

# SNOW LIBRARY

## HONORING OUR PAST.

## BUILDING OUR FUTURE.



[snowlibrary.org](http://snowlibrary.org)  
[friendsofsnowlibrary.org](http://friendsofsnowlibrary.org)

# A new building

A central hub since 1887, Snow Library has long played multiple vital roles in the town of Orleans—library, historical archive, study hall, meeting space, cultural and community center.

**Snow Library is in urgent need of a new facility.** Its aging building is at the end of its useful life.

Recent planning efforts have documented that Orleans needs a library that is larger, has flexible spaces, is green, and technologically up to date. A state-of-the-art library will serve our community through the 21st century.

**Join us in charting a new path forward.**



*The current Snow Library, from Main Street in Orleans.*

*Cover slide:  
Snow Library and Methodist Church, 1897  
(H.K. Cummings Collection)*



# Vision

The Snow Library is for everyone: a hub of imagination that sparks learning, creativity, and joy.

# Mission

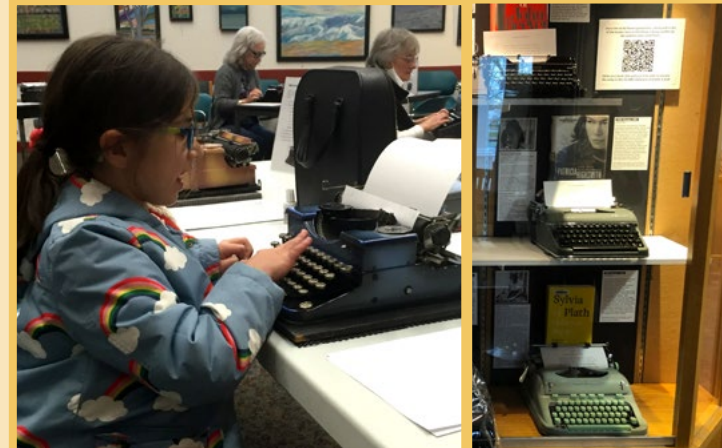
We provide the community connection to ideas, inspiration, and engagement with others.

*Despite the building's challenges, Snow Library strives to continue its mission.*



Come to a

# TYPE-IN



### *A recent community connection (multi-platform):*

- A participatory **onsite event** for all ages
- An **exhibit** in our front hall displayed typewriters used by noted authors  
(this display case is reserved for exhibits created by community members)
- An **online catalog** of the exhibit, accessed by a QR code, linked to CLAMS ([bit.ly/3ZUbcS2](https://bit.ly/3ZUbcS2))

# Facts & statistics about Snow Library

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- Founded with \$5,000 bequest by David Snow in 1876
- After the original building burned down during a blizzard in 1952, the current mid-century Snow Library building, with its brick exterior, was built in 1954. It was expanded in 1977 and 1992
- The most-visited town building in Orleans
- Of 6,798 library cardholders, 3,596 are Orleans residents
- In 2021, 623 programs drew 13,956 people
- Current 16,568 square feet holds 127,923 materials. Snow circulated 107,368 of these in 2021
- Orleans year-round population is 6,300. During summer it grows to 20,000. Summer library visits grow by up to 70%



*A new facility is now urgently needed.*

# Well-attended, robust programming

Current programs for all ages include:

- Author talks & readings
- Art exhibits
- Art classes
- Musical performances
- Children's storytimes
- Puppet shows
- Lego workshops
- Scavenger hunts
- Movies
- Book clubs
- Book sales
- *Baby's First Year* support groups
- *Lifetime Learning* programs (Friends of Snow Library)



Jazz musicians Fred Fried & Bruce Abbott in concert for Library patrons in the Craine Room.



Making friends over Legos in the Children's Room.



# Where are we today?

**Snow Library has run out of space.** The current facility does not have enough room for existing programs and requires major physical improvements for safety, infrastructure, and energy efficiency.

## Most urgent needs:

- Fire suppression system
- New roof and HVAC system
- Improved emergency egress
- Fortified mezzanine structure to meet public building standards
- Improved handicapped access
- Expanded parking area

## Inadequate space for:

- The current collection
- Children's activities
- Study & meeting spaces for teens and adults
- Quiet reading & work spaces for adults
- Current programming
- Community and organizations to hold programs
- Archive storage



*Snow Library's family area is crowded with young and older visitors on a rainy summer day.*



*The Staff Room on the lower level is only one of several repositories for overflow materials.*

# Why can't we just fix what's there?

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- Addressing significant age-related repairs to the building's roof and siding will trigger State code compliance requirements such as meeting full accessibility standards and adding fire protection.
- Facility repairs will not provide the needed additional space for collections, programs, and public access.
- We'd miss out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a flexible, state-of-the-art facility that will serve Orleans through the 21st century.



# Why do we need to act now?

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The Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program has announced a new round of grant applications.

- A **feasibility study** is the first step needed to apply for design and construction funds
- Grants typically cover between **30-40%** of design and construction costs
- The grant program is highly competitive; only nine awards are expected out of an anticipated pool of over 40 applications



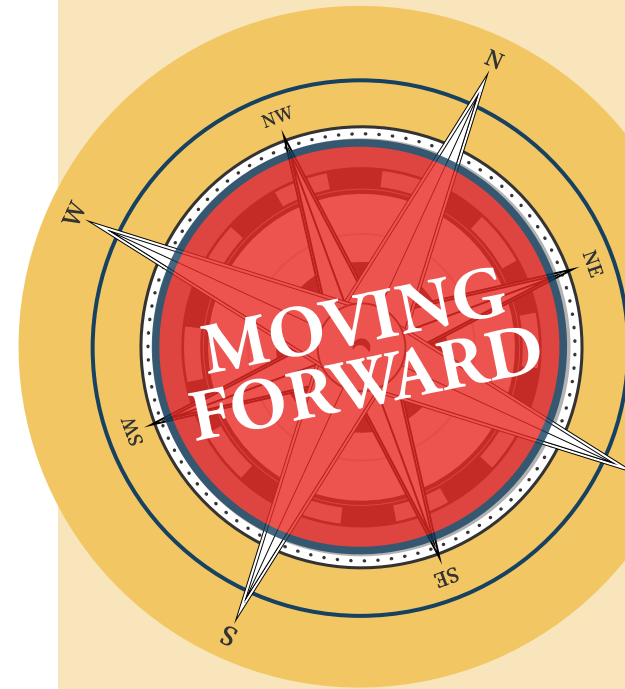


# A Snow Library for our future

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## A new library would include:

- State-of-the-art technology
- Quiet reading & work space for adults
- Study & meeting spaces for teens and adults
- A separate children's room
- Proper, safe storage for historical archives
- Multiple rooms for wider community use
- Adequate space for collections
- Natural light throughout
- A green, energy-efficient building



# What do people say about Snow Library?

"I have been coming to Snow Library ever since I was old enough to read. The library has always opened new worlds for me."

"It's where I go to participate in learning programs, see great art, have lively discussions about books...It's one of the best places in Orleans!"

"In truth, this library is our Orleans community center. As our community and its needs grow, Snow Library must grow with it."

"The library truly has something for everyone, regardless of age or income."

"How lucky we are... with all this culture, information and entertainment all for no charge – with a splendid staff in the bargain!"

"The people who work there are very friendly and helpful."

# Libraries remain community treasures

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In addition to addressing structural inadequacies, a new building will allow Snow Library to bring the past and present into the future.

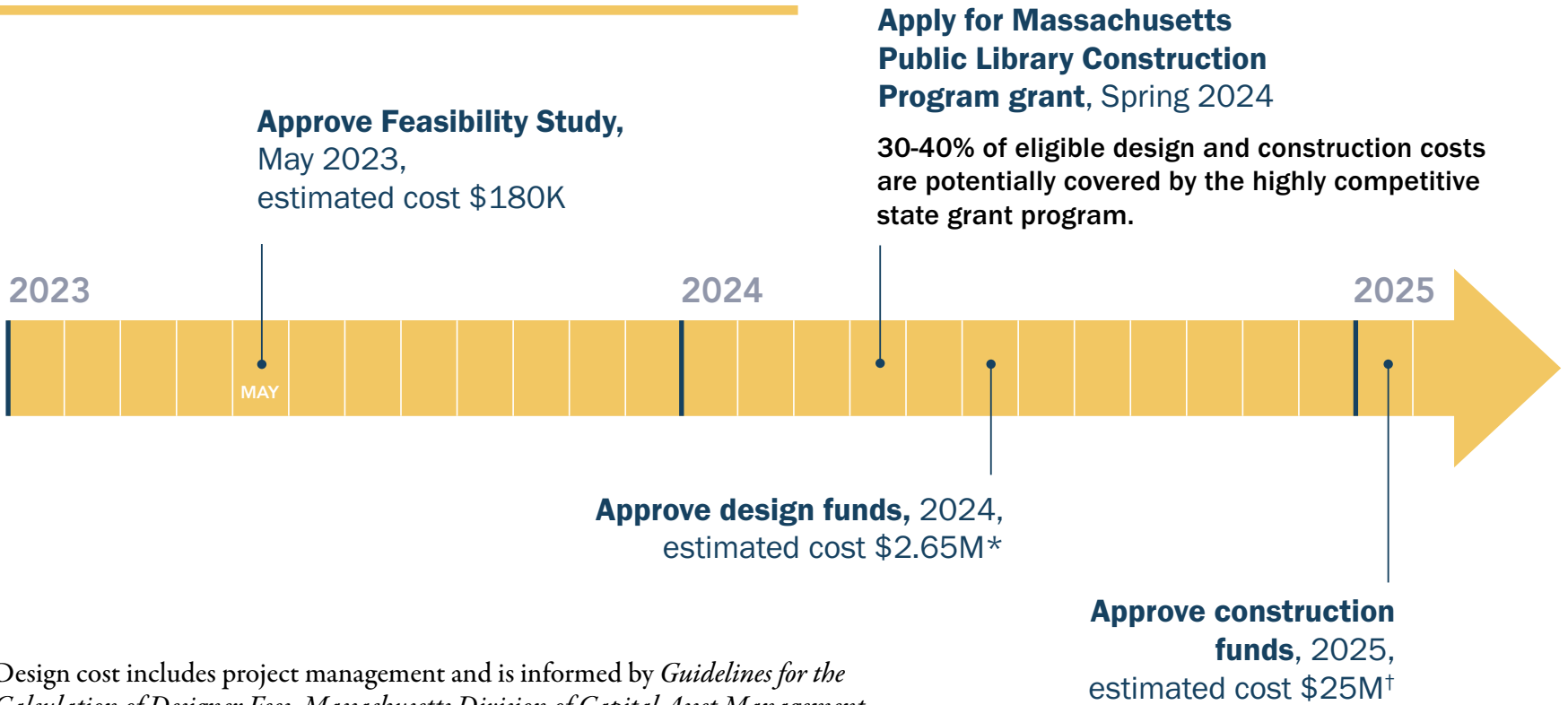
Libraries will continue to adapt to maintain significance as priorities and technology change.

“ Libraries have endured for centuries because each generation has reshaped the library in its own image, with new intellectual agendas and new buildings that reflect the priorities of the community and the day. As libraries today embrace redesigns, making room for computers, meeting spaces, culinary learning centers and coffee shops to serve their patrons, they are following in a long tradition of adaptation, from the first medieval libraries that chained their books when visitors surged, to 19th-century libraries that had to make new space for women and children.”

— Arthur der Weduwen and  
Andrew Pettegree, *Historians*  
*The Washington Post*, Oct. 19, 2021



# Timeline & costs for new Snow Library



\* Design cost includes project management and is informed by *Guidelines for the Calculation of Designer Fees, Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM)*, February 2022, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidelines-for-the-calculation-of-designer-fees/download>.

† Construction cost based on an estimate of 25,000 GSF and construction cost of \$1,000/square foot.

# Let's build our future together

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## CONNECT

- Visit the *Building Our Future Together* webpage: [bit.ly/3gV0fxL](https://bit.ly/3gV0fxL)

Here you'll find up-to-date information and documents about our progress and next steps (such as the Building Program and Strategic Plan).



- Questions? Email us at [snowlibrary@googlegroups.com](mailto:snowlibrary@googlegroups.com)

## ...AND VOTE!

- Vote YES at Spring Town Meeting on May 8, 2023 for the **Snow Library feasibility study.**

*Thank you for your support!*

