

**Program:** History: Yours and Ours

**Speaker:** Jacqueline Nytes, CEO, The Indianapolis Public Library

**Introduced by:** Daniel Yates

**Attendance:** 85

**Guests:** Natalie Nicholls, Mary Jo Gremling, Crista McIntosh, Bill Clemens, Martha Boon, Meaghan Fukunaga, Victoria Duncan

**Scribe:** William Elliott

**Editor:** Carl Warner

Today's talk was given by Jacqueline Nytes who is the CEO for the Indianapolis Public Library system. She was introduced by Dan Yates, Scientech Club member and attorney for the Scientech Club Foundation. He is also the attorney for the R. B. Annis Foundation. R. B. Annis was a philanthropic Scientech Club member who started and funded the D. J. Angus Foundation, now known as the Scientech Club Foundation. Respecting the generous donation of Barbara Storer, deceased past president of the Scientech Club and former employee of the Indianapolis Library, the Scientech Club Foundation made a donation (\$5,000/year for 5 years) to the Indianapolis Public Library system which funds a conference room honoring Barbara Storer at the Southport library branch. In return, the Library has digitized all of the prior Scientech Club newsletters. They can be viewed in searchable electronic form at <http://www.digitalindy.org/cdm/search/collection/sc> .

Ms. Nytes gave a very interesting talk about the Indianapolis Public Library system which serves the citizens of Marion County, Indiana and its largest city, Indianapolis. The library was founded in 1873 and has grown to include a Central Library building, located adjacent to the Indiana World War Memorial Plaza, and 22 branch libraries located throughout the county. The library system attracts over four million visitors each year and circulates nearly sixteen million items. The library's mission is to enrich lives and build communities through lifelong learning. Its vision is to be a center of knowledge, community life, and innovation for Indianapolis. Land for the Central Library was donated by James Whitcomb Riley.

The Central Library building was designed by architect Paul Phillippe Cret and completed in 1917 at a cost of \$510,000. A complete historic renovation and a major addition to the library was designed by Woollen, Molzan and Partners. The newly renovated Central Library building opened on December 9, 2007 ending a controversial multi-year rebuilding plan.

One of the important recent projects is the Center for Black Literature and Culture located in the R. B. Annis Reading Room, a room donated by the above mentioned R. B. Annis Foundation. A second initiative is a foreign language area scheduled to launch October 31<sup>st</sup>.

One of the best locations to view downtown Indianapolis is from the sixth floor reading room which also contains a great deal of information about the history of Indiana for all of the history buffs out there.

The Library is particularly proud of its efforts to connect the public school libraries to the Indianapolis library system. This has been particularly successful in Lawrence Township.

Keep October 7<sup>th</sup> in mind as that is the date that the Central Library will celebrate its centennial year. Many thanks to Jacqueline for her thoughtful and interesting talk.

More on the history of the public library system in Indianapolis at: <http://historicindianapolis.com/hi-mailbag-indianapolis-public-library/>



Jacqueline Nytes