

James Blackstone Memorial Library

Campaign for the Blackstone



Project Background

The Blackstone Memorial Library is an architectural icon of the Branford community, yet it is still a building designed in the 19th Century for a library that must now adapt to meet the needs of 21st Century patrons.

Challenges of the Building		Solutions to Challenges
Children's and Teen Areas	<p>Children's room location on the top floor is difficult to access for parents with young children and the space is inadequate.</p> <p>For teens, there is no program area specifically designed for young adult use including internet access and group study.</p>	<p>The entire children's section will be moved to the ground floor for easy access with expanded space for children and a dedicated family bathroom.</p> <p>A specially designed area for teens will include 6 new computers for internet access. Adult fiction will remain on the ground floor; nonfiction and library staff offices will be moved to the upper floors.</p>
Internet Access	<p>Much greater internet access is needed throughout the library which currently offers only 21 public access computers.</p>	<p>The top floor will incorporate a computer lab with 25 computers for internet access. In combination with 8 children's computers and the 6 new computers in the Teen area, there will be a total of 39 computers for public internet access.</p>
Meeting Rooms	<p>There is a constant need for public meeting space which cannot be accommodated in the only two spaces available—the auditorium and Lucy Hammer Room.</p>	<p>To accommodate the demand for public meeting spaces of various sizes, two new meeting spaces will be provided on the top floor — a new medium-sized meeting room and a larger meeting room made possible by enclosing the auditorium balcony. In addition, the kitchen and storage areas at the back of the auditorium will be relocated to the top floor to permit the auditorium to accommodate larger programs.</p>
Main Entrance Access	<p>The rear entrance from the parking lot is the main access point to the building, yet it is awkwardly designed and difficult for many to use, especially parents with children for whom this is the only possible entryway.</p>	<p>To provide for improved entry to the library from the parking area, the current exterior walkway will be enclosed to provide a modest lobby with accessible restrooms and a more efficient circulation area. The roof of this entryway can serve as a terrace off the auditorium.</p>

For more information on the project, contact Karen Jensen, Library Director, at 203.488.1441, ext. 312, or kjensen@blackstonelibrary.org.



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BRANFORD Community Foundation

BCF Matching Funds to Double Your Gift

The Branford Community Foundation (BCF) has partnered with the Blackstone to help energize local support for the Capital Campaign. BCF has offered a challenge grant of up to \$100,000 to match gifts from individuals.

For every dollar you give—up to \$1,000—BCF will MATCH your donation, doubling the impact of your contribution to the campaign!

Help Blackstone reach their full challenge grant award—make a donation today.

Interested in making a larger contribution or naming opportunity? Please contact Karen Jensen, Library Director, for more information: 203.488.1441, ext. 312.

Campaign Goals

Overall Project Cost: \$4.8 million
based on estimates received January 2017

State Library Commitment: \$1 million
committed contingent on meeting matching requirements by March 2018

Capital Campaign Goal: \$800,000
a very reasonable amount based on the overall project cost

Balance to be requested from the Town of Branford, with the possibility of additional state bond funds reducing the ask to the Town.

Please make a gift or pledge today.

To make a contribution to the Campaign for the Blackstone, you may do so in person at the Library, by mail, or online at blackstonelibrary.org.

The Blackstone Library has been an integral part of the Branford community for well over 100 years, and stands as a visible reminder of the value the past generations placed on education and literacy.

Today we have an opportunity to show future generations that we place the same high value on learning, by investing in changes that will keep the Blackstone relevant, and even cutting edge, for decades to come.

This is the reason why we ask for your support – to serve families, youth, seniors – all who come to read and learn in a spectacular place unlike any other in Connecticut: the Blackstone Library!

