



# BUILDING ON THE BEST

Ossining Public Library Repairs and Renovations  
Proposed Bond Fall 2025



# A Legacy of Service

**For more than 130 years, the Ossining Public Library has established a legacy of service, enrichment, and inspiration to the greater Ossining community.**

Chartered as The Sing Sing Public Library in 1893, the library began as a collection of 700 books in the superintendent's office before finding a permanent home on Croton Avenue in 1914. This year, we're looking to build on our legacy with a necessary and innovative renovation.



**The Ossining Public Library enriches, connects, and inspires our community.**

To insure a commitment to our community, a Long Range Strategic Plan has been implemented that recognizes, addresses, and celebrates all members of the community with the aim of transforming the OPL into Ossining's center for community engagement and education.

**186,351 Annual Visits**

**7,401 Attendance at our FREE Children's Literacy programs**

**2,727 Attendance at our FREE Language Learning Programs**

**262 People receiving FREE Tax Help at the Library every year**

**14-Time Winner Best Library Award, Westchester Magazine**



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# CRITICAL NEED: RETAINING WALL REPAIRS

**A portion of the Library's retaining wall at the northwest corner of the property has experienced signs of distress, including bulging, gaps, cracks, and movement of the wall facing.**

Over the last three years, the Library has engaged a professional land surveyor to monitor the wall and parking lot for movement. Over this time period, changes in the lateral position and elevation of some monitoring points confirm portions of the wall **continue to move**. Engineers from Simpson Gumpertz & Heger (SGH) recommend repairing this portion of the wall.

SGH further suggested that the Library prohibit parking near the impacted area out of an abundance of caution. The Library fenced off a total of seventeen parking spaces in May 2022, which accounts for 25% of the property's total parking. This has caused great disruption and inconvenience for patrons.

An unforeseen event such as an earthquake or hurricane may cause the retaining wall to fail, or the wall movement to accelerate resulting in the need for emergency repairs.

**25%**

of the Library's parking lot has been lost as part of an attempt to prevent further wall movement.

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# CRITICAL NEED: HVAC REPAIRS

**The Library's HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) system is undersized and has degraded substantially over time.**

Engineers from OLA Consulting Engineers did an extensive study on the Library's current system, which was installed in 2007. The geothermal well system **cannot maintain a constant water temperature**, especially during extreme air temperatures in the summers and winters. The well field capacity is undersized, and lacks water level controls and appropriate alarms. The building's **AC units are undersized and have deteriorated**, making it impossible for the Library to cool adequately during summer months and warm during winter.

Library patrons have expressed discomfort with the temperature during the summer and the winter; 30% of complaints fielded by Front Desk staff are temperature-related (see below).

12

days the Library had to close or interrupt service to portions of the building due to heating or cooling issues in the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

**\$90,000**

Projected yearly savings once the HVAC system is replaced with a more functional system\*.

*\*Based on the average annual cost of the Library has spent to repair and mitigate our system.*

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# CRITICAL NEED: FIRE SAFETY UPGRADES

**The change in building codes following construction of the Library facility necessitate upgrades to the fire safety systems.**

The Library's stairways do not have the air curtain and closely spaced sprinklers or the fire shutters required by Section 707 of the code. The current code has changed how this configuration of stairs is managed. Under the provision of the current code the existence of the openings between the three stories of the building means that most of the building is an "atrium" and will require a smoke control system that complies with Section 909. Similarly, there is only one means of egress from the Mezzanine Level while two are required by law.

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# CRITICAL NEED: NEW ROOF

**The building's roof is aging.**

The low slope membrane roof system is past its useful life and needs to be replaced; additionally, the roof hatch needs to be replaced with a proper staircase for ease of access for maintenance purposes.

Roof leaks have disrupted service to parts of the building, as well as damage to materials and supplies, five times since 2021.

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# IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS

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**The Library has heard from the community.**

A survey done in Winter 2024 gathered feedback from the Ossining community about the facility, services, and the future of the library. Plans for building enhancements were made considering the input and support of patrons, as well as best practices audit work, offsite visits, and the benchmarking of the Library's Building & Grounds committee.

## ● NEW TEEN SPACE AND IMPROVED QUIET AREAS

The Teen Room will be relocated to the lower level, allowing for a larger collection, more programming space, and an environment more accommodating to noise and activity. This will also preserve the quieter area on the second floor.

## ● EXPANDED LOBBY

A larger lobby and a relocated Front Desk will provide more seating and activity space on the first floor.

## ● MORE PRIVATE MEETING ROOMS

Relocating staff areas and redesigning the Library's workflow will allow for the addition of six more private meeting and program spaces.

## ● HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

These plans include remodeling the Library's restrooms to allow for easier cleaning and sanitation.

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# HOW YOU CAN HELP



## Encourage your network to get educated on the Bond.

Learn more on the Library's website, by attending Town Hall meetings or taking home informational materials at the Library. See [www.ossininglibrary.org/building](http://www.ossininglibrary.org/building) for details.



## Visit the Ossining Public Library

Attend an event, take a class or participate in a reading program.



## Vote (and encourage others to vote)



## Support the Library

Donate, volunteer, or join our Friends of the Library group or the Ossining Library Foundation. Learn more at [www.ossininglibrary.org/support](http://www.ossininglibrary.org/support)



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Follow our progress at [www.ossininglibrary.org/building](http://www.ossininglibrary.org/building)

