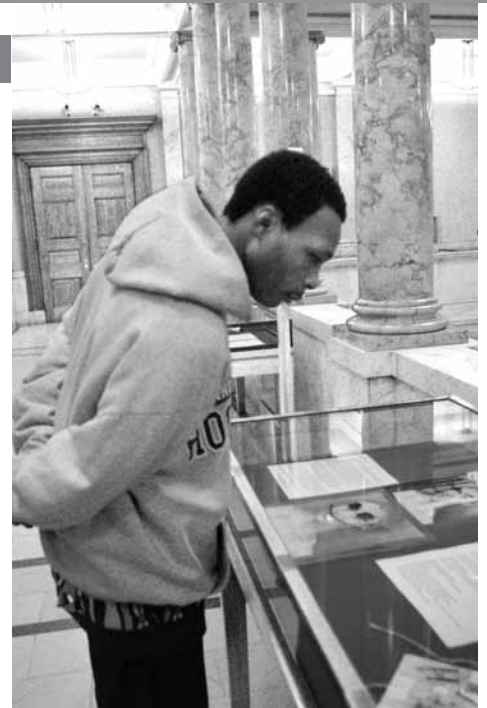
Between the Letters, Sarah Stengle and Rebecca Kelly, performance and Witness: Beyond Sensationalism Nora Luongo, moderator, poetry, fiction, readings, panel discussion

Combat Paper Project

Panel discussion, Drew Cameron and Drew Matott, artists and co-founders of the Combat Paper Project; John Michael Turner, Marine Corps machine-gunner turned book and paper artist

The Mission: Gilberto Concepción de Gracia and His New York Years

Lecture by Dr. Gerald Meyer, History Professor, Hostos Community College; introduction by curators Pedro Juan Hernandez, Senior Archivist at El Centro; Alma Concepcion, independent scholar; and Yesenia Lopez, NJHRIC, Newark Public Library



A patron views the GlassBook Project Newark exhibit.

Drew Cameron and Drew Matott, founders and directors of the Combat Paper Project, presenting their print "Breaking Rank" for the Library's Special Collections.



"I think the Library is a great place to enjoy the peace and exhibits." Erin

ry has to offer are invaluable and cannot be found elsewhere.” Kristina

Collections and Services



From the individualized reader's advisory question to the in-depth research assignments for a large class, librarians again provided help to an amazingly diverse population on an incredibly wide variety of topics. They also assisted patrons with essential life tasks such as applying for jobs, unemployment, food stamps, and college financial aid. In addition, as the Statewide Reference Center for art, business, music, New Jersey, patents and trademarks, and U.S. government documents, they continued to supply information and support to librarians and their patrons throughout the state.

“Each book is a treasure to be shared.” Lucette

Other collections and service-related highlights follow:

The Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center acquired an extensive archive relating to the Civil War soldiers of Newark.

The Library purchased *Literature Criticism Online* to provide on-site and remote access to extensive commentary on English and foreign literature.

ListenNJ added e-books to the audio books already available. Patrons may use their library cards to login and download titles in a variety of genres for use on their e-book readers.

Special Services staff offered free American Sign Language (ASL) courses for beginners and returning beginners three times during the year.

Reference and Children's librarians collaborated with local teachers to offer handouts for school groups researching a variety of topics in history, literature, and careers.

Reference staff offered instruction in the basics of Internet use, including email, to a group of ex-offenders.

The Special Collections librarians offered many tours to high schools and colleges, senior citizens' groups, artists,

and librarians. Fine prints and other art works were loaned to various museums for special exhibits.

Community members contributed many service hours in a new volunteer program developed by Paul Pattwell.

All locations served as venues for the U.S. Census Bureau's recruiting and training efforts.

Sandra L. West indexed Al Henderson's photographic negatives for the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center. Mr. Henderson was Newark's foremost African-American portrait photographer from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Customers connect with the Newark Public Library in ever increasing ways including social networks. Email subscribers through Constant Contact, Facebook fans, and Twitter followers are all informed about Library events and services.



“In this era of ‘hi-tech’ everything some students need the resources offered by the Library more than ever. . . Many job applications have to be done on computers today, and the Library makes this service available to those who need it.” Elma

Youth Services

“When a society is literate the nation is progressive and the imagination blooms. When you hear a child say ‘mommy read it again’ most likely that child will go to college. It is such a joy to run through the stacks of books and to hear the voices of the past, present and sometimes the future.” Diahann

The Newark Public Library provides a wide variety of programs and activities for children and teens. These activities help young patrons to develop a love of reading.

The Prudential Foundation Summer Reading Challenge

encouraged children and teens to continue to read during their vacations from school. The kick-off featured a musical program “Beach Blanket Bierkos” and Corky, the Library mascot. Library staff provided children with crafts, games, and activities related to the theme *Make a Splash—Read*, and for teens on the theme *Make Waves at Your Library*.

Family Week at the Theatre, a program of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, cosponsored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and Discover Jersey Arts, presented: George Street Playhouse’s production of *New Kid* by Dennis Foon; Pushcart Players’ production of *Cuentos Del Arbol (Tree Tales)*; East Lynne Theater’s presentation of *Victorian Magic*; *OZ!* produced by Youth Stage; and *Drakestail, The Creative Duck* presented by Tuckers’ Tales.

Films shown from the **Newark Black Film Festival Series**, Youth Cinema at the Newark Public Library included: *Inspiring*



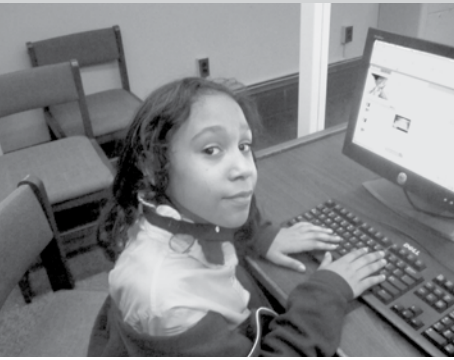
Figures: Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald; Alejandro's Gift; Stories from Africa, Families of Ghana, West Africa; The Journey of Henry Box Brown; Anansi; The Dot...And More Stories To Make You Feel Good; Chicken Sunday; and The Princess and the Frog.

The **Hooray for Children** programs featured live presentations such as *Anansi, Spiderman of Africa Tales*, by the Crabgrass Puppet Theatre; *Raps, Rhymes 'n Reasons* with Sharon McGruder; *Juggle Jam* with Jen Slaw; *Save the Earth Magic Show* by Full Effect Productions; and *Love Bug's Hug* with Goowin's Balloowins.

To introduce children of the Newark School System in Pre-K and Kindergarten to books and libraries, the Library held **Learning about Myself and My World**. This program teaches these children about their community and strengthens early literacy learning through story time and other activities.

“Children need the library to read so they can be successful in life. Reading is what children need in life.” Janaiyah

"I depend on the library for books for my children." Stephanie



Families gathered to read at the Clinton Branch community open house.



Awards and Accomplishments

Ingrid Betancourt was named "Madrina Internacional" (International Godmother) of the 2010 Peruvian Parade of New Jersey.

Yesenia Lopez was a speaker at the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials conference in Providence, R.I.

Paula Baratta served on the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) Conference Committee as Exhibits Chairperson.

Leslie Kahn participated in a program at the NJLA Conference, "Texting NJ Style."

Also at the NJLA Conference, Paul Pattwell presented "Building a Partnership That Works: Marketing Library Services."

Aurelia Rodriguez, Shileen Shaw, and Lolata Greggs participated in the State Library's celebration for the recipients of an IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant at the NJLA conference. Aurelia Rodriguez completed her B.A. degree from Thomas Edison State College.

NJLA presented their Library Champion Award to The Prudential Foundation for its longtime support of Newark Public Library.

Vicki Hyman received NJLA's Journalism Award for her December, 2009 feature article in the *Star-Ledger* on William J. Dane, retiring Head of Special Collections.

"We need the Library!!!" Najillaa

The Springfield Branch Library offered free college preparatory classes. Open to high school juniors and seniors, the sessions included preparation for the SAT and HSPA, and assistance with completing applications for college, financial aid, and scholarships.

Representatives from colleges and universities, the military, and technology institutions met with prospective students at the Springfield Branch's annual College Fair.

Homework Help NJ, underwritten by PSE&G in partnership with the NJ State Library and powered by tutor.com, provided online tutoring in all subjects. This service has been expanded to include career and resume assistance.



A family celebrates at the Prudential Summer Reading Challenge closing ceremony.

Budget Crisis



A young man speaks about the importance of libraries at the Roseville Branch community open house.

In 2010, due to its own budget woes, the city of Newark cut funding to the Library by 2.45 million dollars, a decrease of nearly 20% of the total budget. Facing the biggest fiscal crisis in its history, the Library was forced to reduce its hours and to cut critical services and staff. The Library permanently closed the First Avenue and Madison Branches, and all locations except Main Library were closed (and remained closed) on Saturdays. From the middle of August until the end of the year, all Library buildings were shuttered every Monday and Tuesday, as employees were furloughed. Thirty-one employees were laid off. Children and job seekers were among the hardest hit, although the crisis was a blow to the entire community and to people around the state.

To bring public awareness to the dire situation, Library supporters organized a twenty-four hour Read-In at City Hall from August 31 to September 1. Council members Mildred Crump and Luis Quintana, City Council President Donald Payne Jr., authors Amiri Baraka and Barbara Kukla, Library Director Wilma Grey, Library staff, and many community members participated in the event.



Students read during the Branch Brook community open house.

In addition, staff at the North End, Springfield, Vailsburg, and Van Buren branches hosted meetings during which residents expressed their concerns about reductions in hours and services. Library advocates collected thousands of signatures petitioning the city to restore library funds. Congressman Donald Payne met with concerned citizens to discuss strategies to save the Newark Library and libraries nationwide. A series of community open houses and read-ins were held in the fall at Main Library, Roseville, Branch Brook, Clinton, and Weequahic branches.

The campaign succeeded in drawing attention to the Library's plight, but the institution remained in desperate straits.



Organizers at the conclusion of the 24 hour Read-In: Terri Seuss; People's Organization for Progress members JoAnn Simms, Ellen Culver, and Patricia Winckler; and Barbara Kukla.

Support for the Library

The Friends of The Newark Public Library

The Friends donated the proceeds of the Annual Book Sale to the Library for general operating support and for the purchase of young adult materials and computer books. They also initiated Titles for Teens to raise funds for the purchase of Young Adult Materials system wide.

Carol Jenkins-Cooper was elected president at their annual meeting.

María DeCastro Blake Awards Dinner

The Support Network of the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center at the Newark Public Library hosted the María DeCastro Blake dinner at New Jersey City University on May 8. Henry Acosta, Mental Health Advocate, Mercer County; Doña Teresa Lugo, Tenant Rights Advocate, Hudson County; and Dr. Thomas Ortiz, Family Health Advocate, Essex County, received Community Service Awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Sonia Araujo, Community Empowerment, Library Services, Hudson County, and the Contributor's Award was given to New Jersey City University.

Donor Recognition Reception

This event, held to acknowledge those who generously gave to the Library during 2009 or 2010, featured guest speaker Debra Galant, novelist and founder of Baristanet.com.



Library Renovations

Newark Public Library received a 1.4 million dollar Community Development Block Recovery grant, (funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Newark) for some essential renovation projects. Planning began for construction of ADA access ramps for Main Library and Phase 1 of ADA accessibility projects at Branch Brook, Clinton, and Roseville. The Main Library's Children's Room, the second floor reference area, and all eight branches were painted and carpeted. Branch Brook and Clinton Branches received new furniture.

“I think this is a good
and safe place to study.” Christina



Donor Contributions Make Our Library a Richer Place

The Newark Public Library enriches the lives of everyone in our community. Generous donations from individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations help to ensure that the Library remains a vibrant, vital part of greater Newark. The Library's resources and programs help patrons explore new ideas, improve their lives, and enjoy a unique sense of community. Charitable donations from those who believe in our mission of providing opportunities for lifelong learning help to make the Newark Public Library a richer place for everyone!

Restricted Grants

The Library secures restricted grants that offset the cost of programs, services, and materials which would not otherwise be funded through our annual city appropriated budget. We were most appreciative of funders who made the following restricted grants in 2010:

Community Foundation of New Jersey — \$7,000 for college prep programs

William J. Dane — \$12,500 for Marcelle Frebault Special Collections Endowment

William J. Dane — \$10,000 for Gertrude Special Collections Endowment

William J. Dane — \$4,000 for Special Collections acquisitions

Essex County Local Arts Program — \$3,915 for Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Friends of the Newark Public Library — \$6,400 for collection development

HSBC Bank, USA — \$2,000 for family literacy programs in Spanish

NJ Council for the Humanities — \$10,000 for organization and preservation of Olga J. Wagenheim papers

NJ Historical Commission — \$85,134 for New Jersey related projects

City of Newark — American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — \$1,400,000 for ADA projects and system wide refurbishments

Newark Public Schools — \$26,000 for special programs for pre-k and kindergarten students

PNC Bank Foundation — \$20,000 for Black History Month exhibit and programs

Prudential Foundation — \$25,000 for Children's Summer Reading Challenge program

Prudential Foundation — \$10,000 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture

TD Bank, NA — \$5,000 for children's collection development

Verizon Foundation — \$5,000 to HRIC María De Castro Blake Awards dinner

Unrestricted Gifts

In 2010 we did not host our annual gala, but instead made a special appeal for additional operating support. We are grateful for all of the contributions that resulted and would like to especially thank those who made significant unrestricted gifts:

Audible.com — \$20,000

Dr. & Mrs. Timothy J. Crist — \$8,500

Carol Greene Duncan — \$14,600

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Grover — \$5,000

Donald R. Katz & Leslie Larson — \$10,000

MCJ Foundation — \$5,000

PNC Bank Foundation — \$15,000

Prudential Foundation — \$10,000

Robert & Rosemary Steinbaum — \$5,000

Martin A. Schwarz & Patricia Connell — \$5,000

Lucy & Eleanor S. Upton Charitable Foundation — \$5,000

“Love my favorite Public Library!”
Miguel

“The Library is vital to the community.” Amir



Contributions 2010

In addition to the aforementioned benefactors, it is with deep gratitude that we also acknowledge the donors listed here who have contributed to the 2010 Annual Fund Campaign or to one of our many restricted funds. Their support is vital to our success! For further information on making a donation, please visit the Library's website at www.npl.org.

Estate Gifts to Endowment Funds

Estate of Charles F. Cummings
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Financial Summary

Support and Revenues

City of Newark Allocation	\$11,080,901
Federal and State Financial Assistance	1,364,846
Donations	424,750
Other Financial Assistance	206,736
Investment Income	89,583
Fines and Fees	66,559
Other	370,463
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$13,603,838

Expenditures

Salaries & Wages	\$6,581,414
Payroll Taxes & Employee Benefits	3,527,334
General & Administrative	2,263,025
Services by Contract	357,879
Books & Library Materials	758,723
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$13,488,375

The Newark Public Library

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Annual Report 2010