



OUR NEW COMMUNITY LIBRARY

PROGRESS REPORT

Updated August 2024



1-STORY BUILDING DIAGRAM

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ Land for a new library building has been donated—in an ideal location—by a community-minded and generous landowner, Stefan Merriam. Stefan is committed to childhood education, access to information, and a community resource center. He is supportive of 4H and University of Idaho Extension Offices, makerspaces, and libraries.



Landowner Stefan Merriam signing the donation agreement and grant deed for the parcel located at North Main Street and East Harper Avenue in Driggs.



★ We have hired a new Director of External Affairs and Advancement, Emily Bahr!

Emily was born and raised in Bozeman, Montana. She attended undergraduate and graduate school at Ithaca College, where she earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy and Bachelor of Science in Clinical Health Studies degrees. Emily previously worked as a physical therapist and Team Lead for Teton Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation's outpatient department and Saint John's Health's home health and hospice department. During that time, she had an opportunity to help develop several specialty programs including outpatient in the home, wound care, and oncology rehabilitation. Most recently Emily worked for Teton Valley Health as Director of Outpatient Services and Rehabilitation. Emily is an avid outdoor enthusiast and has been a member of the Teton County Idaho Search and Rescue (TCISAR) team since 2021. She has recently accepted the position of Membership Advisor for TCISAR. Emily is passionate about serving her community and could not be more excited to accept the role as Director of External Affairs and Advancement for Valley of the Tetons Library. Emily's past leadership and development experience of driving revenue-generating programs, establishing and fostering partnerships with local community members and organizations, and commitment to expanding services that elevate our community is what drove her to apply for the Director of External Affairs and Advancement position and will contribute to her success in this new role.

★ VTL has a new library branch in Tetonia, which opened in May 2024. This branch helps fulfill our goal of Countywide Expansion and was made possible by the voters' overwhelming support of our supplemental levy.



OUR PROGRESS TO DATE

Early Project Phase

2019 - 2021

- Initial survey of existing facilities
- Formation of Library Permanent Space Committee
- Target area identified for future home
- Extensive search for pre-existing space in ideal location
- Collaboration with Doug Self, City of Driggs
- Lease additional space next to Driggs branch for Program Annex/Makerspace

Campaign and Organizational Counsel

January 2022 - December 2023

- Planning Study, broad support for project
- Communications Audit and VTL/VTLF rebranding
- Strategic visioning and values
- Extensive organizational support for VTL Friends, developed MOU and Roles and Responsibilities
- Chapter 1 Campaign Support

Building Project

January 2022 - December 2023

- Search transitioned to securing land for new construction; five parcels identified
- Worked with the City of Driggs, landowners, partners, and realtors to determine values and feasibility
- RFP for Architectural Needs Assessment, hired RATIO Architects
- Conducted a six-month community-wide Architectural Needs Assessment

Organizational Strength

August 2022 - Current

- New leadership
- Organizational restructuring
- Development of leadership team and staff teams, solidified staff positions and roles
- Investment in staff, ongoing team building and nurturing. Our team culture is responsive, happy, dedicated, thriving, respectful, supportive, and nurturing. Established team norms.
- Visitation, program attendance, circulation, and library card holders increase
- Governance work including culture, recruitment, and roles

Fundraising and Development

February 2023 - Current

- Formed Chapter 1 Campaign Leadership Team
- Awareness Events and Library Tours
- Chapter 1 Solicitations
- Supplemental Levy to increase operational revenue
- Federal Appropriations Grant Application with over 200 letters of support from the community
- Planning and strategy for Chapter 2

Countywide expansion

January 2024 - Current

- Tetonian Branch
- Makerspace remodel and over 500 signed community use agreements
- Partner with Seniors West of the Tetons, Teton County School District, Latinos in Action, City of Tetonian

Building Project

April 2024

- Secured land donation in an ideal location for our future home

MARKETPLACE - THE HUB OF ACTIVITY

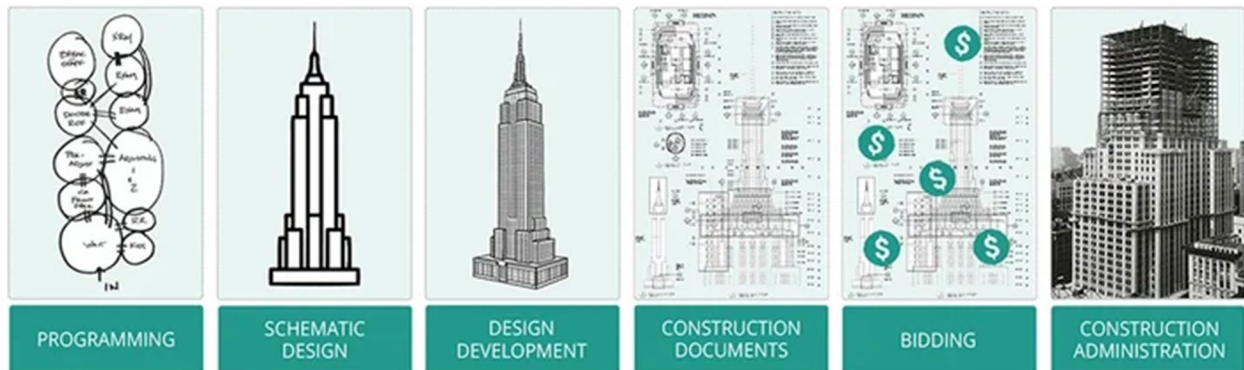


NEXT STEPS

We are currently in a planning and strategy phase. The goal of this phase is to establish a solid foundation from which to launch our Future Steps (see below). During this phase, we will be:

- Forming New Library Task Forces to focus on the many varied aspects relating to a new library building and the capital campaign to fund this vision. We are still working out the details of these Task Forces and will be in touch when ready to move forward with them.
- Completing numerous tasks regarding our new property such as rezoning and appraisal.
- The next phase of our capital campaign will be to raise the funds for the library architectural design fees. This includes the schematic design, design development, and construction documents. We are currently awaiting detailed information from the architectural firm, RATIO, with an estimate of the cost for these design fees.

The Architectural Design Phases



Graphic of project processes is courtesy of: <https://www.asd-usa.com/blog/architectural-design-phases>



SINGLE STORY EXISTING PROPERTY LINES



TWO-STORY EXISTING PROPERTY LINES

FUTURE STEPS

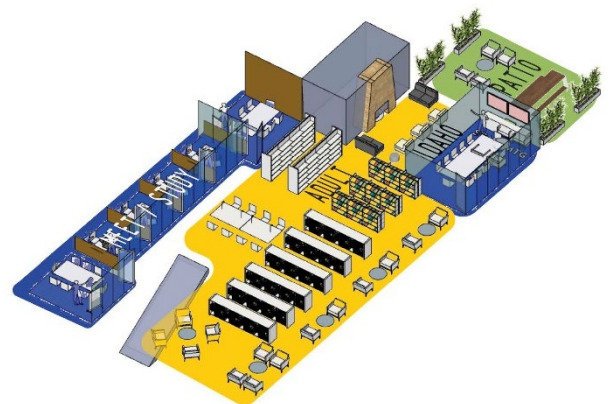
- Funding for the construction of our new library building. A capital campaign will be an essential component to achieving our goal.
- With the invaluable expertise and guidance of Jeri Thomson, we have applied for a Federal Appropriations Grant and developed a positive relationship with Congressman Mike Simpson's staffers. We are hopeful but uncertain about the possibility of being awarded this grant due to the high number of applicants. Whether or not we are awarded this federal grant we are aggressively pursuing other options. The information gathered and produced for this grant can also be used for other future grant opportunities.
- We are working with a professional grant writing firm from Montana, the Dotted i. With their assistance, VTL continues to learn of additional funding opportunities for construction from both government and private sources.
- One of the primary tasks of our new director, Emily Bahr, is to secure funding for the new library project.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Make a capital gift.
- Join one of our New Library Task Forces. If you have a particular area of interest related to the building project or capital fundraising, let us know! We will contact you to report on our regular progress and keep you up to date on the start of the Task Forces.
- Contact Emily Bahr, Director of External Affairs and Advancement, at e.bahr@valleyofthetetonlibrary.org to get involved.
- Join the VTL Board of Trustees or VTL Friends when there are vacancies.



FIRST LEVEL
2-STORY BUILDING DIAGRAM



SECOND LEVEL
2-STORY BUILDING DIAGRAM

MEET OUR TEAM

Current Team

Executive Director Team

Emily Bahr, Director of External Affairs and Advancement
Savannah Wake, Director of Internal Operations

VTL Board of Trustees

Jan Borstelmann, Chair, 2017
Boots Knighton, Vice Chair, 2022
Pauline McIntosh, Treasurer, 2019
Connie Tyler, 2021
Lauren Vu, 2023

Significant Contributors to This Point

Valley of the Tetons Library Friends

Jill Callahan, President
Debbie Nussbaum, Treasurer
Debbie Susong, Secretary
Cindy Weber, Volunteer
Coordinator
Deb Rouleau, Event Coordinator
Laura Curtis, President Emeritus

John Unland
Jeri Thomson
Doug Self

VTL Board of Trustees Committees

Library Permanent Space/Building Committee

Marjie and Tom Peters
Laura and Randy Curtis
Marnie Oakes
Connie Tyler
Pauline McIntosh
John McIntosh
Savannah Wake
Christina Heilman

Chapter 1 Campaign Leadership Team and Awareness Event Hosts

Laura Curtis
Frank and Maryann Russo
Lisa Vitucci
Marjie and Tom Peter
Jeri Thomson
Jill Callahan
Pam and Tom Walker
Susie and David Work
Christina Heilman

