

APPLICATION FOR FREMONT & DODGE COUNTY CVB VISITOR IMPROVEMENT FUND

TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant Name Keene Memorial Library/Friends of Keene Memorial Library

Mailing Address 1030 N Broad St,

City/State/Zip Fremont NE 68025

Telephone Number 402-727-2694 Fax Number 402-727-2693

Contact Person Laura England-Biggs

Federal Tax ID 47-0798309 (Friends of Keene Memorial Library)

Email Address laura.biggs@fremontne.gov

2. PROJECT NAME AND LOCATION

Keene Memorial Library Expansion Project, Fremont NE

3. SERVICE AREA

Area to be served (City, County, Region) City of Fremont and surrounding Dodge County (36,000+ residents with approximately 60% of Fremont Public School students on free and reduced lunch)

4. FUNDING SOURCES

CVB Funding Request \$ 100,000 (over two years)

Other Funding \$2,000,000 (City of Fremont Bond)

Matching Funds \$2,592,241 (detail provided upon request)

Other Funding Requests \$4,710,983

Total Project Funds \$9,403,224

5. PROGRAM SUMMARY

Brief narrative description of the project for which CVB funds are requested – please specifically describe visitor traffic. Include project budget.

Please attach additional documentation if needed.

The Keene Memorial Library Expansion Project will increase existing library space from 21,000 to 35,000 square feet through renovation of the existing building and a new 2 story addition to the east. Operating in its current building since 1971, Keene Memorial Library desperately needs to modernize and expand to serve a growing membership with updated technology and expanded services. Working with SPT Architects and Tetrad Property Group, community leaders have spent hours developing practical plans for a library facility that will serve as a community hub for years to come.

The project will blend existing historical elements of the original Keene Memorial Library with updated facilities, full ADA access and improved technology. Highlights of the new design include:

- Designated areas for adults, teens and children
- Community meeting room with up to 125 person capacity & attached café area
- Dedicated genealogy room
- Computer lab with separate classroom space
- Outdoor courtyard area for children's' programs and outdoor performances
- New elevator and ADA compliant restrooms on both floors
- Additional parking for visitors

Architectural renderings and drawings are attached for your review. These detail specific space utilization as well as provide a great visual of what the renovated facility will look like inside and out.

Currently, KML sees between 150 and 200 people a day; prior to 2020, that traffic was closer to 300. Since fully re-opening in July 2020, numbers have steadily increased. During that same time-period, patron use of our computer and WiFi services stayed steady, from 28,153 in 2018-19 to 27,916 despite the CoVid shutdown for four months. In addition, KML serves as a vital community gathering space, often hosting more than 500 meetings per year. Visitors are always welcome at Keene Memorial Library whether to use free computers and WiFi or conduct genealogical research. Regional visitors come to Keene to see free performances by musical groups, magicians, and other performers. These activities will only increase with a dedicated outdoor performance space and larger indoor conference room.

Financial Support: As indicated in Item 4: Funding Sources, this is a \$9.4 million dollar project, a number falling within the \$8 to \$10 million range always expected. In 2018, voters of Fremont approved a \$2 million bond referendum to partially fund the project. Fund-raising

efforts since then were disrupted in 2019 due to the historic flood impacting the area and again in 2020, due to the CoVid 19 pandemic. Since January 2021, a renewed effort has been made to raise needed funds to make the project a reality. Mayor Spellerberg has made this project a priority for his first term in office and has been actively involved with the Steering Committee. So far, an additional \$2.6 million has been raised, representing almost 50% of the total needed. This includes two lead gifts of \$500,000 and a grant of \$100,000 from the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Several grant requests have been submitted and more are in process.

Project Impact: Andrew Carnegie, who funded the first library in Fremont, was famously quoted as saying, “A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never-failing spring in the desert.” Contrary to what some may think, libraries are not dying. They are vital to cities such as Fremont where 20 percent of all households don’t have access to internet. Libraries are places for technology and learning for patrons of all ages. They are places for community members to gather and share cultural activities and performances.

Sustainability: The current Keene Memorial Library has served Fremont well for more than 50 years but without needed improvements, it is not sustainable. The proposed renovated facility, while somewhat larger, will be energy efficient with all new windows, new HVAC systems, and better design. Renovations include an expanded and improved technology infrastructure that will adapt to increased future needs. And the new building will be accessible to all citizens and visitors with an ADA compliant elevator and restrooms. As a part of the City of Fremont municipal structure, long-term operations of Keene Memorial Library are assured. When this project is completed in late 2023 or early 2024, it will be a vital community anchor for the next 50 years.

Benefit: As a public building located on a main highway near downtown, the library is open to visitors from all walks of life. Whether a cool place to rest during John C. Fremont Days or a place to check email following a devastating natural disaster, KML welcomes all and leaves a positive impression. With the planned addition of a large technology-ready conference room and café, computer training room, genealogy area and outdoor performance space, opportunities for KML to host events in Fremont drawing “destination” visitors will increase substantially in the renovated facility.

Readiness: The Keene Memorial Library Expansion Project is essentially ready to go as soon as funds are committed. Bids for a construction company are ready for award and design plans require only some final adjustments. At present, the Steering Committee goal is to raise needed remaining funds by October 31, 2021. This will set the stage for the final grant submission to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for a CCCFF (Civic & Community Center Financing Fund) on January 15, 2022 with ground-breaking set for spring of 2022.

6. CERTIFYING OFFICIALS

To the best of my knowledge and belief, data and information in this application are true and correct, including any commitment of local or other resources.

	Library Director	6/15/2021
Signature	Title	Date

Grant requests are reviewed quarterly and due to the FDCVB by January 1, April 1, July 1, & October 1. Requests will be reviewed by the FDCVB Grants Review committee and considered by the FDCVB Board the same month.

SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL AND TWO COPIES OF THE ENTIRE APPLICATION TO:

Fremont & Dodge County Convention & Visitors Bureau
529 N. Main Street, Ste. 1, Fremont, NE 68025
(402) 753-6414 Fax (402) 721-1511

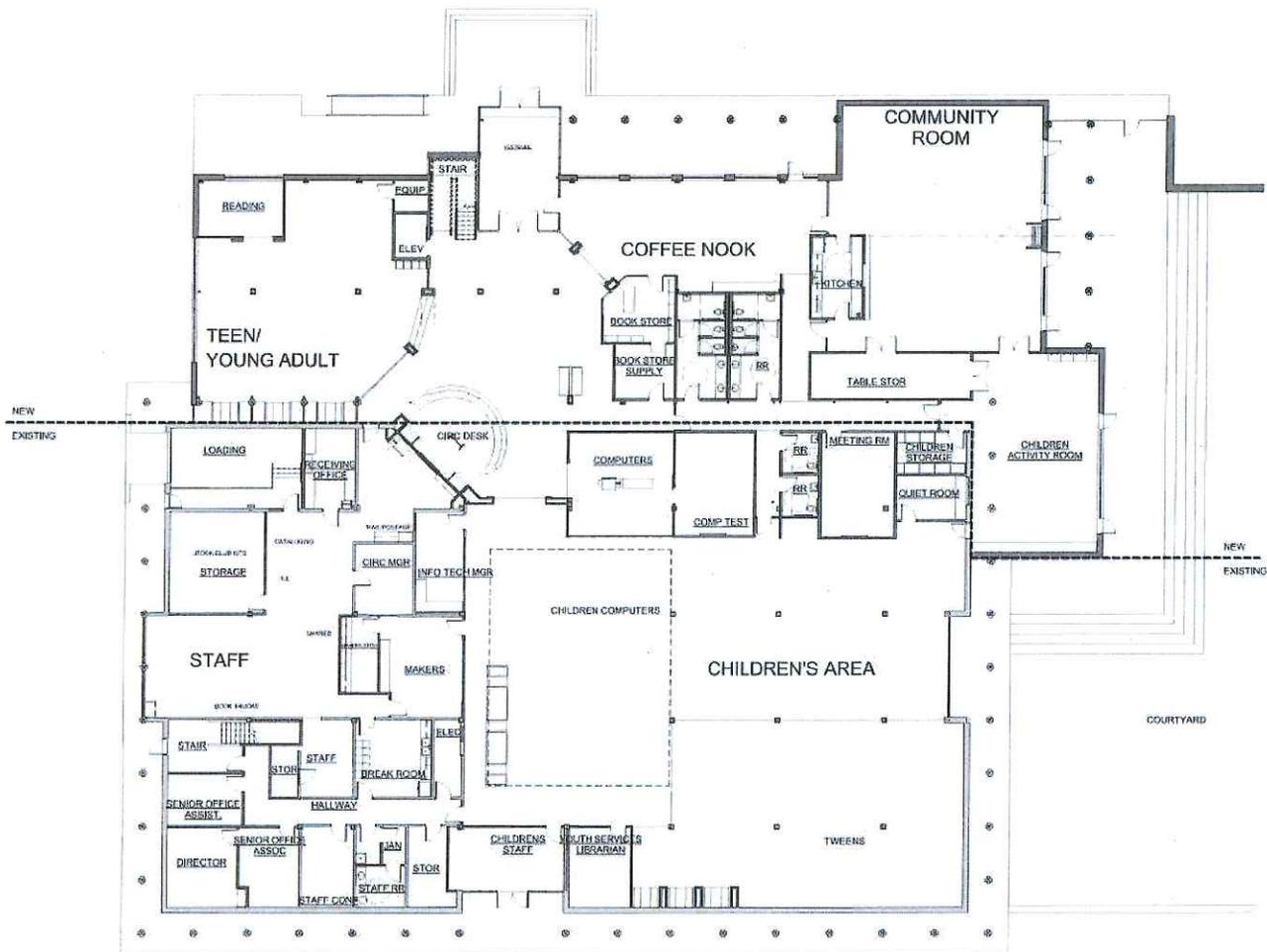


JANUARY 2021



SPANGENBERG PHILLIPS TICE
ARCHITECTURE
121 N. MEAD, SUITE 201, WICHITA, KS 67202
TEL: 316-267-4002 FAX: 316-267-1509

KEENE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
FREMONT, NEBRASKA



1 MAIN FLOOR PLAN
3/27 - 1/07

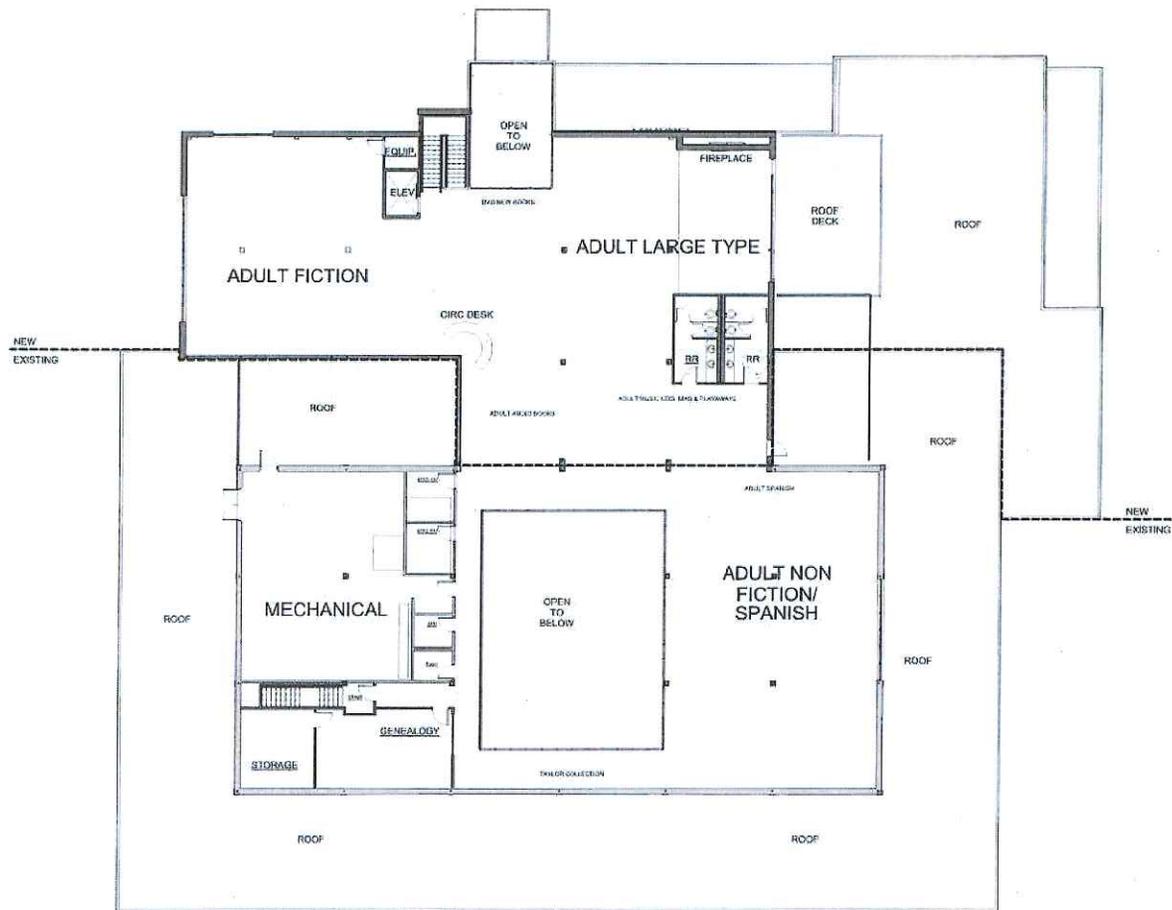


KEENE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

RENOVATION - EXPANSION

02.04.21

01



1 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
3/22/12



Commemorative Naming Opportunities

Keene Memorial Library presents a number of opportunities for donors like you to show your support of the library and the wonderful services it provides. Your gift and the associated commemorative naming opportunity will serve as a tangible reminder of your dedication to Keene Memorial Library and the Fremont community for years to come.

Naming opportunities can be combined with others. Shared recognition from a family or multiple donors is possible. Pledges can be made for up to three years with the expectation that the last payment is made by December 2024. (Pledges and corporate gifts over \$250,000 may be spread over five years.)

CHILDREN'S AREA: \$750,000

The Children's Area is the largest area in the new library and includes several components for learning and discovery. This area is an open floor plan and is the main focus of the first floor. The Children's Media space, Young Child's Library and Elementary/Tween Library are all part of the Children's Area.

COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM: \$500,000

This meeting room will be available for extended hours and will hold up to 125 people. It includes a kitchen area within the room that will benefit guests. The space may be split into two spaces to accommodate multiple meetings or smaller gatherings. The Community Meeting Room will be heavily used by citizens from all walks of life for many purposes including training, non-profit meetings, support groups, and volunteer association gatherings.

COMPUTER LAB: \$500,000 (committed June 9 2021)

The Computer Lab provides a laboratory setting with 19 desktop computers and free Internet access for patrons. Eight of those computers are located in a smaller space which can be used to facilitate technology classes for the public. As a free resource, the computer lab is a valuable community commodity that will benefit many people's lives in a variety of ways.

OUTDOOR COURTYARD: \$500,000

This beautifully designed courtyard will serve as a gathering space for the citizens of Fremont for years to come. Outdoor programming will be held here and the space will be available for use by groups.

"MAKERSPACE": \$250,000

The Makerspace at Keene Memorial Library will have both high- and low-tech opportunities for community members to experiment with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) skills. Equipment may include 3D printing, computer robotics



KEENE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
"GROW WITH US" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



kits, embroidery sewing machines, and digital video/audio stations for creating podcasts and vlogs (video blogs).

Commemorative Naming Opportunities (continued)

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY ROOM: \$250,000

The Children's Activity Room will allow youth of all ages to participate in programming including Storytime, arts, crafts, games and other weekly events without having to share the space with the public. This room will be used often and is a focal point of programming.

TEEN/YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY: \$250,000

This area includes seating, books and other amenities. The focus will be on young people from twelve to eighteen who are looking for a place to learn and gather.

ROOF DECK: \$150,000

Library patrons will enjoy an outdoor deck area connected to the Adult Reading Area on the second floor. This unique space provides an enjoyable area to gather outside.

GENEALOGY ROOM: \$100,000

This space will have storage for the genealogy collection of yearbooks, microfilm, City Directories, and cemetery indexes. The Genealogy room is a popular area for local historians and out of town visitors. It will be a wonderful and anticipated addition to our library that preserves the history of Fremont and our local residents.

ADULT QUIET READING AREA with FIREPLACE: \$100,000

The Adult Quiet Reading Area has comfortable seating in an enclosed space, ideal for reading, studying, relaxing, reflecting, or quiet conversation. The area will include newspaper and magazine stands, along with a relaxing fireplace.

BOARD/MEETING ROOM: \$100,000

This space will benefit community members looking for space to meet with a small group. Located on the main floor, the Board Room will have a capacity of about 12 people. The room will be set up in a board room style and will be technology ready. This room will surely be a favorite for small groups and business meetings.

CHANDELIER ATRIUM: \$100,000

This space is the perfect venue to showcase the beautiful blown-glass crystal chandelier. The chandelier itself is part of Keene Memorial Library's history dating back to 1971.

COFFEE CAFÉ: \$100,000

The Coffee Café is a significant space near the main entrance of the library. This space will have a small outdoor courtyard and its own entry. The Coffee Café will house coffee



KEENE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
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and vending machines as well as casual seating. It is also connected to the Community Room so meeting attendees can gather here for breaks during their events.

Commemorative Naming Opportunities (continued)

MULTI-CULTURAL RESOURCE AREA: \$100,000

The multi-cultural resource area includes the Spanish language collection for adults, electronic resources to learn English and other languages, and bilingual staff members.

CHILDREN'S MEDIA AREA: \$75,000

The Children's Media Area provides computers pre-loaded with educational games for children within the large Children's Area on the first floor. This space will include desks, computers, and chairs for up to six children.

YOUNG CHILD'S LIBRARY: \$50,000 (committed June 9 2021)

The Young Child's Library includes the picture book collection within the Children's Area. Arranged in thirteen "neighborhoods" by subject, Picture Book City is heavily used by families with young children who enjoy reading aloud together in addition to working on early literacy development.

ELEMENTARY/TWEEN LIBRARY: \$50,000

The Elementary/Tween Library benefits children and families in the elementary and middle-school age range. This area includes books for early readers as well as those who are ready for chapter books and longer works of fiction. The non-fiction section, also located in this area, is frequently used to supplement school libraries and homeschool family projects.

SMALL MEETING/STUDY ROOMS: \$50,000 (2 available)

The Small Meeting/Study Rooms will benefit community members looking for space to study or work alone/with a small group. Each room can accommodate up to four persons and will be technology ready. The rooms are located on the second floor in a quiet area.

Other opportunities below \$50,000 will be available during Summer 2021

**The Steering Committee is available to discuss
customizing an opportunity to meet your needs.
Reach out to us at 402-727-2694.**