



NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY NAMES TERRI LUKE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Luke Brings Five Decades of Experience to the Role,
Will Advance Strategic Initiatives She Launched as Interim Director

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Public Library’s (NPL) Board of Directors today named Terri Luke Library Director, ushering in NPL’s next chapter of reading, literacy and community building for everyone in Davidson County.

Luke has 50 years of library experience, including nearly three years as NPL’s Interim Director.

Under her leadership, NPL has [grown its community footprint](#); expanded award-winning initiatives in [school library engagement](#) and [youth leadership and development](#); achieved increases in borrowing and other library services; and launched an [unprecedented plan](#) to prepare every child in Nashville for kindergarten reading readiness.

As Assistant Director for Branch Services, Luke led [NPL’s 20 branches](#) to offer curbside service and launch virtual programming, [Book A Librarian](#) and [Library Concierge](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to NPL, Luke served for 31 years at [Wake County Public Libraries](#) in North Carolina, first as a regional manager and then as a senior leader for facilities and security.

“This is an incredible, joyful day for Nashville Public Library and Nashville,” said Joyce Searcy, Library Board Chair. “NPL has built great momentum under Terri’s

leadership as Interim Director. Her constant dedication and lifelong passion for libraries have united and energized people across Davidson County.”

“Terri is a proven, transformational leader. She leans into changes and challenges to keep NPL at the forefront of public service,” Searcy added. “She has already helped create a bright future for NPL and will move us into that future.”

“Leading Nashville Public Library has been the honor of a lifetime,” Luke said. “NPL represents the best of what public libraries are: a place where everyone is welcome to read and learn, be inspired and connect with one another.”

“Every day I am inspired by the customers, staff, volunteers and library supporters who care so deeply for NPL,” Luke added. “I am thrilled to continue leading the entire Library team and collaborating with partners across Davidson County to achieve great things in the community together.”

NPL’s Director manages more than 400 employees at 21 locations and a \$46 million budget funded by Metro Nashville Government, with additional private dollars given through the [Nashville Public Library Foundation](#).

Some of Luke’s immediate priorities include moving forward with a first-ever strategic Continuous Improvement Plan for NPL and a citywide customer service effort to improve library services — both initiatives she began as Interim Director — as well as continuing the design and development of new branches at Hadley Park and Richland Park.

Home to a free collection of [more than 2 million books and materials](#), NPL also offers award-winning programs in [early literacy](#), [adult literacy](#), [school library engagement](#), [out-of-school learning](#), [health and wellness](#), [digital literacy and inclusion](#), [21st-century workforce training](#) and [literacy-based puppetry performing arts](#) — all at no charge to residents and families.

Last fiscal year, NPL’s customers borrowed more than 6 million items from the collection and made more than 2.7 million visits.

[More About Luke’s Leadership](#)

Budget

In FY24 and FY25, NPL secured more than \$5 million for the Library collection, more than \$20 million for facilities projects — including design and development of new branches at [Hadley Park](#) and [Richland Park](#) — and more than \$92 million to:

- close the children's literacy gap in neighborhoods surrounding NPL's eight smallest locations, with two traveling children's librarians
- grow NPL's [Limitless Libraries](#) lending partnership with Metro Nashville Public Schools
- offer even more free, quality out-of-school experiences through the [Nashville After Zone Alliance](#)
- hire the team at the [new Donelson branch](#)

Customer Service

As Interim Director, Luke helped secure funding to serve customers in any language in person and in Nashville's six most-spoken languages beyond English [online](#).

As Assistant Director for Branch Services, Luke:

- oversaw the design and development of the [new Donelson branch](#)
- launched [NPL Means Business](#) for local small businesses and entrepreneurs
- launched the [Art Lending Library partnership](#) with Metro Nashville Arts
- added branch staff to take programs and resources beyond the library and further into the community

Luke's Early Career

As Senior Manager for Facilities and Security at Wake County Public Libraries, Luke led building projects for seven new branches and the renovation of 12 others.

Prior, she managed staff, facilities, budget and programs at six locations.

Luke holds a Master of Science in Library Services from North Texas State University and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Youngstown State University in Ohio.

She is trained in facilitative leadership, team building and effective management.

Luke has also completed other specialized training that includes Zingerman's Customer Service, Civil Rights and Civil Society and Fostering an Anti-Racist Library Culture.

About Nashville Public Library

With more than two 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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