

Building Your Hanson Public Library for the Future



Building Project Background

Why now?

- State grant funds are available to assist communities with library construction projects
- Public input gathered confirms the library building is too small, outdated, insufficient to meet community needs
- Current library constructed in 1990; building systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing, wifi) outmoded and inadequate; furnishings old; space inadequate for public meetings/programs and for people to spend time in the library for personal learning and social connection

The Library provides our community with free:

- Creative, entertaining, and educational events & activities for all ages
- Passes to museums & local attractions
- Digital library collections - downloadable books, streaming movies, etc.
- Print books for leisure and educational purposes
- Library of Things to borrow: small tools, special crafting equipment, musical instruments, puzzles & games, etc.

Your Library needs to grow - help make it happen!



The Library and the Town of Hanson have the opportunity to apply for state grant funds (MPLCP) for library construction.

What is the MPLCP* 2023-2024?

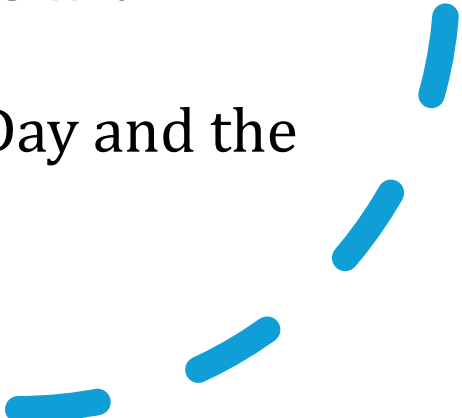
- State grant funds to municipalities for new or renovated library facilities
- Projects must design a facility projected to meet the 30-year needs of the community
- Competitive process requiring submission of an extensive application & a commitment from the local community

**MPLCP: Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program*



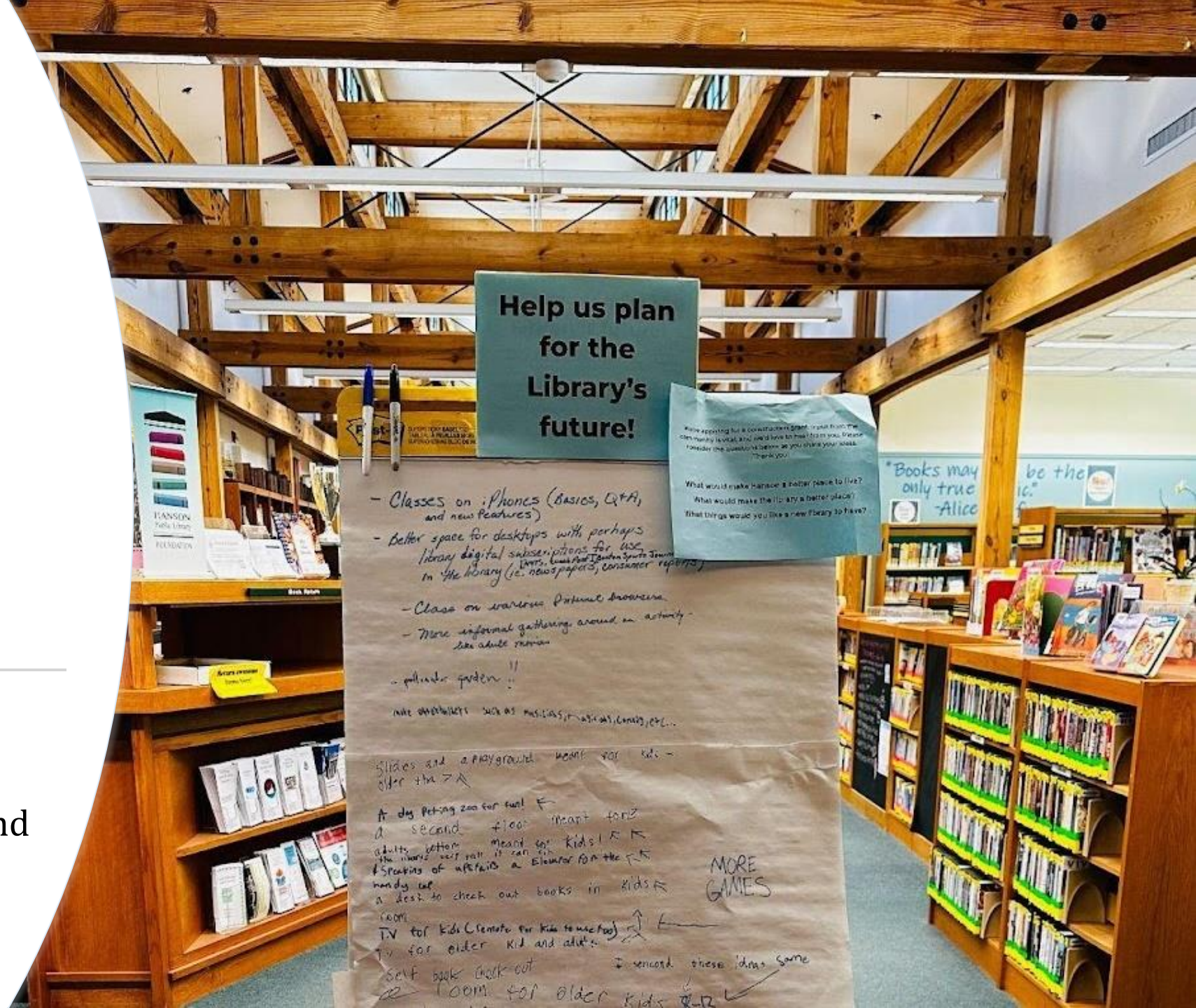
Getting Community Input on the Library's Future

The Library Board of Trustees appointed a Library Planning Committee in April 2023 to assist with the development of a new 5-year Strategic Plan and a Library Building Program. The Committee sought input from the community through:

- A series of community focus groups
 - A community survey & a teen-focused survey
 - Questionnaires and conversations with external groups
 - Prioritization boards at Hanson Day and the Library's Annual Open House
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Planning the Library's Future

Library visitors were given the opportunity to tell us what they would like for library services and the facility



Sample Prioritization Boards

At Hanson Day and the Library's Annual Open House, attendees were given the opportunity to share their priorities for a redesign of the library



What We Learned From the Community: A Selection of Priorities

The community wants the library to:

- Be a centralized, community hub for gathering the community together
- Be a welcoming, attractive building that continues to feel “cozy” yet open; a place people want to spend time, to socialize, and to be a place of respite
- Be flexible in space and furnishings, making it easy for users to be separate and to form groups
- Expand public programming areas; provide large and smaller meeting/study rooms
- Provide green leadership to the community
- Be technologically “anticipatory”
- Be available to groups 24/7 with secure use of public meeting rooms after hours
- Be a place that marries the indoors and outdoors; have a flow between interior space and exterior green & creative play space

From the Community Survey: Most Important Considerations for Redesigned Space

Top 10 important or very important features for the Library to have in a redesigned space

Expanded children's area

Expanded tween/teen/young adult area

Areas for children's play, creative learning, gaming, etc.

Separate children's program and craft area

Large community meeting/program rooms

Small meeting rooms for community use

More accessible service desks, restrooms, and shelving for materials

Spaces for neurodiverse individuals of all ages

Meeting rooms with technology for virtual and in-person use

Incorporation of outdoor space into Library space
(e.g. outdoor seating, reading garden, walking paths)

Other important or very important features for the Library to have in a redesigned space:

- Expanded leisure seating area
- More natural air could flow through the building
- Green building, solar panels, electric vehicle charging station, etc.

From the Community Survey: Most Important Library Services

Top 10 important or very important services

Borrowing materials (books, DVDs, etc.)	Library staff available to assist with research, technology, and searching
Programs for seniors	Partnerships with community organizations, groups, schools, etc.
Museum passes	Programs for children
Library staff available to help with finding new materials to read/watch/listen to	Programs for adults
Library as a community center (i.e. a place to interact with neighbors/friends, meet new people, etc.)	Delivery of Library materials to the homebound

Other important or very important services:

- Programs for teens
- Expanded open hours
- Preserving Hanson history resources and making them easily accessible to the public

From the Community Survey: Top Reasons People Would Use the Library More

Top 10 reasons survey respondents would make more use of the Library

Expanded selection of museum passes

More programs for adults

More availability of new and bestseller titles in print/physical format

More indoor seating areas that were comfortable, had natural lighting, and/or provided outdoor views

Different or expanded hours of public service

More outdoor seating areas

More programs for seniors

More “Library of Things” items to borrow
(musical instruments, small tools, specialty crafting equipment, puzzles/games, etc.)

More availability of online resources for school, work, research, business, job/careers

A larger area for tweens/teens/young adults

Other reasons survey respondents would make more use of the Library:

- A larger area for children’s activities
- Quiet study areas
- Small meeting rooms for community use

Why is the Library Applying for a Grant?

The library can no longer deliver services residents want from their library:

Building opened to the public in 1991, 33 years ago

- Electrical and data access is old and not located conveniently; wifi is weak and unstable
- Single meeting room, shared with the Senior Center, is inadequate to meet needs of Library, Senior Center, and community groups
- Children's room is too small; limited space for teens and middle school students
- Lighting is substandard
- Limited adult seating for leisure and for studying
- Building is not ADA compliant
- Ongoing roof leaks
- Windows are hidden behind fixed shelving units and many are cloudy from seals that have failed
- HVAC system outdated, insufficient, constantly in need of repair

Creation of the Library Building Program

Analyzing the community input received, the Planning Committee worked with the Library Director and consultant to draft the Library Building Program, a requirement for the library construction grant application



What Does the Library Building Program Include?

For complete document: www.hansonlibrary.org/building-project

Description of the Hanson Community

History of the Library and the Library Today

Recent Library Planning Efforts with the Community

Assessment of the Current Library Building

Current Library Site and Other Sites Considered

Facility Impediments to Library Service Delivery

New Hanson Library-Principles and Welcome

Detailed Area Descriptions (to guide architectural design)

Space Requirements for Services

How Does the Community Get the Process Started?

- Trustees adopt the Library Building Program in March 2024
- Library Building Program is shared with the community via presentations to Town officials, the library website, and meetings with community groups
- Town meeting considers the Library's request for funds to commit the community to the initial project planning phase in the event Hanson is successfully awarded an MPLCP grant
- The Library completes and submits the application for grant funds by May 31, 2024

2023-2024 Grant Round

Phase 1: Planning & Design

- Maximum cost expected \$250,000
- Grant covers 50% of costs up to \$100,000
- Town appropriates \$150,00 in anticipation of a grant award

Phase 2: Construction

- Grant covers about 50% of eligible costs*
- Remaining funds come from the town (appropriation and/or bonding) and fundraising efforts by the Library Foundation

** Amount of grant varies depending on the incorporation of certain standards (i.e. LEED design level) in the new library's design*

Grant
Submission
Requirements:
Deadline May
31, 2024

- 5-Year Strategic Plan - *Completed September 23, 2023*
- Library Building Program - *Adopted by Library Trustees March 26, 2024*
- Town Financial Details: Annual Budgets; Capital Plans; Financial Policies; Funding Scenarios - *Underway*
- Site Options: Current Library Site; Maquan School Land
- Facility Assessment: Required if considering renovation - *Underway*
- Official Management Plan: Required to address management of operations if considering a shared facility - *Underway*

For More Information on Your New Library

- Visit hansonlibrary.org/building-project
- Karen Stolfer, Library Director - kstolfer@hansonlibrary.org
- Corinne Cafardo, Board of Library Trustees Chair - bikeriding30@gmail.com