What People Are Saying About the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project:

“I am pleased to join the Weinberg Foundation in celebrating the grand openings of three brand new libraries for Baltimore City public schools. Maryland has become a national model for quality public education, but in order for us to build on the progress we’ve made, we must provide the next generation with the resources they need to compete and win in the new economy. Our children hold the future in their hands, and working together, we can ensure that they have the tools they need to mold and make a better world tomorrow.”

Governor Martin O’Malley

“As a social worker and legislator, my goal has always been to make sure everyone in America has access to a first-rate education, so that no child or community is left out or left behind,” stated Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Children and Families. “That’s why I am so proud of the Weinberg Foundation for putting its values into action to build libraries, build communities, and build lives. This investment will help make sure that Baltimore’s children have access to the resources they need to succeed.”

Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Subcommittee on Children and Families

“The Weinberg Foundation has found a way to enhance federal efforts to improve school buildings that allows for a comprehensive renovation of Baltimore City Public School libraries and brings together countless other community resources and talents. By increasing their financial commitment to the Weinberg Library Project, the Foundation will enable the renovation of 12 elementary school libraries in four years, giving new excitement and educational opportunities to students, teachers, and their communities.”

U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin

“We are grateful for the Weinberg Foundation’s commitment to strengthening our neighborhoods and our schools. Our children’s success in life depends on the investments we make in their education. Building new libraries in our schools will benefit our students throughout the year, and for the rest of their lives.”

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

“City Schools is incredibly fortunate to have partners like the Weinberg Foundation – and the many other partners the foundation assembled for the Library Project. The three new libraries that are opening today give us a very real example of the learning spaces and resources that all of our students should be able to access. On behalf of City Schools, I thank the Weinberg Foundation for its sustained commitment to the success of our students; in another year, we will have the opportunity to come together again to celebrate three more library openings. School by school, and with the support of our great partners, we’ll bring Baltimore City Public Schools into the 21st century.”

Andrés A. Alonso, CEO, Baltimore City Public Schools
More Kind Words About the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project:

“These beautiful libraries send such a powerful message about the value of reading and conducting research – a particularly important message now, as literacy takes its prominent place across subject areas under new curriculum being implemented over the next two years. And the incredible partnership that made these libraries possible sends an equally important and powerful message to our students: that the whole community cares about them and is working hard to provide them with the learning spaces they deserve.”

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, Chief Academic Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools

“The Weinberg Foundation’s generous commitment to developing libraries will brighten the future for thousands of Baltimore City schoolchildren,” said Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. “It is critically important that children learn to read proficiently by third grade, and when they successfully accomplish that, they will read to learn throughout life. Having these resources will improve opportunities for them to succeed in the classroom and eventually in their careers.”

Patrick McCarthy, president and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

“I applaud the Weinberg Foundation and its trustees for this generous contribution to Baltimore’s children. Reading creates the pathway to opportunity, and with these additional funds, more students and their families will be able to continue along this path.”

Betsy Nelson, President, Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers

“With this generous gift from the Weinberg Foundation, we can accelerate the evolution of Baltimore City School libraries becoming state-of-the-art learning centers. Kirk Designs feels privileged to play a role in this collaboration among business, philanthropic, and educational communities. Through this effort, we hope to put each student on a lifetime path of discovery.”

Daniel K. Proctor, Principal of Kirk Designs, Library Project Designer

“At a time when our nation, our state, and our city is focused on the importance of improving literacy for our most at-risk populations, I am very grateful to the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation for taking the lead role in providing Baltimore City Public School students with exceptional school libraries complete with the books and resources necessary to foster a lifelong appreciation for reading and learning. The Fund for Educational Excellence is so proud to be a partner in this work.”

Roger Schulman, President and CEO, Fund for Educational Excellence

“Our experience and external data tells us that well-fed children learn better in schools. That the Weinberg Foundation has the foresight to include the Maryland Food Bank’s School Pantry Program with their Library Project speaks to their commitment for a holistic, thorough approach in building stronger minds and communities. We could not be more proud of our inclusion in this initiative.”

Deborah Flateman, President and CEO of the Maryland Food Bank

“This is awesome. When I walked up and saw this, I was blown away. This is more than I ever imagined it would be.”

Debra Brooks, Principal, Moravia Park Elementary School
Even More Kind Words About the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project:

“…it brought tears to my eyes. I started crying because you can tell as soon as you walk in, it’s a centerpiece for the school and it’s just beautiful.”

Katie Lyons, Librarian, Moravia Park Elementary School

“I’m at the end of my career and imagining the last few years of work in a state-of-the-art space was tremendously exciting. I can’t tell you the number of children who said to me as we were packing up the books, ‘Miss Becky, you’re going to love your new library.’ And that’s exactly how I feel.”

Becky Thomson, Librarian, Southwest Baltimore Charter School

“…as this project really began to gain momentum and gain steam, the dream of the Weinberg Foundation and the vision that everybody had for this library was beyond anything that I had ever imagined.”

Erika Brockman, Executive Director, Southwest Baltimore Charter School

“It's absolutely beautiful. And there are so many work spaces, books – there are books and books and books. Technology – I was not expecting this level of technology…”

Dr. Sharon Smith, Librarian, Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School

“When I saw the finished project, I was in amazement. This is beyond what I could have imagined that this library could become.”

James Dendinger, Principal, Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School

“The old library – you stayed in reality when you were reading. But with the new one, you feel comfortable enough to get lost in the books.”

Emily, 6th Grade

“The reason I like to read is to step up my level.”

Hosea, 6th Grade

“I think it's beautiful. Lots of shelving, lots of nice space, and a lot of really nice books. I got a chance to look at a few of the books. New books – always nice to see new books in the schools.”

Michael Lammison, Parent

“…so I think it's engaging for kids. It makes it a place they want to be.”

Kiragu Beauttah, Parent

“It's beautiful. We were saying how welcoming it is. It feels so warm and welcoming in here.”

Cathy Brock, Parent
Other Things You Might Want to Know:

The Weinberg Foundation has a presence in 89% of Baltimore City Public Schools through the programs the Foundation has funded in the last two years. In fact, some schools have up to seven Weinberg-funded partnerships with nonprofits.

As a result of the success of this initiative in just its first year, the Weinberg Foundation recently increased its overall financial commitment to $5 million for a total of 12 new libraries over four years.

Each new library features new equipment, books, furniture, and technology including Nooks, computers, and the “Pratt Library Parents’ Place” for parents and guardians to visit the library and share time with their child. The graphics package includes signage that welcomes students to the library in more than 50 languages.

The renovated library spaces average approximately 2,000 square feet. The total costs of all construction and programmatic activities in each library averages out to $1,000,000 per library of which the Weinberg Foundation contributes an average of $330,000 (roughly a third) for combined capital and operating costs at each site. The balance of the funding is primarily in the form of federal and local dollars.

As part of the Library Project, each school received at least 2,000 new books.

At each of the schools celebrating new libraries today, every student will be given a bookbag containing three new books to call their own, as well as a pencil pouch and Library Project coloring book.

Please follow all Weinberg Library Project developments at www.baltimorelibraryproject.org and on Twitter at #libraryproject.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Organization</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Andrew Bertamini</td>
<td>Regional President, Wells Fargo Banking Corporation</td>
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<td>Shirley Bigley-Lamotte</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore Reads, Inc.</td>
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<td>Ed Bogdan</td>
<td>Owner, Bogdan Computer Services, Inc.</td>
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<td>Jackie Carrera</td>
<td>President and CEO, Parks and People Foundation</td>
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<td>Ana Maria Castro</td>
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<td>Faith Connolly</td>
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<td>Scott Davies</td>
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<td>Bailey Fine</td>
<td>State Director, U.S. Senator Benjamin L Cardin</td>
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<td>Deborah Flateman</td>
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<td>Larry Flynn</td>
<td>Director, Facility Design and Construction, Baltimore City Public Schools</td>
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<td>Dianne Gilbert</td>
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<td>Angie Halamandaris</td>
<td>President and Co-founder, The Heart of America Foundation</td>
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<td>Arlene Hayden</td>
<td>Chief of Staff, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carla Hayden</td>
<td>CEO, Enoch Pratt Free Library</td>
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<td>Paula Isett</td>
<td>Community Outreach Specialist, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Library Development &amp; Services</td>
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<td>Marianne Kreitner</td>
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<td>Kimberly Manns</td>
<td>Deputy Director of Policy and Communications, Office of Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake</td>
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<td>Rachel Garbow Monroe</td>
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<td>Renee Mutchnick</td>
<td>Director of Marketing, The Baltimore Sun Media Group</td>
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Advisory Committee

Betsy Nelson
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Anna Powell
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Wells Fargo Banking Corporation

Dan Proctor
Principal and Owner
Kirk Designs

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Art with a Heart, Inc.

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Accounting Manager/
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Community Member

Amy Rosenkrans
Director of Humanities
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Baltimore City Public Schools

Roger Schulman
CEO and President
Fund for Educational Excellence

Barbara Shapiro
Community Member

Deb Hannon Silcox
Partnerships and Community Engagement
Baltimore City Public Schools

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Office of Governor Martin O’Malley

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Incite Creative

Tom Wilcox
President
Baltimore Community Foundation

Kate Sorestad
Program Associate
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Deborah Taylor
Coordinator, School and Student Services
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Baltimore City Public Schools

Baltimore City Public Schools is transforming itself into a district of great school options for the nearly 85,000 kids it serves. Part of this work includes promoting literacy and a lifelong love of reading—in which libraries play a crucial role. For more than a decade, City Schools has sought funding from many sources to improve school libraries. Now, as a partner in the Library Project, the district is providing guidance and academic and facilities support in the creation of new and newly renovated school libraries that will contribute to 21st-century learning and position students for success.
Website: http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Through their work with Baltimore City Schools, Kirk Design, and more than a dozen other partners, the Weinberg Foundation is taking the lead on the selection, design, and coordination of each school library project. In addition, the Weinberg Foundation is financially supporting up to 30% of the actual costs of each library (at approximately $175,000 per school) as well as provide, under a separate contract, an operating grant for two years to increase library staff support and provide additional professional development opportunities for each librarian ($50,000/year for two years). Finally, the Weinberg Foundation will maximize additional partnerships to bring added value to this initiative and ensure it is a collaborative project that inspires similar initiatives in additional schools. In doing so, the Weinberg Foundation is committed not only to building new school libraries, but also to improving student performance. In the first year of this effort, the Foundation is committed to providing up to $1 million in library funding.
Website: http://www.hjweinbergfoundation.org/

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization whose primary mission is to foster public policies, human-service reforms and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families.
Website: http://www.aecf.org/

Art with a Heart

Art with a Heart works to enhance the lives of underserved and disadvantaged children, youth, and adults in Baltimore by providing visual art programs in a safe and structured environment, taught by caring and nurturing adults. For the Library Project, Art with a Heart will work with volunteers to create a mosaic for each of the three schools. All of the mosaics will incorporate the Library Project logo, however, each mosaic will be personalized to reflect the individual school community.
Website: http://www.artwithaheart.net/
Library Project Partners

The Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers

ABAG will publicize the library effort to ABAG members, particularly the Education Funders Affinity Group, through ABAG's monthly Members’ Memo, website, and social media. ABAG will write a Daily Record article, and will be helpful in other ways identified over the life of the initiative.
Website: http://www.abagrantmakers.org/

Baltimore Community Foundation

The Baltimore Community Foundation encourages its donors to participate in the Library Project, which fits into BCF’s overall vision for successful schools and successful students. The Library Project is a prime example of how a foundation can attract private sector partners to address a public need, inviting businesses and individuals to find ways to join together in promising Baltimore's youth a brighter future.
Website: http://www.bcf.org/

Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC)

The Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC) is a partnership of Johns Hopkins University, Morgan State University and the Baltimore City Public Schools. In all of its work, BERC uses a participatory model that invites non-researchers, stakeholders, community members, and school staff to advise their work, research instruments, interpretations, and final products to ensure an evaluation that can be used to guide practice.

In relation to the Baltimore Library Project, BERC will examine the change experienced at the first three library openings at Moravia Park Elementary, Southwest Baltimore Charter, and Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School.
Website: http://www.baltimore-berc.org/

Baltimore Reads

Baltimore Reads has significant experience facilitating book drives and managing inventory for the items received. Baltimore Reads has provided counsel and expertise throughout the duration of the project. New books are used for school libraries. Baltimore Reads assures that teachers have classroom libraries and that students receive books that they may take home. The Library Project complements the work of the Baltimore Reads’ Book Bank, which collects and redistributes children’s books all over the Baltimore region at no cost to recipients. To support its citywide free adult literacy services, Baltimore Reads also resells donated adult-reading level books through its online sales business called the Book Exchange.
Website: http://www.baltimorereads.org/

The Baltimore Sun

The Baltimore Sun commitment at this time will be to deliver 25 papers each day (M-F) to each of the first six schools. The value of the papers for a year at full retail price is $11,700, a total of $70,200 for all six schools!
Website: http://www.baltimoresun.com/
Library Project Partners

Barnes and Noble

Barnes and Noble will provide 400 Nook digital devices and Certified Pre-Owned Nook digital devices, at special discounted prices for this project. Barnes and Noble will donate up to 20 hours of student and teacher training per month to ensure that every user is comfortable with the technology.

Website: http://www.bn.com/

Bogdan Computer Services, Inc.

Bogdan Computer Services offers a wide range of IT solutions, support and services to help businesses get the most out of their IT equipment. Services offered include on-site support, remote support, consultant/training, hardware/software sales & support, and graphic design.

Bogdan Computer Services was responsible for the design and implementation of the Baltimore Library Project website.

Website: http://www.bogdan.net/

Comcast

Comcast is pleased and proud to sponsor the Baltimore Elementary School Library Project with its valuable production and air time capabilities. Comcast is offering in-studio and on location filming and interviews which will be aired on CNN Headline News. This sponsorship package is valued at nearly $100,000. Comcast will continue to review additional ways to sponsor the Library Project.

Website: http://www.comcast.com/

CPS Gumpert

Baltimore/Annapolis-based, CPS Gumpert is one of the region’s leading print management providers with services that include graphic design, offset, digital and wide-format printing, mailing & fulfillment, web development, trade show displays and promotional products. We partner with our clients to develop and execute marketing communications that deliver impact, inspiration and involvement to help their companies grow.

We believe that every child deserves access to the resources needed for them to learn and grow, and we’re proud to partner in the Weinberg Library Project through the graphic design and printing of event signage, promotional products, and printed materials. We look forward to participating in the program as it continues to grow.

Website: http://cpsgumpert.com/

Diamond Book Distributors

Diamond Book Distributors will donate a total of 200 graphic novels (50 to each school) to support the four schools identified for the Baltimore Elementary School Library Project. The value of this donation is approximately $2500-$3000.

Website: http://www.diamondcomics.com/
The Enoch Pratt Free Library

The Enoch Pratt Free Library will be a major partner in the library project. Each elementary school library will include an “Enoch Pratt Parent Corner” with a computer connecting parents to the Enoch Pratt system. In addition, each library will have a permanent loan collection on parenting books and other appropriate adult literature. Enoch Pratt will also provide four Family Reading Circle programs during the school year. This six-week program brings a library professional to the school, with high-quality books and dinner for the group. Enoch Pratt will also provide limited funding for students to take public transportation from their homes or from school to the closest Pratt Library. Finally, Enoch Pratt Free Library will host students from each school for field trips to the central library each year. The estimated value of this partnership is $20,000 per library, or $80,000 for the first four libraries.

Website: http://www.prattlibrary.org/

The Fund for Educational Excellence

The Fund for Educational Excellence has worked side by side with Baltimore City Public Schools for over 25 years securing the financial, human, and knowledge resources necessary to support policy and practice resulting in increased student achievement for Baltimore City Public School students. On this project the Fund serves as the fiscal agent working as an intermediary between City Schools and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to ensure all grant dollars are allocated to the project appropriately.

Website: http://www.ffee.org

The Heart of America Foundation

Since 1997, The Heart of America Foundation® (HOA) has provided children living in poverty with over 2.5 million library and take-home books through its READesign® library makeover projects and Books From The Heart® program. By the end of 2012, HOA will have transformed over 200 elementary and middle school spaces in the local area and across the country. For the Weinberg Library Project, HOA will coordinate the purchasing, sorting, cataloging and delivery of brand new library books for each school. In addition, to address the fact that as many as 61 percent of children from low income families do not have any books in the home, HOA will provide three books per student for his or her home library. This year, HOA will deliver more than 9,800 library books in total and over 4,800 take home books for the students for this project.

Website: http://www.heartofamerica.org/

Incite Creative, Inc.

Incite Creative is proud to be one of the creative partners involved in the launch of the Library Project. The firm’s focus group facilitation with students and their parents helped guide their design and development of the Library Project’s logo and overall identity. These elements are being leveraged by Incite Creative to design the print and electronic event invitation, bookplate, promotional giveaways such as pencils and bookmarks, sponsorship materials, and event day brand signage. Incite Creative will be donating a substantial portion of the cost for this project, valued at $10,000. Incite Creative is committing to the first library (and the bulk of its work will apply to subsequent libraries).

Website: http://www.incitecreativeinc.com/
Library Project Partners

JRS Architects, Inc.

JRS Architects, Inc., as a consultant to Baltimore City Public Schools, will work closely with Kirk Designs to incorporate the elements of the concept plan into the architectural plans, including coordination of proposed lighting and technology with electrical and data plans, incorporation of floor, wall and window treatments into the construction documents. JRS Architects will also help coordinate the efforts of other partners donating technology and equipment to ensure smooth coordination into the finished library. JRS Architects, Inc. will be donating the time required to coordinate the efforts of the partners in the three QZAB-funded projects.
Website: http://www.jrsarchitects.com/

Kirk Designs Inc.

Kirk Designs Inc. will design and detail all aspects of the library pertaining to selections for, but not limited to, lighting, flooring, wall and window treatments as well as all furnishings while creating a usable and exciting space for grades Pre-K through Eight. Kirk Designs will interface with vendors as well as provide and enforce a schedule for completion. Kirk Designs will be donating a substantial design cost for each project, approximately $15,000 per library.
Website: http://www.kirk-designs.com/

The Maryland Food Bank

Studies repeatedly show that hungry kids can’t learn no matter what the environment. Maryland Food Bank is happy to investigate the implementation of their school pantry program in each of these school locations and can also help with summer feeding programs when school is out of session.
Website: http://www.mdfoodbank.org/

Parks & People Foundation

Parks & People will consider each renovated library as a potential site for after school and summer programming. Site assessments for the first six libraries could amount to as much as $2,000 per site, or a total of $12,000. For libraries that are determined to be a fit for an after school or summer program, services provided would range from $5,000 – $80,000 per site.
Website: http://www.parksandpeople.org/
The State of Maryland / Maryland State Department of Education

The State of Maryland, through The Maryland State Department of Education, is reaching out to a corporate partner for the provision of comic books (graphic novels) to libraries included in the project. Additionally, MSDE will provide focused technical assistance by working with the Manager for Library Media Services for the Baltimore City Public Schools to support the library/media specialists in the four schools with the incorporation of digital resources, the utilization of the MDK12 Digital Library, assistance with professional development needs, and with collection development. MSDE staff will also facilitate linkages with public libraries to promote professional development opportunities and broaden access to materials. During the transition to the new Maryland State Common Core Curriculum, MSDE staff will commit time and energy to supporting the work of the library/media center specialists in providing assistance to teachers who are engaged in integrating primary resources into their lessons.

State of Maryland Website: http://www.maryland.gov/
Maryland State Department of Education Website: http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde

United Way of Central Maryland

For 86 years, United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) has been the region's human service leader. We support programs and initiatives in the city of Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties. UWCM is dedicated to helping individuals and families who are vulnerable and at risk meet their emergency needs, stabilize their lives and ultimately achieve a better quality of life. By drawing upon local knowledge, data and expertise to understand the community's needs, UWCM is able to identify where gaps exist and concentrate on what works in addressing them, serving as a powerful advocate on critical health and human issues.

Education is the cornerstone of a self-sufficient life. But in our community thousands of youth are dropping out of school and many more face academic challenges each day. As part of United Way Worldwide's effort to cut the high school dropout rate in half, United Way of Central Maryland has joined their call to help recruit one million readers, tutors and mentors and will launch a new volunteer program: Read, Learn, Succeed this fall. We look forward to recruiting members of the community to read to young children to fill in some of the volunteer gaps that exist in many local programs. United Way of Central Maryland is excited to partner with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation's Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project.
Website: http://www.uwcm.org/

VPC, Inc.

Celebrating 20 years in business, VPC, Inc. is a boutique firm specializing in the following production and technical services: Consulting and Design services for A/V/Broadcast Systems, Live Event Production and Multimedia Content Creation, A/V Presentation and Digital Signage Systems integration

VPC is a proud partner of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation Library Project.
Website: http://www.vpcinc.net/
Wells Fargo

Wells Fargo is proud to further its commitment to Baltimore City students by serving as the Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project’s Financial Literacy Partner. Their commitment will include a $20,000 donation to fund library technology thereby providing access to a world of information including www.handsonbanking.com, the online portal to its free financial literacy program. The company also commits its most valued resource, the time and talent of local Wells Fargo team members. Local team members will provide financial literacy to members of the Weinberg Library communities, including teachers, students and their families. Additionally, through Wells Fargo’s Reading First program, team members will read aloud to Pre-K through 1st grade classes to support early childhood literacy and will then donate those books to the library.

Website: https://www.wellsfargo.com/

United States Department of Education

City of Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake