

Carnegie Center

The Carnegie Public Library building, now known as the Carnegie Center, is one of thousands of public library buildings throughout the United States funded by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in the early 1900's. Once called the "Pride of Phoenix," the Carnegie Library opened its doors on February 14, 1908, four years before Arizona became a state. The Carnegie Library building served as the Phoenix Public Library from 1908 until 1952.



Today, the Carnegie Center is managed by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records as a multiuse facility that offers meeting and training space to state agencies and non-profit community groups, professional development workshops for Arizona librarians, and public computer access. The Carnegie Center hosts public programs such as author readings, book signings, a speaker series, conferences and festivals. It also serves as the home for the Arizona Center for the Book and houses an exhibit featuring those honored in the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame. Staff members of the Library Development Division of the Arizona State Library work from office space at the Carnegie Center.

The monthly Carnegie Lunchtime Speaker Series in 2009-10 focused on Arizona books and authors. All presentations were free and open to the public; attendees were encouraged to eat their lunches and enjoy light refreshments. A number of speakers were obtained from the Speakers Bureau of the Arizona Humanities Council.



Photo by Shayna Muckerheide

From July 1, 2009 – June 20, 2010, the Carnegie Center hosted 170 events with 6,210 total attendees. In addition, there were 41 tours given and 1,024 people visited the building, including those who came for the two hours of daily public access computer time.