

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: *Why is Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh pursuing a capital campaign at this time?*

A: Quite simply, the capital improvement needs of our buildings can no longer be ignored. We began the process of revitalizing the Library system in 2000 to ensure that our locations were accessible and addressed the needs of the information age and changing neighborhoods. Some of our buildings have never been renovated since their construction in the 19th century. Some are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some are not climate controlled, which not only affects customer and staff comfort but also the stability of the collections.

Q: *Why a capital campaign? Didn't Andrew Carnegie provide money for ongoing library operations?*

A: Andrew Carnegie believed that the library was essential to community growth. He expected the community to fund its operations as an outward commitment to democratic principles and equal opportunity for all. Carnegie provided the seed money to build the Library, but did not endow its operation.

Q: *Since Andrew Carnegie did not provide an endowment, where does CLP get its operating and capital funding?*

A: For most of its history, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's revenue has consisted of grants from the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In 1994, with the creation of the Allegheny Regional Asset District (ARAD), the city of Pittsburgh reduced its funding to \$40,000 annually. This is the same amount Andrew Carnegie required from the city in 1895 in exchange for building the library. ARAD is now the major source of annual operating funds for the library. However, ARAD, which was created to fund regional assets in Allegheny County, was not set up to provide capital support. Thus, CLP was left without the source of capital and maintenance funds previously provided by the City of Pittsburgh. Another blow came in 2003, when the state slashed library budgets by 50%. While some funding has been restored, the new state appropriation will support operations but not major capital renovations.

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