



Friends
of the Library

Friends of Blakesburg Public Library



PO Box 43 Blakesburg, IA 52536

*I'll get by with a little help
from my friends.*

McCartney

-- John Lennon, Paul

Mission Statement:

“The Friends of the Blakesburg Public Library is organized for the purpose of providing funding and programming assistance for special needs or projects of the Blakesburg Public Library.”



Website: <https://www.blakesburg.lib.ia.us/about/friends-blakesburg-public-library>

Organization History:



The Friends of the Blakesburg Public Library non-profit was formed in 2011 and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2012, with 53 members.

The first officers were President Jennifer Cope, Vice President Cheryl Talbert, Secretary Judy Reidel, and Treasurer Donna Thompson. Current officers are President Judy Riedel, Secretary Helen Theulen, and Treasurer, Ilene Johnson.

Rounding out the Executive Board are at-large members Vera Miller, Grant Reidel, Jane Force and Shirley Smith. Members of FOBPL include representation from all genders, ages, educational attainment, and socio-economic status.

Membership:

Membership is open to all. Annual dues are \$20 per person or \$35 per family. Membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the library on the fourth Monday of the following months: January, April, July & October. All meetings are open to the public.



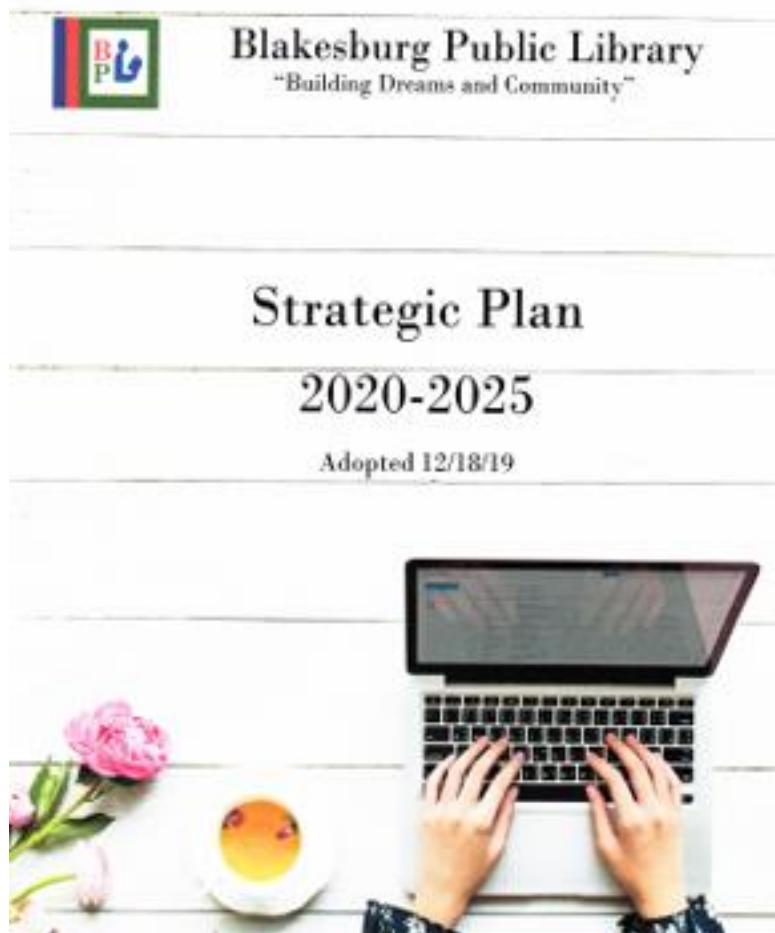
Organization projects:

- Paid for first year of integrated library management system (online library card catalog and circulation system program) for the library
- Donated funds and volunteers assisted with the library's annual Father-Daughter Dance
- Donated funds to purchase library books for early childhood, children, and teens
- Wrote a grant to purchase 8 public and 2 staff computers, a projector, screen, and A-V cart for the library

Organization projects:

- Collaborated with the Loving Shepherd Food Pantry’s “Small Town Christmas” events, and with the Food Pantry and BHPS for “Homes for the Holidays” event.
- Collaborated with elementary school Parent Teacher Organization in helping with school’s Fun Night carnival
- Purchased a building, completed first half of renovation project and currently raising funds to complete the renovation of the building into a permanent home for the library.

Planning



Friends of the
Blakesburg Public Library

Strategic Plan: 20/20 Vision

The FOBPL and Blakesburg Public Library Strategic Plans share a common goal of providing an outstanding library for the residents of the Blakesburg community as their main objective.

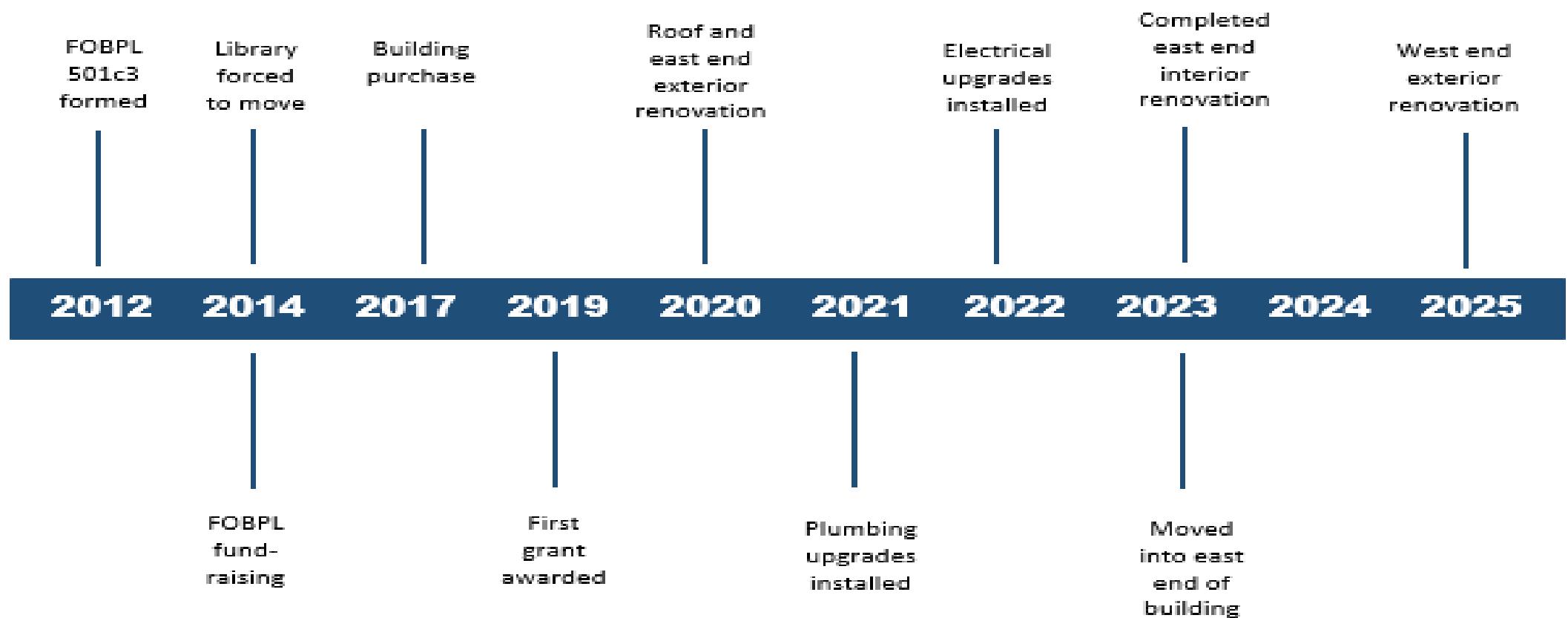
Building Planning Committee:
FOBPL Executive Board, Library
Director, Architect, and CCI Project
Supervisor

Blakesburg Public Library Building Renovation

- History
- Timeline
- Plans
- Renovations
- Funding
- The move
- Current use
- Future plans



Timeline





PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION



PROPOSED RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION

1/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED LEFT SIDE ELEVATION

N.T.S.

Floor plan and “before” pictures



Exterior Renovation



South side of building with new emergency exit.



Before, during and after pictures of the front (north side) and the east end of the building exterior renovation.

Interior Renovation



Plumbing

Interior Renovation



HVAC
system



Updated
electric panel,
and wiring

Interior Renovation



Drywall installation

Interior Renovation



Paint
Party



FOBPL
Volunteers

Interior Renovation



Suspended
ceiling grid,
light fixtures,
floors and doors

Interior Renovation



Kitchen finishes & appliances



Interior Renovation

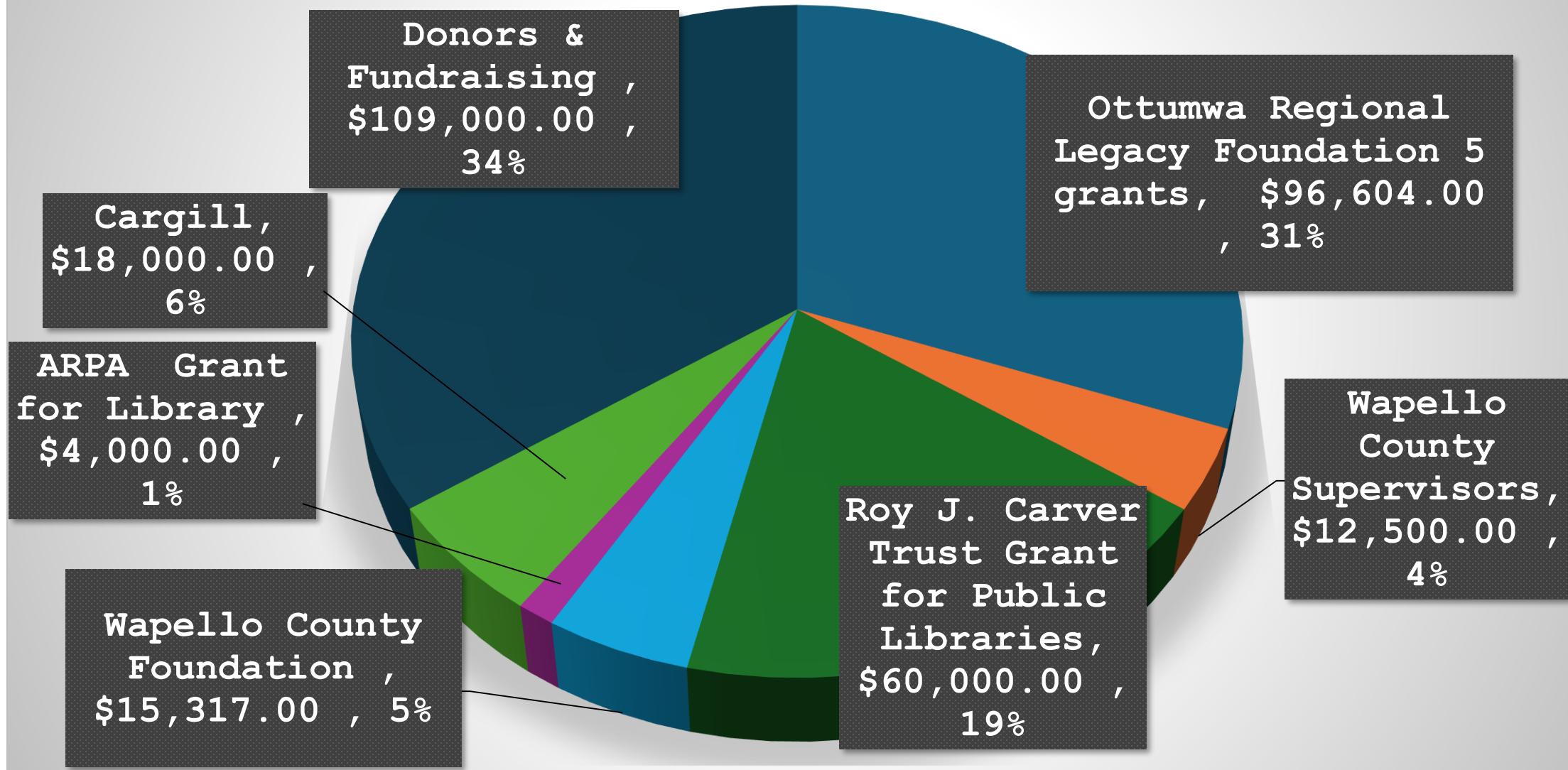


Meeting room set up for Open House and picture of one of the ADA compliant gender-neutral restrooms



Funding the project\$\$\$\$

FOBPL building renovation grants, donations
fundraising efforts since 2017, \$315,421



Funding the project\$\$\$\$



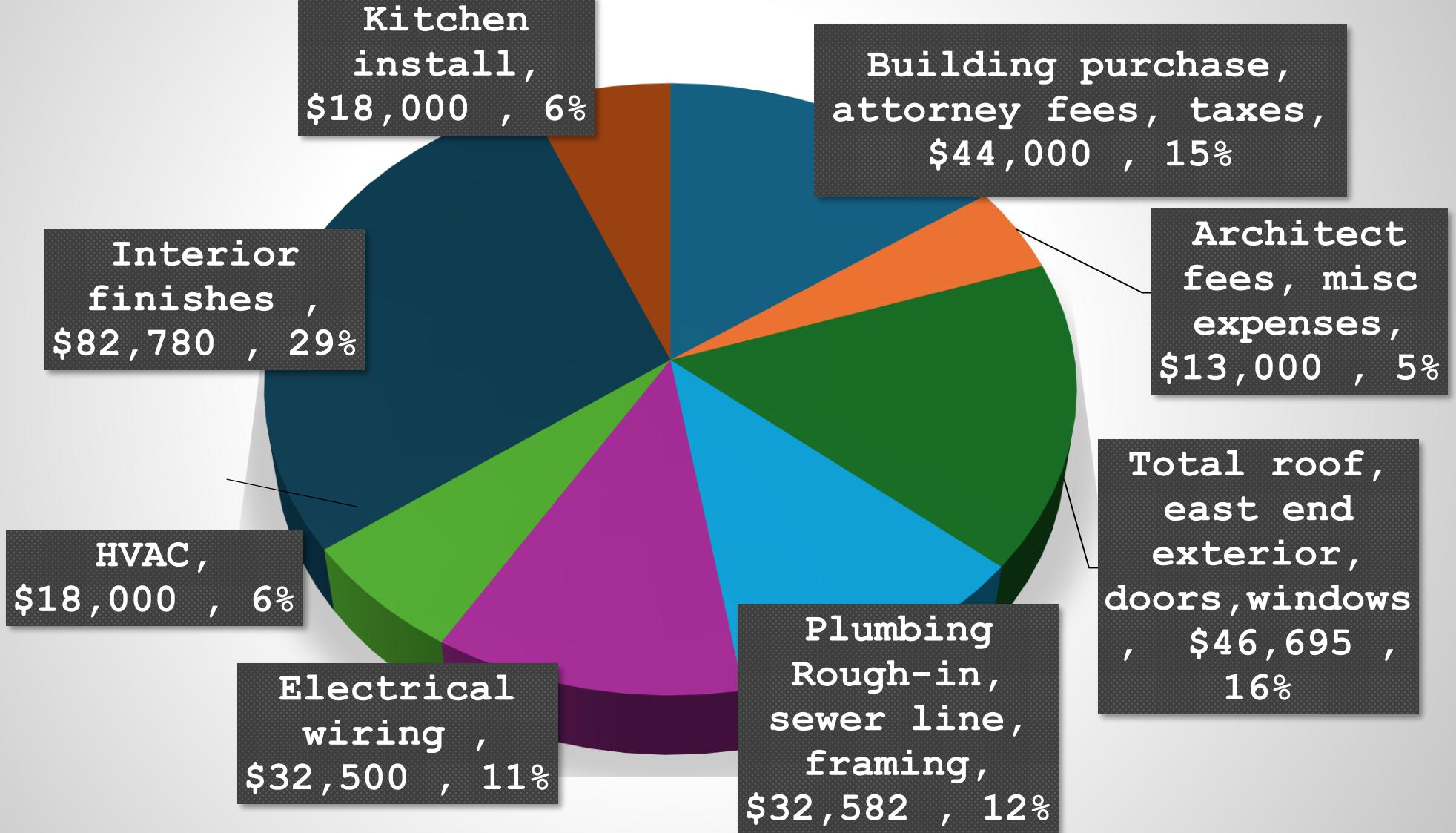
THANK YOU !!!



Funding the project \$\$\$

Building purchase and renovation expenditures

since 11/2017 \$287,557



Making the move



Current use of meeting room space





Community



Library Statistics Comparison

Category	FY23	FY24	Increase
Number of Patrons Visiting Library	1089	1503	414
Number of Library Programs	14	57	43
Attendance at Library Programs	85	353	268
Circulation transactions	1895	2311	416
Items in Collection	7900	8568	668
Number of patrons using computers	368	425	57
Wi-Fi Sessions	2295	3207	912

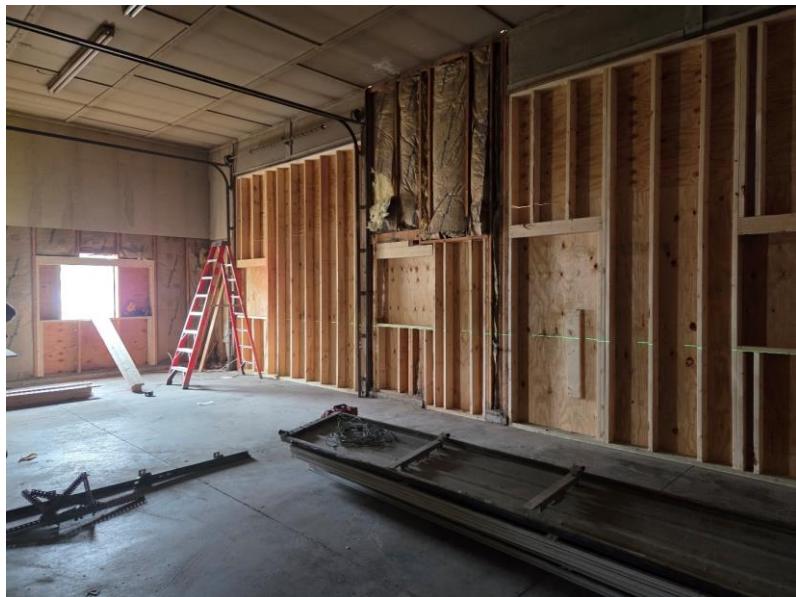
Impact

The library has seen year-to-year increases in services and programs since moving into the new building in July 2024.

West End Exterior Renovation



The Friends of the Library received a \$30,000 grant and used donations and funds raised to complete a \$52,000 exterior renovation of the west end of the building in the summer and fall of 2025. These shots show before and during the demolition phase of the facility.



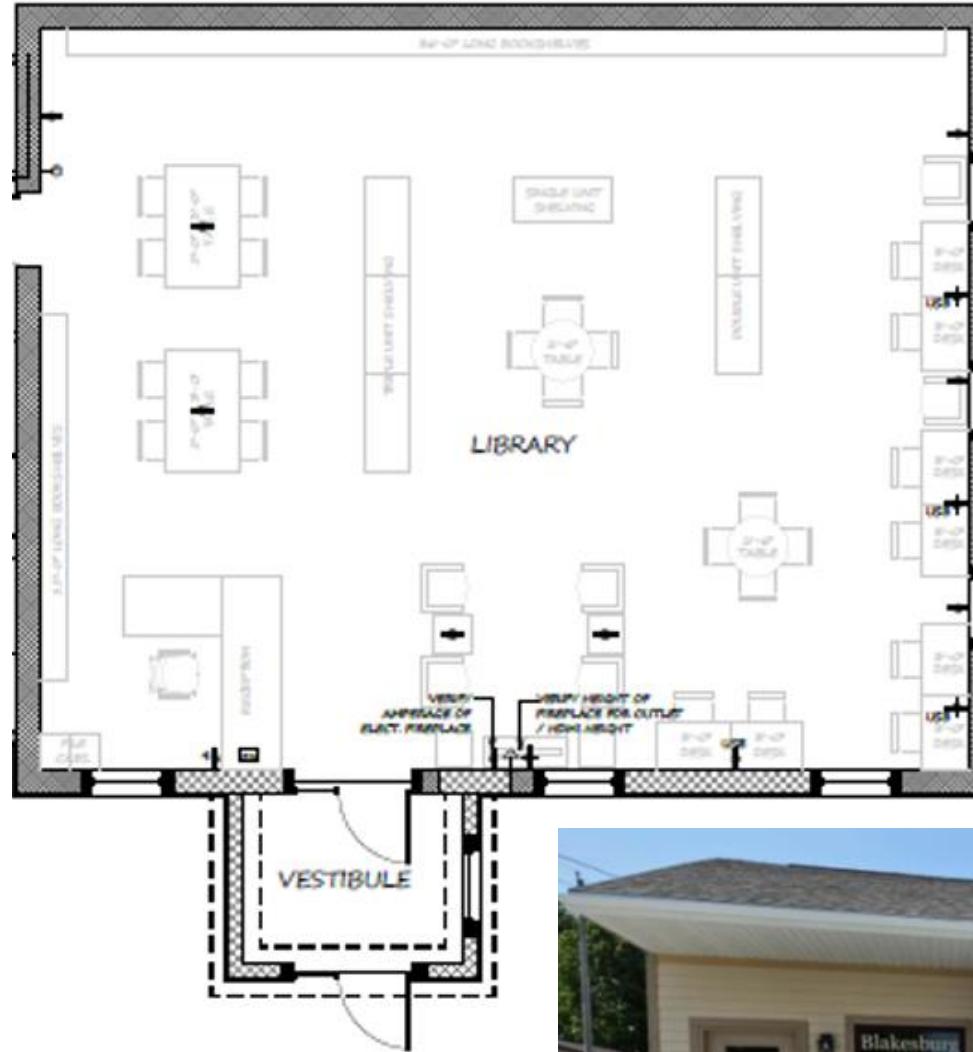
Pictures of framing in doors and windows, applying vapor barrier and siding to exterior of the west end. All that was left in these photos was the brick trim.



Future plans

2026–2027

Raise funds to complete interior , and move from the meeting room into the new library space in the west end of the facility.



Please consider joining the Friends of the Blakesburg Public Library to be a part of this community betterment project.



Thank you for being a friend!

The Friends of the Blakesburg Public Library is currently obtaining bids to complete the interior renovation. Anticipated costs are in the \$65,000 to \$80,000 range. The 501(c)3 organization is accepting donations, participating in community fund-raising events, and writing grants to complete the project so the community will have full use of the library and the community meeting/activity room.