



HISTORIC CENTRAL LIBRARY



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY



1898

The original building opened on a site called Mozart's Grove, near to the geographical center of the city.



HISTORY OF CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Central Library opened in 1898, designed as a U-shaped building by architects Ferry and Clas to house both the Milwaukee Public Library and the Milwaukee Public Museum. Additions in 1909, 1913, and 1954 expanded the building into the structure as it stands today. The Milwaukee Public Museum relocated to a new, stand-alone building across the street in 1963. Central Library was designated an official Milwaukee landmark in 1969 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Central Library maintains the largest public library collection of materials and media in Wisconsin. The Betty Brinn Children's Library, on the first floor, houses the largest collection of children's materials in Wisconsin.

Reference materials and special collections are housed in the Art, Music & Recreation, Frank P. Zeidler Humanities, and Business, Periodicals & Technology Departments, and the Richard E. and Lucile Krug Rare Books Room.

THE COLLECTION

Materials can be checked out, or requested online to be delivered to a local library from any of the 13 Milwaukee Public Library locations or any of the 14 suburban libraries that are also members of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System. Materials may be returned to any participating Milwaukee County Federated Library System location.

ONLINE RESEARCH AND RESOURCES

Milwaukee Public Library's website provides access to a list of approximately 100 databases, many of which are subscription-based services available for free to Milwaukee Public Library cardholders. The library also maintains databases of many unique holdings related to genealogy, local history, architectural archives, rare books, sheet music, and historic photos.



13

LOCATIONS

of Milwaukee Public
Library branches
throughout the
City of Milwaukee.



PROGRAMS

A wide variety of free, ongoing programs as well as unique events are offered at the Milwaukee Public Library.

Special events for children and families, author visits, exhibits, summer reading programs, and uniquely entertaining or educational programs are offered throughout the year.

LIBRARY CARD REGISTRATION

City of Milwaukee residents can obtain a free library card by providing two forms of identification, one with a legal name and one with a Milwaukee County residence. A library card entitles its holder to access more than two million books and a vast array of media. It also provides access to computers, online databases, and printing, fax, and photocopy services.

Children may receive their own library card as soon as they are able to print their first and last name. Children under 15 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Teens ages 15–17 may get their own library card with two forms of identification.



TECHNOLOGY

Computer access is free with a Milwaukee Public Library card at all 13 library locations. Fax machines, printers and scanners are also available (at cost).

COMMUNITY ROOMS AND CONFERENCE ROOMS

Rooms may be reserved at any MPL location free of charge. Requests can be made online through the library's website at www.mpl.org/.

FREE

Milwaukee County residents can obtain a library card at no charge at any library branch.



USED BOOK STORE AND CAFÉ

Central Library houses a used bookstore, The Bookseller, run by the Friends of Milwaukee Public Library, and a privately operated café. Hours of operation coincide with Central Library's service hours.

TOURS

Docent-led tours of Central Library are offered at no cost on Saturday mornings. Tours of the Green Roof are offered Wednesdays at 12 noon and Saturdays at 10 a.m. from late April thru October and are also available by appointment by calling 286-TOUR. Both tours begin in the rotunda.



2010

The 30,000 sq. ft. green roof was installed and included solar panels consisting of 132 photovoltaic crystalline panels.



CENTENNIAL HALL COMPLEX

This historic facility at the Central Library is available for rent by organizations engaged in educational, cultural, civic, intellectual, or charitable activities. Minimum use is three hours and may include access to any or all parts of the complex including the Koeppen-Gerlach Auditorium, Loos Room, and Masters Room. Applications must be made online through the library's website.



VOLUNTEER

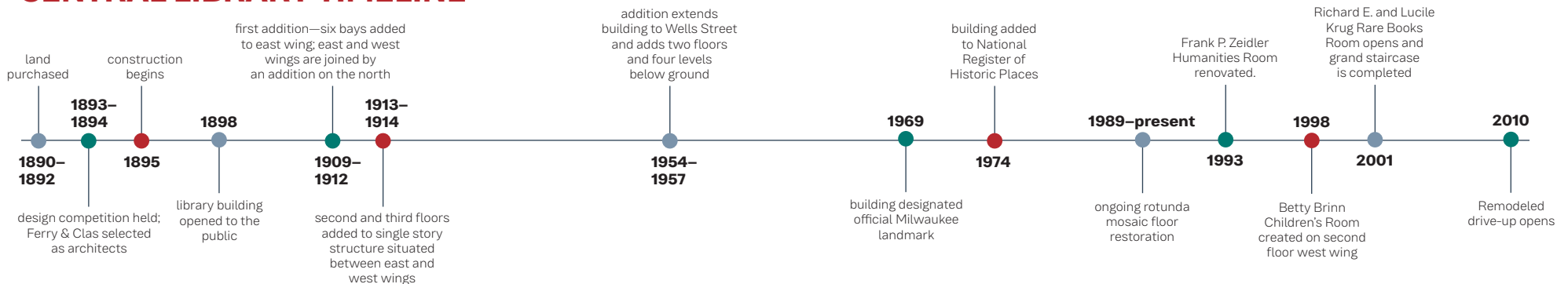
Fill out an online application to volunteer at the library for tutoring, assisting with special collections, computer coaching, working in The Bookseller, assisting with events and programs, or joining the docent program.

SUPPORT

Individual, family and corporate donations to the library can be made through the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation. Become a member by joining the Friends of Milwaukee Public Library.



CENTRAL LIBRARY TIMELINE





Your Milwaukee Public Library System consists of the downtown Central Library, twelve neighborhood branch libraries, the MPL Express 24-hour vending library, and outreach services.



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814 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233