

**INITIAL DRAFT 5/8/13**

## **THE CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY IN GALESBURG**

### ***Building Community; Transforming Lives***



### **The Initial Case for Your Support**

**Choose 1 or 2**

*"Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest." - Lady Bird Johnson*

*"I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries." - Carl Sagan*

*"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better." - Sidney Sheldon*

*"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation." - Walter Cronkite*

*"Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open." - Laura Bush*

**Only once in a lifetime.....**

does a community have an opportunity to do something that will have an enormous impact for current residents and generations to come - to truly create a **sense of place**.

**Galesburg has that opportunity.**

**Let's join together and seize the opportunity to build a library that will make Galesburg proud.**

Galesburg is a community with a long history and strong traditions, beginning in 1835 with the establishment of Knox College and the first wave of settlers arriving in 1836. That tradition continued with the establishment of downtown and many buildings that are now on the historic register.

Like many communities, Galesburg now wants to revitalize and bring in new businesses that will attract new families to the community and ensure a thriving future. An integral part of this vision is a new library that will serve as the western entrance to the city, and most of all, as a place to will make people throughout Galesburg proud.

...and this will not be your grandfather's library!

### **21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY LIBRARIES**

People think that with the growth in the internet, libraries are becoming a thing of the past. Nothing could be further from the reality of libraries today.

Libraries all across America are in transition. They are multi-tasking organizations housed in multi-purpose buildings. Once the quiet space to check out a book to take home and read, libraries are no longer one-dimensional. Libraries of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are changing to meet new demands and provide additional services to their communities.

We intend to make the Galesburg Library truly representative of our community - a warm inviting place to read and do research and one that offers cutting edge technology and some of the most innovative designs and programs available. It will be an economic development tool for the community - offering businesses an incentive to invest here and people a reason to live in Galesburg rather than other area communities. Libraries are a **sound economic investment**.

Thomas Jefferson believed that "public libraries are a place for regular folks to educate." They enhance and enrich us with programming for everyone in the family. They are the central gathering space in a community where meetings, discussions, forums and events can be held. They are a place for the exchange of ideas and opinions and a place where knowledge grows.

## THE CURRENT LIBRARY

The current library was built in 1958 to replace the Carnegie building lost in the fire; inadequate City water pressure was a contributing factor. The current building has several structural issues; it is settling and the standards holding up the second floor are deteriorating at their bases. People using wheelchair can't turn in the aisles. There is no escape route from many dead-end aisles, creating life safety hazards.

There is insufficient data and electrical capacity for current technological needs; this deficiency will only increase in the future. HVAC is inadequate and inefficient and could fail any day. Public restrooms have no drains or ventilation causing health issues. The current library has no study rooms for its children, no quiet reading room for its adults, and no parent-child computer rooms. There is only one meeting room and it does not have restrooms on the same floor; it is not available after the library closes nor is there a kitchenette which would make it a true community gathering place.

## WHAT THE NEW LIBRARY COULD LOOK LIKE ....

The initial design is being developed with input from people throughout the community. FEH Associates, Inc., the architects chosen for this project, are in the process of researching 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries across the country so that we can bring the best ideas to Galesburg for residents to consider and the Library and the City to approve.

We want to **re-think and re-imagine** what a library can be. The following are only some of the components of a re-envisioned Galesburg Library:

### **The Community Living Room for Adults:**

A Comfortable, High Quality Space for Reading, Studying and Meeting Neighbors

- The Front Porch (Not really a porch but a comfortable seating area that encourages conversation - the envisioned outdoor terrace could also be used in this way)
- The Reading Nook (Quiet Reading Area)
- The Personal Desk (Study/Research Area)
- The Gathering Space (Meeting Spaces)
- The Snack Bar
- The Attic (History and Archives) - Not really in an attic - Just the concept of treasured history!

### **The Family Room/Idea Playroom for Children:**

A Learning Space that Fosters the Joy of Reading and the Love of Learning

- The Discovery World (Creative Play Space)
- The Early Literacy Center
- The Family Corner (Comfortable Reading Spaces for Parents/Caregivers and their Children Together)
- The Homework Center (Study Seating, Tutoring Space)

### The Information Kitchen for Teens:

A Creative Space in an Information Rich Environment that Engages Teens in Productive Activity

- The Crash Pad
- The Laboratory (Maker Space)
- The Test Kitchen (Group Study)

### The Home Office:

A Portal to the Online World that Supports Personal and Business Development as well as Innovation and Enterprise

- The Computer/Learning Commons
- The Conference Room(s)
- The Branch Office (Small Meeting Spaces)

The following are only some of the elements that are being considered:

- A well-built library that provides an **airy and open atmosphere** with many windows;
- A place for **children's programs** that highlight the importance of learning and imagination in a child's life and offers ways for children to fall in love with reading
- **Innovative technology and wireless internet access** throughout the building, along with charging stations that are easily available so patrons can recharge laptops and other electronic devices;
- **Learning labs** that include media creation software and cutting-edge equipment that reflects the latest technology and programs on how to use it (based on the YOUmedia lab in Chicago);
- A **fireplace** in the quiet reading area that feels like a cozy living room;
- An **entryway** that is both **welcoming** and has 'presence';
- An **outdoor kitchen** for testing new recipes with local fresh food from the farmer's market;
- A **business training center** for local corporations, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits to offer training and meeting space.
- **Outdoor space for reading in the garden** overlooking the greenspace and for watching outdoor movies;
- and many more elements that will make the library the pride of Oak Creek.

### WHAT IT WILL COST....

The cost of the proposed library is \$19.4 million. This includes land acquisition, demolition of the buildings that are currently located on the site chosen, furniture, fixtures and equipment, technology designed to be flexible for the future; **additional collections and an endowment / reserve component**. The library has requested a grant of \$14 million from the state of Illinois. If granted, it would cover 75 % of the costs. The library currently has \$3.2 million in reserves for the new building. If the grant were received we would need to raise \$2.8 million in private funding.

## WHO WILL BENEFIT....

The **young children** of Galesburg will delight in their child-friendly environment where they can participate in story time and other age appropriate activities. They will be able to check out books and materials and have access to computers with programs designed specifically for them.

**Older children and teens** will continue on their journey of life long learning with resource materials not available elsewhere, both in print and electronic formats. They will have space to work on projects, meet with friends and participate in activities of interest to them such as book clubs and guest speakers. They too will have access to computers for fun and games as well as research and school related projects.

The Library will expand opportunities for **life long learning for adults**. Whether the Library is a destination for pleasure reading, research or social interaction, it will meet the needs of this diverse group with books, periodicals, other print materials, technology, services, programs and events of interest.

The unemployment rate in Galesburg has grown from 9.4% in February 2012 to 10.6% in February 2013. Sixty percent of school children receive free and reduced lunches. Many residents do not have a computer or internet in their homes and rely solely on the library for computer use and internet access.

**In short, the library is for everyone.**

### A Library in a Community:

**Is the cornerstone  
Is the benchmark of democracy  
Is committed to literacy, lifelong learning,  
personal growth  
Is accessible by all for free  
Is the gathering place for young and old alike.**

Please join us in making the *new Galesburg Library* a place that will be used and loved by every resident.

Imagine a *day in the life* of the new library and see the impact it will have on people of all ages and the entire community.....