

# Transforming Libraries Update

SPPL Library Board  
April 2024



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# Transforming Libraries

Facility investments at three library locations:

- Hayden Heights
- Hamline Midway
- Riverview

Investments in essential infrastructure in all locations:

- Technology-rich spaces
- Play & Learn

2018

Community engagement to shape the strategic direction



2019

Launched new mission, vision, values, and strategic direction

Community engagement to inform Facilities Direction



2020

Completed and shared Facilities Direction



2021

Community forum for Hamline Midway Library's transformation

Community members advocated for City capital investment

Secured \$8.1 million in City funding to transform Hamline Midway Library

Youth-led youth engagement to inform designs

Selected LSE as architect partner for community-informed schematic designs

2022

Launched artist-led community engagement and design process with LSE

Launched community engagement with LSE Architects and an Artist Cohort

# Community Engagement

Who do you hear from the loudest?

Who don't you hear from?



# Community Engagement

Deep community engagement should be inconvenient for us; convenient for the community.

Pop-up events helped us hear from non-library users.



# **Saint Paul residents said: Libraries are essential**

Well-loved, well-used, and well-worn

# We heard community want libraries to be:

- Accessible
- Flexible
- Environmentally responsible
- Safe
- Reflect cultures of neighborhood
- Include elements of history



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Maximize  
accessibility for  
all community  
members.



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HAMLIN MIDWAY LIBRARY



Provides flexible new spaces for families and teens to play and learn and for community to gather.



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Provides flexible new  
spaces to meet, work, or  
study independently.



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Environmentally responsible.



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HAMLINE MIDWAY LIBRARY



# Safety





HAYDEN HEIGHTS LIBRARY

LIBRARY



Reflects the cultures of  
neighborhood.



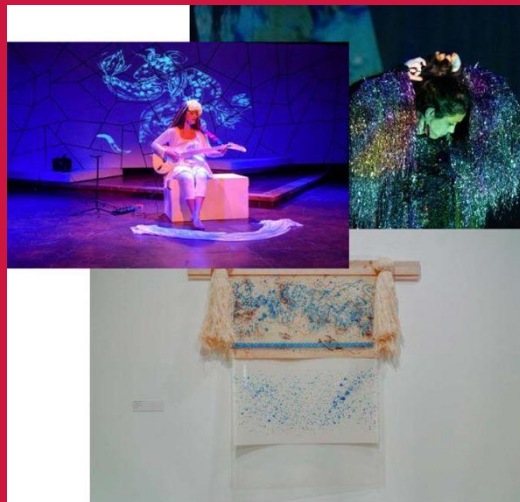
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## Bayou

Bayou also creates murals and digital illustrations, design digital and print materials, and works as a teaching artist. His intention is to use his talents in art, design, and idea connecting to generate and support community-driven creative works that center healing, empowerment, liberation, collaboration.



## Rebekah Crisanta Ybarra

Rebekah Crisanta de Ybarra is an Indigenous-Salvadoran-Norwegian-American interdisciplinary contemporary artist, musician, and culture bearer whose work is rooted in Indigenous Futurisms. Her interdisciplinary social practice (visual art, music, theatre, dance, literature, puppetry & public art) often speaks about shared and erased ancient histories.



## Xee Reiter

Xee Reiter is a self-taught artist specializing in watercolor, pen and ink illustrations. As a first generation Hmong American, you can largely find cultural influences in her works. Her artistic exploration includes but is not limited to portraiture, children's book illustrations, art journaling, mural art, typography and calligraphy works.



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HAMLINE MIDWAY LIBRARY

HAMLINE MIDWAY LIBRARY



Include elements of history.





RIVERVIEW LIBRARY

BOOK DROP & PICKUP

# HAMLIN MIDWAY LIBRARY





# Play & Learn



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# Technology-Rich Spaces



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# Nicholson Upgrades

- Aside from the work under the Transforming Libraries' initiative, the Nicholson annual endowment is specifically for the Nicholson Commons at the George Latimer Central Library.
- Community engagement highlighted the room needed to be more **welcoming**, **empowering**, and **flexible**.







# Saint Paul residents know that Libraries are essential.

Libraries need investment.

The average age of libraries in MN is **52 years**.

In Saint Paul, the average age is **71**.

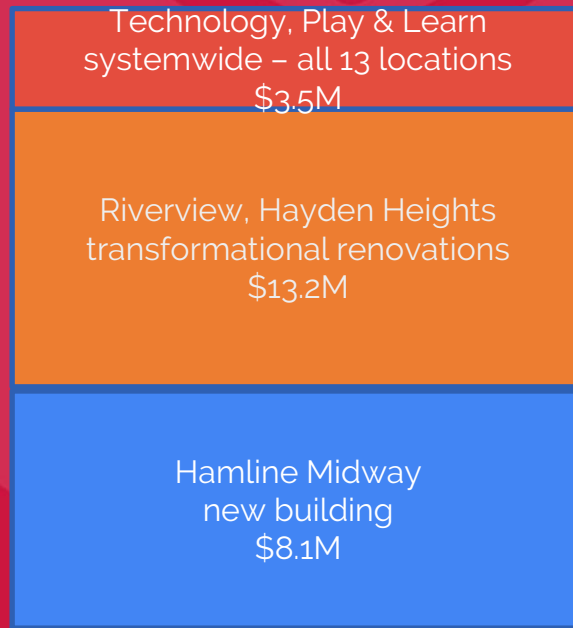
# Vision and Portfolio for Capital Investment

## Secured:

- \$8.1M (City CIB)
- \$1M (federal earmarks)
- \$500K (library fund balance)

Projected private & philanthropic from Friends of SPPL: \$6M

**Need: Additional \$9.2M public**



# Budget

## Library Project budget in millions

Hamline	\$	8.1
Hayden Heights	\$	5.5
Riverview	\$	7.7
Technology rich spaces	\$	1.5
Play and learn	\$	2.0
<b>TOTAL construction costs</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24.8</b>



# Update & Next Steps: Funding

Pursuing variety of options for public funding.

## Variety of options for city funding:

- State bonding – bills introduced in Senate and House
- State Library Construction Grants – competitive – May 2024
- Other government grants, including National Endowment for the Humanities, Minnesota Legacy Funds
- Next round of CIB
- Library fund balance
- Other?



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**Libraries are not only  
“nice to have;”  
they are essential  
infrastructure in our city.**

# Questions?



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