



## For Immediate Release

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**Oak Park Public Library offers more spaces to learn and connect;  
will formally thank Rep. LaShawn K. Ford at 9:30 am on Nov. 18  
*Three more study/conference rooms help meet ongoing demand***

**Oak Park, IL**— The Oak Park Public Library can now provide more distinct places for small groups to learn and connect, as three additional study/conference rooms are available on the Main Library's third floor, due in large part to the foresight and support of Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago.) The library will formally thank Rep. Ford in a short presentation and reception at 9:30 am on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Main Library, 834 Lake St.

"Study spaces at the library have always been in high demand," said Executive Director David J. Seleb. In 2014, a total of close to 14,000 people used the four original study rooms on the Main Library's third floor. "With Rep. Ford's support that secured the state funding to help pay for this project, the library was able to expand a popular service, and give Oak Park more of what it has told us it wants. We thank Rep. Ford for his vision in introducing the legislation, which resulted in the generous appropriation that helped make this happen."

Rep. Ford introduced appropriations approved in 2013 by the Illinois General Assembly that granted \$100,000 to the Oak Park Public Library to help build the rooms. Funds were managed and distributed by the Illinois State Library, a division of the Illinois Secretary of State's office. Chicago-based Nagle Hartray Architecture and construction firm Bulley & Andrews completed the work. Team leads from both companies are Oak Park residents.

### **Public meeting spaces at the library**

Three new rooms in the southwest corner of the Main Library's third floor are now available for public use. Two of them accommodate groups of two to four people. The third, a larger conference room, holds groups of two to 12 and is equipped with a large HD screen for digital presentations.

To reserve a space for no cost, users should call or ask at the Main Library, 834 Lake St. A total of seven rooms are available for up to three hours at a time, every day of the week. No library card is required and certain registration limits apply. In addition to the Main Library, both branch libraries offer public spaces. Find more details about using and reserving library spaces at <http://oppl.org/spaces>.

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### **More changes for better experiences**

New room construction occurred in conjunction with additional changes on the Main Library's second floor. Ways in which collections are organized, public spaces are laid out, and public computers and technical support staff are available to users have all been adjusted. These changes were made to improve experiences in the library, make the most of staff resources, and better support learning environments.

### **About Oak Park Public Library**

Founded as a public library in 1903, the Oak Park Public Library provides 53,000 residents public access to information, spaces, and services through three buildings and its website, [oppl.org](http://oppl.org). Led by a publicly elected Board of Library Trustees, the library has 125 employees, many who team with local leaders and community organizations to support learning, literacy, and community connections.

As a member of the SWAN library consortium, the library offers its cardholders access to nearly 8 million items. Cardholders can also download and stream digital books, audiobooks, movies, and music from anywhere, anytime. The library is dedicated to preserving local history; its Special Collections include materials from the childhood of Ernest Hemingway, Edgar Rice Burrows, and Frank Lloyd Wright. In 2014, the library circulated more than 1.3 million items, recorded more than 525,000 unique website visits, saw close to 60,000 program participant visits, and was supported by more than 6,000 volunteer hours. To learn more, visit [oppl.org](http://oppl.org).

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