

# Transforming Libraries Update

SPPL Library Board  
January 2025



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)

# 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



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)

# SPPL Strategic Goal

**Transform library buildings to meet current and future needs.**

- Residents of all cultures, abilities, and communities feel affirmed, celebrated, and reflected through investments in SPPL's spaces.
- Everyone can easily find and access the tools and digital connection they need to 'do life' in libraries in Saint Paul.
- Families are playing and learning together in interactive spaces that reflect the diversity of Saint Paul.



**SAINT PAUL**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)

# Community Engagement

- 2018 Strategic Direction (3,000)
- 2019 Facilities Direction (1,680)
- 2022 LSE Design Engagement:
  - Open Houses & Workshops (664 )
  - Surveys (2,355)
    - Including pop-up community events
  - Ambassadors & Artists



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)

# We heard the community wants libraries to be:

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



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)

# Partners in Transformation

- Internal and external partnerships are key
  - City Elected Officials
  - The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library
  - Office of Financial Services
  - Intergovernmental Relations
  - City Attorney's Office
  - Local Legislative Delegation



# Opportunities & Challenges

- Achievements/Opportunities
  - Federal Earmarks for Riverview & Hayden Heights
  - Investments from City
  - Funding solutions from OFS
  - Work underway on Hamline Midway Library
  - Pursuing grant opportunities
- Challenges
  - Increased construction costs
  - Uncertain federal funding outlook
  - Maintaining support and enthusiasm for full project over multiple years



# Project Costs

## Transforming Libraries (in millions)

Hamline

Hayden Heights

Riverview

Technology rich spaces

Play and learn

\$ 27.8

\$ 10.4 (+2.3)

\$ 6.2 (+.7)

\$ 7.7

\$ 1.5

\$ 2.0



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)



# Hamline Midway Library

- Total projected cost - \$10.4M (+\$2.3M due to litigation delay)
- City previously committed \$8.1M bond funds



# HAMLIN MIDWAY LIBRARY



# Hamline Timeline

- **October 2024** -- Second Judicial District Court ruled the City may demolish the existing building
- **November & December 2024:** Removed all items, including Hazmat and salvaged materials from building for re-use.
- **Early 2025:** Construction bids open; begin salvaging brick, wood, and stone archway for new building
  - Construction will take 16-18 months.



# Hayden Heights Library

- Total projected cost- \$6.2M (+\$700K from 2022 projection)
- Still seeking remaining funds to fill the gap
  - \$1.2M Federal Digital Equity grant
  - \$500K MDE Capital grant
  - \$80K Age-friendly MN grant
- Included in City Legislative priorities for 2025





HAYDEN HEIGHTS LIBRARY

LIBRARY



# Hayden Heights Timeline

## 2025

- LSE architects finalizing designs (currently underway)
- Complete fundraising to sufficient risk level
- Develop full timeline when funding is secured



# Riverview Library

- Total project cost - \$7.7M (2022)
- Still seeking remaining funds to fill the gap
  - 2026 CIB Request
- Included in City Legislative priorities for 2025







RIVERVIEW LIBRARY

BOOK DROP & PICKUP



# Riverview Timeline

## 2025

- Identify elements of project to complete with existing funding
  - \$500K Federal Earmark – Roof/Exterior Masonry Repair
- Continue fundraising
- Prepare for next CIB round



# Technology-Rich Spaces



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](http://sppl.org/transform)

# Technology-Rich Spaces

- Implementation of technology-rich sites at Rice Street, Merriam Park, and GLCL – Nicholson in 2025
- Investment in furniture, hardware, study spaces, and technology-rich meeting rooms
- Continued engagement to determine change in community needs



# Nicholson Upgrades

- The main reading room on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of George Latimer Central Library; the Nicholson room has an annual endowment
- Community engagement highlighted the room needed to be more **welcoming, empowering, and flexible.**









# Play & Learn



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](http://sppl.org/transform)

# Play & Learn Timeline

**2025:**

- RFI soliciting consultants with an expertise in dynamic children and family spaces
- Demonstration site identified and developed



**SAINT PAUL**  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)

# Questions?



SAINT PAUL  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

[sppl.org/transform](https://sppl.org/transform)