



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Isaías González-Soto Branch Library Reopening December 9

Building Renovations Completed, Marking a New Chapter for this Historic Community Institution

Media Kit of Photos Found Here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/buffalolibrary/albums/72177720322107087>

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The Isaías González-Soto Branch Library, a vital community hub on Buffalo’s Lower West Side, will officially reopen to the public on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. following the completion of a transformative Phase 2 renovation project. Located at 280 Porter Avenue, the library has undergone extensive upgrades to enhance accessibility, modernize facilities, and better serve the community.

The \$2.5 million renovation project, funded through New York State Library Construction Aid, the City of Buffalo, and the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System, marks a new chapter for this historic community institution.

Highlights of the renovations include:

- Restroom upgrades to meet modern accessibility standards.
- Installation of a handicap lift to the lower-level stage, improving inclusivity.
- Restoration of the parking lot and repair of exterior sidewalks.
- Updated sanitary/storm piping and enhanced lighting.
- New electrical and data outlets to support 21st century technology needs.
- Refurbished shelving and other facility improvements.

“This renovation honors the legacy of Isaías González-Soto, a beloved leader who dedicated his life to uplifting Buffalo’s Puerto Rican community,” said **John Spears, Director of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library**. “It is now better equipped to serve as a gathering place, resource hub, and cultural beacon for generations to come.”

A community celebration to mark the library’s reopening is being planned for early 2025.

Library hours beginning December 9, 2024:

Monday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Tuesday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Wednesday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday & Sunday - Closed

Formerly known as the Niagara Branch, the Library was renamed in 2018 to honor Isaias González-Soto, a World War II veteran and founding father of Buffalo's Puerto Rican community. The library stands as a tribute to his tireless efforts to support newly-arrived Puerto Ricans with housing, jobs, food, and legal assistance.

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