



Contact Kay Schwartz  
810.275.4642 mobile, 810.249.2038 office  
[kschwartz@fpl.info](mailto:kschwartz@fpl.info)

### **Transformed Flint Public Library Honored with Design Award**

**Flint, MI - October 6, 2022:** The newly renovated Flint Public Library has received an Excellence in Design Merit Award from the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

The AIA Iowa Excellence in Design Awards recognize excellence in architecture projects designed by members of AIA Iowa. Awards reflect a project's design excellence, response to solving architectural challenges, and importance in the community. This year's event was held virtually as part of the organization's annual conference on Sept. 29, 2022.

OPN Architects won the award for their work on Flint Public Library. The library was remade from the inside out, transforming to an equitable, confident, and aspirational place for the community. "They turned a 1950s buildings into something that feels new and fresh," wrote the award jury. "The interior is amazing. It's the type of project that has a big impact on their communities."

"The Library is playing a lead role in Flint's migration to the digital age and the knowledge economy," says Kay Schwartz, Library Director. "We are an instrument of change, providing access to information in many different forms. We help people advance their learning, and equip them become confident users of the ever-evolving digital tools that are embedded in every aspect of living. Place is essential to this mission. Our building must welcome and invite. It must adapt and flex. It must fully energize the important work happening here for people of all ages and all walks of life. The renovation has helped us achieve all those goals."

"Architecture must go to a place and meet people as they are, where they are," says OPN Associate Principal Toby Olsen. "The agency of this community is the story of Flint we need to share."

A film about the Flint Public Library was also submitted to the AIA annual Film Challenge. Public voting for the film is open through Oct. 14. Watch the video and vote [here](#).

**About Flint Public Library:** Flint Public Library has served this community since 1851. Our vision is to be Flint's go-to place to learn for life. We encourage formal and informal learning for all ages, in all mediums, for all of life. Learn more at [www.fpl.info](http://www.fpl.info).

**About OPN Architects:** OPN Architects is a regional design firm with more than 110 designers working in Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Iowa City, Iowa; Madison, Wisconsin; and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The firm's award-winning work spans a wide variety of client types including corporate, civic, higher education, health care, and libraries. For more information about OPN, visit [www.opnarchitects.com](http://www.opnarchitects.com).

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