2016 Riverside Public Library Patron Survey

**Patrons commented:**

- “The Library is our community center in Riverside”
- “Part of the glue that holds Riverside together”
- “The Library is a jewel”

And expressed the following about the Children and Youth Services Department:

- I believe the Library needs to serve the community as a resource for children and teens.
- We need more creative programming for teens and young adults.
- The CYS Department should be more playful and have a warmer environment.
Universally, libraries are changing from repositories for books to a destination.

- Libraries are community spaces
- Social places
- Collections are important, but just part of the importance of libraries
- A library is a place where patrons can feel comfortable
- Libraries need to provide multi-use spaces and services for all patrons, regardless of age!
Over 8000 students used the Library after school in 2017.

12,567 attended programs and events at the Library, a number which has almost doubled since 2009!

Enrollment in Districts 96 and 208 have increased every year over the past 5 years.

According to the most recent Census, 25.9% of Riverside’s population is under the age of 17.
The last major renovation to the Library occurred in 1985 when the addition was built.
INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS
Funded by the Friends of the Library

1989 - Quiet Reading Room
2016 - New Adult Shelving
2017 - Opening Doors Project

The main level and our adult patrons benefited most from these projects
MAJOR REPAIRS

2017 - New HVAC $375,000

1999 – present. Over $500,000 spent on various roof, plumbing, carpeting and masonry repairs for our landmark building.

All of these repairs were funded by the Library’s Operating Budget and accumulated savings from the budget over the years. No additional tax dollars were requested to fund these repairs.
In 2012, the Library Board of Trustees began the process of planning for the future.

Studio GC, an architect/design firm that employs a team of library specialists and have had over one hundred library clients, was hired to evaluate our space.

Using input from patron surveys, staff input and their own surveying, a visioning and master plan for the Library was completed.
In 2016, the Board approved the Design Development documents which gave us the proposed Lower Level Renovation Project.

Seven areas of renovation are included within this plan.
CHILDREN’S AREA

Currently the children’s area of the lower level is part of the original building’s basement.

The area is directly next to the stairs which makes it attractive for kids to climb and attempt escapes. It also adjoins the open Atrium which becomes noisy during busy story times.

Fluorescent lighting is poorly spaced and burns out frequently.

The CYS Staff Area takes up a lot of room which limits space for our youngest patrons use.
The space is crowded and mismatched and looks like a basement. It does not offer a pleasant, stimulating area for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.
EARLY LEARNERS (Proposed)

Open spaces and defined playing areas.

Proportionately sized furniture and shelving for the youngest Library patrons
The Early Learners area would be enclosed with one defined entrance providing better sound control. The stained glass window from the original Library’s Children’s Room will be installed in one of the window frames.

Energy efficient lighting plus plenty of natural light from the full length windows. Beautiful river views for children, parents, grandparents and caregivers!
The Public Meeting Room is dated, only allows for one meeting at a time and offers little storage space for chairs and tables. The kitchenette is minimal and in poor shape.
The Public Meeting Room will be enlarged and will be able to be turned into two separate rooms with separate entrances/exits.

The kitchenette area would be updated.

Storage closets

The kitchenette area would be updated.
Access to Mechanical Room and Water valve supply closet must be done through Storytime Room.

Fluorescent lighting and lowered ceilings.

Decoration limits age group appropriateness.
MULTIPURPOSE/STORYTIME ROOM (Proposed)

- Windows for more light
- Sound absorbing wall
- Storage for tables, chairs, and supplies
- All age décor with more space for activities

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY:
Storytime/Multipurpose Room
Seating for the middle school and young adults and teens are all in the same area underneath the Atrium opening which makes for noise rising upstairs quickly. These age groups need separate areas.

Shelving units are adult sized which can often be too tall for younger patrons.
Bookshelves for Juvenile materials would be located in the Atrium.

Colors scheme would blend into main floor atrium area.
Early learners area will be sectioned off by half wall/half window room. Stained glass window from original children’s room will be used in this area.

Multipurpose room will be visible yet secure

Appropriate height shelving
Portable service desk to serve the Juvenile and Early Learning areas.
Service Desk to assist afterschool needs of students

Tables for group study as well as computers in area where the Storytime room was. The smaller entrance to the department will help with noise reduction up the Atrium open space.
An enclosed room dedicated for teens and Young Adults. The materials collection will be housed in the room and “state-of-the-art” telecommunication/computer access will be available. This room can also serve as a meeting room if necessary.
TO DATE WE HAVE RAISED:

$1,300,000

$200,000
Reading between the Wines (RBTW) was the first fundraising event held for the Lower Level Renovation Project! Close to 350 people enjoyed wine tasting and entertainment in the Library on February 3, 2018.

(On February 2, 2019 RBTW raised almost $30,000)
Ticket sales, silent auctions and wine sale proceeds raised $14,389 for the project.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor attending the event, an additional $12,000 was given bringing the total amount raised to $26,389!
HOW WILL WE REACH OUR GOAL?

Events

• Reading between the Wines

• Artists on Display

• Your ideas welcome
HOW WILL WE REACH OUR GOAL?

Capital Campaign

- Fundraising mailing
- Possible naming rights opportunities
- Contributions for inclusion in a recognition area
- Business sponsorships
- Raffles
- Ongoing support from the Friends of the Library
HOW WILL WE REACH OUR GOAL?

Individual Donations

• Monthly and annual contributions

• Tax-free IRA contributions from supporters over 70