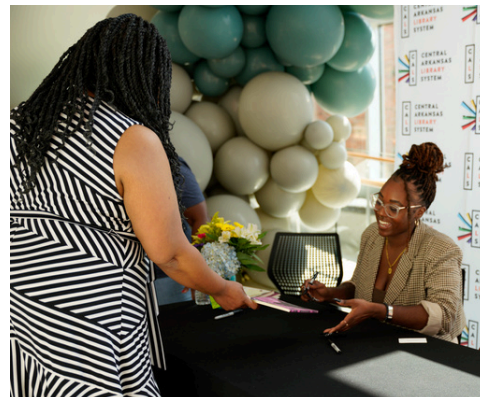




THE NEXT CHAPTER
A VISION FOR THE NEW MAIN LIBRARY





CALS'S MAIN LIBRARY

THE NEXT CHAPTER

Investing in CALS's Main Library means investing in the next phase of Central Arkansas's growth and evolution:

In the heart of downtown Little Rock's cultural corridor, the library connects and inspires the community to transform lives.

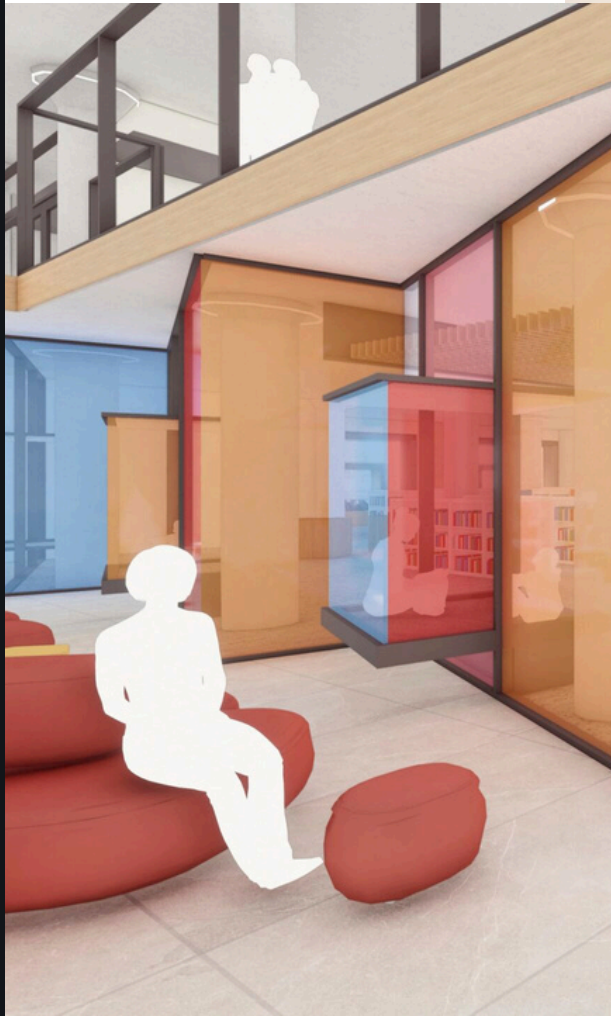
INTRODUCTION

CALS's downtown Main Library is one of the only public places in Little Rock where people of different ages and backgrounds can come together to create, experience, and share ideas. **The Library uniquely connects and enriches our community.**

Today, libraries are more than books. Books, reading, and literacy are essential, but libraries are also where people access technology of all kinds, find resources for work and school, build job skills and seek employment, gather for meetings and events, and learn at all stages of life. **Libraries today are places for enrichment, skill-building, making social connections, and inspiration.**



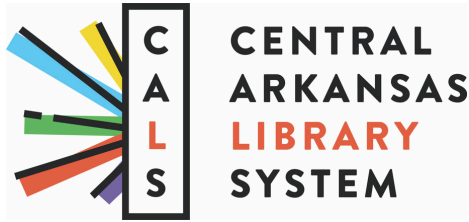
PROJECT DESCRIPTION



Main Library has anchored downtown Little Rock since 1997 and was a catalyst for economic development in the River Market district. Its services – and the physical footprint on Rock Street – have changed along with the evolving needs of each generation.

Now more than ever, CALS is one of Little Rock’s most beloved and well-used public assets – and is seen by many as a de facto community center. But today’s Main Library is outdated and worn. The layout is confusing and not warm or welcoming.

It is time to invest in this important building, to elevate the Main Library as a unique cultural institution that combines traditional library services like books and storytimes with opportunities for fun, enrichment, and entertainment.



THE NEXT CHAPTER



Main Library should be the pride of Little Rock. This project transforms Main to serve as a catalyst for downtown revitalization, featuring:

- spaces for children to learn and play both indoors and outdoors
- numerous presentation and programming spaces
- two teaching kitchens
- a variety of technology-infused study and meeting rooms
- a café
- inviting areas to meet friends or quietly read
- a rooftop terrace with views of downtown for rest, relaxation, and entertainment

The transformed Main Library will be a jewel of the River Market District; unique in its value as a public space and a destination for interesting and essential programs and services. Moreover, this building will be the flagship for the entire Central Arkansas Library System's service area, which includes 11% of the state's population.



ABOUT THE MAIN LIBRARY

Mission Statement: The Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) provides resources and services to help residents reach their full potential, and to inspire discovery, learning, and cultural expression.

Vision Statement: The Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) is recognized as a leading community institution improving literacy, the exchange of ideas, workforce development, and social engagement.

SNAPSHOT



Residents who reside in the CALS geographic area appreciate and support their Library. No less important, they use it – regularly and in a variety of ways. Illustrative data points (ca.2023) include:

- CALS serves 344,553 people in urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods
- This includes a service area of Little Rock, Maumelle, Jacksonville, Sherwood, Perryville, and Wrightsville
- CALS has 191,171 cardholders

At Main every year, based on annual averages over a 10-year period:

- 316,689 people visit for various events and resources
- 46,045 people use the computers
- 48,316 children, youth, and caregivers come for programs, books, and other resources
- 52,915 teens come to hang out, study, and attend programs
- 1,128 meetings are held yearly



THE NEXT CHAPTER CAMPAIGN

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW MAIN LIBRARY

This is an exciting time for the community to reinvest in its library as our community's central place to impact lives and provide opportunities for everyone to learn, explore and grow.



This project includes the following features:



LOWER LEVEL

- Computer Lab and technology classrooms equipped with in-demand technologies
- Expanded offices for library-based social workers and a connecting lounge



FIRST FLOOR

- Multi-use and modular public spaces
- Lobby: fosters community gathering with a café, retail area, easily accessible popular materials, and many comfortable seating options





FIRST FLOOR, CONT.

- Youth Center with teaching kitchen, activity room, story time stage, wellness room, outdoor courtyard
- 29,075 sf dedicated to Children and Teens (across first and second floors), a 69% increase





SECOND FLOOR

- Teen Center with makerspace, study rooms, teen programming room





THIRD & FOURTH FLOORS

- Improved access to collections and multiple study rooms and meeting spaces throughout — suitable for coworking or business meetings





FIFTH FLOOR

- Expansion of and additional meeting spaces throughout
- New teaching kitchen
- New production studio
- New programming room



ROOF

- Rooftop terrace with gathering space for entertainment and connection

These upgrades, improvements, and new spaces will permit the Library to fulfill its vision as a place for all residents to gather, belong, connect, and learn today and for many generations to come!



A PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

In the most recent CALS election, held on May 24, 2022, 68% of Little Rock voters approved a reduction in the library's capital-improvement millage. This has allowed CALS to refinance existing capital debt by issuing new bonds, generating revenue for the renovation of the Main Library.



The cost to renovate and update Main is approximately **\$31 million**, including construction costs, fees, contingency costs, and fixtures and furnishings. While CALS has dedicated \$29 million in public funds to the renovation, **there is a gap of \$2 million needed to complete the project.**

The Next Chapter campaign will ask the community to provide an additional \$2 million toward the transformation of the Main Library. This funding will close the gap in project costs and provide the necessary amenities to bring the library to its fullest potential.

Naming opportunities are available.



SUMMARY

A beautifully renovated Main Library will be the pride of Little Rock – a community hub that serves all of us and helps to revitalize our downtown community by connecting us in unique and powerful ways.

An investment in The Next Chapter of Main Library is an investment in a more connected, vibrant Little Rock for generations to come!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Steering Committee

Lisa Ferrell, *Co-Chair*
Rush Harding, *Co-Chair*
Jay Barth
Del Boyette
Bob Edwards
Marion Fulk
Martie North Hamilton
Keith Harvey
Jim Jackson
Olivia Hussman Ramsey
Susan Smith
Luke Underwood

CALS FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Del Boyette, *President*
Molly McNulty, *Vice President*
John Bush
Bryan Day
Marion Fulk
Mike Ramirez
Cathy Spivey
Luke Underwood

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Ryan Davis, *Vice President*
Audrey Evans
Esperanza Massana-Crane
Karama Neal
Madhav Shroff
Luke Underwood

Pulaski County Appointees

Joyce Elliott
Dustin McDaniel

Perry County Appointee

David Finkbeiner

Jacksonville Appointee

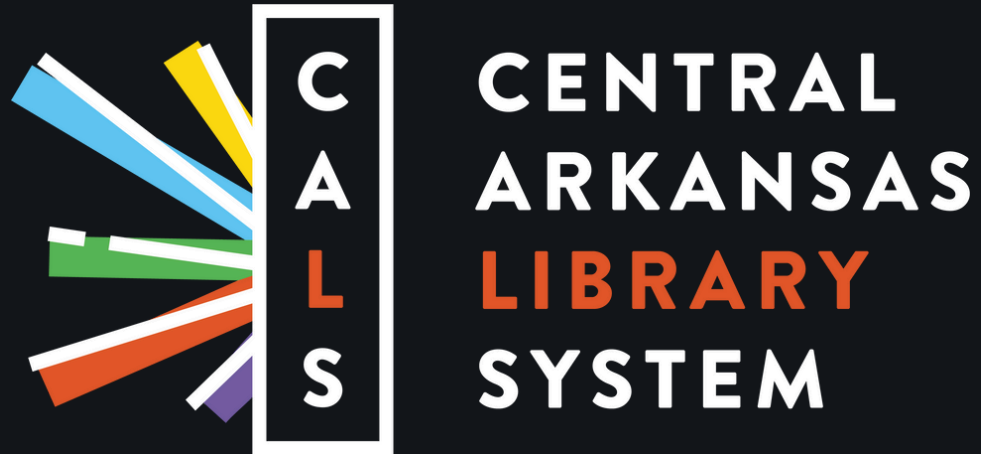
Jennifer Jamison

Sherwood Appointee

Brandon Grice, *Treasurer*


Maumelle Appointee

Alexis Sims



For more information, contact Eliza Borné,
CAL S Director of Development, at:

 etborne@cals.org

 501.320.5750