Bridging Space to Place
The campaign to make Library of The Chathams YOUR place
"A few years ago I was browsing the stacks and a book caught my eye—bright yellow with a black zigzag stripe. It was a biography of Charles Schulz, the creator of the Peanuts comic strip. As a kid I loved it.

In the zigzag-covered book, I learned about how Charles Schulz's high school yearbook turned down drawings from the most successful cartoonist ever. His Army service in Europe in World War II, the correspondence course he took in cartooning, the woman who inspired the Little Red-Haired Girl (Charlie Brown's unrequited crush), his family, and how his life experiences influenced the comic strip he created. I discovered, as an adult, an even richer humor and meaning to something that meant a lot when I was younger.

Thanks to a book's unusual cover I noticed it. But without our library I wouldn't have found it in the first place. So for me the library is a place of discovery and, with Peanuts, rediscovery. At our library, there's something to discover and rediscover, for all of us.”

— Andy Hollander, Board President

**Your Place in the Community**

Step into Library of The Chathams and you will feel the buzz of activity and witness the vital ways the Chathams are enhanced.

Our community, with its lauded school system and dynamic residents—from young children to students to older adults—keeps our library perpetually relevant and active.

Spaces are utilized and overflowing. Children’s programs are over-subscribed. Teenagers seek spaces to study and gather. STEM programs are clamoring for space. Entrepreneurs seek collaborative areas. Some local history materials are at risk. Community organizations and clubs need more room to meet.

Our role as a connector and community center demands that these issues be addressed and overcome. Once they are, the library can offer so much more. It will truly be YOUR place.

76% of residents hold library cards
Your Place to Grow With Us

The Board of Trustees recognizes the changing ways people use libraries today. To meet these changing needs, we have launched a fundraising campaign to update our facility with an infrastructure that supports the many services and programs our library offers.

It’s time that we bridge the gap between prior renovations and the library we envision for the next generation. It’s time that we turn our space into a place you can call your own, now and in the future, for your children, and for your children’s children.

27,121 visitors to 1,225 programs in 2017

Your Place for Teens & Children

Youth and teens in Chatham Borough and Chatham Township depend on their library. From study-time to story-time, the library is THEIR place to foster knowledge and discovery.

The new teen center will give teens their own much-needed, comfortable and safe place to socialize and study.

Teen work rooms will be added to provide dedicated areas for learning.

The brand new, multi-purpose STEM room will encourage exploration and problem solving through tools that will prepare our young adults for success in innovative careers.

504 youth programs and 82 teen events in 2017
Your Place to Remember

In 1728, the Day brothers settled on the banks of the Passaic River. A bridge and tavern were built and the small village known as “Day’s Bridge” quickly grew.

In 1773, the name Chatham, meaning “a village of cottages,” was adopted to honor English Prime Minister Sir William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, for his support of the colonies’ fight for independence.

Centuries later, another “bridge,” welcomes people of all ages to the center of community life—Library of Chatham.

The library has an important role in preserving the history of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township, and serving as a bridge to our future.

The new, modernized local history room will make the Borough’s and Township’s rich histories more accessible through historical exhibits and artifacts.

The Archival Preservation Room will allow for the careful conservation and storage of unique historical items and photographs.

Additions Through the Years

The last major change to our physical space was in 2004, with the opening of an addition that grew our library by nearly half its size at the time. Prior to that, sections of the library were added piecemeal. The resulting space is a library that lacks cohesiveness and, at times, hinders the library experience.

Beyond layout challenges, the space is aging. We seek to enhance the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) and electrical systems, improve lighting, and optimize walkways to secure the building’s infrastructure well into the future.
Your Place to Work

Meeting spaces in the library invite collaboration among entrepreneurs, students, professionals, and more. Computer and technology access helps people find and apply for jobs or work outside of the home.

Four new quiet study rooms will be constructed for adults who seek refuge in a peaceful place to read or study.

Additional, flexible meeting spaces will be created on both levels for small or large group meetings.

A dedicated business center will help patrons make sense of technology and utilize it to its full potential. The business center will provide computer and Internet access, printers, scanners, and all of the tools necessary to advance professional life.

35,649 reference questions answered in 2017

First Floor Plan Conceptual Layout

- Teen Center with workspaces and modern, comfortable lounge areas
- Renovated Children’s Area with Activity Room
- Administration areas with improved organization
- Larger Reference Area featuring new Quiet Study/Work Rooms
- Modern, climate-controlled Local History Room
- Flexible meeting space for small group collaboration
- AV area housing the library’s multimedia collection
- Improved access to circulation and collections through the main entrance and lobby
Your Place to Connect

With an average of more than 900 visitors per day, the library serves as a community center for people of Chatham Township, Chatham Borough, and the surrounding areas. Patrons come not only to browse books, but to discover, grow, and connect with their neighbors.

We will expand programming space to satisfy the community’s desire for meetings, performances, events, and lectures, such as the Chatham Adult Lifeworks Learning program, geared toward older adult interests.

For anyone using the library, safety, security, and comfort are top priorities. We will improve access for all patrons with modern, efficient lighting, better walkways—inside and out—security cameras, and updated electrical and HVAC systems.

More than 250,000 visits to the library in 2017—and more than 196,000 to our website and mobile app!

Lower Level Plan
Conceptual Layout

Library of The Chathams
Campaign Steering Committee

Andy Hollander, Campaign Chair
and President, Board of Trustees

Diane O'Brien, Honorary Chair;
Past Library Director

Susan Allen, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Karen Brodsky, Library Director

Barbara Butta
Theresa Kandalaft

Michelle and Reed Kean
Bill Lum
Lynn Magrane
Jean McFadden

Peggy Nelson, Vice President, Board of Trustees
Fredric Pocii, Trustee Emeritus
Emery Westfall, Trustee Emeritus

- Meeting rooms for events and large group gatherings
- Business Center for entrepreneurs and patrons learning new skills
- STEM Room equipped with educational technology; doubles as a flexible meeting space for small group collaboration
- Archival Preservation Room for the conservation and storage of the area’s treasured historical pieces
Your Place to Help

Strong libraries build and sustain strong communities. These plans will inspire a true community place, and we hope you will be part of it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Places:</th>
<th>$2.8 Million</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teen Center, Children's Activity Room, STEM Room, Meeting Rooms, Quiet Study Rooms, and Local History Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety, HVAC, electrical, and infrastructure enhancements</td>
<td>$1.7 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4.5 Million</strong></td>
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**Funding Secured** | $1.3 Million

**Fundraising Goal:** $3.2 Million

This is a pivotal moment in our towns’ history. Together, we can build a bridge to a place that looks to the future and honors our tradition.

Library of The Chathams • 214 Main Street, Chatham, NJ 07928 • (973) 635-0603 • www.chathamlibrary.org