Public Libraries Are Essential Partners for Achieving City Development Goals

Mayors across the U.S. are working closely with public libraries to enhance infrastructure, promote innovation and foster greater inclusion in their cities. Below are just a few examples of how these powerful and creative partnerships between libraries and local government are transforming American cities!

Mayor Martin Walsh has worked with Boston Public Library and the city’s Department of Neighborhood Development to establish resources for the city’s homeless population at the library, including the hiring of a full-time outreach manager.

Richland Library supports Mayor Stephen Benjamin’s focus on developing the local entrepreneurial ecosystem by providing resources and guidance to people who are interested in converting their artistic skills and interests into microbusinesses.

Mayor Warren Lovely has worked with Rochester Public Library and other local partners to improve education outcomes for the city’s youth by enhancing preschool learning programs, distributing free books and growing summer learning programs at the library.

“More and more of our children are reading at grade level. It takes a village, and it’s really about ensuring that that village is strong.”

Mayor Warren Lovely
Rochester, N.Y.

“Small and minority-owned businesses contribute immensely to our city, and they play an integral role in economic development and job creation.”

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin
Columbia, S.C.

“The investment in this newly created [outreach] position and these efforts ... directly support the BPL’s mission of serving everyone.”

Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Boston