



SAVE OUR CARNEGIE

Help reopen our library!

The beautiful and dignified Manitou Springs Carnegie Library has been **a source of community pride** ever since the Andrew Carnegie Foundation provided philanthropic dollars to build the structure in 1910.

The library is one of the treasured historic places designed by Thomas MacLaren, known in his day as “the most skillful and artistic architect” in the Pikes Peak Region. MacLaren’s prolific contributions to the region put the library in prominent company among other stunning and enduring buildings including, among others, Colorado Springs City Hall and City Auditorium, the celebrated Claremont at the Colorado Springs School, Sacred Heart Church, as well as the Bank of Manitou building and the original portion of what is now Manitou Springs Elementary School, just south of the Carnegie Library.

This heritage is now at risk unless we can raise the funds required to update and restore the building. ***We need your help!***

While the library is structurally sound, it has deteriorated with age and is significantly out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which caused the facility to close to the public in 2020. The community and our partner, the Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), cannot utilize the building until it is ADA-compliant. In addition, the library was built for a population of less than a third of what Manitou Springs is today. To reopen and serve the community again as a learning resource and gathering place, the library needs to be remodeled and rehabilitated.

Manitou Springs Elementary School, across the street from the library, used the Carnegie as its primary library. **This critical learning resource for our young students will be permanently lost unless we act now to Save Our Carnegie.**

It seems inconceivable that Manitou Springs, with a nationally recognized historic district and perennially listed as one of the most artistic and creative communities in the country, could lose its Carnegie Library.



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING - TOP VIEW



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING - NORTH ELEVATION



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING - WEST ELEVATION

A community Task Force, in partnership with PPLD, the City of Manitou Springs, School District 14, and the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, with the assistance of Ratio Architects and a robust public process, has developed plans to rehabilitate the historic library building for the 21st century.

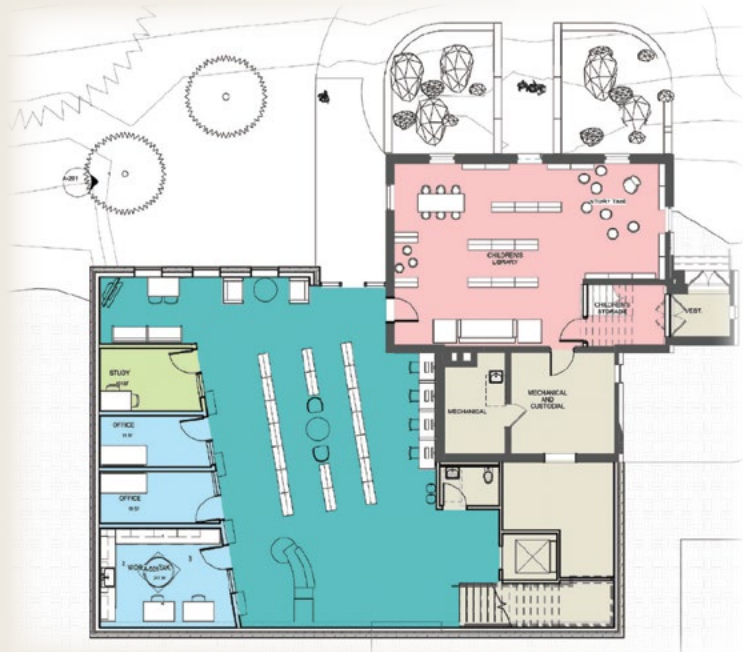
The design deftly connects the historical spirit of the building with the natural setting of the beloved park in which it sits. Every design element focuses on creating community. It incorporates an outdoor deck accessible for maximum community engagement. The new interior space will be inviting and adaptable, accommodating patrons of all ages and abilities. The library will allow residents and visitors to utilize flexible programming spaces, technology stations, and comfortable reading nooks.

THE RESTORATION
PROJECT HAS
THREE PRIORITIES:

1. Information Sharing – enabling patrons to access information from collections, classes, programs, and one another.
2. Access – ADA compliance, meeting patron mobility and workspace needs, with adequate space for patrons.
3. Creating community and sense of belonging – the updated library will be a gathering place for events like concerts, lectures, story hour, movie nights, and myriad activities and experiences for community members and visitors.



FLOOR PLAN - 2nd FLOOR



FLOOR PLAN - 1st FLOOR

Now is the time for all those wanting to Save Our Carnegie to step forward to help.

Please give generously to Save Our Carnegie!

The project is anticipated to cost \$4.1 million. More than half of that cost has already been committed to the project. The City Council has approved the design and has committed \$1.5 million to the project. Additional lead gifts, grants, and funding in the amount of \$800,000.00 have also been received or pledged. With that total of \$2.3 million already committed, our fundraising goal is now \$1.8 million. **With your generous contribution now** to this important project, groundbreaking can occur this year. With your help, we can make this happen!

OVERVIEW

Libraries are critical. As Andrew Carnegie stated, “A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people.” When the Manitou Springs Carnegie library opened its doors in 1911, the population of Manitou Springs was less than 1,400. While the population of Manitou Springs has almost quadrupled in population, the library remained the same size and occupancy limit (19). In addition, the building was never built to accommodate those with mobility issues and was not updated when the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990, thus it is inaccessible to many with mobility-related disabilities.

ANDREW CARNEGIE (1835–1919)



The Manitou Springs Carnegie Library project scope consists of a 2,950 SF addition onto the 3,486 SF existing historic Carnegie Library as well as interior remodeling of the existing space. The design intent is to impact the historic structure minimally while adding missing accessibility components and expanding the library’s program offerings based on 21st Century library principles. The addition will be pulled back from the primary north elevation and dug into the earth to minimally impact the street perspective. Where the addition comes above grade, it will be located on the secondary south elevation. The addition’s roof area has been designed to give back accessible park space to the community while allowing the addition to remain submissive to the primary structure.

In 1910, local Manitou Springs physician H. M. Ogilbee convinced the Andrew Carnegie Foundation to donate \$6,000 for a library. The City participated by purchasing properties at the current site and removing six previous buildings. Ground was broken in 1910. The classical Italian Renaissance library, designed by architect Thomas McLaren, was opened February 22, 1911. The population of Manitou Springs at the time was less than 1400.

Manitou Springs’ first library was established in 1900, in the Parish House of the St. Andrews Episcopal Church. The Reverend E. C. Bonell, Rector of the church, organized a club of 12 women, including several from each church in the town of Manitou Springs.

This club established the library in the church. Having no money to buy books, they asked for donations of books or money. After they had received three to four hundred books, they opened the library, and the women of the group took turns in keeping it running. The library was aptly named a Reading Room, for many people spent hours there in the little Parish House.



Tax deductible donations at
[SaveOurCarnegie.com](https://www.saveourcarnegie.com)



Or by check payable to:

City of Manitou Springs
606 Manitou Avenue
Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Write “Save Our Carnegie” on
the memo line

Questions? Email us at:
info@SaveOurCarnegie.com

