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ILSLEY AT 100

# **PLANNING THE FUTURE OF MIDDLEBURY'S PUBLIC LIBRARY**

NOVEMBER 2022



## ILSLEY AT 100

SINCE 1924, ILSLEY LIBRARY HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE  
OF PUBLIC LIFE IN MIDDLEBURY AND ADDISON COUNTY



## ILSLEY AT 100

# A PLACE TO READ, MEET, LEARN & SHARE

### Ilseley by the Numbers 2022

- 94,000 annual visitors
- 3,790 library card holders
  - 1 for every 2 Middlebury residents
- 122,000 items checked out
  - 107,000 books, a rate of 350 books/day
  - 15,000 digital items (e-books, audiobooks)
- 2,800 hours open annually

# ILSLEY AT 100

## A PLACE TO READ, MEET, LEARN & SHARE

### Ilsley by the Numbers 2022

- 295 community meetings in the library
  - 113 meetings in the Community Meeting Room
  - 182 meetings in the Vermont Room
- 143 library-sponsored children's programs
  - Examples: Storytime, Happy Noon Year, Take-and-Make Craft Bags
- 199 library-sponsored adult programs
  - Examples: First Wednesday, Youth Media Lab, Community Classic Film Club
- All library programs funded by the Friends of Ilsley Public Library

## ILSLEY AT 100

LIKE OUR 100-YEAR-OLD DOWNTOWN BRIDGES THAT WERE REPLACED WITH A RAIL TUNNEL, THE BUILDING IS SHOWING ITS AGE

### Ilsey's Infrastructure Issues

- A 30-year-old boiler burning fuel oil heats the building
- The elevator periodically stalls between floors, requiring the Middlebury Fire Department to rescue trapped library users
- The front steps are deteriorated and present significant accessibility challenges
- Groundwater is leaking into the basement-level children's room

## ILSLEY AT 100

LIKE OUR 100-YEAR-OLD DOWNTOWN BRIDGES THAT WERE REPLACED WITH A RAIL TUNNEL, THE BUILDING IS SHOWING ITS AGE

### Ilseley's Infrastructure Issues

- Lack of an air circulation system degrades the health of the building and encourages mold growth during the winter months
- Staff work areas and library operations are housed in cramped, make-do spaces
- MCTV's third-floor operation lacks a secondary egress
- Some 40% of the building consists of unusable space—hallways, columns, mechanical spaces, etc.
- Library staff cannot monitor use of the library bathrooms located adjacent to the side entrance



# ILSLEY AT 100

## A PROJECT TEAM IS FORMED TO PLAN ILSLEY LIBRARY'S FUTURE

### The Ilsley 100 Project Team

- Joe McVeigh, President, Ilsley Library Board of Trustees
- Amy Mincher, Ilsley Library Board of Trustees
- Dan Brown, Middlebury Selectboard
- Barbara Doyle-Wilch, community member
- Jim Gish, community member
- Ruth Hardy, Vermont State Senator
- Farhad Khan, Middlebury Selectboard
- Ken Perine, community member
- Judith Harris, Liaison to the Town Admin
- Dana Hart, Library Director



Members of the Ilsley 100 Project Team meet with community members at the 2022 Downtown Block Party

## ILSLEY AT 100

# A CHARTER TO GUIDE DECISION-MAKING

Ilseley Public Library will be:

a **welcoming, accessible, and safe  
community hub**

with the **flexibility** and **sustainability**

to enrich community members' lives now  
and into the future.





## ILSLEY AT 100

# HOW TODAY'S LIBRARIES REFLECT CONTEMPORARY VALUES

## Welcoming

Open, well-lit spaces invite everyone in, creating a welcoming atmosphere with opportunities to be greeted directly by library staff.



Entrance to new South Burlington VT library (note clear signage).

## ILSLEY AT 100

# HOW TODAY'S LIBRARIES REFLECT CONTEMPORARY VALUES

### **Accessible**

All spaces, interior and exterior, allow for and support inclusive participation by all community members.



Parking area for strollers



## ILSLEY AT 100

# HOW TODAY'S LIBRARIES REFLECT CONTEMPORARY VALUES

### Safe

All spaces prioritize the physical safety and health of staff and community members.



Storytime at Fargo ND Public Library

## ILSLEY AT 100

# HOW TODAY'S LIBRARIES REFLECT CONTEMPORARY VALUES

### **Community Hub**

The building provides comfortable places for community members to gather, connect, collaborate, and learn together.



Community Commons in New Haven CT Free Public Library



## ILSLEY AT 100

# HOW TODAY'S LIBRARIES REFLECT CONTEMPORARY VALUES

### **Flexible**

Spaces are able to accommodate shifting programmatic, technological, workflow, and collections needs into the future.



Greenville County SC Five Forks Branch Public Library



## ILSLEY AT 100

# HOW TODAY'S LIBRARIES REFLECT CONTEMPORARY VALUES

### **Sustainable**

The library building makes efficient use of such limited resources as energy and water through excellence in design, construction, and maintenance.



Solar panels over outdoor reading deck, Austin TX Public Library

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## ILSLEY AT 100

# WHAT YOU'VE SAID YOU NEED IN YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **Results of Community Surveys, Focus Groups, and Conversations**

- Multiple, modern meeting rooms for local groups and public events
- A safe and healthy environment for children and expanded youth services programming
- A safe and welcoming place for teens to gather after school
- Safe, family-oriented bathrooms

## ILSLEY AT 100

# WHAT YOU'VE SAID YOU NEED IN YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **Results of Community Surveys, Focus Groups, and Conversations**

- Easier, intuitive access to shelved books and digital resources with clear signage throughout the library
- Quiet study/reading areas and better noise-proofing
- Improved outdoor library space
- A centerpiece of downtown life that enhances the vitality of our town

## ILSLEY AT 100

# INVESTING IN MIDDLEBURY'S LIBRARY: A PRELIMINARY PLAN

### The Preliminary Plan

- Developed through extensive discussion and analysis with library staff
- Builds on several years of focus groups, surveys, and conversations with library patrons and community leaders
- Models best practice in contemporary municipal libraries



## ILSLEY AT 100

# INVESTING IN MIDDLEBURY'S LIBRARY: A PRELIMINARY PLAN

### Highlights of the Preliminary Plan

- 3,000 additional square feet dedicated to youth services—our children are our future
- 2,500 additional square feet dedicated to public meeting rooms—providing safe and comfortable meeting spaces to support local groups and our democratic traditions
- Comfortable seating and quiet reading and study areas—encouraging patrons to spend more time in the library

## ILSLEY AT 100

# NEW SPACES: CONFERENCE ROOM

### Conference Room

This is a meeting space for local boards, community groups, professional colleagues, library staff, and others for in-person and hybrid/remote meetings.

It will accommodate 12 people seated around a conference table and should be accessible when the library is closed.

Small groups do not need to take up the Community Meeting Room, which is best utilized by larger groups.



A conference room at the Baltimore MD Enoch Pratt Free Library

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# NEW SPACES: COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM

### **Community Living Room**

A space dedicated to library programs and community gatherings that would best be served by a comfortable and informal setting.

Examples might include book clubs and receptions or longer meetings, like retreats, that would benefit from comfortable seating and access to a fridge/coffee.

Should accommodate 10 people seated.



Example of a community gathering space at Pierson Library in Shelburne VT



## ILSLEY AT 100

# NEW SPACES: LIBRARY ACTIVITY ROOM

### **Library Activity Room**

Library staff would conduct a variety of programs for youth, teens, and adults in this space. Storytimes would take place here as well as youth programs that involve crafts, physical movement, and singing.

Adult and teen programs that require clean-up and crafts would also take place in this space. Used as maker-space for youth, the Library Activity Room should be large enough to accommodate 16 people seated at tables.



Youth Program Room in the Baldwin Public Library in  
Birmingham MI

# ILSLEY AT 100

## NEW SPACES: TEEN ROOM

### Teen Room

The Teen Room would hold the teen materials collection and provide a space where teens—approximately ages 13-17—can gather to socialize, do homework, read, use laptops and computers, browse, relax, and work collaboratively.



Teen Room in The Community Library in Ketchum ID



## ILSLEY AT 100

# NEW SPACES: PUBLIC RESTROOMS

### **Public Restrooms**

Two multi-stall, single-gender restrooms. Ideally, the Public Restrooms would be accessible after library hours, through the Common Lobby, so that patrons using the Community Meeting Room and Conference Room after hours could use these facilities.

### **Family Restroom**

A single-use restroom with locking door. This restroom would accommodate users needing assistance by others (e.g., parents and children, elderly users) as well as patrons who identify as non-binary.

### **Lactation Room**

A single-use, private space for nursing mothers.

## ILSLEY AT 100

# EXPANDED SPACES: PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN AREA

### **Pre-K and Kindergarten Area**

This space would be dedicated to library services for children through age six and their caregivers. Browsing for this age group requires many face-out titles, as children cannot yet read and tend to choose books based on cover illustrations.

Children and caregivers could work on crafts at a craft table and pick up “take-and-make” bags. Parents could work while keeping an eye on their children. Caregivers and children could snuggle and read books together.

An early learning area would provide space for children to play and engage with a variety of sensory exploration units and activity centers.



Youth Room in Clinton-Macomb MI Public Library

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# EXPANDED SPACES: ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL AREAS

### **Elementary and Middle School Areas**

Separate areas for elementary and middle school students would provide dedicated space where students could browse and select books, rest and read quietly, do homework, and socialize.

Elementary and middle school students start to have more peer-to-peer gathering needs. Space to gather to connect, play games, and chat is important.



Middle School Space in Lyons CO Community Library



## ILSLEY AT 100

# EXPANDED SPACES: COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

### **Community Meeting Room**

This space would be used for both library and community events, including lectures, film screenings, camps and activities, public forums, classes that require physical movement, workshops and training, and any other library or community activity that requires a large open area.

Seating configurations can alternate between lecture-style, conference classroom, and completely open.

The Community Meeting Room can also serve as a space for art and photography exhibits. Monthly Friends of Ilsley Library book sales would take place here and, in emergencies, this room is the library's designated shelter-in-place area.



Community Meeting Room in the Medford MA Charlotte and William Bloomberg Public Library



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## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MIDDLEBURY'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **Your Opportunity to Tell Us What You Think!**

- What did we get right?
- What is missing?
- What do you most want to see in your public library?

## ILSLEY AT 100

# FOUR OPTIONS FOR INVESTING IN OUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

### **THE NEXT STEP**

**The IPL 100 Project Team is evaluating these four options:**

1. Fix the outstanding infrastructure issues and bring the library up to code—for example, a new HVAC system, new elevator, and remediation of water leaking into the children's room.
2. Fix the outstanding infrastructure issues while investing in a renovation and expansion to meet what the community has identified as its most important needs—for example, multiple community meeting rooms, expanded youth services, modern public restrooms, and new areas for remote work, remote learning, and reading for pleasure.
3. Fix the outstanding infrastructure issues of the current building and invest in acquiring and renovating a downtown building to provide the space needed to meet community needs—for example, the Ben Franklin building.
4. Build an entirely new library downtown in the lower municipal parking lot and find a new use for the Ilsley Library building.



**ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS:**

MON – THURS: 8AM – 6PM

FRI: 8AM – 4PM

SAT: 9AM – 4PM

SUN: CLOSED



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Learn more about plans for the library's facilities and the Ilsley 100 Project Team!







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Team!

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Ilsley 100 Project Team

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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MIDDLEBURY'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Thank You for Taking Part in this Exciting Discussion about  
Middlebury's Future!**

- ✓ Scan the QR code on the following slide to sign up for Ilsley 100 updates!

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INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MIDDLEBURY'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

