

# Swansea Library Expansion & Renovation Project



*Preserving the Past,  
For the Future*



A community space for all ages - from books and computers, to programs and events, to spaces that inspire young minds. Preserving Swansea's historic Main Street while building tomorrow's library for future generations.



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## **A library is essential to a community because...**

- ❑ 6,500 Swansea residents own active library cards.
- ❑ Librarians are better than a Google search and are trained to evaluate resources.
- ❑ There is no single source of information – not even Wikipedia.
- ❑ Not everything is freely available on the Internet.
- ❑ The unemployed use the Library's Internet connection to search and apply for jobs.
- ❑ Librarians help citizens with genealogy research.
- ❑ Families save money by borrowing books and DVDs rather than buying them.
- ❑ Libraries provide 24/7 access to e-books, audiobooks, research, music, magazines and more.
- ❑ Summer reading programs keep children engaged in learning throughout the whole year.
- ❑ After school programs help keep teens focused, safe and engaged.
- ❑ Early literacy programs help the little ones learn to read so they can be ready to learn.
- ❑ Libraries provide the resources, programs, services and spaces for cultural and educational enrichment for all ages.
- ❑ Libraries transform lives every day!

# Why a library expansion?



- Lack of meeting & program space for children, teens & adults.
- Insufficient & inappropriate shelving for collections throughout building.



- Infrastructure does not support today's technologies.
- Insufficient parking
- Extensive renovation is needed for both the original town hall & library. This plan preserves both buildings with a large portion from a state grant.



- Foundation issues due to water infiltration & structural problems.
- No fire protection sprinkler system.



- Children's area in basement is without heat and air conditioning. The area is windowless, has mold and poor air quality, and is not ADA compliant.
- Mechanical & electrical systems are end of life.



- At only 5,840 square feet, the Swansea library has the smallest square footage of any library in Massachusetts serving our population size.
- The library built in 1900 for a population of 1,600 can no longer support the needs of the Swansea community.



**Overall Site Plan**



**Exterior Views**



*"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." ~ Albert Einstein*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. Why do we need a new library?

Swansea has outgrown its original building. The library was built at the turn of the century for a population of 1600. Swansea's population today is approximately 16,000. The Swansea Library provides services to 2,000 visitors each week.

## 2. Why move the library?

The three primary reasons are:

- Connecting the Town Hall to the Library, allows the town to receive up to 48% in state grant funds to fix the town hall building as well as expand the library.
- Moving the library closer to the town hall will enable the entire library site to meet at the same foot level, reducing the need for stairs or accessible ramps inside the building.
- The library's current foundation and basement are deteriorating, with mold and infiltration issues. The cost of moving the library is comparable with the costs entailed in solving the library's foundation issues.

## 3. How does this benefit me?

The library is the hub of the community and serves as a town resource. Every individual uses the library in different ways. Children's programs, technologies, and collections will be expanded to offer new opportunities for early literacy and learning. Adults of all ages will benefit from expanded spaces for programs and resources that encourage civic engagement and provide cultural and educational enhancement. Additional computer equipment and technologies will be available with upgrades to the infrastructure to support technology and future advancements. All ages - babies, pre-schoolers, students, young adults, and adults - are lifelong learners and library users. We support everyone!

## 4. How was the size of the building determined?

The state has minimal space standards for new or renovated Public Libraries. The size of the building is determined by a rigorous analysis of the Library's Building Program which assigned square footage needs for collections, children's services, program spaces, historical collections, and staff work areas. The Building Program for the Swansea Library is available on the library's web site. To receive the State grant, we must meet the standards established in the study and those set by the MBLC.

## 5. What is the cost of not doing this project?

We will eventually need to preserve these buildings if the town wants to maintain historic Main Street. The cost to preserve these two buildings as they stand today is estimated to be \$5 million. This does not include additions to help alleviate the overcrowded issues both buildings struggle with.

## 6. What about traffic and parking?

The relocation of the entry drive should make entry and exit from the library safer. The number of parking spaces will also increase to 46 library dedicated spaces.

## 7. What is the real cost to the town?

It is too soon to comment on final cost of the project, but with your support the MBLC will reimburse the Town up to 48% of the total cost.

## 8. How will the interior of the existing library change?

The intent is not to change the character of the original library's interior, but to preserve the historic nature of both buildings.

## 9. Where will the Town Hall go?

The Selectmen and the Town Hall Building Committee are investigating options. If a new building is not built, rental of available space in town may be a viable lower cost option.

## 10. How can I learn more about the MBLC Construction Grants?

The construction grant guidelines are available online at <http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/construction/fact/index.php>

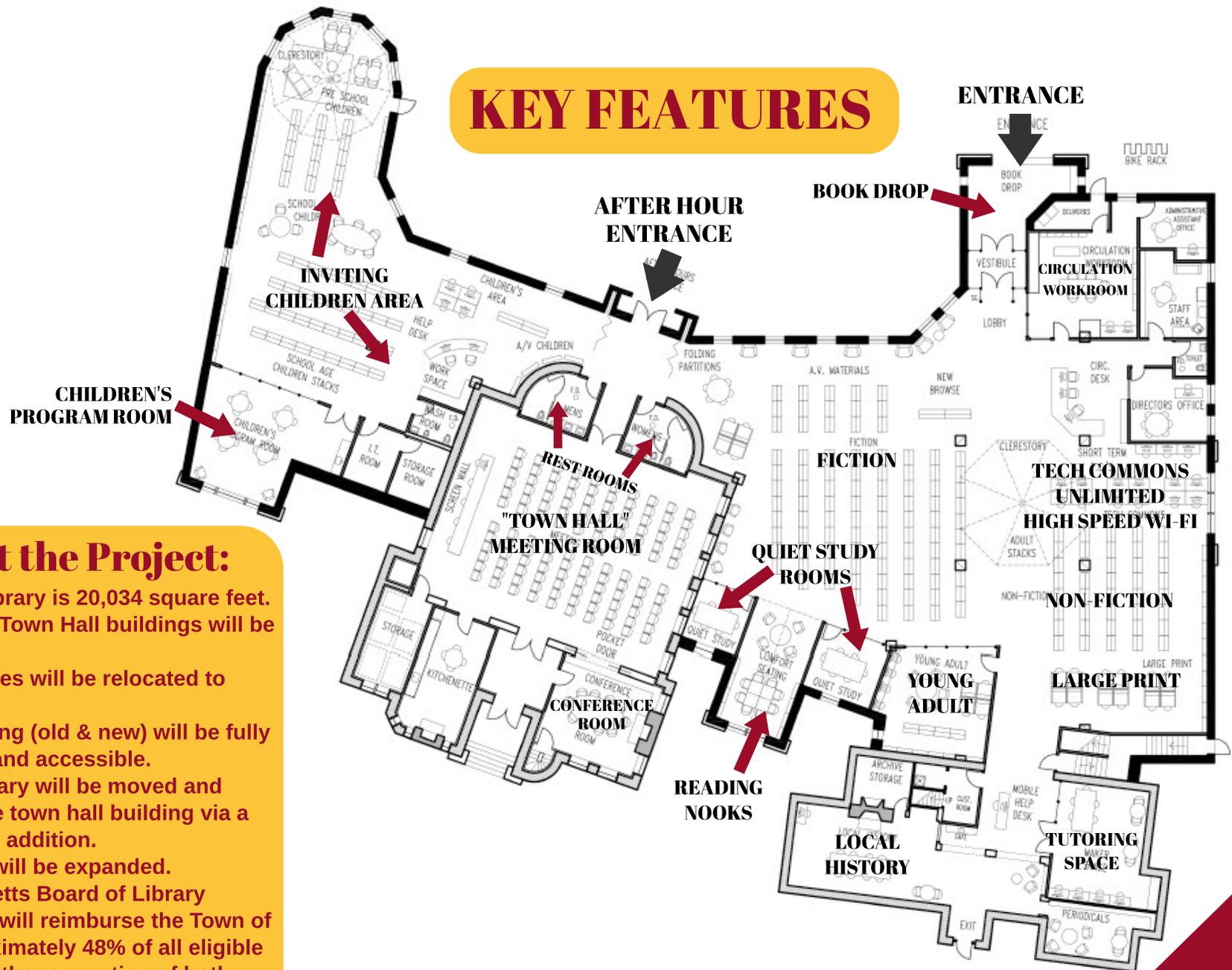
## 11. How can I get involved?

Contact the Library Director, Cynthia St. Amour at [camour@sailsinc.org](mailto:camour@sailsinc.org) or contact Friends of the Swansea Library at [FriendsOfSwansea@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfSwansea@gmail.com)

*Without libraries what have we?  
We have no past and no future. ~ Ray Bradbury*



# KEY FEATURES



## Facts about the Project:

- The proposed library is 20,034 square feet.
- The Library and Town Hall buildings will be fully renovated.
- Town Hall services will be relocated to another site.
- The entire building (old & new) will be fully ADA compliant and accessible.
- The existing library will be moved and connected to the town hall building via a new single story addition.
- The parking lot will be expanded.
- The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will reimburse the Town of Swansea approximately 48% of all eligible costs, including the renovation of both buildings.
- Funds for furniture, technology & security will be raised separately, however total project costs include these items.