



story
builder

WRITING THE FUTURE OF OUR LIBRARY

Concept Renderings by MSR Design



The library's expansion campaign must move forward because the community's needs are real and the time is now.

A pivot to socially-distant solicitation methods and the cancellation of events has impacted the campaign's ability to reach donors. The campaign is asking for pledges and gifts via phone and other electronic methods, but all pledges must be secured by Jan. 1, 2021 to successfully expand the library and ensure the future we want.

Pledge or give today so your gift can be counted!



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Frequently Asked Questions

How will the expansion better serve Eau Claire? What are some examples?

The expansion plans are designed to enhance core library services. For example, an all-new third floor event room will double community engagement space, offering expanded programming for all ages. A hands-on learning lab will offer innovative educational opportunities for all ages. New study rooms will help individuals and groups to work, study, and meet. Redesigned shelving and display space will offer unprecedented physical access. Beyond these enhancements, the expansion project dovetails perfectly with the city's upcoming plans to construct an urban plaza between the library and City Hall.

How long will this project take?

The City of Eau Claire is investing \$11.5M for major mechanical upgrades to the building, such as a new HVAC system and urgent roof repairs. Reconstruction work will begin in the spring of 2021, at which time the library will relocate to a temporary site. The project should reach completion in the fall of 2022.

I'm not a regular library customer. How will this expansion affect me?

Libraries provide monetary value to the wider community, regardless of who uses them. Here in Eau Claire, for every \$1 invested in the library, the community receives a \$4.06 return in the form of goods and services purchased by library patrons. Furthermore, whether it's helping people learn to read, assisting entrepreneurs with business loans, or hosting educational programs, the library supports a diversity of ideas, personal interests, and learning styles, producing a vibrant, capable community.

Given the Eau Claire community's various needs, why is the library an important priority?

Prior to pandemic-related health restrictions, over 33,500 people visited the library every month (a 10 percent increase over the last decade). Besides checking out materials, customers of all ages and walks of life attend events, access business resources, and connect with neighbors. During the pandemic, the library has remained a pillar of the community, offering expanded services online and free to all. After the pandemic, it will continue to serve Eau Claire—as it always has—in times of economic recovery.

What's the fundraising status?

The privately funded Story Builder campaign to expand space and services has raised nearly \$3.5M of its \$7M goal from over 200 donors, with major gifts from The Pablo Foundation, Royal Credit Union, and Mayo Clinic Health System. It's crucial to raise the remaining funds by Jan. 1 so expansion work can happen alongside the city's upgrades. Final plans will be dictated by the amount raised.

How can I give?

Become a Story Builder today! If you have more questions about the project or you'd like to learn about naming rights, contact Deputy Director Kimberly Hennings (storybuilder@eauclaire.lib.wi.us or 715-839-6225). You can send a gift or pledge to the Eau Claire Community Foundation at 306 S. Barstow St. Suite 104, Eau Claire, WI 54701, give online at www.eccfwi.org, call 715-552-3801, or email info@eccfwi.org.

