

UXBRIDGE
FREE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

ARTICLE 16:

PLANNING AND DESIGN APPROPRIATION FOR LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM



BACKGROUND

- State grant funds are available to assist communities with library construction projects
- The Library has been preparing an application for the 2023–2024 MPLCP Grant Round
- In Spring 2023, the Library completed its Building Program, a major component of the MPLCP application
- Constructed in 1894, the Library faces significant challenges with accessibility, functionality, and infrastructure within its current footprint



◆ WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THE COMMUNITY

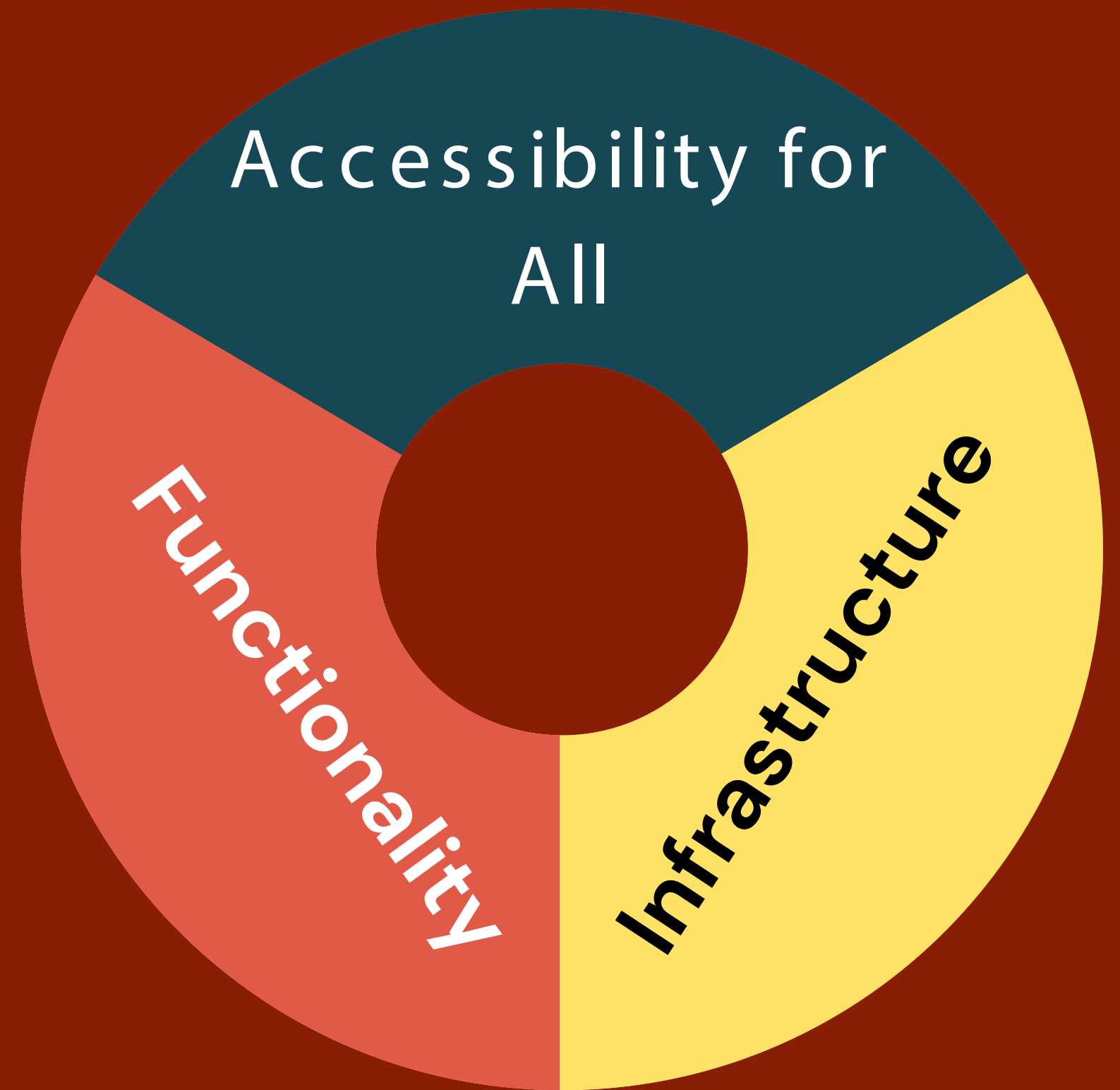


Our community wants the library to:

- Be fully accessible to residents regardless of age or ability
- Highlight the existing building's history and unique architectural style
- Provide flexible, multi-use spaces that can adapt as community needs change
- Provide convenient and accessible parking
- Offer a meeting space for library events and community groups, available outside of library hours
- Increase physical collection space for all ages
- Offer small private meeting/study rooms, quiet spaces, and collaborative creative spaces
- Provide a larger and more open children's space for play, programming, and socialization

A future library project must prioritize:

1. Accessibility for All
2. Functionality for Library Services
3. Infrastructure Improvements



2023-2024 GRANT ROUND TIMELINE

Phase	Available Funding
Planning and Design (2024-2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town appropriates \$150,000 in anticipation of a grant award• P&D grant covers 50% of costs, up to \$100,000• Anticipated maximum cost is \$250,000
Construction (2026-2029)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction grant covers 40% of eligible construction costs• Remaining funding would come from the Town, Board of Library Trustees, and fundraising efforts• Town Meeting vote anticipated for Spring 2026

In Fall 2024, the MBLC will notify the Town if the grant application has been approved.

A VOTE FOR ARTICLE 16:

Gives the Town the authority to apply for the MPLCP and appropriates up to \$150,000 in matching funds for the Planning and Design phase

1 Evaluates the feasibility of the Library's existing site and the McCloskey School site to meet current and future Library needs

2 Ensures the Town doesn't miss out on this round of construction grant funding, which will not be available again for at least another 4 years

3 Does not force the Town to approve a future construction project — the \$150,000 appropriation would only be utilized if the Town's grant application is approved