

A publication
supporting:



Great Communities Build Great Libraries

FEBRUARY 2022

The “Big Dig” has begun ...

It is so exciting to see the progress being made at State and Willow. The construction fences are up and heavy equipment is on the lot. The earth has started to move and support pilings are being installed. If you look carefully, you can see the auditorium starting to take shape. Together, we are building the new Kennett Library & Resource Center.

Chester County is a special place; you know this because you live here! An extraordinary group of caring people are gathering, people who dare to “Imagine!” The State, seven local Municipalities and hundreds of individuals have made capital contributions. We are thrilled by the donations we have received, both large and small. This new library will be your new library!

Of course, there is still more work to be done. Construction will take about 16 months, setting the stage for a Grand Opening in Spring of 2023. We so look forward to walking our books down State Street. What fun it will be for young and old alike! And, we still need to raise more in capital funding – the goal is to open our doors debt free!

The new Kennett Library & Resource Center is going to be so cool! Please consider making an investment in our children’s future. Help us to shape Southern Chester County well into the 22nd Century. Take part in this wonderful project and make a difference in the lives of others.

This is your library!

Collis

Collis O. Townsend
Campaign Chair

Jeff Yetter

Jeff Yetter
Board President



Read All About It!
Chris Manna, Library Director



These first few months on the job have been a whirlwind of excitement and activity for myself and the staff of the Kennett Library. Throughout my 22 years in libraries, I've had the opportunity to be involved in new large university library builds as well as multiple new public library builds. As we start to really prepare for the new building, we are taking our time to be meticulous in our planning for services in the new library. This year of anticipation is even more critical than the first year the building is open. As much as the physical groundwork is being laid, so, too, is the groundwork for program planning. I want to share with everyone exactly what this means for all our patrons of the Kennett Library.

First, I want to highlight our meeting rooms. There will be 15 spaces dedicated for meeting, having events, teaching classes, and otherwise enjoying the library. Out of these 15 spaces, 2 will be makerspaces. The children's makerspace will include robotics and arts training starting at age two and extending to the early teen years. Our adult makerspace will take over the educational and engaging process by offering continued robotics and computer coding courses, as well as a vinyl cutter for screen printing, large size business quality printing,

sewing machines, and a host of other small business solutions. In addition, each of these makerspaces will include 3D printers. If you can envision it, we can build it!

I hope you will all enjoy our 110-seat auditorium as much as I will! From Ted X talks to musical concerts to lively community debates and even movie screenings, our auditorium will be THE place to enjoy first class facilities right in the comfort of your own community. I also look forward to hosting Meet & Greets and social gatherings on the Melton Terrace overlooking State Street.

Our audio-visual recording studio is a great place to record family history, let your kids create their own movies, or even bring your own band to record your latest musical hit. If making music is not your thing, try your hand at making movies! We will have a step-by-step program on moviemaking. In addition, we plan to host a children's film festival where kids from around the community will work with staff to create their own movies and then have them shown on the big screen in our auditorium.

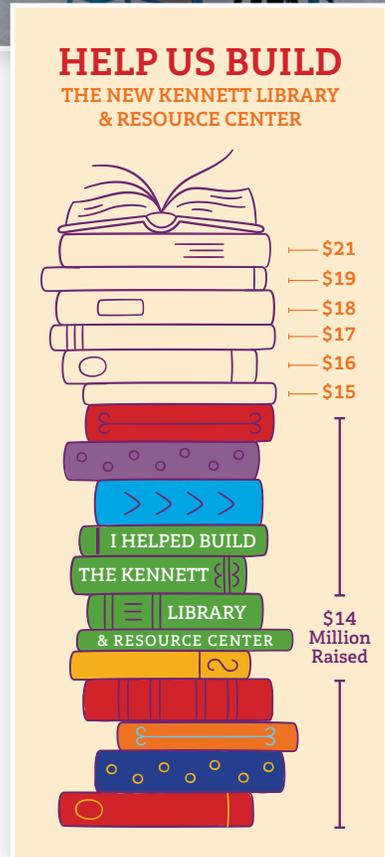
Literacy in the 21st century encompasses far more than learning to read a book. Today, literacy dives into

health literacy and the ramifications of healthy eating and exercise. It involves financial literacy and understanding the value of budgeting for the future. It entails digital literacy and the realization that the gap some people face in using and having access to technology is vast. Finally, we need to discuss civic literacy. Where better to engage in community discourse, than in a facility built by the community. The library stands to support literacy of all kinds.

Ultimately, because every person comes to the library at different phases of their life and with different needs, our services and programming should reflect this. As we utilize this space for community programming with our community partners, we will engage all segments of the community to meet you where you are in your life today.



The children's makerspace

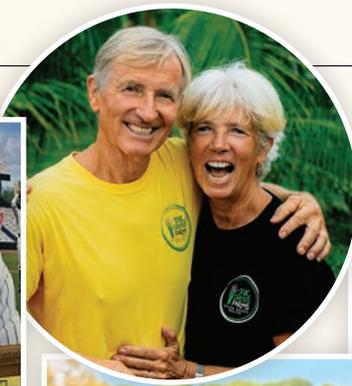


Architect renderings of the children's library

WHY I GIVE . . .



Libraries are an escape into another world, and I have been escaping to a library since I was 6 years old.
- Tom Swett



The Kennett Community deserves this new Library, and we are thrilled to be part of this extraordinary project. -Peter Kjellerup and Mandy Cabot



It's a family thing for us. We are in the Library 2-3 times a week. We are fans of both adult and children's series, so we think of the Library as our Netflix. -Dan and Amanda Gannon



We give because libraries are community spaces at their core. From kids crafts, lego club, and music activities to book clubs and knitting groups, the Kennett Library supports a range of interests and builds community connections. The new library will offer even more collaborative learning spaces we all can enjoy.
-Kate and Drew Yetter

One of my fondest childhood memories is of checking out my first library book at the age of six. So, from that time to this, libraries have always been magical places that bring me joy.



magical places that bring me joy.
-Brenda Williams-Mercomes

THIS GREAT COMMUNITY IS BUILDING A GREAT LIBRARY!

It will serve as a civic hub and a tourist attraction — a place for kids to learn, teens to meet and adults to gather.

Because of your generous gifts, we have raised over \$14 million toward the \$21 million goal. We were recently awarded a \$1.9 million grant from Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) and are evaluating how best to apply these funds to the project while keeping within State guidelines. Please join us in thanking State Sen. Carolyn Comitta, State Sen. John Kane, State Rep. Craig Williams, and State Rep. Christine Sappey for their support!

How to help! Please consider leaving your mark on this new building. Listed below are a variety of ways to give and be recognized. You can visit the campaign website: www.campaign4kennett.library.org to donate or review all the options. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Mary Hutchins, Development Associate, with any questions or to discuss room naming rights: mary@kennettlibrary.org or 302-547-2089.

FAMILY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Add your name to one of the many bookshelves or collections — \$5,000
- Put your name on one of the 110 seats in the Auditorium — \$2,500
**Limit one per family*
- Help us decorate the Children's Library with a "leaf" on the Kennett Library Family Tree
Bronze: \$250; Silver: \$500; Gold: \$1,000.
- Receive a "I helped build the new Kennett Library" tote bag — \$250
- All donors to the Melton Terrace will be listed on a plaque on the Terrace
- All donors who give \$5,000 & above will be recognized on the main Donor Wall.



A Message from the Melton Family

How thrilling to be driving up State Street, seeing the backhoes and cement mixers preparing to pour the foundation for our community's new library. As the architect of record, it is poignant to imagine how excited Dennis Melton would be as construction begins on this project, a dream he worked toward for more than 20 years!

Dennis championed keeping the library in town where it is easily accessible to all. I can imagine him swapping his trademark black hat for a hard hat and walking over to the site for the daily consultation with the contractors. He was so eager to participate in making the project a reality.

Our family was incredibly touched when the Library's Board of Trustees named the terrace after Dennis. While thrilled with all the plans for expanding the facility to become a multi-faceted resource center, Dennis was particularly enthused that the design included a large terrace. He envisioned folks enjoying a concert or an art show or simply meeting and sharing ideas in an inspiring outdoor space, further enhancing the quality of life in our community.

The Melton Family is deeply grateful to all in the community who have generously donated to the Terrace and the Library in his memory.

-Donna Melton



Donate

For questions about making a donation or volunteering for the campaign please email **Mary Hutchins, Campaign Associate** at mary@kennettlibrary.org or go to campaign4kennettlibrary.org

Contact Information

Chris Manna, Library Director:
cmanna@ccls.org

Mary Hutchins, Campaign Associate:
mary@kennettlibrary.org

Collis Townsend, Chairman Campaign Committee

Kennett Library
216 E. State Street
Kennett Square, PA 19348
(610) 444-2702
www.KennettLibrary.org



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