

WILMINGTON LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

History

The Wilmington Library was built in 1922 and has remained a landmark on Rodney Square for ninety years. The Library, however, was founded as “The Library Company of Wilmington” in the late 1700’s in the city’s Town Hall at 2nd and Market Streets under the leadership of John Dickinson, Jacob Broom, John Ferris, Gunning Bedford, Jr., and Joseph Shipley, Wilmington’s most prominent community leaders at the time. Through the 19th century William P. Bancroft was a major supporter of the library, ensuring that it had the resources to carry out its mission until it found a new home on Rodney Square.

The current building was constructed primarily through the generosity of Pierre S. duPont, L. Scott Townsend, John P. Nields, and Edgar Hoopes, Jr.

90 Year Old Structure

- While a successful capital campaign chaired by Edward duPont and Willard Speakman, III funded major renovations in 1988 – 1992, due to heavy use by the public and the changing role of libraries in urban centers, since then the building has developed different infrastructure needs such as more efficient HVAC, fire and security, and electrical systems that are essential to a library's functionality in the 21st century.
- This increasingly evident need for expensive repairs made it a necessary - and cost effective – course of action to consider a substantial renovation to restore the Library to its original classic beauty as well as modify its collections and services to better accommodate the Library's diverse constituencies.

Strategic Planning



- In partnership with Library users and community and foundation leaders, in 2010 the Board of Managers developed a long range strategic plan. The results indicated that a revitalized Wilmington Library would need to:
 - expand, diversify and market programming to attract and engage more patrons, with an emphasis on children, teens, job seekers and college students.
 - add meeting space for local business, professional, non-profit group and community groups to use.
 - redesign its building to accommodate the aforementioned priorities while staffing “public spaces” as well as those areas specifically designed to serve job seekers, library patrons, and borrowers.

Strategic Planning Outcomes

- Recommendations emanating from the strategic planning process provided the Board and Library Director with an achievable, affordable plan to revitalize both the facility while providing new programming and services. Architects Moeckel Carbonell Associates were hired to redesign the renovation of the library.

Goals:

- Redesigning space utilization and traffic flow throughout the building
- Replacing all infrastructure systems with highly efficient ones
- Building an easily accessed handicapped ramp
- Redesigning and relocating the children's library and teen area
- Constructing several meeting rooms for business and community use
- Developing more user-friendly public areas while enhancing security
- Restoring the Greek frieze around the library

Transforming Spaces, Exciting Results



Handicapped Entrance



Basement Floor-Youth Services



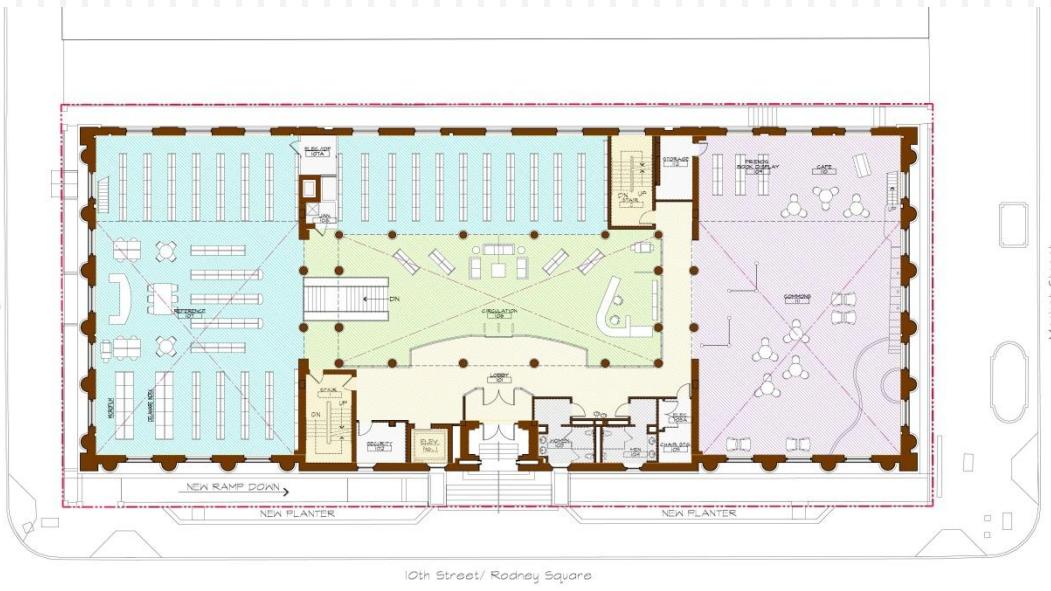
King Street



First Floor-Library Lobby



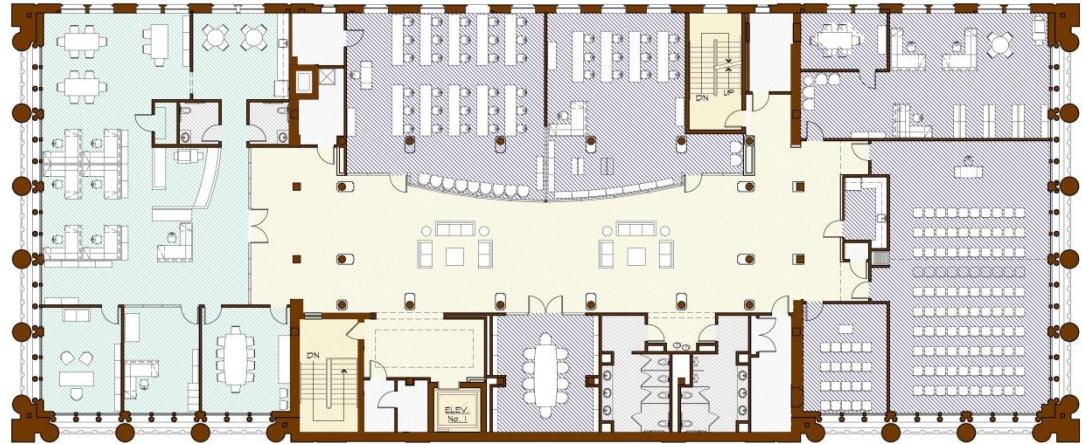
King Street



Market Street

10th Street/ Rodney Square

Second Floor – Meeting Rooms



Welcoming Entrance



Classic Architecture



Youthful Learning Spaces



Abundance of Resources



Modern and Open Design



Public Meeting Spaces



A View to the Future



The Library of the Future



As a result of its 2011 strategic planning process, to fund both facility renovations and new programming, in fall 2011 the Board of Managers initiated a multi-million dollar fund raising effort aptly named The Library of the Future campaign.

With gifts and grants from Wilmington's foundations, city, county and state governments, every Board member, and several generous friends, the all-important Major Gifts Phase of the campaign was successfully concluded in summer 2012.

The Library of the Future continued



In September the Managers kicked off the Public Phase to secure gifts from the Library's current donors as well as many new donors who appreciate the value and the importance of the Wilmington Library. Mr. Edward B. du Pont, who had chaired the Board of Managers and the Library's last campaign in 1988, is Honorary Chair of this last, but critical phase.

THANK YOU!



**The Wilmington Library will be
The Library of the Future
thanks to your support.**

The richest person in the world - in fact all the riches in the world - couldn't provide you with anything like the endless, incredible loot available at your local library.

~Malcolm Forbes~