



www.chicagoliteracyalliance.org

Literacenter Hosts Grand Opening
First-in-the Nation Collaborative Work Space for Literacy Groups

(CHICAGO) May 29, 2015— On June 10, the [Chicago Literacy Alliance](http://www.chicagoliteracyalliance.org) (CLA), a nonprofit association representing literacy organizations from across the city will host the grand opening of [Literacenter](#) at 641 West Lake Street. The center, which is the first collaborative workspace in the United States exclusively for groups advancing literacy initiatives, provides 38,000 square feet of offices, meeting rooms, event spaces, and social lounges, as well as back office services and educational programming for member organizations.

The grand opening takes place from noon until 6 p.m. and will feature interactive word games with prizes, refreshments, music, presentations from member groups and room dedications, including “The Brothers Karoomozov” to [IFF](#) in recognition of its \$350,000 long term loan to the organization. Additionally, Ald. Walter Burnett, 27th Ward, will be on-site at 10:00 a.m. for the official ribbon cutting. The event is free and open to the public.

Literacenter is spearheaded by [Stacy Ratner](#), co-founder and board chair of the CLA, founder of [Open Books](#) and [Hooray Learning](#). [Michael Ban](#), whose non-profit experience began as executive director of Book Worm Angels and whose experience with CLA goes back to its founding in 2009, is the CLA executive director.

Groups including [Working in the Schools](#) (WITS), Hooray Learning, [Infiniteach](#), [Literacy Works](#), Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition, Tutoring Chicago, and Kids Like Us have already taken offices in the bright, colorful space upstairs. Anchoring the project at street level is member organization Open Books, an award-winning bookstore.

“Since the beginnings of the Chicago Literacy Alliance, it has been clear that active collaboration among our members improves outcomes, increases creativity, and engages the community,” says Ratner. “Although Chicago has world-class cultural and educational institutions, our literacy rates lag behind many other major cities. Literacenter provides a home base for all groups dedicated to the cause so that we can accelerate progress towards our shared goal: a 100% literate Chicago.”

About the Chicago Literacy Alliance (www.chicagoliteracyalliance.org):

The Chicago Literacy Alliance (CLA) is an association of agencies operating in and around the city to help meet literacy needs for people of all ages and backgrounds. It is dedicated to increasing the combined impact of its member organizations by providing opportunities for creative and effective collaboration. CLA’s flagship projects include Literaseek (an online data map showing locations and types of services provided by members), Literacy Nights and other community events, and Literacenter (a 38,000 sqft collaborative workspace for member organizations, currently the only one of its kind in the country).

More information:

Web: <http://www.chicagoliteracyalliance.org> <http://www.literacenter.org>
Twitter: [@chiliteracyalli](https://twitter.com/chiliteracyalli) [@literacenter](https://twitter.com/literacenter)

For more information, contact Heather Bronson, hbronson@chicagoliteracyalliance.org, 312.690.4250