WHITINSVILLE
SOCIAL LIBRARY

Library Project

FAQs



Massachusetts Libraries
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
mass.gov/mblc

WHY DOES THE LIBRARY NEED AN EXPANSION?

The 1913 building lacks space and flexibility for the future. Space for patrons in every age group, space for programs, space for staff, and space for collections is needed.

WHERE IS IT EXPANDING TO?

The WSL Board of Trustees purchased the properties at 24, 28 & 30 Cottage St with the specific purpose of expanding the library's footprint in the back.

WHAT WILL THE EXPANSION RETAIN?

The wood, carvings, front lawn, granite facade, spiral staircase, and reading rooms.

WHAT WILL THE EXPANSION ADD?

Services through dedicated spaces: enclosed children and teen rooms, event rooms, reservable meeting & study rooms, workspace for staff, more collection space and parking. Much needed electrical, technology, roof, and infrastructure repairs are also included in the project.

WHAT WILL THE EXPANSION REMOVE BUT REPURPOSE IN THE NEW BUILDING?

The back stacks and marble floor. The marble may be used in the facade for the new side entrance and the iron stacks may be repurposed as interior artwork.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ?

The estimate for total project costs is $31.9 million. To date, $250,000 has been spent explicity on this project.

HOW WILL IT BE PAID FOR?

The MPLCP grant covers 45.65% of eligible costs at an estimated $12.5 million. Funding from Northbridge taxpayers through a debt exclusion, which goes away once paid off, the WSL private endowment, fundraising, and donations will contribute to the remaining costs.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

May 4, 2027: Spring town meeting

May 18, 2027: Spring election

Sept 2028: Break ground

Feb 2030: Grand Reopening

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE VOTES FAIL?

The town will forfeit the grant and the funds will go to another town. Northbridge can apply again the next time this competive grant is offered but funds already invested will not be recouped.

WHY NOW?

MBLC does not offer this competitive grant every year. We applied in 2024, were waitlisted, and are now eligible for the state funds. Libraries today and in the future have different needs than libraries built in 1913.

www.whitinsvillelibrary.org/expansion

For the most up-to-date information and to see the plans