**Bridging Space to Place**

1924: New library building dedicated in space comprising the current lobby.

1940, 1960, 1964: Physical additions to library were constructed; integration of interior spaces postponed.

January 1, 1975: Joint Free Public Library of the Chathams dedicated, as Chatham Borough and Chatham Township united to bring a library to all in the Chathams.


November 2015: Library posted Strategic Plan on its website.

December 2015: Library shared architectural drawings with patrons for the proposed RMR Project. Renovation, Modernization and Reorganization of the existing Library space.

January/February 2016: Strategic Plan shared in BookEnds newsletter, in community meetings, with Borough and Township governments and in local news outlets (Chatham Courier, Chatham Patch, and TapIntoChatham).

2016: Library Board authorized the “Bridging Space to Place” project and fundraising campaign, developed based on public input, to better coordinate spaces within the library’s existing physical footprint; enhancing safety; addressing growing demand for people to attend meetings, events, and lectures; and to connect as a community.

**“Bridging Space to Place” Goals:**

- Teen Center for local youth to work and socialize in a safe environment
- New Children’s Activity Room
- STEM Room providing local students opportunities to enhance their learning
- Modernized Local History Room to provide improved access and to showcase the heritage of the Borough and Township
- Additional individual study rooms
- Additional meeting rooms with flexible meeting space including the STEM room that doubles as a meeting room
- Electrical updates including efficient lighting, improved air quality and enhanced security
- Business Center for local entrepreneurs
- Improved public access for older adults and families with strollers including accessibility upgrades

September 2017: Campaign launched, run by a 14-member Campaign Steering Committee: Andy Hollander, Chair; Diane O’ Brien, Honorary Chair and former Director of Library; Susan Allen; Karen Brodsky; Bill Holmes; and Peggy Nelson, Vice President.

Oversight of Campaign Steering Committee by Strategic Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees, whose current members are: Andy Hollander, President of Board; Susan Allen, Secretary; Karen Brodsky; Bill Holmes; and Peggy Nelson, Vice President.

October 2017: Campaign case statement produced to highlight the value of the Library and the need for reorganization.

November 2017: A $125 million Library Construction Bond Act passed that enables the regulations are issued, the regulations have been delayed and are expected no earlier than spring 2019.

February, April, and June 2018: Campaign Steering Committee hosted small-group fundraising events to cultivate potential donors, setting the stage for the campaign’s early success. This “Quiet Campaign” raised nearly $355,000 in commitments.

May 2018: Campaign mailing was mailed to all 6,000+ households in the Chathams, generating more than $40,000. This figure continues to grow.

June 2018: Library’s unveiling of the Bridging Space to Place banner at Fishawack Festival garnered hundreds of supporter signatures along with generous donations.

September 2018: Campaign launch hosted annual “History and Hops” party. This year’s special theme was the history of the Library of The Chathams with proceeds donated to Library.

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October 2018: Focus groups conducted to gather feedback for the new Strategic Plan.

Those polled included adults in groups of 65+, 40-64, 18-40, parents of young children and teens as well as the general public.

October 2018: “Video produced to highlight the Library’s importance in the community and promote the campaign.

As of February 5, 2019:

- More than $598,000 raised
- More than 300 donors
- 48 members of The Bridge Club, a recognition society for donors of $1,000 and above

Many groups depend on the library. Groups that meet here include:


**Why is the Campaign called “Bridging Space to Place”**?

In 1728, the Day brothers settled on the banks of the Passaic River. With a new bridge built over the “Fishawack” better connecting residents with others near and far, a village called “Day’s Bridge” quickly grew. In 1773, the name Chatham was adopted in honor of English Prime Minister William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, for his support of the colonies. Centuries later, another “bridge” welcomes and connects us all.

Library of The Chathams is that bridge, a community center of the Borough and the Township.

As Bill Lum wrote in his letter to the press on July 30, 2018: “Every brick of the current library was the result of the foresight of those who preceded us. We now have an opportunity and responsibility to take the baton passed to us and bring the library into the present and future.”

Chair of the Campaign Steering Committee, Andy Hollander, believes the time is now: “It is time to meet emerging needs and create a new, coordinated place bridging us to the future.” The Campaign Steering Committee welcomes Borough and Township support of our community in “Bridging Space to Place.”