

NEW LIBRARY ON THE BLOCK: STEP BY STEP

Niko Cvjetković, senior librarian

**4th China–CEEC Curators' Forum of the Libraries Union,
19-22 October 2025, Budapest, Hungary.**





RIJEKA





GKR*

MORE THAN LETTERS (GRADSKA KNJIŽNICA RIJEKA – RIJEKA CITY LIBRARY)

IN 2024

- Central Library
- Children's House
- 4 branches
- 2 libraries outside Rijeka
- 2 mobile libraries

- 380.000 books
- 22.000 patrons/members
- 72 employees
- 1740 events and programs with over 41.000 participants





RELOCATION TO THE ARTKVART CULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD



THE NEW CENTRAL LIBRARY





CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Children's Library
Stribor





- *Central Library*
- *Children's House*
- *Cultural Neighborhood*
- *The City's Living Room*

EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY

Space / Infrastructure

In service of the community and individuals

Programs and Services

Adapted to the needs of the local community

Connection

With associations, institutions, and individuals

Support

For local initiatives

Encouragement

Of community gatherings around the Library and ArtKvart







- Increase in membership by 24% – 21,776 members
- Growth in participants and visitors of program activities by 20% – 41,381
- Number of Library visits (excluding Children's House) – nearly 165,000
- Changes in Library usage
- The library is becoming a highly desirable partner (Croatian Chamber of Economy, NGOs, educational institutions, publishers, individuals...)
- Media presence
- Public opinion



- With the launch of the ArtKvart neighborhood, the people of Rijeka gained a new public space.
- What was once a decaying industrial complex — a “black hole” in the city — has been transformed through revitalization and cultural programming into a pedestrian-friendly oasis rich in cultural, artistic, and educational content.
- At the heart of these positive changes is one of the key driving forces:
The Rijeka City Library.









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- **Thank you for your attention**

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