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Historic Shawnee Library ready to re-open after major expansion, renovation project

Grand Opening Celebration this Saturday, September 10, 11a.m.

Louisville, Ky. (September 6, 2011) – The Shawnee Library, located at 3912 West Broadway, celebrates the re-opening of its doors to the community Saturday, September 10, after 8 months of renovations. The \$1.3 million project included a 6,000 square foot expansion, as well as extensive restoration of the original library structure - built in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during the Great Depression.

“The new Shawnee Library is a valuable investment in the lifelong learning of this community,” said Mayor Greg Fischer. “It’s exciting to bring together the old and the new, to provide a library for the next seventy-five years.”

The new light-filled addition at the back of the facility provides a comfortable reading area for adults, study rooms, twenty additional public computers and a larger book collection. The original 7,000-square-foot historic building has been transformed to showcase a large children’s area and a teen space, with plenty of room for kids to study and read. The entire project artfully combines the historic with the modern, creating a new, open floor-plan.

“Our goal is to support the children and families in this neighborhood with state-of-the-art library resources that will supplement their schoolwork and provide constructive after-school opportunities,” said Library Director Craig Buthod. “That’s exactly what the new Shawnee Library delivers.”

The expansion and renovation of the Shawnee Library was funded through a federal Community Development Block Grant. In addition, the Library Foundation has provided new books, furniture, and technology, thanks to the generosity of donors, including The James Graham Brown Foundation, The C. E. & S. Foundation, The Gheens Foundation, and The Humana Foundation.

Come celebrate the grand opening with Mayor Fischer and the community on Saturday, September 10, at 11 a.m. There will be tours of the library, refreshments, and fun activities for the whole family. At 12:30, Blaine Hudson, Merv Aubespain, and Ken Clay, will discuss their book *Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History*. Then at 2 p.m., children and families are invited to a special “International Family Storytime” featuring the tales of Hans Christian Andersen and some Danish Pancakes. For more information, please visit LFPL.org or call 574-1611.

Louisville Free Public Library connects the residents of Louisville and Jefferson County to knowledge and information at our 18 locations and on the Web at www.lfpl.org. Come on in, the whole world’s inside.