MLA 2019 – One Chapter at a Time: How Fergus Falls Built Its New Library

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What’s it take to get to this moment?
Prologue: History of Library Expansion Needs: Making a Fact-based Case
**Prologue: History of Library Expansion Needs: Making a Fact-based Case**

Library Renewal Project Goals:

1. To form a **vision** of what Fergus Falls area citizens want and need from the library.
2. To assess the **future** viability of the current library building.
3. To determine **next steps** and **costs** for achieving community’s vision.

### Project Timeline

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### Library Renewal Project Goals:

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97% said the library was an important community asset and 66% indicated that they used the library at least monthly. (FFPL Community Survey, 2013).

“The library needs much more space; you use the current space very efficiently but there is just not enough room for all the different physical needs people have in the library.” (FFPL Community Survey, 2013).
Chapter 1: Community Engagement: Building the Vision Together

“I would like to see areas geared specifically to certain age groups with access to age appropriate technology and training. Whether it be young children or aging parents.” (FFPL Community Survey, 2013).

The library has outgrown its space and although the open floor plan is needed at this time, it also contributes to the problem. Many a day I have come to the library with my children and leave embarrassed, as I know they are too loud and disturb older readers.” (FFPL Community Survey, 2013).
Chapter 1: Community Engagement: Building the Vision Together

Library Design Community Open House

Thursday, January 28, 9AM to 8PM

Try out furniture!

Give us your opinion on interior design for the proposed expanded library.

Architect Presentation & Meet and Greet:
- Noon to 1:30 PM
- 5 to 6:30 PM

Prologue  | Ch 1 Engagement  | Ch 2 Funding  | Ch 3 Design for All  | Ch 4 All Things Local  | Ch 5 Building for the Future  | Epilogue
Chapter 1: Community Engagement: Building the Vision Together
Chapter 2: Funding: Individual Donations, Grants, Referendum, Sponsorships, In-Kind...Consider Them All

Fergus Falls Public Library Renewal Project Funding Summary:

- Half Cent Local Sales Tax - $5.4 million
- Fergus Falls Public Library Foundation - $3 Million
- State Library Construction Grant - $1 Million (a dollar-for-dollar matching grant)

Total = $9.4 Million

Process:

- Half Cent Local Sales Tax Referendum - November 2016
  Half cent sales tax went into effect - January 2018

- Fergus Falls Public Library Foundation - Component fund of West Central Initiative
  Foundation formed in 2013, start-up funds contributed by Friends of the Library
  Fundraising Feasibility Study—2015
  Capital Campaign 2015-2018 (Pledges)–$3 million goal; achieved Feb. 2018

- State Library Construction Grant – awarded February 2018
Chapter 2: Funding: Individual Donations, Grants, Referendum, Sponsorships, In-Kind...

I feel that a strong library system is one of those amenities that draw people here to visit, live, work and play. A community has many facets to make it appealing to all ages, and a library is one of the major pieces. This expansion will serve our community for many years to come, will make us all proud, and be accessible to use by everyone. Let’s all get behind this project with our full support.

~Buzz and Ann Lundeen

- Naming Opportunities
- House Parties
- 5-year Pledge Collection
- Pre-Opening Donor Recognition Party
- Donor Wall
Chapter 3: Designing for All Ages with a Special Focus on Youth
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Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design
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- Local hospital
- NP Park across Cascade Street
- Adjacent brick train depot & grain elevator
- Neighborhood gabled roofs & residential scale
Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design

- Original library footprint
- Expanded library footprint

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Adjacent brick train depot & grain elevator

Simple gabled roofs & residential scale
Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design

Prominent agricultural structures adjoin the sight.
Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design

Simple gabled roofs
& residential scale
Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design

COLOR AND DESIGN INSPIRATION

Prairie Landscape – Orange & Brown

Prairie Landscape – Green

Prairie Landscape – Blue

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Landscape, trees, nature

Rainwater garden

Sculptural bike racks
Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design

Before - dominant lighting masked the vaulted ceiling above

After – celebrating the best aspects of the existing building
Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design

Integrated art hanging system

Artful walls with features at child-height

Mural & custom play features

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Chapter 4: Genius Loci - Spirit of Place in Design
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Reused sculptural panel from original library in outdoor reading room
**Chapter 5: Building for the Future: Energy efficiency/sustainability features**

**Site:**
- Previously developed site (the existing library site), centrally located, familiar to patrons;
- Reuse of the existing library building
- Rainwater garden to reduce storm water run-off
- Native plantings
Chapter 5: Building for the Future: Energy efficiency/sustainability features

Energy & Water Efficiency Using MN B3 SB 2030 to Benchmark Performance Goals:

- Energy efficiency is 52% better than a comparable code compliant building
  - Daylight sensors and LED fixtures
  - Geothermal loop below parking areas
- Water efficiency – 46.7% reduction
  - Low-flow fixtures and auto on/off sensors

Energy Design Process

- Leverage a good design team and utility-sponsored programs, rebates, etc.
- Set goals at the beginning of the process
Chapter 5: Building for the Future: Energy efficiency/sustainability features

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES
Meeting Minnesota State Sustainability Guidelines
(B3 and SB 2030)

1. Geothermal Well Field
2. Covered Bicycle Parking
3. Natural Daylighting
4. Sun Shades to reduce summer heat gain and glare
5. Rain Gardens
6. Stormwater Collectors
7. Improved Building Envelope Performance

Light monitors bring glare-free diffused daylight into the center of the building.

SITE PLAN

NORTH-SOUTH BUILDING SECTION

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Chapter 5: Building for the Future: Energy efficiency/sustainability features
Chapter 5: Building for the Future: Energy efficiency/sustainability features

Daylight Analysis

Gable

- Option A provides direct sun shading for two additional hours each afternoon, additional hours spring/fall and winter months
Chapter 5: Building for the Future: Energy efficiency/sustainability features

Current Design
FF Library - Whole Building Potential, 1.0 Daylight Factor

- Main Level
Chapter 5: Building for the Future: Energy efficiency/sustainability features

**Indoor Environment:**
- Maximized daylighting;
- Acoustics - Sound absorptive materials and consideration for adjacencies (note the enclosed children’s activity room);
- low-VOC materials and other air quality measures; ergonomic furniture

**Sustainable Materials:**
- Durable, low-VOC materials
- Sustainably harvested wood
- Recycled content
- Materials sourced locally where possible
- Construction waste diversion from landfill

**Sustainability outreach:**
- Design workshop
- UMN Capstone project
- Sustainability as a feature
“I have been there five times, and all of the times that I have been there I love it. It is an amazing space to just hang out with some of my friends. I once brought my little cousin there, and she loved the kiddy area. She actually threw a fit when she had to go. I love sitting with my family and playing a game. It is just so homey.”

—3rd grade student
Epilogue: Testimonials from library users; Usage Statistics, New Plans for the Future

- New part-time Early Learning Librarian hired in 2019
- Part-time, LSTA grant-funded Makerspace Coordinator starting this month
- Physical circulation up 10-12% over 2016 (last full year in old library building)
- Largest number of participants enrolled in 2019 Summer Reading Program
- New Program Partners

![Image of children holding signs saying thank you]
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