

Our Challenges

As the library's services and offerings continue to expand and diversify, its longstanding need for additional space has become even more pressing.

This need was documented in the library system's 2022-25 Strategic Plan: "Pursue opportunities that may arise for acquisition or construction of additional library space" (4c). Community feedback has indicated a need for quiet study/meeting spaces, which DPL is unable to provide at its current location. As MakerSpace use continues to rise, DPL is eager to offer expanded opportunities for makers, but limited greatly by space. Circulation of physical materials for juveniles increased from about 75,000 in 2016 to more than 100,000 in 2023, but limited space in DPL's basement Children's Department presents a challenge, particularly during popular events and programs.

We are excited to see engagement with the library continue to grow, but we must do the same to ensure all visitors have safe, ample, and accessible space at library programs.

"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people."

—Andrew Carnegie

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Defiance Public Library
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Defiance Public Library System

Defiance | Sherwood | Hicksville



BOOKIN' IT INTO THE FUTURE

THE DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM ANNEX PROJECT

READ, CONNECT, GROW

DEFIANCELIBRARY.ORG/ANNEX



Our Impact

Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) aims to create safe and welcoming spaces for everyone, remove barriers to information access, and enrich our communities in new and meaningful ways. In 2024, the library system offered 866 free programs for all age groups, allowing our patrons to continue to learn and build community at their libraries.

In recent years, DPLS has expanded its offerings to include a growing Library of Things (nontraditional items for checkout, such as a telescope, blood pressure monitor, and metal detector) and a museum/attraction pass lending program.

From teaching critical literacy skills, to helping patrons learn to navigate the digital world, the modern library is a lively information hub tasked with evolving to meet its patrons' changing needs. We aim to connect our communities by bringing people together to learn from the past, understand the present, and prepare for the future.

Lend a hand! Scan to make a contribution to the Annex Project:



Our Vision

A donation of two parcels of property across the street from the Carnegie library has presented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to complete this needed expansion in a cost-effective way. The total construction cost, including renovations to the main library, is estimated at \$5.3 million*, to be paid for using \$750,000 of the library's own money. At least half of the construction cost would be funded by generous donors, whose gifts would continue a 120-year tradition of philanthropy within DPLS. The library system plans to borrow funds to cover the remainder, then place a new countywide levy before voters to cover operating and maintenance costs.

Proposed Functions

Early planning calls for expanded children's services on the first floor of the annex, and a MakerSpace and large meeting room (to be shared with local government and non-profits) on the second floor, as well as space for an adult literacy coordinator, huddle rooms, and basement storage. Renovated space in the Carnegie building would allow for expanded teen and local history services and possibly the addition of a small coffee shop. Plans are subject to change as the design process progresses.

The annex would become the epicenter of services that would benefit DPLS' branch locations too, most notably the MakerSpace, which already brings services to DPLS' branch locations, and the Adult Literacy Program, which would do the same. Expanded local history and genealogy services would also enrich offerings at the Sherwood & Hicksville branches.

*Final cost determined by building plan

Our Future

As we look to the future through the lens of DPLS' rich history, it's exciting to imagine patrons continuing to gather—with plenty of space for everyone—at the confluence to read, connect, and grow for another century and beyond.

DPLS is dedicated to meeting the needs expressed by our community, while maintaining a steadfast commitment to fiscal responsibility and great stewardship of public resources.

The DPLS Board of Trustees researched numerous locations as sites for a library annex, but none met all the unique requirements that accompany serving as a comfortable, welcoming "community living room." With the land donation, a convenient expansion designed to suit our patrons' and staff's specific needs has come within reach. Still, much work lies ahead. Since the 1873 formation of the Defiance Library Association, our residents have demonstrated a willingness to do this work on behalf of the library, and the coming years will be no different. **DPLS is eager to offer patrons more, and with community support for the Annex Project, we will be able to do just that.**

2025

- Capital campaign & fundraising
- Building planning

2026

- Capital campaign & fundraising
- Final architectural & building designs
- Borrowing money dependent on the amount raised

2027

- Construction & new levy on ballot for operating costs/maintenance payment
- Grant writing for furnishings & equipment