



Friends of Blakesburg Public Library



PO Box 43 Blakesburg, IA 52536

*I'll get by with a little help
from my friends.*

-- John Lennon, Paul McCartney

Mission Statement:

“The Friends of the Blakesburg Public Library is organized for the purpose of providing funding and programming assistance for special needs or projects of the Blakesburg Public Library.”



Website: <https://www.blakesburg.lib.ia.us/about/friends-blakesburg-public-library>

Organization History:



The Friends of the Blakesburg Public Library non-profit was formed in 2011 and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2012, with 53 members.

The first officers were President Jennifer Cope, Vice President Cheryl Talbert, Secretary Judy Reidel, and Treasurer Donna Thompson. Current officers are President Judy Riedel, Secretary Helen Theulen, and Treasurer, Ilene Johnson.

Rounding out the Executive Board are at-large members Vera Miller, Grant Reidel, Jane Force and Shirley Smith. Members of FOBPL include representation from all genders, ages, educational attainment, and socio-economic status.

Membership:

Membership is open to all. Annual dues are \$20 per person or \$35 per family. Membership meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the library on the fourth Monday of the following months: January, April, July & October. All meetings are open to the public.



Organization projects:

- Paid for first year of integrated library management system (online library card catalog and circulation system program) for the library
- Donated funds and volunteers assisted with the library's annual Father-Daughter Dance
- Donated funds to purchase library books for early childhood, children, and teens
- Wrote a grant to purchase 8 public and 2 staff computers, a projector, screen, and A-V cart for the library

Organization projects:

- Collaborated with the Loving Shepherd Food Pantry's "Small Town Christmas" events, and with the Food Pantry and BHPS for "Homes for the Holidays" event.
- Collaborated with elementary school Parent Teacher Organization in helping with school's Fun Night carnival
- Purchased a building, completed first half of renovation project and currently raising funds to complete the renovation of the building into a permanent home for the library.

Planning



Friends of the
Blakesburg Public Library

Strategic Plan: 20/20 Vision



The FOBPL and Blakesburg Public Library Strategic Plans share a common goal of providing an outstanding library for the residents of the Blakesburg community as their main objective.

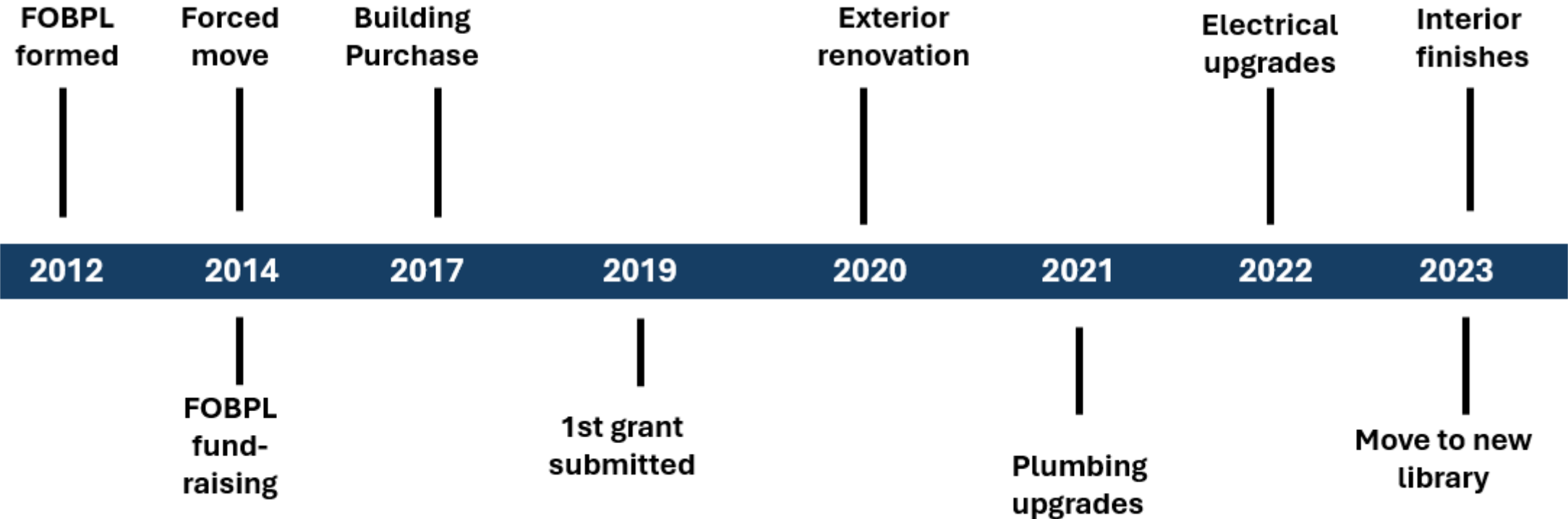
Building Planning Committee:
FOBPL Executive Board, Library Director, Architect, and CCI Project Supervisor

Blakesburg Public Library Building Renovation

- History
- Timeline
- Plans
- Renovations
- Funding
- The move
- Current use
- Future plans



Timeline





PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION

1/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION

1/4" = 1'-0"



PROPOSED LEFT SIDE ELEVATION

N.T.S.

Floor plan and “before” pictures



Exterior Renovation



South side of building with new emergency exit.



Before, during and after pictures of the front (north side) and the east end of the building exterior renovation.

Interior Renovation



Plumbing

Interior Renovation



HVAC
system



Updated
electric panel,
and wiring

Interior Renovation



Drywall installation

Interior Renovation



FOBPL
Volunteers



Paint
Party



Interior Renovation



Suspended
ceiling grid,
light fixtures,
floors and doors

Interior Renovation



Kitchen finishes & appliances



Interior Renovation

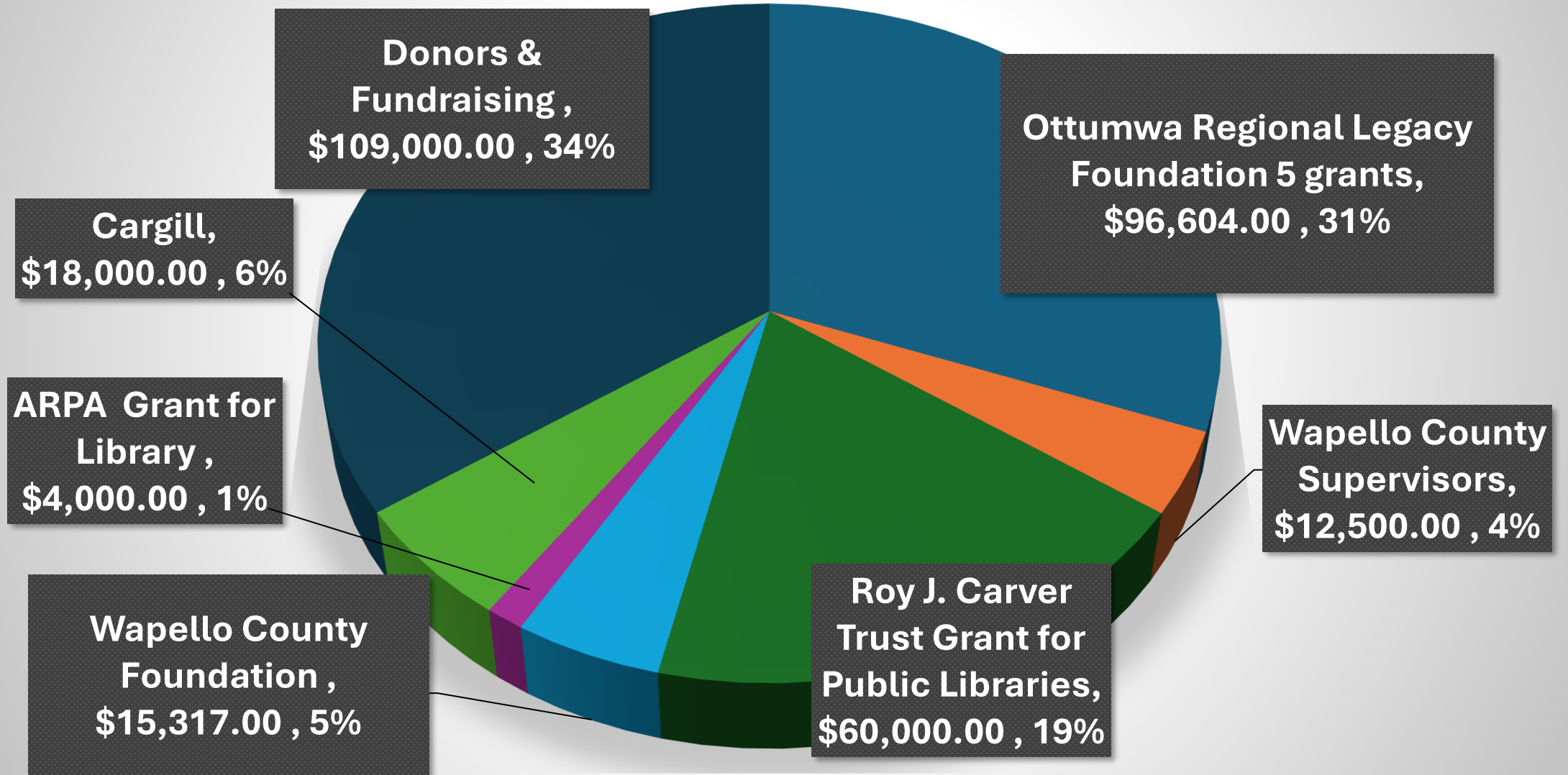


Meeting room set up for Open House and picture of one of the ADA compliant gender-neutral restrooms



Funding the project \$\$\$

FOBPL building renovation grants, donations fundraising efforts since 2017, \$315,421



Funding the project \$\$\$

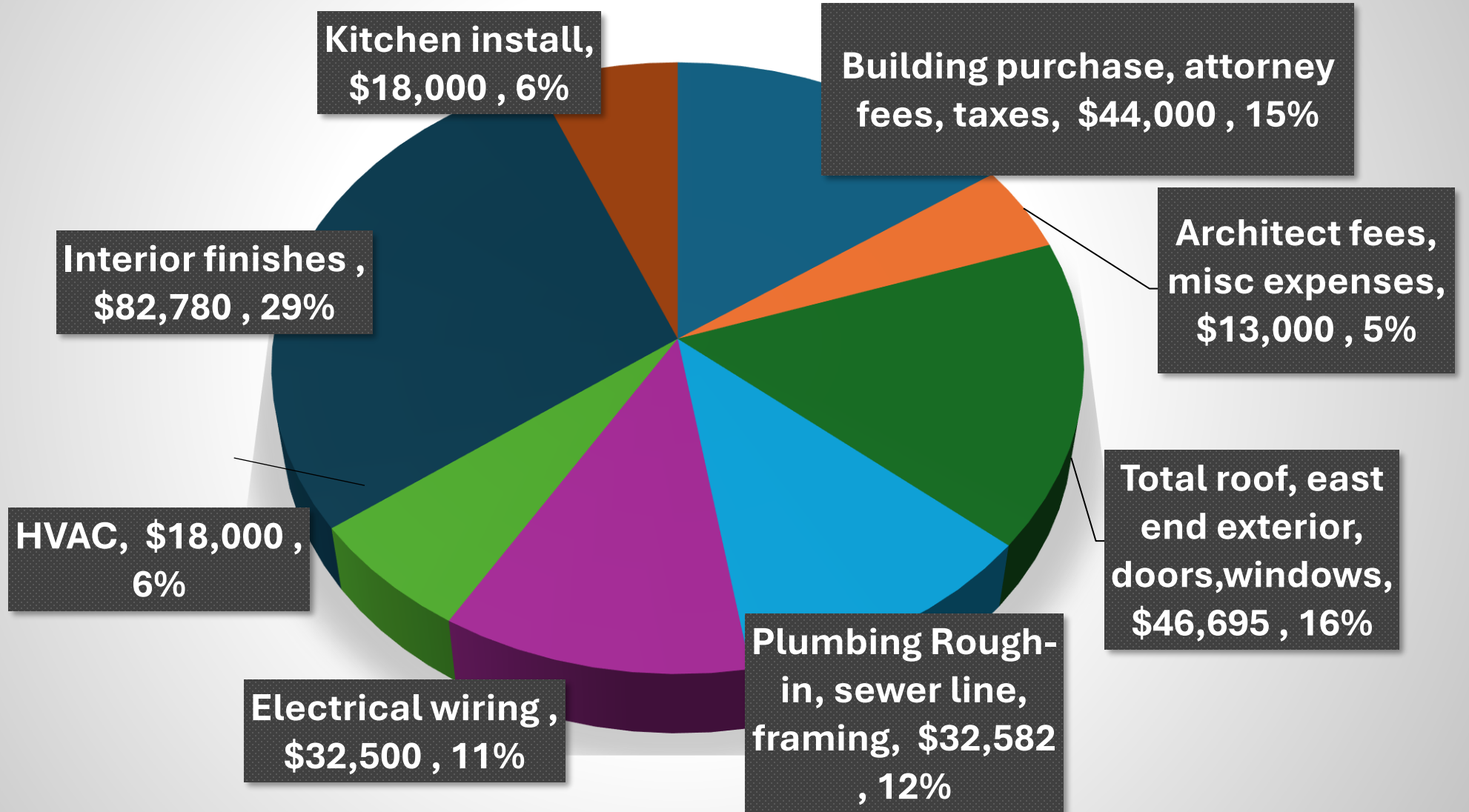


THANK YOU !!!



Funding the project \$\$\$

Building purchase and renovation expenditures since 11/2017 \$287,557



Making the move

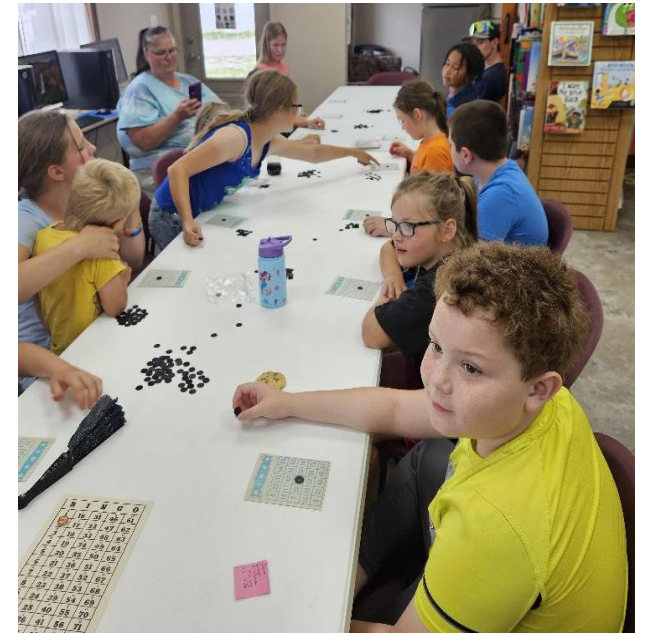


Current use of meeting room space





Community



Library Statistics Comparison

Category	FY23	FY24	Increase
Number of Patrons Visiting Library	1089	1503	414
Number of Library Programs	14	57	43
Attendance at Library Programs	85	353	268
Circulation transactions	1895	2311	416
Items in Collection	7900	8568	668
Number of patrons using computers	368	425	57
Wi-Fi Sessions	2295	3207	912

Impact

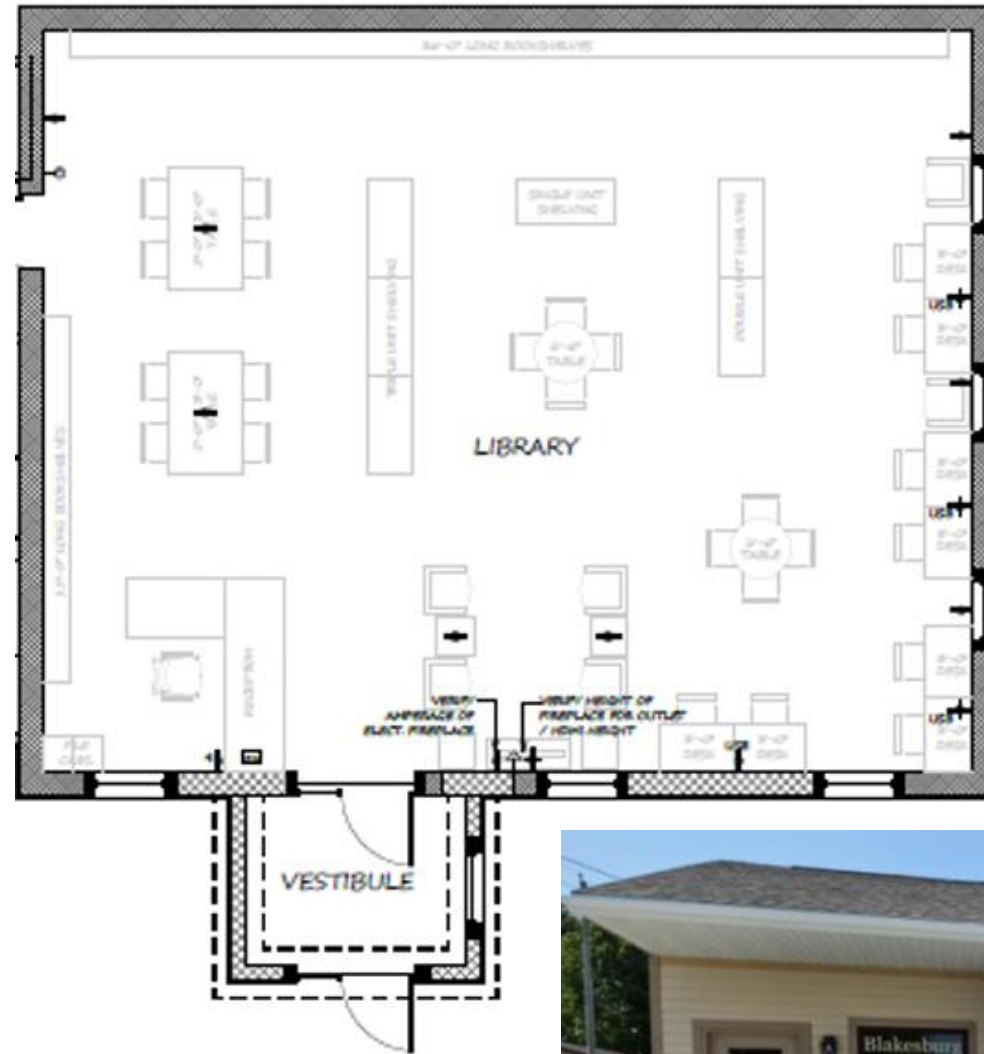
The library has seen year-to-year increases in services and programs since moving into the new building in July 2024

Future plans

2025 Spring –
Complete
exterior work on
west end

2025 to 2026–27
Raise funds to
complete interior

2026-2027 –
Move from the meeting room
into the new library space



Please consider
joining the Friends
of the Blakesburg
Public Library to
be a part of this
community
betterment project.



**Thank you
for being a
friend!**

