FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2018

DIGITAL DIVIDE TO BECOME SMALLER AT THE MOUNT VERNON LIBRARY

The digital divide, the gulf between those who have ready access to computers and the Internet and those who do not, is about to become smaller as the Mount Vernon Public Library unveils plans to create a state-of-the-art Teen Lab – Young Adult Area at the library. The project, which will include designated workspace with computers, study space, and media training space has been in the planning stages for months. An added benefit will be the availability of laptop computers that teens/young adults will be able to check out and use off-site.

The next phase in the development of the Teen Lab- Young Adult Area will be two (2) planning sessions at which time architects will present their design renderings. The public is invited to attend one or both planning sessions. The first presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2018 during the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting beginning at 6:30pm in the Trustees Room. The second presentation will take place on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at a special meeting beginning at 6:30pm also in the Trustees Room.

Bridging the digital divide is on the verge of becoming a reality in Mt. Vernon as the Mount Vernon Library moves forward in the 21st century. We are most grateful to the members of the Steering Committee for this ambitious project. Without their support and expertise, this project, from conception to reality, would not have been realized. Members of the Steering Committee are William Mooney, President and CEO, Westchester County Association; John Ritacco, Westchester County Association; Sylvia Bolivar, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Mount Vernon; Lisa Giuffra-Diaz, Turf Advisory; Vladimer Ortega, CRA Officer, Lucy Amicucci, Foundation Director and Vincent DeLucia, President, Community Development, Sterling National Bank; Oscar Davis, Jr., President, Mount Vernon Public Library Board of Trustees; Evania Thompson, Library Director; David Cambillo, computer technician and James Finch, Consultant.

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After a hard fought successful campaign to retain our Central Library status in 2017, the Mount Vernon Public Library, the Central Library of Westchester County, is planning for the future. And as we plan, our patrons will benefit from the upgrades and modernization of this historic Carnegie library. Built in 1905 with funds donated by Andrew Carnegie, we are the only remaining library in Westchester County operating in the footprint of the original building. And within our historic walls are untold opportunities for our patrons to benefit from our collections. From our humble beginnings, we now house more than 350,000 items including books, periodicals, streaming media, cds, dvds, movies, electronic content ebooks, emagazines, digital audio books, online databases and more, as well as providing public-use computers, museums passes, literacy programs and special events and activities for every age. We are pleased that we will now be able to accommodate our youthful population as they pursue their quest for knowledge.

Keep checking for updates on the Teen Lab-Young Adult Area on our website – [www.mtvpl.org](http://www.mtvpl.org). In the coming days, there will also be a link on the website where the public can make donations to support this worthy project. Won’t you show your support? After all, we’re more than just books!

For more information, please call Ms. Evania Thompson, Library Director, at (914) 668-1840 x. 215.