

Considering the Future

of the Carnegie
Library



TODAY'S Agenda

The current state of the Carnegie Library.

The MBLC construction program and timeline.

What we've learned from the community so far.

Inspiration from local libraries

Questions and feedback.



The Carnegie Library

Is a beautiful and historic building, but faces a number of problems:

Inaccessibility

Lack of
collection
space

Lack of quiet or
comfortable
study space

Inadequate
workspace for
staff

Limited
children's and
teen spaces

Lack of
program and
meeting space

Inefficient and
non-resilient
systems





The Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will fund 27 building projects in 2024

- ✦ Projects will include new construction, library additions, and renovations
- ✦ Montague is in the top tier for funding. If our project is chosen, 67% of eligible construction costs would be paid for by the state
- ✦ This opportunity will not come around again for another 5-8 years

Grant Timeline



✓ **April 2023** – Submit a Letter of Intent notifying the state that we plan to apply for the library construction grant.

Spring 2024 – Request Town Meeting support for the state grant application and \$150k for the planning and design phase of the project.

Summer 2024
– Wait....

✓ **Fall 2023** – Request community input. Feedback from surveys and focus groups determine what sorts of spaces the community would like to see in their main library.

5/31/24 – Submit grant application.

Fall 2024 – Hopefully receive good news and embark on the planning and design phase of the project.

What we've learned

From 200 survey responses and 3 focus groups



Patrons frequently commented that they want an addition or a new building that “feels like Turners Falls”

We want to know exactly what this means to people.



Patrons find the current building:

Inaccessible, crowded, and noisy but also charming and historic.

Many expressed their appreciation of the library's staff.

The top features patrons would like to see in a new or expanded building:

- An accessible main entrance
- A quiet adult area with comfortable chairs
- Small meeting rooms for private study or small group meetings
- Space for flyers and public notices
- A children's room with a parent/child reading chair
- A meeting room for community gatherings and programs

Inspiration from other libraries



Large windows, high ceilings, cozy lighting, comfy chairs



Accessible and welcoming stacks



Meeting rooms that can be accessed during off-hours



Children's spaces for play, programming, and socialization



Children's spaces for play, programming, and socialization



Bookable study rooms



Local history rooms with easy access to historic collections



Teen spaces that teenagers actually want to spend time in



Lo-fi maker spaces with sewing machines, other craft machinery



Questions?

