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Mayor Greenberg announces national architecture award for Parkland Library

South Central Regional and Northeast Regional libraries previously received same honor

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (October 21, 2026) - Mayor Craig Greenberg and the Louisville Free Public Library announced today that Parkland Library has won the 2026 American Architecture Awards.

On February 27, 2025, Mayor Greenberg and LFPL reopened the historic Parkland Library after the branch had been closed for nearly 40 years. The building is one of the Metro's nine original Carnegie Libraries built in the early 20th century. The recent renovations revived and renovated Parkland to serve modern library patrons.

"Reopening this library to the community strengthened the neighborhood, and patrons have already visited the branch more than 75,000 times," said Mayor Greenberg. "When we started renovations, the guidance I provided was to maintain the historical architecture of the building while adding modern features that meet the needs of community members."

"Throughout the Parkland Library restoration project, designers were mindful to preserve the history of Parkland and the spirit of the community," said Heather Lowe, executive director of LFPL. "When you walk through its doors today, you can still feel what it might have been like to visit in 1908, but now with an understanding of evolving library patrons and accessibility needs."

The American Architecture Awards note major cosmetic improvements as well as structural fixes to problems both old and new.

"The rehabilitation and addition return the building to its originally intended function, with a deferential, sculptural addition that resolves accessibility and supports contemporary library services," states the American Architecture Awards.

This award-winning redesign has been a decade in the making. In 2016, community voices began calling for the return of library services to Parkland. In 2025, the dream of reopening the library finally became a reality, thanks to a $6.6 million investment from Mayor Greenberg's budget and generous donors to the Library Foundation.

The fully accessible library offers books, technology, public meeting rooms, a makerspace, and free programming for all ages.

Every year, the American Architecture Awards recognize “the most significant new contemporary architecture” in the country. Previously, South Central Regional Library and Northeast Regional Library have won the same award.

The public is invited to celebrate Parkland Library and everything it stands for at Parkland Library’s Timeless Block Party, Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. All are welcome to come out and enjoy food, entertainment, vendors, activities and more.

For more information about the history of the Parkland Library, visit www.lfpl.org/parkland1. For more details on the American Architecture Awards Parkland Library win, visit https://www.americanarchitectureawards.com/project/65870.