a THRIVING Anchorage Public Library

offering the community the promise of a brighter future in which to live, work and play
Navigating Tough Transitions

Since the opening of the first public library in America, these community assets have been providing opportunities for discovery and the resources for people to continually adapt to their ever-changing environment. In that way, libraries have always been organizations that strengthen their communities.

We are part of the very fabric of the community and our evolution is inextricably linked to the course of this city and our citizens. Historically, library usage grows during economic downturns. When jobs and dollars are short, people turn to public libraries to help them retool and transition. Job seekers turn to the library for access to online employment resources; cost-conscious people look to their libraries as a source of repair manuals and unbiased consumer information; as disposable incomes shrink, people flock to libraries for free recreational reading, listening, and viewing materials.

As the uncertain economic future unfolds around us, Anchorage citizens recognize the need to thoughtfully approach the manner in which we deal with less revenue from the state due to reduced revenue from oil and gas production. We respond by retooling our thinking, reinventing our business models, and gathering together to explore options and ideas on how to survive and thrive. We respond with a continuing dedication to serving citizens as a conduit for information and a catalyst to knowledge and adaptation. We respond by building community.

“In these times of state spending cuts and belt tightening, it’s important to protect our centers of innovation and information as investments in our future. Organizations like the Loussac Library are crucial to giving Alaska’s next generation of business leaders and innovators the tools and support they need to succeed and thrive here in the Last Frontier.”
Jon Bittner, Vice President, Anchorage Economic Development Corp. (AEDC)
Building Community

The community we aspire to be part of and to serve is a community where:

• every child who enters school is ready to learn
• every worker has the technological skills they need to succeed
• every citizen is well informed
• every student has the tools and skills they need to thrive in a global economy
• every resident has the information they need to make important life decisions
• every teen has an environment outside of school where they can learn and grow
• every resident has 24x7 access to the information they need wherever they are
• every resident has resources that enrich their leisure time
• every resident has an inviting neutral place where they can share their ideas
• every organization in the community works together to solve community problems

Building Futures

Imagine a community space where all this can happen. We see the library as a “third place:” a neutral public space for a community to connect and establish bonds; where Anchorage citizens connect and converse; where conversations on current issues take place; a place where people relax and connect to the greater world through print and digital media; where people can enjoy sitting quietly and watching the geese flying south; where parents watch their children play with the building blocks of learning. The Anchorage Public Library has tremendous potential as an important “third place.” In the Great Good Place, Ray Oldenburg calls one’s “first place” the home and those that one lives with. The “second place” is the workplace — where people may actually spend most of their time. Third places, then, are “anchors” of community life and facilitate and foster broader, more creative interaction.
Toward A Thriving Community Asset

At times of great change, communities—people and organizations—need to be flexible and nimble. As the needs of the community change, so must our organizations. The library has the ability to engage our workforce in classes, engage citizens in discussions concerning our collective future and provide resources unavailable elsewhere, and help our young people succeed in school. Engagement, dialogue, and purposeful study is where solutions arise. To do that, we want to leverage our space to bring people together.

Mission: The Anchorage Public Library provides resources to enrich the lives and empower the future of our diverse community, while preserving the past for generations to come.
Our Plan and Timeline

In order to invest in our people and our community we need to invest in our environment. In every community plan conducted over the past 10 years—Library Renewal (2006), the Library Community Plan (2010), and the Loussac Renewal Master Plan (2012)—the physical layout of the Z.J. Loussac Library has been identified as one of the main obstacles in keeping the library from becoming what the community envisions. The renovated Loussac will make bringing people together easy and fruitful. The renovation will enable citizens to have meeting rooms with flexibility to change configurations, spaces where people can engage in quiet conversation, broadband connectivity with devices and space to use WiFi, areas where children can learn the building blocks of language, and, of course, books, magazines, DVDs, CDs and research material for people to use.

When the bond in which library funding was included failed to pass in 2014 the Sullivan administration re-evaluated the Loussac Renewal Master Plan and made the decision to move ahead with two critical parts of that plan that foster the most opportunities to serve citizens in new ways: 1) creating a welcoming, accessible entrance with easy access to all four floors, and 2) reconfiguring the circulation area, making it more user friendly for both the public and staff allowing the Library to open up the 2nd and 3rd floors to more flexible spaces. Kept in the forefront of the design was the ability of the spaces to remain flexible in order to foster easy adaptation in the future.

Vision: The Anchorage Public Library is an essential partner in building and sustaining a literate citizenry, transforming lives through information and knowledge and enhancing Anchorage’s quality of life.
Key Features

- A new 3 story glass enclosed entryway open to the sun and the Chugach Mountains, giving people the opportunity to experience our fabulous surroundings.

- The entryway, containing an expanded cafe, will serve as a lobby for the Assembly Chambers, the Wilda Marston Theatre and the circulation area will be available for after hour use.

- A pedestrian plaza will replace the unsafe, crumbling stairs and terrace.

- An elevator with access to all four floors making the Library more welcoming and accessible and allowing the public to use the meeting spaces on the 4th floor even when the Library is closed.

- The 2nd floor where the circulation area was will become an open, flexible space: Anchorage’s living room.

- A newly built entrance on the 2nd floor to the Youth Section will help draw families into an area designed specifically to help young people build a good foundation of learning for their future and provide a noise reduction barrier.

- Flexible public meeting rooms will be spread throughout the library.

- Additional space with access to computers and WiFi is being configured.

- Furniture throughout the library will have electrical outlets for people to use to charge their devices.

- The design for an automatic handling system is being constructed.
“The library of tomorrow will need to not just be about books ... but a lively community center focused on arts, politics, and yes, even sports.”
– Online respondent, Community Plan 2010.

Envisioning a world-class public library for Anchorage is easy. Creating such a library in a difficult economic environment is not. If our community-envisioned library is to succeed and thrive, we need your help.

Together with the community’s business and political leaders we can transform the Anchorage Public Library into an institution that has the ability to help transform the lives of Anchorage’s citizens and build on the important work of making Anchorage a thriving place to live, work and play. Won’t you join us in exploring the plans envisioned by your fellow citizens? We’d welcome your thoughts, and feedback and would like to sit down with you to discuss the plans in further detail.

Every day, the library makes a difference in the lives of job-seekers who use the Library’s computers as their lifeline to employment and in the lives of hundreds of individuals who check out materials related to their education, employment or enjoyment.
## Loussac Entry
### Renovation Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library renovation requirements</th>
<th>$14,000,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal funding available</td>
<td>$13,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private gift investments needed</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Private Gift Investments to Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entryway &amp; Lobby</th>
<th>3 Floor glass entryway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian Plaza</td>
<td>A new open plaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevator</td>
<td>Public elevator to access all 4 floors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Room</td>
<td>Large open space on the 2nd floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Section Glass Entry</td>
<td>Colorful, fun entry into the youth section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Floor Meeting Room</td>
<td>Large public meeting space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Floor Meeting Room</td>
<td>Flexible public meeting space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Floor Meeting Rooms</td>
<td>2 Assembly &amp; Public meeting rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large 2nd Floor Meeting Room</td>
<td>Meeting room open towards the Chugach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Floor Charging Station</td>
<td>Electronic outlets for personal devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Stairway</td>
<td>Access to all 4 floors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Room Furniture</td>
<td>All meeting rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Room Furniture</td>
<td>Furniture with electrical outlets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recognition will be given to all donors in the form of prominently placed plaques throughout the library.