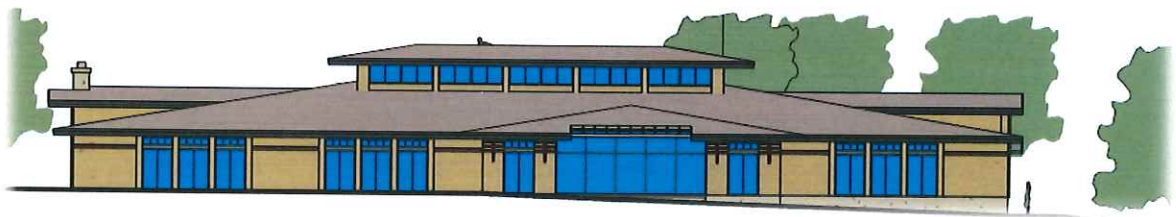


Lancaster Public Library
Library Expansion Campaign
2012-2013

LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY



East Side of Your
New Library

Your Legacy for Future Generations – The Library to Launch Lancaster's Next 175 Years

"There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919)

THE CASE FOR A NEW LIBRARY

We have right-sized the library expansion project and we want you to hear the details.....

Why is the Expansion Needed?

- The current collections and programs **exceed available space** – to say nothing of the **enhanced services and technology** we could provide with more room.
- As the library collection increases to meet public demand, less space is available for **seating, computers and programming**. Every time we add a new book, we must discard an existing one – perhaps one of your favorites or one you wanted to share with a child.
- The current building is sound, but **numerous infrastructure deficiencies** are in urgent need of updating. **Electrical and mechanical systems** are **inefficient and out of date**. Aisles and restrooms do not meet minimum ADA standards – our library is **not accessible** to everyone in our community.
- Library use has increased dramatically. Circulation in Lancaster alone has **increased by 166%** since 2000, and including the Potosi branch it is up 216%.
- Lancaster *needs* a bigger library. It was 25 years between the original construction of the building and the completion of the addition in **1982**; it has now been an additional 30 years.

What is the vision for the library?

The **vision** for the renovated and expanded library is a building with **adequate space** and **resources** to meet these criteria:

- A collection that is **accessible** and readily available to all users;
- An environment in which patrons can work alone or with their colleagues;
- **Separate**, uniquely designed **spaces** for children, teens and adults in which they can learn, explore and thrive;
- **Technology** that is designed to be flexible enough to meet **today's needs** and accommodate **future changes**.

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What Are the Plans?

After much careful planning the Library Board has defined the following [Goals for Success](#) for the remodeled and expanded library:

- To **create** a shared **community gathering space** in a welcoming environment with barrier free access for everyone.
- To **expand** additional educational **opportunities** for our community
- To **enhance** access to **new technology**.
The use of e-readers, such as Kindles, has not decreased library usage; it has actually had the opposite effect. Libraries have become centers for new technology and training on how to use it.
- To **provide** much needed **space** for more books and other materials, a reading area, public computer stations and displays of historic artifacts and local artwork.
- To include rooms for **programs** for adults as well as children and young adults. There will be reading areas and student study rooms and carrels. And, staff and volunteers will have comfortable and convenient spaces to meet and work.
- To provide an attractive and functional **outdoor performance area** that will bring the community together for concerts, performances and public events.
- To **complement** the current **facility's unique design** while **respecting** the open green space of the **park** in which the facility is located.

What Will It Cost?

An expanded library that will meet community needs now and long into the future will cost approximately \$3,700,000. The **City of Lancaster** has generously pledged **\$1,000,000** as the lead gift for the campaign. It is also a **challenge** to the community to raise the **\$2,700,000 needed**. This includes construction, furnishings and the cost of temporary relocation while the construction is completed.

We are seeking **visionary donors** who will make substantial gifts to the campaign to show their belief in this project. There will be naming opportunities and other forms of recognition for all donors. We want the **entire community** to feel that this is *their* library and to **help make it happen**.

Make no mistake, this project will happen. Libraries are one of the things that define a community –

and Lancaster is a great community!

A New Library For All Ages

It will be a **gathering place** for people of all ages:

Children... will delight in the imaginative, engaging, kid-friendly environment that will provide opportunities to learn, imagine, create and explore. A special story-time area will allow children and parents to benefit from the library's literacy-based programs designed to foster children's developmental growth. It will allow the librarians to build on the already excellent children's programming.

Teens... will appreciate the increased space of the new library and will, for the first time, have a gathering space uniquely their own, including a place to do homework, connect with friends, gather information using relevant technology, or simply read. The new library will have more programming targeted to teen needs, and help provide them the resources to explore personal interests and plan their futures.

Adults... will benefit from the library's offerings as they continue on the journey of life-long learning, engaging in research, reading the news, or exploring a curiosity. The new space will allow for adult programming, which was never possible in the current library due to lack of space. There will also be a dedicated senior learning area for senior programming and technology assistance.

All... will have the opportunity to connect with others, whether that includes gathering for a community meeting or using technology to link with family and friends. And there's always the simple joy of finding a relaxing escape amidst the pages of a book in the quiet of the reading room.

Libraries *improve the property values in a community* and are one of the main factors people use when choosing where to live, raise a family or retire. The new library will enhance the Lancaster community in many ways.

What The New Library Will Cost To Build

Extensive research by the Library Board indicates that taking the library that is currently 9,100 square feet (5,860 on the first floor and 3,240 in the basement) to 16,410 first floor square feet will meet the needs of library patrons now and for many years into the future. There is currently no addition or renovation to the basement planned.

It is the objective of the Library Board and the volunteer Building Committee to not exceed this amount of square footage while keeping total project costs to \$3,700,000 or less. This includes renovations to the existing portion of the library, new construction, furnishings and fixtures, technology and the costs of relocating during the construction phase.

These total and square footage costs align with the cost of libraries built in nearby communities -- Cross Plains in 2006, Brodhead in 2009, and Albany in 2006 -- all of which have proven, as determined by increased usage, to have been appropriately designed to serve their communities well.

The new library will be constructed with a combination of private and public funding. This includes:

- A generous lead gift of \$1,000,000 from the City of Lancaster. This is a challenge to the entire community to raise the remaining funds necessary;
- A fund raising campaign goal of \$2,700,000

The Campaign Committee will also carefully research and apply for federal, state, and private grants. These funds, if received, would supplement other funding sources.

Frequently Asked Questions

In this age of technology are libraries really needed?

Many people have the false impression that the internet has replaced the need for public libraries. Several Wisconsin and national library organizations have done research that disproves that claim. The most recent survey results from South Central Library System, the State of Wisconsin and national sources show that public libraries are experiencing a dramatic increase in use, including the checkout of materials and attendance at library programs such as story time.

A study released in 2008 by the Wisconsin DPI found that young adults, ages 18-30, are among the heaviest users of libraries even though they could readily access information on the internet at home.

Local libraries are reporting higher use as people economize on purchases and participate in free, local programs for job searches, entertainment and education. Access to online library resources creates virtual library users in addition to those who visit or call the public library.

Why is a capital campaign necessary?

A strong library is vital to the overall quality of life in Lancaster. However, the City Government alone is unable to fully fund a library that meets the needs of its patrons. The funds raised in the capital campaign are expected to raise approximately two-thirds of what is needed for the library – \$2,700,000. We will seek gifts at all levels and hope that every resident of Lancaster and the library's service area will want to help make the library a reality. The Campaign Committee will also carefully research and apply for federal, state and private grants. These funds, if received, would supplement other funding sources.

Are donations to the library's capital campaign tax deductible?

Yes, all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donations are accepted by the Lancaster Public Library Foundation and deposited in a specifically designated account for the new building managed by TRICOR. The foundation is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, as designated by the IRS.

How will donors be recognized?

Every gift to the library is important in making this vision for a new library a reality. We will have a small number of selected naming opportunities for those who can give at a higher level; these gifts can be pledged over five or more years. We are seeking visionary donors who will make substantial gifts to the campaign to show their belief in this project. All gifts will be recognized in a prominent place in the library. While we feel strongly that support at all levels should be publicly acknowledged, anonymity will be strictly respected if requested.

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What will it cost to operate the larger library and how will that be funded?

We do not anticipate any significant increased costs or additional staff being needed. Energy efficiencies may actually allow for some cost savings despite the larger footprint.

How will the library use technology?

The new library will utilize a wide range of technology resources and provide training to help patrons learn how to use the technology. The resources will include computer stations, laptops, reading devices for E-books, free Wi-Fi, online databases and collections. It will be designed to be flexible to accommodate the constant changes in technology. The library will also offer training for people of all ages on how to use this technology.

Will the library offer a much-needed community meeting room? What will it look like?

There is a considerable need for public meeting space throughout the Lancaster community. The new library will provide a sizeable public meeting space, with entrances independent from the library, which will allow the space to be used before and after library hours. The space will be designed to accommodate groups of different sizes and ages.

When will the renovated library be open to the public?

The renovations and construction for the expansion library is targeted to be open to the public in 2015. The opening depends on the schedule for fund raising, building design and construction. As soon as there is a projected opening date, it will be made public.