

COOPER-SIEGEL COMMUNITY LIBRARY 2.0

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY

FAQ

Who is our community?

Our community includes the six municipalities that comprise the Fox Chapel Area School District, namely Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel, Indiana Township, O'Hara Township and Sharpsburg, and the surrounding areas.

Why is Cooper-Siegel Community Library embarking on a Capital Campaign?

Our library has experienced an increase and change in the demands on our space:

- Library visits are up 23% and program attendance is up 19% over last year, 2022-2023.
- Room rentals are up 20% and study room use is up 9% over last year creating more demand and competition for space for library programs and community meetings.
- Library patrons and staff have changing needs for the types of technology, equipment and instruction the library provides.

We can address current and future space and technology needs with this project that will:

- Complete the unfinished lower level
- Modify current spaces for better sound absorption
- Upgrade technology
- Provide for ongoing and future maintenance needs

What are the planned improvements and benefits for library users?

- **Doubled programming space for library programs and community groups** - An additional large meeting room will address the demand for space to offer regular and special library programs for children, teens and adults as well as the programs offered by numerous community partners.
- **Additional individual/small group quiet spaces** - Doubling the private "study" rooms or small group spaces allows people of all ages to have quiet spaces for individual or small group work from writing to studying to interview calls to homework and projects. Existing meeting and study spaces will also be soundproofed.
- **Flexible multi-purpose area** - People can connect with each other and explore new things together in a space with myriad possibilities. Comfortable seating, collections for relaxed reading and listening, movable fixtures for displays, rotating collections, traveling or temporary exhibits make this space highly flexible and engaging.
- **Space to be creative - and messy** - All ages can explore and express themselves in the "Makerspace" devoted to fostering creativity, curiosity and exploration. Sound absorbing features, hard floors and new equipment allow for making, creating and hands-on learning. Glass walls enable library visitors to see what is happening and may encourage them to join in!
- **Access and visibility** - A new connecting staircase provides additional access to the lower level and a clear focal point close to the main entrance. An elevator and additional stairs already exist near the library's back entrance.
- **Future care** - A capital-reserve fund will enable our library to maintain the facilities without taxing the rest of the operating budget or diminishing library services.

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What is the timing for the project?

We want to complete our fundraising by the fall of 2024 and begin construction in early 2025. Construction is expected to take six months.

How will the Library raise the funds needed?

Our total fundraising goal is \$2,500,000.

Community Commitment	\$1,750,000
Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund Grant	\$ 750,000

As of January 1st, we have raised more than \$400,000 from our community (including contributions from the Library Board and Campaign Leadership). Your gift is important for us to be able to secure the Keystone Grant which requires \$750,000 in matching funds by September 2024.

How will my gift make a difference?

Your gift, combined with those of many others throughout the community, will be instrumental in allowing us to secure matching grant funds, complete the project and contribute to the library's ability to serve our community well into the future.

Can I pledge a gift to be paid over a period of time?

Yes. A gift pledge can be made for a period of three years. We can be flexible on beginning and ending dates for your pledge.

Will donors be acknowledged publicly?

Recognition is planned for donors at all giving levels through a combination of printed and digital means. Naming opportunities are available for donors beginning at the \$5,000 level. Donors may also opt to remain anonymous.

Are donations tax deductible?

The library is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Gifts to support the project are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Donors with specific questions regarding tax deductibility should contact their financial advisor. The library will send receipts to all donors which can be used for tax purposes.

Will the library stay open during the construction?

Yes! The Library Board and staff are committed to maintaining access to library materials, programs and services throughout the construction period.

For more information or to make a gift, please go to
www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org/investinginourcommunities