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NPL OPENS BRAND NEW BRANCH LIBRARY IN DONELSON; INVITES EVERYONE TO CELEBRATE ON JUNE 24



New 24,000 Square Foot Library Brings More Books, More Resources and More Value to Donelson Community

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Mayor Freddie O'Connell and other community leaders will join Nashville Public Library on June 24 to open a brand new Donelson Branch Library.

To learn more about the New Donelson Library and make plans for opening day – [visit the library's website](#).

The daylong family-friendly festivities are free and open to everyone and begin with a 9:30 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Library's iconic Puppet Truck will be there for a performance of "Aesop's Fables." Meanwhile, NPL will also host Story Time with the Nashville Symphony, a performance by the Nashville Irish Step Dancers and a special Starry Night Story Time.

"The new Donelson Branch Library represents years of collaboration and hard work, inside and outside of Metro. Building a library facility is an opportunity to celebrate the joy of reading and learning and to bring a community together. We hope our customers will come to regard it as one of the staples of the Donelson community," Interim Library Director Terri Luke said.

"I am excited about what the opening of this library means for the Donelson community," Mayor Freddie O'Connell said. "Libraries bring neighbors together, offer a place for families to learn and explore, and I know this great new facility will offer critical services that ensure Donelson remains a place people love to call home. I'm grateful to Director Luke and all the Metro employees whose collaboration made this such a success."

"Our new Donelson Branch Library will benefit countless individuals for generations to come. I'm incredibly grateful for the many dedicated hands and minds that brought this extraordinary library to life," Council Member for District 15 Jeff Gregg said. "This state-of-the-art facility will be a beacon of knowledge, inspiration, and community connection. From its expansive collection of books and digital resources to its vibrant programs and events, the Donelson Branch Library is poised to become a cherished cornerstone of our community."

The new building measures more than 24,000 square feet on two floors, and is home to nearly 30,000 books and other materials, three program spaces, six study rooms, electric car charging stations, an outdoor hydration station for pets and humans, a mobile kitchen on wheels and more.

In partnership with Metro's Department of General Services, NPL has prioritized making the new branch an eco-friendlier space. The building will achieve LEED Gold-

certification, and has rooftop solar panels with 33.3 kW capacity; a geo-exchange system for more efficient heating and cooling; and a third-acre of open green space at its front door.

“We are thrilled to have led on this state-of-the art facility for the community to gather, learn, and connect. Kudos to everyone who has partnered in getting us to where we are today – opening the book on a fabulous new chapter in Metro’s library collection,” General Services Director Gerald C. Smith, Sr. said

Additionally, [Metro’s Socket program](#) will take visitors through an interactive exploration of all the new branch’s sustainability features.

The new space also features exterior and interior public artwork commissioned by the Metro Nashville Arts Commission. A citizen panel of Donelson area residents and community members selected artist team Wowhaus, comprised of Scott Constable and Ene Osteras-Constable, [to design and install imaginative outdoor artwork](#). In response to community feedback, their work serves as accessible seating for those enjoying the common area. The work, titled “Reverie”, is a series of unique sculptures carved from Tennessee marble. For the interior work, the panel selected local artist Amber Lelli. [Lelli’s work is a stunning twenty-eight-foot-long suspended sculpture](#), ‘Celestial Falls’, featuring flora and fauna found in the Donelson area.

“‘Reverie,’ by Wowhaus, and ‘Celestial Falls’, by Amber Lelli, represent the culmination of years of craftsmanship, community engagement, and skill by these dedicated artists. They are a welcome addition to the Nashville Public Art Collection, and we are proud to know they will be part of the creative spirit of the Donelson Library and community,” Metro Arts Interim Executive Director Dr. Paulette Coleman said.

Additionally, in partnership with Metro Arts, Donelson is soon to be one of five new locations to host the expanded [Metro Arts Lending Library Collection](#). The Collection, launched in 2021, allows anyone with a library card to check out original works of art for three months at a time. The most recent 53 additions to the Lending Library Collection will be on display at the Downtown Branch mezzanine gallery later this summer, before being distributed across five new branches: Donelson, Green Hills, Hermitage, East Nashville, and Old Hickory.

These works were funded through Metro Nashville’s Percent for Public Art Fund, established in 2000 under Mayor Bill Purcell. This fund allocates one percent of funding for designated projects in the Metro Capital Improvements Budget toward the commission of artworks in the Metro Public Art Collection To read more about the public art at the Donelson Branch Library, visit Metro Arts’ website.

The new branch – in partnership with the Davidson County Clerk – also features a vehicle registration renewal kiosk, the fifth NPL location to offer the service.

HASTINGS Architecture — which served as the primary designer of the new branch — took inspiration from the mid-century character of the surrounding Donelson community, with cues from iconic “atomic age” motifs and graphic design.

Messer Construction Co. served as the primary contractor for construction, using more than 1,655 cubic yards of concrete and 329 tons of steel to complete the project.

About Nashville Public Library

With more than 2 million books, movies and music items to choose from — plus great programming and resources to improve early and adult literacy, STEAM, ESL and other key skills — NPL is Nashville’s gateway to some of the best resources our city has to offer. Every year, across our 21-location system, thousands of visitors discover how our library lives up to our philosophy: at NPL, books are only half the story.



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