

Russell Memorial Library (RML): Mission - Space Needs - Programming

The **Mission of the RML** is to offer people of all ages the equal opportunity to read and learn by providing:

1. free and convenient access to a current collection of library materials.
2. engaging programs and services that meet the needs of our community.
3. programming promoting reading readiness for preschool age children.
4. a warm and welcoming environment that supports independent learning and recreational reading in a convenient and responsive manner.

A new library building would enable the library to more readily fulfill its mission.

Space is needed to:

Accommodate a growing collection of children and adult books. (Mission #1)

- Even after a thorough weeding of the collection, children’s books fit tightly in their cubbies. It can be difficult for children to look through and pull out books.

Create patron reading and work areas. (Mission #1 & #4)

- Currently, the one work table blocks access to the book shelves. The computer work space is insufficient. Both of these spaces are especially challenging to navigate for those with mobility issues.

Create a staff work area. (Mission #1 & #4)

- Currently, book processing occurs on the one table thus minimizing use of this space by patrons.
- Book processing supplies block access to Special Collections bookshelves.

Accommodate programming for both adults and children. (Mission #2 & #3)

- There is only room for a few children to sit in close quarters during story hour.
- The current space is not well suited to host a group of adults at a program.
- A room is needed for library programming and for use by community groups and town committees. This space would be conducive to hosting presentations, programs and meetings by having ample chairs, tables and presentation equipment.

The following is a partial list of programs more easily facilitated with a programming room.

Presentations	Adult Programs	Children and Youth Programs
Author Talks	Film Group	Family Movie Night
Health/wellness speaker	Fitness Classes	Game Nights
Musical Performances	Scrapbooking	Karaoke
PechaKucha	Reader’s Theatre	Play Groups
Travel Presentations	Paint and Sip	

In addition to the above space needs, the current library does not have potable water or safe parking. The library also lacks a sufficient heating system which causes the library to be uncomfortably cold in the winter. (Mission #4)