

## RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY

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The Ralph Ellison Library is located in one of Oklahoma's historically Black neighborhoods. The library serves as a community center for an economically depressed, but culturally vibrant neighborhood. Customers rely on the library to find basic information about voting, taxes, tutoring, government assistance, and a variety of other fundamental needs. In addition, the library serves a dynamic population of motivated young adults, college students, business people, authors, and community leaders. Our collection and programs are geared to meet the needs of all age groups, including, children, teens, adults, and elders. Our Black History Collection highlights the achievements of Black Americans in politics, business, social activism, literature, and the arts, and also provides a rich history of the Black struggle in America from slavery to present.



### Ralph Ellison Library

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**Metropolitan  
Library  
System**

## RALPH ELLISON LIBRARY

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### 2012-2013 Service Plan



When I step into this library, I cannot understand why I ever step out of it.—**Marie de Seigne**

**YOUR INVITING, INNOVATIVE  
LINK TO THE WORLD**

405-424-1437

# Our Focus

**Goal:** Residents see their library as a resource for introductions to an assortment of cultural, civic and/or community interests.



## Executive Summary:

The Ralph Ellison Library Service Plan is designed to meet the Metropolitan Library System's Strategic Plan objectives. As the manager, I am committed to the goal of making a resource for introductions to an assortment of cultural, civic and/or community interest. In order to meet these objectives, we pledge to put our customer's needs and interests first. In the following pages, the reader will find a detailed analysis of the library, our community, and the many challenges that we face. Working with and in the community, we have seen these cooperative efforts produce many successes.

As part of the Metropolitan Library System and its mission for Oklahoma City, the Ralph Ellison Library values its customers and community, and strives to provide excellent and unforgettable service. In the end, we strive to make Ralph Ellison Library a safe and welcoming place for the entire community.

## Community Profile

### >A History of Activism

Northeast Oklahoma City is a historically Black neighborhood with a rich history of political and social activism. Trailblazers like Roscoe Dunjee helped pave the way for Black Americans in Oklahoma by fighting against racial segregation in the early part of the twentieth century. He was also the founder of the Black Dispatch, the Oklahoma City chapter of the NAACP, and served as president of the National Negro Business League. The historic Deep Deuce community served as a center for Black culture and commerce in the 1930's and 40's, though much of the area was bulldozed in the 1960's to make way for I-235. Community activism continued into the Civil Rights era, with leaders such as Clara Luper, E. Melvin Porter and Hannah Atkins. Groups like the NAACP, Urban League and Black Muslims remain active in the community to this day.

## Library Profile

### >Librarian Assistance

Three full time librarians assist customers in



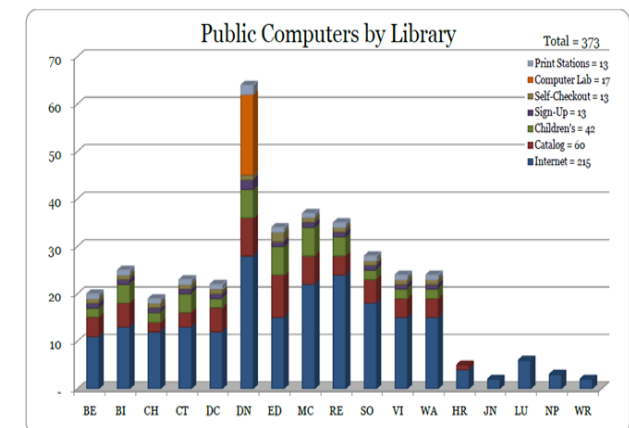
solving both routine and complex reference questions. They plan and implement dynamic programs for all



ages. They also assist in maintaining a collection of resources relevant to the community we serve.

### >Library Services

In addition to providing reference assistance, the library also offers online computer services, meeting rooms for public use, tours and instruction in use of library resources, children's play area, a public copy machine, a Job Information Center, and a College Resource area.



# Our Focus

## >Computer Services

The library provides four “CyberMars” computers offering access to the library catalog and borrower services, twenty-four multi-use computers offering Internet access and Microsoft Office software; four children’s computers with educational programs and games; free Wireless Internet access, 24/7 library services via [www.metrolibrary.org](http://www.metrolibrary.org) and one-on-one computer classes with a computer specialist.

## Partnerships

Local Storytellers  
AARP  
OUHSC  
Special Friends of the Ralph Ellison  
Local churches  
Boy Scouts of America  
Perry Publishing & Broadcasting  
OK Marriage Initiative  
Adult Learning Center  
OKC/County Health Department  
University of Central Oklahoma  
Langston University  
Sooner Fitness  
MetroTech  
OK Historical Society  
VITA  
Black Lawyers Association  
Sisters in Motion  
Oklahoma Black Author Association  
Grace Living Center  
Local Storytellers  
Oklahoma City Public Schools  
Millwood Public Schools

The Brotherhood Association  
S. A.Y.Y.E.A.H.  
5320 Initiative

## 2012-2013 Vision & Goal

**Vision:** The Ralph Ellison Library is your inviting, innovative link to the world.

**Goal:** Residents see their library as a resource for introductions to an assortment of cultural, civic and/or community interests.

### *Cultural*

- Through our strategic partnerships and displays, the staff will work to provide culturally enriching programs to our community.

Example:

-Perry Broadcasting and the annual Juneteenth Celebration  
-Black History Month displays and contests  
-BHC Collection displays  
-Art wall showcasing local artists  
-OK Historical Society and genealogy classes  
-OK Black Author Association and holding local writing workshops  
-Trip Around the World

### *Civic*

- Through our strategic partnerships and displays, the staff will work to provide civically enriching programs to our community.

Example:

-OU Health Sciences Center and a program on healthy eating  
-Bead for Life  
-Boys Scouts of America and tutoring  
-OK Marriage Initiative and relationship classes  
-Adult Learning Center and GED classes  
-Local Colleges and college chats  
-VITA and free tax services  
-Sister in Motion and exercise classes, and Legislators Day

-Community services table  
-Bulletin boards promoting library and community programs and services

### *Community*

- Through our strategic partnerships, programming and displays, the staff will work to provide community enriching opportunity to our community.

Example:

-Local story tellers and storytime  
-Local Churches being involved with already planned events  
-MetroTech and business classes  
-Girls/Boys Night for all ages  
-Documentary Club, Writing Club, musicians, Adult Game Night, and Adult Craft Night.

### 2011-2012 Service Plan

We achieved our past service plan by providing interactive programming and creating displays involving music, storytelling, arts and crafts, drama, etc. that met the needs of our customers .

Example:

-Trip Around the world  
-Girls/Boys Nights that had around 50 people attend each night, live music performances, and an after school program.





## Our Focus

