

OUR NEXT CHAPTER

Benton Library, Museum, and Community Center



Help fund a community treasure in the heart of Benton's Main Street. Partner with us as we lay the groundwork for a new hub of activity that will energize and strengthen the community, be a catalyst for exciting new ideas, and envision new possibilities for Benton's future.



Please Join Us as We Build a New Library, Museum, and Benton Community Center

We're writing THE NEXT CHAPTER of our story here in Benton, and YOU have a starring role!

Our story revolves around the building of a new 7,500 sq. foot, multi-use facility—a facility that has essentially been designed **by** the community, **for** the community.

It's a story that in 1911 saw Benton's first library being opened in the parlor of the Benton Methodist Church. Twelve years later it moved a few doors down the street and up twenty-one steep steps to the top floor of the Municipal Building. Decades after that, it moved back down those same steps to its current main-floor location.

The final chapter of our story will take the library across the street to Benton's new Community Building—a building that will consolidate the Library, two museums, and a community center under one roof in the heart of Benton's Main Street.

Libraries Redefined

Today's libraries have ceased to be mere storehouses of books and materials—they aren't your mama's libraries anymore!

Our New LIBRARY Will . . .

- Support current and emerging technologies.
- Include workstations, monitors, and screens that allow for virtual-world meetings, learning, and presentations.
- Add much-needed space for increased collections, programs, and activities.
- Provide a connected meeting room for entrepreneurs and small business owners.
- Offer various spaces where students, adults, and others can collaborate and share ideas.
- Provide co-worker spaces where workers can merge their areas of expertise.
- Be designed to adapt as the needs of the community continue to change.

Museums Are More Valuable Than Ever

Museums and cultural heritage sites are powerful assets for communities and their local development. They can attract visitors, boost local economies, and play a priceless role in giving us perspective and helping individuals and groups honor those things that make them unique. Museums have the power to create unity and to provide a sense of community—something we value here in Benton.

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Our New MUSEUM Will . . .

- Combine the collections of Swindler’s Ridge and the 1851 School House Museum.
- Provide climate-controlled storage for our historic artifacts.
- Use standardized museum software to catalog and manage the collection.
- Promote the cultural heritage of Benton and its surrounding communities.
- Present rotating exhibits, art displays, and presentations.
- Bring people together through a variety of programming and cultural events.
- Allow for increased partnerships with the school district, its students, and its teachers—helping to educate future generations.
- Attract tourists and people relocating to the Benton area.
- Partner with other area museums to develop exhibitions, share collections, and exchange ideas.
- Demonstrate that Benton offers an extraordinary quality of life.

Our New COMMUNITY CENTER Will . . .

- Serve families, groups, and organizations of Benton and the surrounding townships.
- Provide seating for up to 100 people to attend meetings, celebrations, community events, presentations, and various other activities.
- Include a movable wall that, when opened, can provide additional flexible space when needed.
- Provide an appliance galley where food can be safely stored and kept hot or cold for serving.
- Add programs that respond to the changing needs of the community.
- Emphasize community building and advance a sense of inclusivity and belonging.
- Help boost the local economy.
- Cultivate and grow community involvement and volunteerism, including in our youth.
- Energize Benton’s Main Street and increase civic pride.

Offer Meeting and Gathering Spaces

The Village recognizes there is a significant need for a public meeting and gathering space in Benton. It has addressed that need in the new Community Center portion of the building.

Planning Highlights

Extensive, thoughtful planning has gone into the new Benton Library, Museum, Community Center building project. A number of public meetings have taken place over the past four years, and various committees have been formed to investigate ideas, make recommendations, and come to consensus agreements that have moved the project forward in positive ways. This truly has been a community-driven initiative, one that—when completed—will be a source of pride for Benton, the surrounding townships, and those people who have a certain nostalgia for their hometown.

Village Board discusses building a multi-use facility to house Library, Museum, and Community Center.

AUG 2018

A public meeting is held. Volunteers step forward to form Steering Committee.

SEP 2018

Village President appoints Core Committee and Committee Co-Chairs.

OCT 2018

FEH Design of Dubuque conducts a feasibility study for the project.

APR 2019

Advisory Task Force gathers input for site selection and building design. Public is invited to 2-day workshop in July.

MAY 2019

JAN 2020

Rapidly rising construction costs require a scale-back of portions of the project.

APR 2020

COVID-19 puts project on hold. Property acquisition moves forward during shutdown.

DEC 2020

Main St properties are all secured. Benton State Bank and American Legion donate property; the third property is purchased.

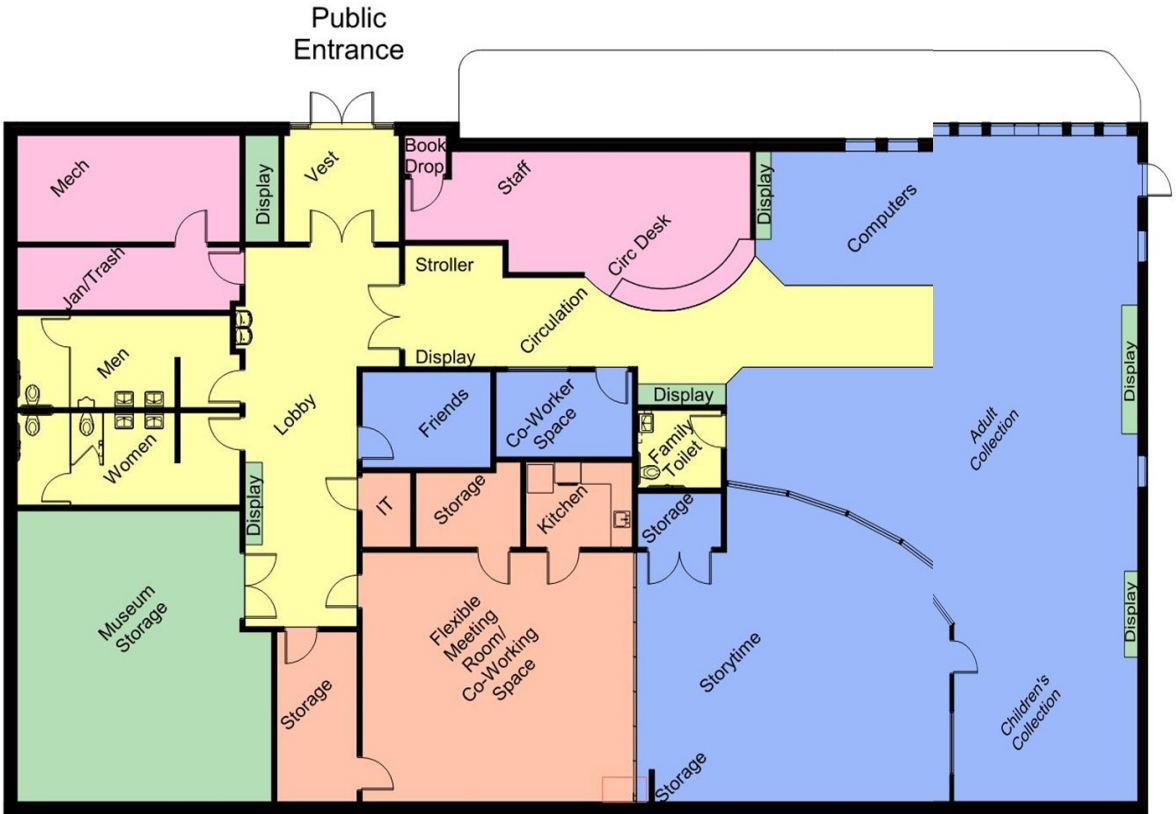
OCT 2021

The Sweeney Group is hired to develop Capital Campaign strategies.

JULY / AUG 2022

Excitement builds as we prepare for the Capital Campaign launch!

Architect Rendering and Floor Plan



The Village of Benton hired FEH Design to help take Benton's new Community Center building from concept to reality. FEH Design is an architectural, structural engineering, and interior design firm with extensive expertise in library design and

building. They are a nationally recognized company working with cities and towns from the planning stages to the completed project. The award-winning firm is providing expert guidance, helping to maximize efforts in a cost-effective way.



“There is unbelievable power in a community connected by a common goal. We’re better TOGETHER! Please join me in support of the new Benton Library, Museum, and Community Center. ”

Gary McCrea, Benton Village President

Additional naming opportunities not identified in the plan, include:

- Donor Wall
- Adult New Book Area
- Children’s New Book Area
- Periodical Collection Area
- DVD Collection Area

Frequently Asked Questions

FUNDING SOURCES

\$1,000,000
USDA low-
interest
40-yr. loan

\$250,000
WEDC Grant
request

\$69,000
Lafayette
Co. award
from federal
ARPA funds

\$1,500,000
from Capital
Campaign
funding

What are the reasons for building a new Public Library, Museum, and Community Center?

For many decades the Public Library has leased space from the Benton State Bank—a partnership that has been fundamental to our continued success. That success has resulted in a Library that is literally bursting at the seams! We are now faced with the need for additional space to grow our current collection and to provide adequate spaces for important Library programming and other patron services. In addition, Swindler's Ridge and the 1851 School House Museums have experienced a number of issues with deteriorating buildings. Those problems—coupled with the increased need to have a convenient public space to come together for meetings, programs, events, and family gatherings—prompted the Village to pursue the current building project.

What is the cost of the building?

The cost, including contingencies, is \$2,645,000. This includes land acquisition; building demolition; and the purchase of furniture, fixtures, equipment, and technology items.

How will the building be funded?

- The Village of Benton will submit an application to the USDA for a Community Facilities Direct Loan. The loan period will be 40 years, with a low-interest rate (currently 2.15%) that is fixed for the entire term of the loan. The length of the loan, coupled with the low interest rate, enables the Village to make manageable payments through its regular budgeting process. USDA loan approval does not obligate the Village to take the loan; that decision will be dependent upon the success of the Capital Campaign.
- \$250,000 will be requested through a WEDC grant. If funded, the grant does not have to be repaid.
- \$69,000 has been awarded from Lafayette County's federal ARPA funds.
- \$1,500,000 is the goal of **Our Next Chapter** campaign. This is a goal that will require community involvement. Giving-level options and naming rights are available and are included in this packet. Gifts of every size are welcomed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the building project raise my taxes?

The USDA loan term and low interest rate enables the Village to make manageable payments through its regular budgeting process and will have a very minimal effect on the Village levy and taxes.

Has the Village made a financial contribution to the project?

Yes; the Village and the Library currently have a combined contribution of \$145,000.

When will construction begin?

If all goes as planned, and we have a successful capital campaign, we can break ground in late fall of 2023. The Benton Library, Museum and Community Center could enjoy its Grand Opening in the late fall/early winter of 2024.

Who is handling campaign donations? How will campaign donors be recognized?

The Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin is serving as the campaign's fiscal agent. *All donations are tax deductible.*

Every gift to the building project is an important step toward making the vision of our new Library, Museum, and Community Center a reality. There are many ways to support the project, including a number of important naming opportunities for spaces that are particularly meaningful to the donor. All gifts will be recognized on an artistically designed donor wall and by way of special acknowledgments for donors choosing naming opportunities.

Who is the contact person for additional information?

Co-Chair, Michelle Savatski
savatskimv@gmail.com
(608) 778-5794

Project Website:
<https://bentonwi.us/benton-library-museum-community-center/>



Yes, I wish to make a gift for the new Benton Library, Museum, & Community Center



DONOR INFORMATION

Donor Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I prefer to remain anonymous

CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please list any other information about your pledge/gift you want us to know: _____

PAYMENTS

I/We will make a one-time gift of \$ _____

I/We will make pledge payments of \$ _____ per year over ____ years (5 maximum) for a total gift of \$ _____

Donors wishing to make automatic bank withdrawals or have questions regarding a transfer of stock or a planned gift should contact Donor Services Representative Linda Gebhardt at Linda@cfsw.org or (608) 758-0833 Ext. #7007.

This is a gift to the 100 Extraordinary Women Campaign. Please list name: _____

I/We will make a one-time 100 Extraordinary Women gift/pledge of \$1,000.
(Mail to the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin address below, or pay on the online site.)

I/We will make a monthly pledge to the 100 Extraordinary Women Campaign.
To make a monthly donation by debit or credit card (\$20 minimum) for 100EW Campaign:
Go to <https://tinyurl.com/2xbfpysa>, select Recurring Donation Amount, enter amount and how often, and enter an end date. (To make a gift in honor or in memory of someone, please include her name in the Tribute Information section.)

Thank you for your gifts to the new Benton Library, Museum, and Community Center. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Gifts will be used specifically for the "Our Next Chapter" campaign to build a new Library, Museum, and Community Center in Benton. Should the campaign not reach its capital goal and fail to materialize, the existing funds shall be distributed equally to the Benton Community Fund and to the Benton Public Library.

Make checks payable to "CFSW / Benton". Mail check and this form to:

**Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin
P.O. Box 8125
Janesville, WI 54547-8125**



BENTON LIBRARY, MUSEUM, & COMMUNITY CENTER

<https://bentonwi.us/benton-library-museum-community-center/>

For Questions, Contact Co-Chair Michelle Savatski

savatskimv@gmail.com

608.778.5794