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April 3, 2018

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Historical Society Suspends Library Services from June 29 until December 2018 When It Returns to Carnegie Library Home

WASHINGTON, DC: The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., announces its plans to suspend library services on June 29 while it prepares to reopen in December at the restored Carnegie Library on Mt. Vernon Square.

Last fall the Historical Society, Events DC, and Apple Inc. began restoration of the Carnegie Library. In December the restoration will be complete, and the Historical Society and Apple will occupy the facility in a combination educational and retail space at the heart of downtown.

Since May 2017 the DC Public Library’s Washingtoniana Collection has been operating from the Historical Society in shared space during the modernization of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. In August 2017 the two collections moved to interim space at the Newseum, where they serve the public. Those services will go on hiatus at the end of the day on Friday, June 29.

“The 114-year-old Carnegie Library building is one of the most important objects in our collections,” said Historical Society Executive Director John Suau. “Apple’s sensitive and dynamic restoration plan ensures that the building will be enjoyed by the public for another century. Together with DC Public Library, we were able to continue to deliver public service from our temporary home at the Newseum. We anticipate reopening in the restored building by December 2018.”

“DC Public Library is grateful to the Historical Society for its partnership throughout the modernization of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library,” said DC Public Library Executive Director Richard Reyes-Gavilan. “We look forward to finding a new interim service point for our Washingtoniana Collection and establishing access to this priceless resource as soon as possible.”

The Apple/Historical Society co-tenancy returns the building to its iconic place in downtown DC, notes Suau. New state-of-the-art collections spaces will ensure the longevity of the library collections. Most important for patrons and visitors, the cooperation with Apple will mean longer public hours with greater access to the collections and exhibits.

An Act of Congress in 1999 gave the Historical Society a 99-year lease on the Carnegie Library building. The Apple restoration will provide the Historical Society and the city with a safe, secure, and accessible local landmark rich in D.C. history.
About
The Historical Society of Washington, D.C. is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital. Founded in 1894, the Historical Society serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibits, and publications. The Historical Society's galleries and research library are located in the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square, 801 K Street NW. To support exhibits and related programming at the Historical Society and to learn more, please visit dchistory.org.

DC Public Library Special Collections — Washingtoniana Collection
Established in 1905, the Washingtoniana Collection houses an array of resources and materials from the late 18th century to the present, with a primary focus on the District. The Washingtoniana Collection includes Prints, Photographs, and the DC Community Archives.

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