



CAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES CHANGE LIVES? NYC LIBRARY STAFFERS SHARE THEIR STORIES

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There's much to love about libraries. Stop by your local public branch on any given day and you're likely to find patrons browsing shelves, accessing community programs and taking refuge. Often, libraries are the place where a relationship to books first develops and where the seeds of imagination take root.

For some, libraries have been no short of life-changing. Take it from, for example, the many who [penned heartfelt notes](#) in support of the New York City library system when it faced [proposed city budget cuts to the tune of \\$58.3 million](#). (This funding was [fully restored](#) in late June.)

Perhaps the most affected by the enduring power of libraries, however, are those who work within their walls day in and day out. Below, read recollections from [Brooklyn Public Library](#), [New York Public Library](#) and [Queens Public Library](#) staff on the ways that their public library changed them by sparking a love for reading, developing deeper connections to community and, in many cases, fostering a career.

Have a story of how your public library shaped your life? [Write to us](#) with your stories. You can also stream our [collection of shows spotlighting libraries](#) on the ALL ARTS [site](#) and [app](#) anytime.

BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Emma Carbone, Senior Young Adult Librarian



Emma Carbone.

“My mom took me to our local library every week to get new books to read until I was old enough to make the trip myself. I knew the space inside out, and by the time I was in high school, I was volunteering and eventually working at the same library. It’s where I discovered my love for reading and my interest in Youth Services while that first volunteer job turned into a career. In my public library, I always found community and a place to figure out who I wanted to be. Now the library location has changed, but I try to offer those same things to patrons.”