

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Mayor Fischer, library staff celebrate Main Library 1969 addition with opening of time capsule

**LOUISVILLE (September 24, 2019)** – Today, Mayor Greg Fischer joined Library Director Lee Burchfield in commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the north addition of the Main Library with the unsealing of a time capsule that was placed at the dedication in 1969 by library and civic leaders. The time capsule contained local newspapers and library documents, as well as a hand-lettered scroll signed by invitees to the dedication. Current members of the library staff then joined Mayor Fischer in adding their own items to the time capsule to hopefully be opened by library and civic leaders in another 50 years.

“The Main Library has been a hub for lifelong learning for 50 years—a place that has helped educate and inform generations of Louisvillians,” said Mayor Fischer. “This anniversary is a moment to reflect on the Main Library’s history and look to its future.”

The contemporary north building of the Main Library was designed by Louis and Henry Architects of Louisville and opened on September 2, 1969. The new addition—paid for by a bond issue approved by voters—nearly tripled the space of the Main Library, increasing the building’s size to 169,000 square feet. Architects raved about the addition’s design and voted it one of the best of the year in Kentucky. It continues to be recognized today as one of Louisville’s finest examples of Brutalist architecture.

During its fifty years, the north building has survived both fire (1999) and flood (2009), as well as played host to authors, journalists, musicians, movie stars, and cultural icons. Notable guests include: Cokie Roberts, August Wilson, Gloria Vanderbilt, Loudon Wainwright III, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Bob Schieffer, Lee Child, Peter Bogdanovich, and countless more.

“When the addition to the Main Library opened in 1969 it was a state-of-the-art facility that offered expanded services and collections to a growing city,” said Library Director Burchfield. “As we look back and appreciate the vision and commitment made by City leaders then, we are inspired to renew our commitment to the Main Library and recommit to doing what is needed to make it a facility that serves the community well for another 50 years.”

In addition to opening the time capsule, Mayor Fischer recognized longtime Louisville Free Public Library employee David Martin for his 50 years of continuous service. Martin, a library page, began his career at LFPL on September 25, 1969.

### If You Visit

The Main Library hours are: Sunday: 1–5 p.m., Monday–Thursday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m. The Main Library hosts a variety of free programs, classes, and events every month for

adults and youth including weekly storytimes. It is also home to LFPL's Kentucky History and Genealogy Collection. For more information, including upcoming program dates and times, visit [LFPL.org](http://LFPL.org).