

# Cleveland Public Library

Capturing the extraordinary stories of ordinary people



▲ Christie's multi-touch LCD video wall, in the Cleveland Digital Public Library

## Displaying living, dynamic history

"The Cleveland Public Library works to capture the extraordinary stories of ordinary people," explains Chatham Ewing, CPL's Digital Library Strategist. "We have a huge amount of material related to the history of Cleveland—from our art collections and all kinds of treasures in our special collections to family photographs and the history of baseball. And maps, lots and lots of maps."

In an effort to preserve these historical pieces, the [Cleveland Digital Public Library](#)—a department within the CPL—digitizes archival material that comes from the city to the library. Their challenge was to find ways to make the digitized material accessible to library users. With the right display technology, they could present the material in a way Ewing describes as "living, dynamic history" rather than "flat, static history."

"We realized that an effective way to

promote our digital collections, which are available online through our [Digital Gallery](#), would be to display these collections on a touch wall," says Ewing. "That way, library users would be able to experience our collections in a new way. They would be able to play with them, manipulate them and work with them in ways they weren't able to online. They would have a more immediate, bolder experience with our materials."

### The Christie solution

After investigating various solutions that could meet their requirements, CPL decided to integrate a Christie® multi-touch video wall. Made up of four super-narrow bezel FHD551-XG LCD panels with Corning® Gorilla® Glass, Christie JumpStart processing and a Christie Interactivity Kit, the turnkey solution was the perfect combination of price, performance and usability.

**Customer:**  
Cleveland Public Library

**Location:**  
Cleveland, Ohio

**Industry/Market:**  
Education / library

**Partners:**  
AVI SPL

**Requirements:**  
Display technology that is:

- Easy to install and maintain
- Easy to use with a variety of applications
- Tested in the marketplace

**Summary:**  
The Cleveland Digital Public Library needed display technology to help unlock the treasures of their Digital Gallery by allowing users to interact with their material in new and more immediate ways.

**Products:**

- Christie multi-touch LCD video wall

**Results:**  
Christie's multi-touch LCD video wall helps draw people to the Cleveland Digital Public Library's third-floor location. Library visitors use the wall to explore the Digital Gallery, display and interact with static and video archival material, show presentations and play games.

"The Christie video wall gave us a reasonably sized wall at a price point that was within our budget and with the capabilities we needed," explains Ewing. "And the best part was that it was integrated, meaning we didn't have to spend time putting together a variety of different pieces."

Image quality was also an important factor in choosing the Christie solution.

"In terms of scale, images on our Christie video wall are larger, the maps are much more dramatic and easy to see, and the artwork is larger and brighter than on a home computer screen," says Ewing. "It's one thing to see a painting, for example, on a small screen and it's quite another to see the same painting six feet tall and five across!"

## Making learning fun

The most enthusiastic reaction to the video wall has been from children visiting the library. Featuring several interactive games, the library's young guests use the display to interact and engage with various pieces from the library's collections. One such program involves putting together puzzles of artwork from the library's digitized collection on the screen.

"The children sometimes even learn the name of the picture or the artist. They've had a lot of fun with it," shares Ewing.

## Living history

The library also uses their Christie video wall to show presentations.

"During Black History month, we had a group come in and we put content up on the video wall that they were able to use as examples during their presentation," says Ewing. "It became much more than a slide show. Patrons could zoom in on a photograph and talk about it. We made use of the wall in a way that was unique to the technology and made for a really powerful presentation. We're very pleased with that."

## Digital storytelling

Since its installation in January 2015, the video wall has already become an integral part of what the library is trying to accomplish, acting as a platform that ties physical objects together with digital storytelling in an effective and dramatic way.

"We're on the third floor of the main building of the main branch of the Cleveland Public Library. The Christie video wall actually helps draw users up to our third floor location and we're thrilled about that. And with the real estate available to us on the big screen, we can do much more than we might otherwise be able to do. We're very happy with that as an ability," says Ewing. "We're quite happy with our Christie video wall. It's a good piece of what we do and it works."

## Contact Christie

Contact us today to find out how your organization can benefit from Christie solutions.



▲ Christie's multi-touch video wall helps people interact with the CPL's digital library



▲ Ulysses Glen talks about the East Side Daily News

» [Click to play video: "Cleveland Digital Public Library"](#)

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