

**CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH
SQUIRREL HILL**

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It's still possible to be a cockeyed optimist these days - you just have to be a little more cockeyed. Robert Brault

January 2012

Among Friends

Volume VI, No. 1

Nationwide Search for Next Library Director Ends

Deputy Director Since 2008
Chosen Over 40 Candidates



Respected Library Professional
Uniquely Qualified for CLP

On December 13, the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh unanimously and enthusiastically chose Mary Frances Cooper, MLS, as the 11th Director in the 116-year history of the Library. She will assume her new post as President and Director on January 1, 2012.

During the search for its new President and Director, the Library was assisted by a national executive search firm, which networked with more than 375 professionals representing the library and business communities. A 12-person committee, comprising Library trustees and staff, recommended Ms. Cooper's selection to the full board after a comprehensive process that included conversations with staff, Friends Groups and stakeholders, the review of more than 40 formal applicants, reference and credential evaluations and an extensive interview process.

Lou Testoni, Chair of the Library's Board of Trustees, said Ms. Cooper "will help catapult Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh into the next chapter of its history... as we begin to plan strategically for the future" and the increasingly important role of libraries in society.

For many more exciting details, see the entire press release at www.clp/about/pressroom/2011/NewDirectorMFCooper.pdf.

After two Directors from "outside", the Pittsburgh libraries will again be led by a librarian. Ms. Cooper has worked in all facets of library service, with experience in the operations of urban public libraries including New York, NY; Minneapolis, MN; and Louisville, KY. At CLP she oversees Main and Neighborhood Library Services, Youth Services, Teen Services, and Volunteer Services. She has also served as President of the Electronic Information Network (EIN) board, guiding improvements in library technology services throughout the county.

"This is a very exciting time for public libraries and for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh," said Ms. Cooper. "Libraries around the country are re-thinking services based upon the increasing role of technology and ever-evolving work and community environments. At the same time the people have not changed fundamentally; children still need story time and summer reading programs, teens need reading material to help them understand themselves and their world, and adults need assistance with everything from basic job search strategies to sophisticated research. I understand and embrace the challenge of balancing all these competing forces in order to best serve the people of Pittsburgh."

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