

a place for everyone — a word on the Central Library

Great cities are often defined by the iconic nature of their civic landmarks — whether that is a noted performance venue, a national museum, a university of great repute — or a central public library. Among them, none defines a city's character and its commitment to learning, culture, democracy and progress more than a library.

Libraries provide universal access where people can go to discover new ideas, pursue the joy of reading and access the power of information. Whether it is the free access to information and IT training programs that help you navigate the Internet, or reading programs that delight children and launch them on a lifelong affair with literature, libraries are one of the few remaining public places where you don't have to buy something to be welcome. Public libraries are the great social equalizer, leveling the playing field and offering people of all ages the tools they need to transform their lives.

And soon, we will have our own Central Library, now under construction at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Queen Street, that will become our city's iconic landmark. A remarkable plan for a 108,000 sq ft, five storey design is already unfolding that will feature an Atrium rising through floors leading visitors to spaces for children, teens and adults and offering light filled rooms, greatly expanded and specialized collections, more than 180 computers and a highly skilled staff to guide people in the use of these resources all work together to make the Central Library a destination.

It is precisely this blend of traditional library services with new and innovative spaces that make it an active place of learning and culture in the heart of the community. The Central Library will be a major anchor, playing a pivotal role in strengthening our urban core, attracting many to the area and contributing to the overall vitality of the business district.

By the numbers:

Yearly demand on
14 branch libraries

4.9 million items borrowed
2.5 million visits
5500 programs
225,000 information requests
1.4 million website visits

