

McMillan Renovation Campaign

# LEARNING futures



# Be Our Partner

## *Strengthening our community through lifelong learning —*

Guided by our mission, we constantly strive to create the best environment for our community members to reach their goals. As an organization we are committed and rooted in this pursuit. Over the last year McMillan has worked with community organizations and individuals to determine the best course to facilitate success well into the future.

Fifty years ago members of our community came together to create something extraordinary for our city. Today is our opportunity to celebrate that legacy by equipping McMillan Memorial Library for the next fifty years. Our library was built with a forward-thinking design that has served, and continues to serve our community well. As we prepare for the next fifty years, we look forward again to determine how the library can meet the needs of the community.

To effectively accomplish our mission and serve coming generations we need to ensure our building can facilitate learning expectations. Our plan was developed by looking at best practices in libraries and other educational institutions and incorporating them into the design. The design emphasizes:

- Hands-on learning spaces
- Group working space encouraging collaboration, teamwork, and leadership
- Flexible workspaces allowing custom setups to meet the needs of users
- Renovated theater space for concerts, recitals, speaking engagements and other events

We are refining our library into a more flexible, community-focused space. Our goals are to allow every member of our community to meet their learning needs and expectations, to be a better partner to the organizations that make our community great and to serve as a beacon of our civic pride. We invite you to join us in achieving this vision together through our Learning Futures 2020 Capital Campaign.

## Our Library

McMillan Library is a national leader among public libraries, offering special programming and exhibitions for all ages. In 2019, McMillan was named as a finalist for the Institute of Library and Museum Service National Medal, just one of fifteen libraries nationwide to receive such recognition. Special events happen year round at the library. The Library's Adult Concert Series, Library Commons, film series and browser oriented collection are in keeping with the public library's oldest traditions, but also in the forefront of innovative librarianship.



# A Community Hub



Lifelong learning is the heart of our program. Whether it is young children preparing for school, elementary students polishing reading skills, teens exploring their interests or adults in need of new skills for the workplace, McMillan has an important role to play. Our services are not fee-based, reach all age groups and are supported by trained staff. Much of what we do is unique to the community. For example:

- Our makerspace is one of the best public makerspaces in Wisconsin. The project calls for a larger space designed for that purpose.
- Our co-working support is equal to any commercial space within an hour's drive. It is equally effective as a study environment. This will improve as we design space for that purpose.
- McMillan offers Gale Courses, with over 300 online classes with instructors. Area residents have spent over one million minutes in these classes.
- We provide materials and programming to support early learning, preparing children for school.
- Our staff excels at programming for teens and is heavily engaged with the agencies serving them.
- Many of our services are used by senior citizens, since learning should be life-long.

Our staff focuses on "outward-facing" tasks - embedding themselves in community organizations. There they facilitate discussion, provide support and build partnerships. Our partners' success is our success. This community engagement guides our program. For example:

- McMillan staff regularly visit daycares, as well as area public and private elementary, middle and high schools.
- McMillan staff started the local Teen Job Fair and online Community Calendar.
- McMillan organized the appearance of award-winning author Jarrett J. Krosoczka.
- McMillan hosted several events for the Wood County Drug Task Force, handling all arrangements and licensing fees. We do this for many of our partners.

*There is such a variety of programs and services available, truly a cornerstone for the community. - from Share Your Story Campaign 2019*

# Innovation



McMillan has a track record of wise use of funding, forward looking leadership and accomplishment. We have a state-wide reputation for our innovative services, offering programming well beyond the expectations for a library of our size. Our team is always looking to bring our community the best service possible. The facility remains a local treasure after fifty years of use.

- In 2019 McMillan received national recognition as one of only 15 libraries nationwide selected as a Finalist for the National Medal for Library & Museum Service.
- McMillan installed the largest solar project in Central Wisconsin with no capital campaign or dedicated City funding.
- McMillan is the 2014 Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year, the 2017 Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Friend of Education
- Former Director Ron McCabe's book *Civic Librarianship* had a national impact on the profession and guides our program.
- In the last decade the Youth Services and Commons (Lower Level) spaces were successfully renovated to meet McMillan's current and future needs.

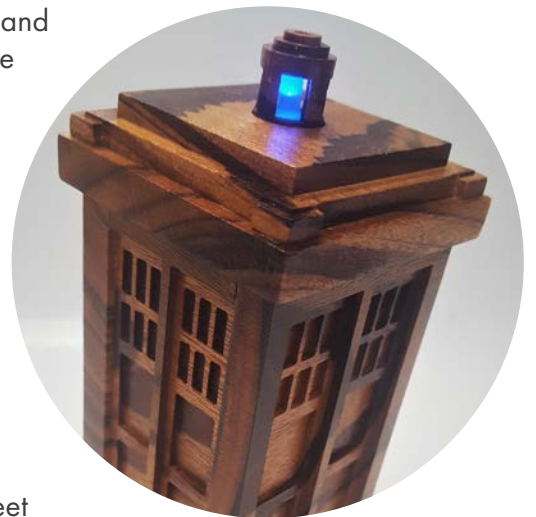
## McMillan Makerspace

Our makerspace is designed and dedicated to hands-on creativity and learning. Participants use their skills to develop and test prototypes in the process of developing a finished product. Along the way, they often find it necessary to expand and develop their current knowledge utilizing new tools, technologies and each other.

McMillan's space was developed as a welcoming area for all members of our community regardless of age or gender. Whether the user has extensive experience or just want to "put their toe in the water," we have the tools and projects to allow people to explore. We offer targeted programming to engage those that may be reluctant to engage in maker activities.

Our space and programming are designed to help our students meet 21st Century literacies including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, information literacy, technology literacy, flexibility, initiative and productivity. In addition to developing literacies, programming is varied across disciplines and including programs like:

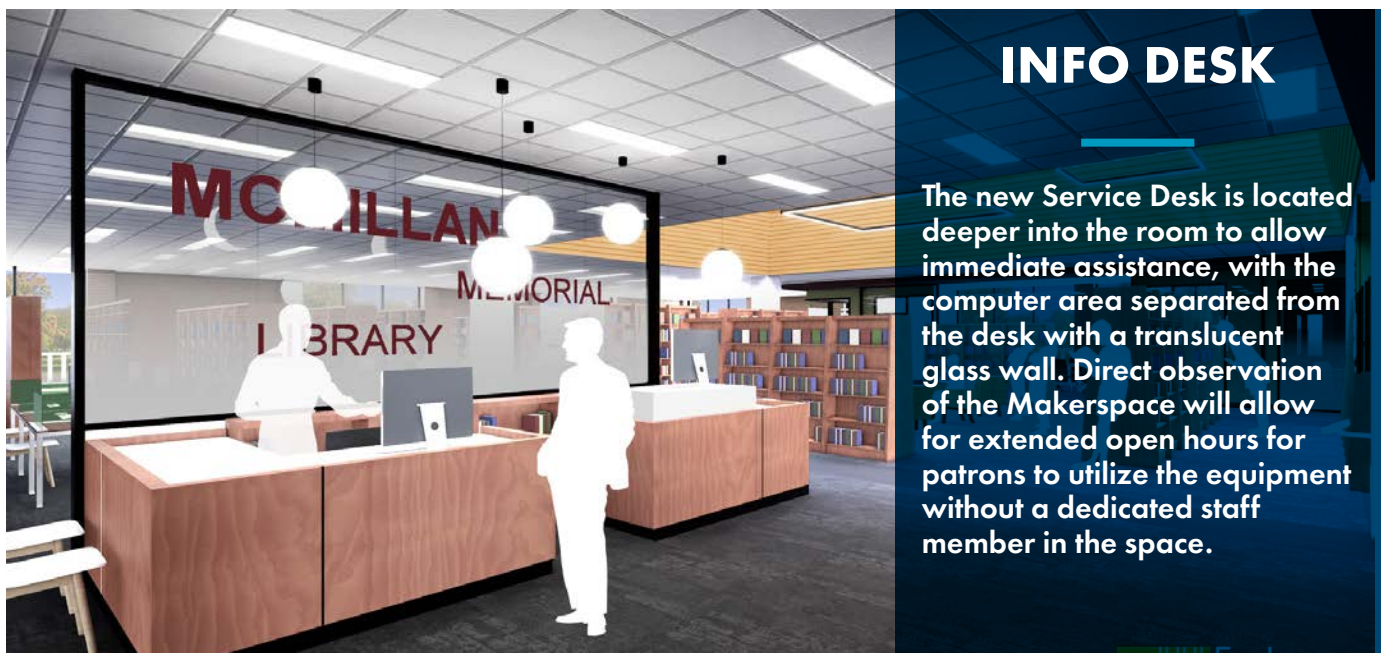
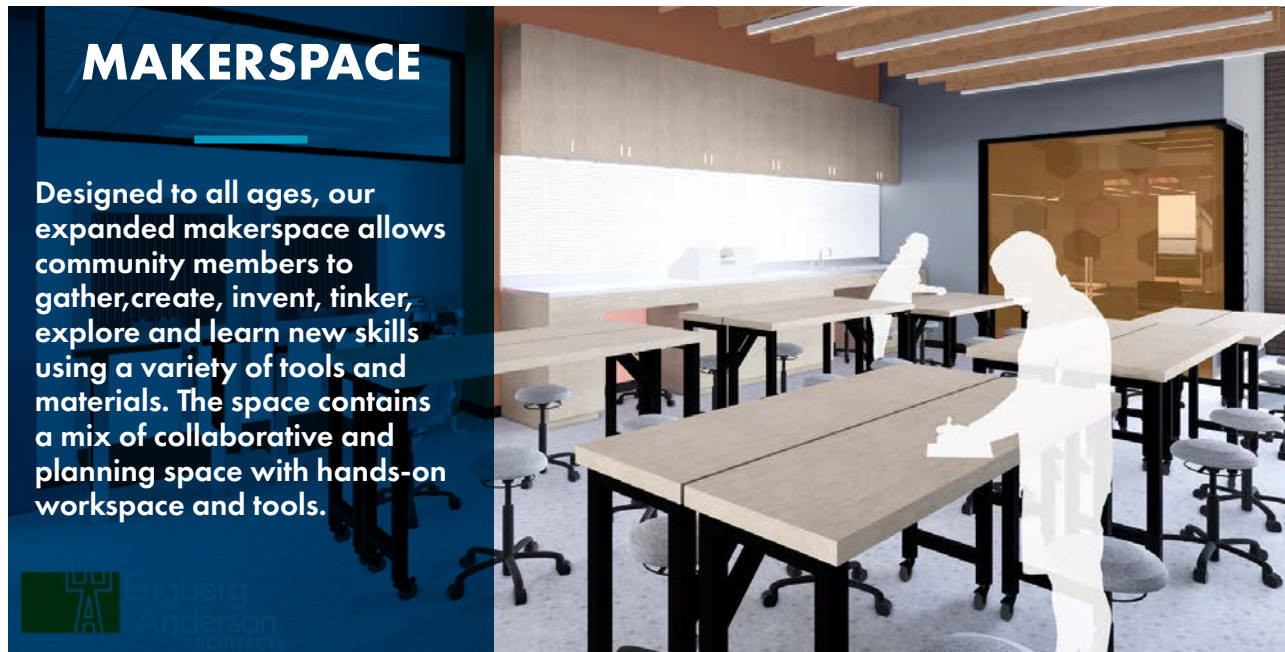
- Resin jewelry
- Bluetooth speakers
- Board game development
- Cosplay (costume creation)





# The Project

The Final Report (available at [www.mcmillanlibrary.org/adult-room](http://www.mcmillanlibrary.org/adult-room)) lays out the plan for the replacement of flooring, repairing and updating the skylight, designating a quiet study area, creating individual and group study rooms, adding a sizeable meeting room and creating a larger makerspace. The Makerspace is McMillan's commitment to active learning for teens and adults. Our vision extends beyond STEM to photography, music, art and much more. The following images depict renderings of the possible spaces.





## IDEAS LOUNGE

The ideas lounge, part of the makerspace, allows for small groups to meet and talk about new ideas and plans. This social space also allows for people to ease themselves into the makerspace by being able to observe prior to beginning a project.



## TRAINING ROOM

A large Meeting Room that can accommodate groups of up to 16-24 contains flexible furniture to allow layouts to accommodate the needs of the users. This space will allow us to host more programs and meetings. In addition we will be able to utilize it as a technology training space.

## SKYLIGHT

The center of the new space contains a revamped skylight lounge area. The removal of the current lighting grid will make the space feel larger while allowing more natural light in during the day. Users can chat quietly or read a book in this comfortable space.

