STATE OF THE LIBRARY
MY OWN STORY
of the power of positive learning
TALE OF TWO CITIES

BOOK THE FIRST. RECALLED TO LIFE

CHAPTER 1

THE PERIOD

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the season of incredulity, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had all the ages in the best of all possible worlds.
NEVER MORE RELEVANT

- A connected set of multipurpose community hubs
- 28,000 yearly workshops and programs
- Helping people get online, find jobs, start businesses, and foster literacy skills
- Providing access to vital health information and government services
NEVER MORE AT RISK

- Stagnant public funding
- Relentless cutbacks and closings
- Aging infrastructure
- Complex governing structure
- Soaring demand from the communities
- Competitive philanthropic landscape
WE ARE OPEN

to new thinking
to roles and responsibilities
to new innovations
to new possibilities
to new partnerships
OUR STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

PURPOSE

PLACE

PEOPLE

PRIORITIES

PARTNERSHIPS
1 PURPOSE
February 11, 1895

The purpose for which the corporation is formed, is to establish and maintain for the use of the People of Philadelphia, a general library which shall be free to all.
OUR HIGHER CALLING

To build an enlightened community devoted to lifelong learning.

Advancing Literacy
Guiding Learning
Inspiring Curiosity
2 PLACE
DISCOVERING AND DEVELOPING NEW WAYS TO LEARN
3 PEOPLE
OUR STAFF

SHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
OUR STAFF

FROM ENFORCER TO ENTREPRENEUR
FROM CATALOGER TO CO-CREATOR
FROM HELP DESK TO HIGH-TECH
FROM SHHHHHH TO WHOOOSHHHH
OUR CUSTOMERS
OUR DONORS
4 PRIORITIES
PRIORITIES

- FAMILY LITERACY
- ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
- ACCESS
- CAREER SUPPORT
- CIVIC DIALOGUE
By age 3, children in low-income families hear roughly 30 MILLION FEWER WORDS than their peers.
PRIORITIES

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING

PRIORITIES
15% of surveyed BRIC users started a small business.
17% grew one!

32% of job seekers got a new job with the help of our programs and resources.
5 PARTNERSHIPS
WE ARE OPEN
FOR NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH

- The City
- Students
- Visionaries
- Entrepreneurs
- Innovators
- Game Changers
- Millennials
- Corporations
- Leaders
- Job Seekers
- Families
- Foundations
- Educators
- Seniors
- Advocates
- Individuals
AND OUR STORY IS JUST BEGINNING