



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Eileen Force Cahill
(414) 793-4543
eforce@milwaukee.gov

Milwaukee Public Library Unveils New Good Hope Branch

MILWAUKEE (July 29, 2020) – Milwaukee Public Library Director Paula A. Kiely and Mayor Tom Barrett were joined by elected officials and MPL Board of Trustees members to open the newest Milwaukee Public Library at 7715 West Good Hope Road on Milwaukee’s Northwest Side. The branch is a \$6.35 million investment in the neighborhood and replaces the former Mill Road Branch Library. At 18,400 square feet, the Good Hope Branch Library is the third largest branch in the system, following Mitchell Street Branch at 23,000 square feet and Washington Park at 20,000 square feet.

The branch opening was delayed due to COVID-19 and opens under capacity restrictions and with safety measures enacted, including a mask requirement and mandatory social distancing. As such, some typical library activities, such as browsing the collection, are unavailable. Patrons are invited to access the Wi-Fi and computer stations, use copy, printing and scanning services, pick up materials holds, and limited reference services are available.

“It is exciting to finally be able to open the doors of our newest jewel, the Good Hope branch,” said Paula Kiely. “We have been anxious to return library service to patrons in this community, and in such a technologically advanced, bright and beautiful space. Even with restrictions imposed in the current COVID environment, Good Hope will absolutely be an anchor institution in this dynamic neighborhood.”

Along with separate areas for teenagers and younger children, the new library includes an 80-seat community room, financed with a gift from Pick ‘N Save and a fireplace that was a gift from Scott R. and Linda M. Haag. There is also a makerspace where patrons can work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment and knowledge. The makerspace was designed to build skills critical to in-demand industries such as advanced manufacturing by providing access to specialized equipment including a 3D printer, laser cutter, and CAD software as well as photography, video and recording equipment and related industry standard software.

“This is not your grandma’s library, this is a place where we can put our democracy into action, put racial justice into action,” said Mayor Barrett. “This is a place where we can create opportunities for all people – of all races, of all incomes, of all genders. This is our moral obligation as a city. I’m proud of all the team members who worked together to have this vision and make this a reality. The Good Hope branch library has been a long time coming, but it will be an enduring amenity for this neighborhood and our city.”

-continued-

MPL Good Hope Branch Library Opening

July 29, 2020

page two

The new library is part of a \$19 million development project from Royal Capital Group and Maures Development Group that includes the 65-unit Fortitude Apartments on its three upper floors. The Good Hope branch library cost \$6.35 million. Financing for the project came in part from federal affordable housing tax credits, which are awarded through an annual competitive process to developers who must provide 85% of the apartments at below-market rates to people earning generally no more than 60% of the area's median income.

The Good Hope Branch Library joins previous library projects that were financed similarly, including Villard Square, East, and Mitchell Street. The Good Hope project team members include NorthTrack Construction and Engberg Anderson Architects on the overall building, and Zimmerman Architectural Studios and Platt Construction, Inc. on the library portion.

###

About the Milwaukee Public Library

Milwaukee Public Library is an anchor institution that helps build healthy families and vibrant neighborhoods – the foundation of a strong Milwaukee. Since 1878, Milwaukee Public Library has been a free provider of education and information for residents of Milwaukee and beyond. With 14 locations, and nearly three million items in circulation, MPL offers free access to a rich collection of materials both physical and digital, access to technology, classes, exhibitions, programming and more. From toddlers to scholars, MPL serves more than one million patrons who come through its doors annually and many more around the globe who use its resources at www.mpl.org. To offer this wide array of free programming, MPL relies on both public and private funding. Learn more about how to support Milwaukee Public Library at mpl.org/support.