



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Celebrates 60 Years of our Central Library** *A Midcentury Monument to Buffalo's Spirit of Knowledge and Community*

**BUFFALO, N.Y. – October 3, 2024** – In 1964, a new chapter in Buffalo's story unfolded with the opening of the Central Library: a striking midcentury marvel that brought together three local libraries under one roof. This October, the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library proudly celebrates the 60th anniversary of this iconic institution—a testament to the city's enduring love for knowledge, community, and intellectual freedom. The Central Library was designed by James W. Kideney & Associates, now Kideney Architects.

Standing at the heart of downtown Buffalo – a bookend to City Hall – the Central Library has not only housed millions of books and media, but also nurtured generations hungry to learn, grow, and innovate. As we reflect on six decades of its service, we invite the community to join us in celebrating this living symbol of Buffalo's vibrant past, present, and future.

Two signature events will mark the occasion:

- **Wednesday, October 16, 5-7 PM:** A special toast to the Central Library, and fundraiser in support of the Library's *Bucks for Books* program, at Big Ditch Brewing Company. Tickets are available [here](#). Media passes provided as requested.
- **Friday, October 18, 3-5 PM:** A free, public celebration at the Central Library, where history will come alive with displays, activities, and stories honoring the Library's role in shaping Buffalo's cultural landscape.

**Library Director John Spears** reflects on the occasion: "We celebrate the Central Library's 60 years of service, and honor the entire Library System with the same vigor and pride. It represents the soul of our community and the intellectual engine of 'what's next.'"

This celebration is not just about honoring the past—it's a call to the future. As the Library continues to evolve, offering programs ranging from digital literacy workshops, job fairs, health and wellness programming – to recording studio to podcast studios and 3D printing – it remains a dynamic hub for all who seek knowledge and connection.

**Spears** continued: "As the oldest cultural institution in Buffalo, we want to highlight what this building and our tradition have meant and share our excitement for what we have planned in the coming years."

In tribute to its rich legacy, the Library will showcase rare photos, advertisements, and memorabilia from its opening, offering a unique glimpse into its remarkable journey.

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