

## NYPL Abandons Manhattan Renovation Plans

In a major about-face, the New York Public Library (NYPL) backed off its renovation plans for the system's iconic Stephen A. Schwarzman Building as of May 7. Rather than eliminating the stacks at the central library—a decision that had caused no small consternation among New Yorkers, including newly minted mayor Bill de Blasio—NYPL representatives are now offering an alternative that leaves the building's research collection on-site, ending plans to sell the Mid-Manhattan library across the street and relocate the circulating collection to the 42nd Street main branch, and making renovations instead to the Mid-Manhattan facility.

"When the facts change, the only right thing to do as a public-serving institution is to take a look with fresh eyes and see if there is a way to improve the plans and to stay on budget," NYPL president and CEO Tony Marx said in a statement. "That's why

months ago we began a review of all programmatic, design, and cost elements of the renovation plan and why we are now proposing an alternative plan that we believe will best meet our original goals."



The original renovation scheme called for the sale of the Mid-Manhattan branch and the elimination of the stacks in the Schwarzman Building beneath the library's reading room. Many of the books in the world-class research collection—which is not open to the public but requires library staff to retrieve titles from the seven-story underground structure—would have been moved to a storage facility in New Jersey.

Since it was first announced in 2008, that concept proved unpopular with stakeholders throughout the city. For members of organizations like the Committee to Save New York Public Library (CSNYPL), the news of NYPL's reversal marked a victory in their years-long fight to preserve the stacks in the Schwarzman Building.

"I was just delighted to hear they've made this decision. It's really a step forward if they're going to keep the stacks, because it means that it's possible to explore the options for bringing them back into full use," CSNYPL president and architectural historian Charles Warren told *Hotline*. "It's important that the library continue to provide a university-class research library, which is a great resource to the city."

The alternative will still result in a big renovation—just not in the originally planned location. Now, NYPL's Mid-Manhattan branch—on the opposite corner, at 40th Street and 5th Avenue—will be getting the lion's share of the coming face-lift, which is set to include a new adult education center and expanded space for com-

### ≡ INSIDE ≡

- KY Library Funding in Appeals Court...3
- Lit Landmark for Lyle the Crocodile....3
- San Diego Schools, Libraries Partner .4
- Novelist Offers Audiobook Reviews ...5
- Teachers Protest Common Core Tests.....5

# Build SOMETHING Bold

## **School Library Journal & LEGO Education's Inaugural**

Build Something Bold Library Design Award recognizes innovative design within a school library or classroom.

**GRAND PRIZE: \$5,000.**

For more info, visit [www.slj.com/buildsomethingbold](http://www.slj.com/buildsomethingbold)  
Nominations close May 31.

## Interview

### Jim Butcher

Fantasy author Jim Butcher just published *Skin Game* (Roc), the 15th novel in his best-selling “Dresden Files” series. He talked to *Hotline* about reading recommendations, the research that goes into his works, and some of the talents he could fall back on if writing doesn’t work out. Like, for example, archery.



**What would you call your genre, and what other authors do you see fitting that?**

I like the phrase “contemporary fantasy” to cover stories with a

fantastic element that are set in the modern world. Any kind of contemporary fantasy display should probably include Laurell K. Hamilton, Charlaine Harris, Patricia Briggs, Kim Harrison, Richelle Mead, Seanan McGuire, Larry Correia, and Kevin Hearne.

**Do you research mythology and folklore, or are all the monster minutiae from your own head?**

I do a lot of research, but I would definitely say that the research is mostly just assembling raw material and stealing anything that looks like it would be fun to put in a Dresden tale. I find things that I think would be nifty to use and modify them to meet the needs of my story.

**What are some of or the most common questions that fans ask that you decline to answer?**

The big one is always the same: Who is Harry going to wind up with romantically? It’s a great question because I really can’t answer it, because I really don’t know.

**Your blurb states that your “résumé includes a long list of skills rendered obsolete at least two hundred years ago.” What are some of those skills?**

Horseback riding, fencing, archery, leatherworking, armoring, and knife-making make a good start.

puter labs. Under the new program, the Mid-Manhattan branch, which is the largest circulating branch of NYPL, and the Schwarzman Building will be more integrated, acting as a midtown “campus” for the system.

Smaller scale renovations at the Schwarzman Building will continue under the alternative plan, opening up long-closed rooms of the landmark building (only about 25 percent of the space is open to the public currently). But the departure of the library’s collection for an off-site storage facility, long the most controversial aspect of the original proposal, has been scrubbed.

That doesn’t mean the books will stay exactly where they are, though. Rather than making the move to the Garden State, plans call for the books to be removed from the stacks and placed in an expanded storage facility beneath neighboring Bryant Park.

Warren, however, questions whether even expanded storage in the adjacent park will be able to accommodate the entire collection, something he says is a key to the branch continuing to function as it was intended, with even rarely requested books on hand for perusal by scholars and researchers. Warren also levied a familiar criticism at the new plan—that the process that went into creating it lacked transparency and public input, saying that, as with the initial idea, NYPL representatives are “just revealing what it is they’ve decided to do, rather than discussing with critics and the public what they want to do.”

Marx flatly denied that charge, saying that the renovation plans have been discussed for years through public forums, board meetings that are open to the public, and feedback from critics like Warren.

Despite changes to the project, NYPL sources report that the \$150 million from the city of New York is still budgeted for the effort.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
*Library Journal & School Library Journal*

**VP, Group Publisher** Ian Singer

**Editorial Director** Rebecca T. Miller

**Editor** Ian Chant

**Contributing Editors**

Kate DiGirolomo, Bette-Lee Fox,

Stephanie Klose, Yin Mei,

Carly Oklye, Meredith Schwartz,

Rocco Staino, Bob Warburton

**Art Production** Josephine Marc-Anthony

**Creative Director** Mark Tuchman

**TO CONTACT HOTLINE:**

**Editorial**

Phone: (646) 380-0700

Fax: (646) 380-0756/0757

E-mail: [LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com)

160 Varick Street, 11th floor

New York, NY 10013

**Advertising**

Roy Futterman or your LJ rep

Phone: (646) 380-0718

[rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:rfutterman@mediasourceinc.com)

**Classified**

Howard Katz, Classified Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0730

**Production**

JoAnn Powell, Production Manager

Phone: (646) 380-0741

**Subscriptions**

Phone: 800-588-1030

[www.libraryhotline.com/sub](http://www.libraryhotline.com/sub)

**Outside U.S.**

760-317-2332

LIBRARY HOTLINE (ISSN 0740-736X) (RPUSA 123397467) is published weekly (every Monday except on the two Mondays nearest to the year-end holidays) by Library Journals, LLC, 160 Varick Street, 11th floor, New York, NY 10013. Randy Asmo, Chief Executive Officer; Ian Singer, VP, Group Publisher. Library Hotline is a registered trademark of Library Journals, LLC. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. SUBSCRIPTION: \$119.99 per year, Canada \$159.99, Other (incl Air) \$159.99, Single Copy (U.S.) \$5.95, and Single Copy (all other) \$10.00. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Library Hotline, PO Box 460483, Escondido, CA 92046-9803 Telephone 800-588-1030 Outside US 1-760-317-2332.

Printed in the U.S.A.

## No Legislative Help for Kentucky Libraries

After the state general assembly came close but ultimately failed to deliver a legislative solution to their long-standing legal woes, the embattled public libraries of Campbell County (CCPL) and Kenton County (KCPL) have little recourse but to wait for an appeals court decision that will help determine how they—and potentially the majority of Kentucky libraries—can raise tax revenue.

Plaintiffs insist these two systems have raised money illegally for more than three decades; they want tax rates rolled back to levels established in the 1970s or earlier. Aftershocks from such a ruling would include branch closures and staff layoffs for the Campbell and Kenton systems.

For a while, it looked as if the state legislature might render a final outcome to the conflict. In March, the Democrat-controlled Kentucky House of Representatives introduced a companion bill into budget legislation that would have affirmed House Bill 44 as the proper tax formula.

CCPL and KCPL were each founded by county petition drives and empowered as special taxing districts under a 1979 statute. Yet plaintiffs claim the overriding law is KRS 173.790, which mandates that proposed tax rates must be approved by at least 51 percent of voters, necessitating a door-to-door petition drive.

Sources told *Hotline* that although GOP senators indicated no particular fondness for the language affecting the library lawsuits, it stood a decent chance of staying in the final budget. But very late in the conference committee phase of the budget process, Republican leaders insisted the language be excised and had the votes to get their wish.

During the budget negotiations, Garth Kuhnhein, a plaintiff in the Kenton County lawsuit and a former

president of the Northern Kentucky Tea Party, spoke to Cincinnati.com of his strong resistance toward a legislative solution. “You can’t make a wrong right,” he said. “That’s just not right. You’ve got separation of pow-

ers. You’ve got [the legislators] writing laws. You’ve got [the judges] interpreting it.”

As to those judges who interpret the existing law, last month, the three-judge Kentucky Court of Ap-

### Lyle the Crocodile Gets Literary Landmark in New York

In an event honoring the late Bernard Waber, author of the “Lyle the Crocodile” books, the Yorkville Community School was designated as a Literary Landmark. The ceremony took place on May 14 at the Yorkville Community School on E. 88th Street in Manhattan. The street was made famous by Waber in 1962 with the publication of *The House on East 88th Street* (Houghton Mifflin), which introduced the lovable crocodile Lyle to the world of children’s literature.

In April, *School Library Journal* brought readers the story of the opening of an exhibition of Waber’s original artwork, “Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile & Friends: The Art of Bernard Waber” at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA. The exhibit includes 85 pieces of Waber’s original picture book art and runs until June 8.

Waber’s three children—Paulis, Gary, and Louisa—together with three of his four grandchildren gathered at the elementary school, where they accepted a commemorative bronze plaque in their father’s honor. They were serenaded by the second-grade chorus rendition of “East-side Westside” and “Look on the Bright Side.” The family reciprocated by reading the book aloud to the gathered children.

Lyle’s adventures have been translated into German, Dutch, Danish, Spanish, Afrikaans, Swedish, and Japanese, and sales of the books total more than \$1.7 million. Waber developed the idea for *The House on East 88th Street* during his lunch hours and on his commute on the Long Island Railroad when he was working in the art department at *Life* magazine. He selected E. 88th Street because he liked the sound of the number 88.

The Literary Landmark program is sponsored by United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association that recognizes sites around the country that have literary connections. Other locales that recognize children’s authors are the Boston Public Garden for Robert McCloskey’s *Make Way for Ducklings* (Viking, 1941) and the New York’s Plaza Hotel for Kay Thompson’s *Eloise* (S. & S., 1955). The dedication ceremony was cosponsored by the Empire State Center for the Book and the Children’s Book Council as part of the 2014 Children’s Book Week celebration.

“[Our father] would be thrilled to know he was part of literary history with this plaque,” Waber’s daughter Paulis told *Hotline*. She and her family expressed gratitude to the organizers of the event that made it possible for Lyle to live forever on E. 88th Street. “My father loved children, his family, and everything New York. I am grateful that this plaque is at a school where he will be surrounded by children.”



Photo by Rocco Staino

peals panel denied a motion by CCPL attorney Jeff Mando to hear oral arguments before ruling.

Mando and others told *Hotline* that no matter how this latest legal conflict unfolds, a further appeal to the Kentucky Supreme Court is expected. According to Mando, the appeals court is likely to keep the exist-

ing tax rates in place until the high court issues its decision.

## San Diego Libraries, Schools Partner

On April 22, Mayor Kevin Faulconer announced plans for his new “One San Diego” budget from the Logan

Heights branch of the San Diego Public Library (SDPL) system. The budget includes money for a program called “Do Your Homework @ the Library.”

“The [program] will help students who need it the most,” said Deborah Barrow, director of SDPL. “Eighteen libraries will support K–8 students from communities with at least one school under the minimum target score of 800 on the Academic Performance Index.”

The participating branches will offer individual after-school tutoring, led by learning coordinators and homework help volunteers. The program is intended to increase the level of help available to school children and adjust to what the students in the area need.

“The Learning Coordinators in each of the 18 libraries will be required to have a bachelor’s degree and experience with education or teaching,” said SDPL spokesperson Marion Hubbard. “We hope we can recruit teachers and former teachers from the area. [The library system] has also had a robust volunteer program for many years.”

This fits in with Faulconer’s vision for what libraries can bring to communities. While announcing his budget plan, he praised the “intangible things that libraries provide,” such as “an environment that fosters civic engagement and education.”

If the mayor’s budget passes, there will be more changes headed to San Diego libraries, such as an increase in library hours and in the public library system’s financial resources.

It’s not all good news, however. The *Times* of San Diego reports that the \$500,000 used to fund the new initiative was shifted away from the library acquisitions budget, though library officials supported the plan.

According to Hubbard, the library system worked in conjunction with the San Diego Unified school district

## Branching Out



The **Elsie S. Hogan Community Library**, Willcox, AZ, finished off its five-year renovation with an open house on May 9, according to the *Willcox Range News*. The 4,050 square foot library gained a 400 square foot solarium, new carpeting throughout, exterior murals, a security camera surveillance system, and an updated landscape.

The 24-project Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP), approved by San Francisco voters in 2000 to the tune of \$105.9 million, has seen its final effort come to fruition. The 8,500 square foot, two-story **North Beach Branch Library** (pictured) opened on May 10. Designed by Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects, the \$14.5 million facility features a community room, an expanded children’s area, a dedicated teen zone, more public access computers, fresh furnishings, and a larger collection encompassing materials in multiple languages and is 60 percent larger than its predecessor. Constructed with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification or higher in mind, the new North Beach library also has a sound sculpture by artist Bill Fontana, commissioned by the San Francisco Arts Commission, surrounding the exterior of the building. It incorporates the “music” of neighborhood environs, such as poetry readings, cafés, markets, sea lions, foghorns, and more.

Funded through \$155,000 in bonds, plus a state grant of \$30,000 and \$117,700 in grants from the USDA Rural Development Agency, the plan was devised by architects Dick & Fritsche Design Group to work within the library’s budget.

The **Elkridge Branch** of Howard County Library System, MD, has now been greenlighted through the addition of \$13.6 million in the proposed budget of County Executive Ken Ulman, according to the *Baltimore Sun*. Including a senior center as well, the project is looking to take off in FY15. With money always at issue, the new library had initially been tagged with just \$6.255 million in the first budget go-round. With the upgrade in support, a 35,000 square foot facility will replace the current 15,700 square foot library and should be serving its constituents by FY16.

Send information on groundbreakings and ongoing and completed building projects to [blfox@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:blfox@mediasourceinc.com)

and the mayor's staff to help create this program.

They began developing the idea when Faulconer took office in March 2014. Some aspects of the "Do Your Homework @ the Library" initiative, however, are still in the planning stages. In a press release, the mayor's office said that the program would provide "opportunities for skill development and reinforcement."

According to Hubbard, "Reinforcement may include sitting with a student and listening to them read, drilling alphabet flashcards, or working through math problems."

Faulconer was a member of the city council before being elected mayor. The current council president, Todd Gloria, was present at the announcement. He praised Faulconer's commitment to libraries.

The budget began the review process on May 5. The approval hearing is slated for June, and if it passes, the new budget will take effect on July 1.

## NoveList Introduces Audiobook Reviews

Readers' advisory (RA) resource NoveList will now offer audiobook recommendations through NoveList Plus. The new audiobook features include lists of recommended titles and listen-alike recommendations. Users can browse or search for audiobook information and will have search options by length of audio, format, and audio characteristics. Listeners will also be able to access audio samples and read reviews from trusted professional sources.

As part of the release, NoveList developed new appeal language to help describe the unique characteristics of audiobooks. Descriptive terms such as *sound effects*, *read by the author*, and *folksy* help librarians determine whether an audiobook is one their patrons will enjoy. NoveList also uses

**Timothy Cherubini** was named Executive Director at the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies. He was previously Senior Director of Engagement and Programs at LYRASIS.

**Kevin Drinka** is now Director, Marengo-Union Public Library, IL. He was previously Senior Coordinator at Maricopa Public Library, AZ.

**Toby Greenwalt** was named Director of Digital Strategy and Technology Integration at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He was previously Virtual Services Coordinator at Skokie Public Library, IL.

**Jeff J. Jacobs** has been named Chief Information Officer at OCLC, Dublin, OH. He was

previously Chief Technology Officer at JPMorgan Chase.

**Yuan Li** was named Scholarly Communications Librarian at Princeton University Library, NJ. She previously held the same position at Syracuse University Libraries, NY.

**Paula Miller** was appointed Director of Baltimore County Public Library. She previously held the same title at Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs.

**Angela Thornton** was named Executive Director at Henderson Libraries, NV. She was previously Manager of the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, Oklahoma City.

Send People notices to [LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com)

the terms to help create listen-alike recommendations.

NoveList vice president Duncan Smith said that the inclusion of audiobooks fills a need for librarians. "Our customers started asking us if we could help them discover audiobooks the same way that we were doing for print titles, and this release addresses this need."

NoveList Plus users will start receiving audiobook recommendations automatically as part of the spring release.

Michele Cobb, president of the Audio Publishers Association (APA), told *Hotline* that the APA "is pleased to see this project come to fruition, as it pays close attention to the wonders and subtleties of audiobook narration and production, which set the audio format apart. We look forward to librarians incorporating this into their "listeners" advisory as they help guide their patrons in making exciting listening choices."

RA expert Neal Wyatt lauds the enterprise as well. She explains that "one of the challenges of providing whole collection readers' advisory service is the ability to translate the skills librar-

ians have developed with print books to other media." In addition, she said, "NoveList has taken a huge step forward in helping librarians make audiobook suggestions and find listen-alikes by including appeal language specifically designed for audiobooks and providing multiple audio reviews as well."

## Brooklyn Teachers Protest Common Core

On May 1, teachers at the International High School in Brooklyn's Prospect Heights (IHSPH) gathered on the school's steps to announce that 30 teachers and staff refused to administer the English Language Arts (ELA) Performance Assessment exam to their students, of whom about 95 percent are English-language learners (ELLs).

Thirty-five percent of the school's students are classified as students with interrupted formal education (SIFE), meaning they have missed more than one year of school. More than 50 percent of the parents at IHSPH have chosen to opt their children out of the test.

In October, ninth and tenth grade students at IHSPH were given a pre-assessment. Most of these students have come directly from another country, with very little English-language background, and for many students, this exam was their first experience taking a standardized test in the United States. According to a May 1 press release from IHSPH, "The test was constructed and formatted without any thought for the 14 percent of New York City students for whom English is not their first language." The press release goes on to state, "the test was a traumatic and demoralizing experience for students."

The IHSPH teachers have signed a letter to New York City Schools Carmen Fariña asking her to reconsider the use of the Common Core's English-language test with ELLs. They have also put together a website asking for support.

Also at stake is big business. In 2010, Pearson received a five-year contract for \$32 million with the New York State Department of Education to develop English-language arts and math assessments for grades three to eight. In 2012, the company apologized for presenting such poor questions that schools had to discount them before rescoring the exams.

This is the second year that the assessments in New York are based on the Common Core Learning Standards, adopted by 44 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia. Since the implementation of the exam, educators and parents across New York State have expressed objection to the ELA.

Schools, teachers, and parents have been taking this issue seriously, as the results of this high-stakes test have considerable influence on student promotions to desirable middle

schools as well as the tests' weight in teacher evaluations.

In early April, Fariña announced a change in regulation for New York City's school system that will establish a new promotion policy in grades three through eight to reduce the importance of standardized test scores in deciding if a student should repeat a grade. However, the test continues to face questions over the validity of its material.

Also in April, at the highly selective P.S. 321 in Brooklyn's Park Slope area, parents, students, and teachers rallied outside to protest the controversial test. Although P.S. 321 performed among the top 25 schools in New York State in the test last year, teachers and parents still express concern over the ambiguity of the exam questions. They also complain that a "gag order" on the test questions prevents the transparency necessary to address the problem.

"We all want to be assessed, but a good assessment should be able to give you actionable information," said Alex Messer, a fourth grade teacher at P.S. 321. "With these tests, teachers do not get the results until the following year, when we no longer have the students. We do not receive a breakdown. No one ever sees the test results that can help the students."

Teachers and parents are hoping for more attention from the state level to provide more transparency on the exam material better to address the problem.

"We all wish we could go into more detail, but there is a gag order on teachers," Messer told *Hotline*. "We're not allowed to share specific details on the questions and passages. We will lose our jobs if we did. This is part of the problem,"

This year, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, wrote a letter to Pearson PLC to ask for the removal of the silencing clause in the contract between the publishing giant and New York State.

## News in Brief

**OverDrive** has partnered with Japanese publisher aggregator **MediaDo** to form **OverDrive Japan**. The deal will distribute Japanese content through the OverDrive network to libraries and schools worldwide.

**Kansas City Public Library (KCPL)**, MO, received the 2014 Award for Excellence in Public History from the **Society of Civil War Historians** for its Civil War on the Western Border website. The site provides public awareness and understanding of the Civil War era.

**Johns Hopkins University's Arthur Friedheim Library and Archives**, Baltimore, acquired a music collection from organist **Donald Sutherland** and his wife, soprano **Phyllis Bryn-Julson**. It includes nearly 900 books about music and more than 12,000 pages of sheet music and scores.

**Publisher Adam Matthew** has partnered with the **Church Mission Society** to digitize

the latter's periodicals spanning from 1841 to 2009. They will be published in two modules, due in 2015 and 2016.

The **Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS)**, Poughkeepsie, NY, selected **Innovative Interfaces' Encore Duet** for single searches of local books and digital collections. MHLS is comprised of 66 libraries.

**Backstage Library Works** completed its digitization project of the **University of California, Berkeley, Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study Digital Archive**. The collection includes 100,000 original manuscript items.

**Columbia University's Rare Book & Manuscript Library**, New York, received the archive of independent publisher **Hanging Loose Press**. It includes production files, meeting notes, and records of the acquisition process.

Send News Briefs to [LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com](mailto:LJHotline@mediasourceinc.com)