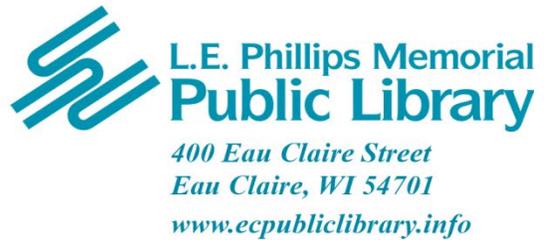


News Release

For Immediate Release



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www.ecpubliclibrary.info/storybuilder/campaign-materials

Story Builder Library Expansion Campaign Receives \$150,000 Grant from Otto Bremer Trust

The L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library in downtown Eau Claire and its Story Builder expansion campaign are excited to receive a \$150,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Trust. A \$50,000 portion of the grant is matching dollar-for-dollar.

This generous gift will bring expansion funding to almost 95% of the total project cost of \$18.5M. The City of Eau Claire has invested \$11.5M to renovate the library's failing mechanical systems while the Story Builder campaign is raising an additional \$7M in private funds to expand and enhance the library's physical space. Construction will begin this May.

Library Deputy Director Kimberly Hennings says, "We're extremely proud to receive this grant from Otto Bremer, as it's going to have such a huge impact on our community for generations to come. The gift really speaks to their confidence in our library and in our city as a whole and the people who live here. And I'm especially excited about the \$50,000 matching portion. That means everyone who donates can double their impact until that goal is met. What a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to support the project as we get ready to cross the finish line on funding."

The Otto Bremer Trust (OBT) is a bank holding company and a private charitable trust based in Saint Paul, Minnesota working at the intersection of finance and philanthropy. OBT is the 92 percent owner of Bremer Bank, a regional financial services company, and it also manages a diversified investment portfolio. Since its founding, OBT has invested more than

\$700 million in people, places, and opportunities throughout the Upper Midwest. Visit www.ottobremer.org to learn more.

Funded by private sources such as this, the library's expansion plans are designed to enhance core services. For example, an all-new third-floor event room will double community engagement space, offering expanded programming for all ages. Modernized study rooms will help individuals and groups to work, study, and meet. Redesigned shelving and display space will offer unprecedented physical access. And a new drive-up window will ease materials pickup. Beyond these essential enhancements, the expansion project dovetails with the city's upcoming plans to construct an urban plaza outside the library.

Anyone interested in learning more about the expansion campaign can visit www.ecpubliclibrary.info/storybuilder.

Questions about the campaign can be directed to Deputy Director Kimberly Hennings (storybuilder@eauclaire.lib.wi.us; 715-839-6225). Pledges and gifts can be sent to the Eau Claire Community Foundation, which supports the philanthropic portion of the Story Builder expansion campaign (306 S. Barstow St. Suite 104, Eau Claire, WI 54701; www.eccfwi.org; 715-552-3801; info@eccfwi.org).

For other library information, people may contact Information & Reference by calling 715-839-5004, emailing librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us, or chatting with staff via the library's website at www.ecpubliclibrary.info.

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