

# GENEVA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

## PLANNING OUR FUTURE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*A valued and innovative community resource empowering residents to seek knowledge, create ideas, and achieve dreams*



### **Why do we need a new Library?**

The current building does not meet the contemporary needs of the community due to lack of space, flexibility, or modern conveniences (parking, drive-up, eating and social spaces, teen area, variety of meeting rooms, etc.). In addition to providing access to printed materials and technology, libraries offer vibrant social and cultural experiences. Space limitations result in difficult service decisions because we simply cannot provide everything you need in our current building.

### **What's wrong with our current building?**

Our building is severely undersized for our District population and needs significant and costly renovations to bring it up to current building code. Our Library has high operational costs due to age and layout of the building. Mechanicals (heating, air conditioning, elevator) are beyond their recommended lifespan and beginning to fail. The building is not ADA compliant, making visits difficult or sometimes impossible for people in wheelchairs, on crutches, or accompanied by children in strollers.

### **Why can't we renovate our current space?**

Parking, lack of space, and inability to reconfigure interior space due to many load bearing interior walls are major problems that cannot be solved by renovating the current facility. Further investment into the infrastructure of the current building is not a wise use of tax dollars.

### **Why can't we expand at the current site?**

After multiple additions, the site achieved maximum build-out capacity in 1998, and the Library is landlocked.

### **Why do we need libraries when we have the Internet?**

Digital literacy and access to technology are essential to function in today's world. Technology has accelerated the pace of change, and the useful life of our educational experience continues to shorten. Libraries provide personalized help and hands-on instruction for learning job skills, making services even more essential.

### **What new services would a new library offer?**

District residents consistently state the Library needs to be a destination in town that offers expanded services such as collaborative learning spaces, digital media creation, imaginative play space, small business support, parent networking opportunities, a variety of meeting and event spaces, and PARKING!

Learn more at: [www.gpld.org/pressroom](http://www.gpld.org/pressroom). Contact us at: [Board@gpld.org](mailto:Board@gpld.org).

### WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

*"I love the Geneva Library but the lack of space is getting uncomfortable. I have to walk sideways to get through the stacks."*

*"I love the current library, but with a town of our size and resources, I think it could offer even more ... my parents' library ... is just a constant hive of activity. They have tons of meeting space, a huge children's section with plenty of areas for free play and reading space..."*

*"The handicap accessibility to the library is terrible. One parking space, ... there is no room in the vestibule for a wheelchair and someone pushing it ..., and to get a wheelchair from the street parking to the sidewalk, one has to enter a one way driveway for cars."*

*"[We need] accessibility to better meeting spaces and comfortable places to engage with others or simply enjoy a book in a quiet setting. Offering a cafe type environment for coffee, hot chocolate, snacks etc. Business Center."*

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY

## INFORMATION ABOUT COSTS

### How much do I pay for the Library now?

The Library is funded primarily by property taxes, not sales tax, and accounts for one of the smallest portions of the tax bill—approximately 3% of the average property tax bill in Geneva. All programs and services are available at no extra cost.

With approximately 22,000 visits recorded monthly, the Library provides outstanding value to all community members regardless of age or stage of life.

### How much would a new library cost?

Cost will be estimated after architects complete a preliminary building program and determine square footage requirements. On a per square foot basis, it will cost less to operate a new building. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

### How will you pay for a new library?

Funding to construct a building requires community support for issuing general obligation bonds. The Board of Trustees will work with District members to determine community support for a building project, with a goal of making a decision for moving forward by December 2016.

### Will a new building require more staff?

A new building would be designed to utilize staff and technology more efficiently than is possible in the current building. A larger, more efficiently designed building would require less staffing and be more cost effective on a square footage basis.

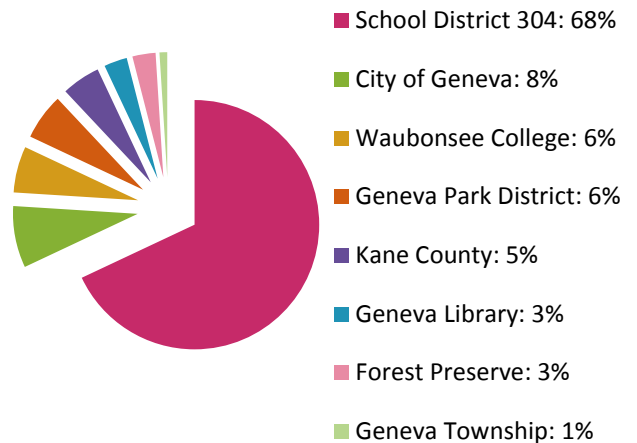
Learn more at: [www.gpld.org/pressroom](http://www.gpld.org/pressroom).

Contact us at: [Board@gpld.org](mailto:Board@gpld.org)

## WHY NOW?

The age and condition of our current building forces us to make some tough decisions. Building systems are past their life expectancy and are failing. Needed renovations cannot wait any longer. Compliance with new codes and ADA regulations will necessitate major structural changes. Costs for staying in the current building continue to escalate every day.

## How are property taxes divided?



## INFORMATION ON SIXTH STREET

### Why did you buy the Sixth Street property?

The Library is an important part of our downtown, and you have consistently voiced your desire for the Library to remain downtown. Securing land is necessary for ensuring the Library can grow and evolve to meet the needs of District residents. The Board of Trustees held a public hearing for the land purchase on April 23, 2015.

### How will the Library impact traffic and parking in the area?

Sixth Street was formerly a school, so continuing to use the site for a public purpose maintains a longstanding tradition.

Honoring and respecting the Sixth Street neighborhood with any new building is important to us. Seventh Street would provide good access to the site, and on-site parking would be provided.

### Will you keep the park at Sixth Street?

Outdoor space is important to our community, and we will respect that with any future building program. In the meantime, we will continue a lease arrangement with the Park District for use of the playground.

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