

Project Abstract

Construct 20x40 foot pavilion to serve as expanded program space, increasing accessibility & effectiveness of library service for large programs.

Description of the Project:

Include a complete description of the project for which applicant is requesting funding. If this project is part of a larger project during this award funding period, please describe the entire project. When a project is part of a larger project identify both clearly so that the application project can be easily identified within the larger project description. Describe construction activities including the intended physical alteration or improvement to the building. At the end of the description, add a list of the general elements/components that will be completed as part of this project number. This will serve as a check-list when the project is finished to ensure that each component has been completed. (Example: New lighting in reference room, New circulation desk, Replacement HVAC in basement).

The Boston Free Library is respectfully requesting \$19,665 in grant funds from the FY2022-2023 Public Library Construction Grant to construct an outdoor programming pavilion to expand the library's ability to host outdoor programs for the community and to maximize the library's exterior appeal. The Library commits to utilize as matching funds \$19,665 of a \$25,000 allocation designated for the Library's use pursuant to New York State Assembly Resolution No. 1075 which was adopted on 6-2-2022.

Uniquely located between four school districts and serving residents from more than five towns, the Boston Free Library is an essential and well-utilized community resource officially chartered to serve the towns of Boston and Colden. Both towns, as well as the surrounding communities, have a strong tradition of outdoor activities.

The Boston Free Library has always utilized the open backyard for programs and fundraising activities, but the lack of a dedicated and covered program space have kept the area from its maximum potential. The library's basement community room most often meets programming needs during the colder months. However, the library's outdoor programming space accommodates a far greater number of patrons/community members. In the wake of the pandemic, the library has come to fully recognize the value of its outdoor programming area as it offers additional space to spread out and better ventilation than any interior rooms available. As pandemic and health concerns will likely remain for years, the library plans to continue to host many programs outside.

The library hosts a number of programs on a weekly basis all year long and utilizes the outdoor space throughout the spring, summer and fall in order to more comfortably accommodate larger crowds and prevent disruption to other library services inside the building. Summer programs including early literacy story times, summer reading programs for children, teens and adults, craft programs, workshops, and summer fun days like Bubble Day and Family Game Day are all held outside weather permitting. Recent program survey results have indicated that the top program interests for adult respondents are live music and arts/crafts. The library plans to build

on its current outdoor music series and outdoor crafts in the future based on these responses. The construction of a dedicated space that provides coverage in the event of inclement weather and shade on those hot summer days will allow the library to continue to expand these programs and offer them to wider audiences. The pavilion will also allow staff to set up programs more efficiently. Currently all supplies, furniture and the small pop-up tent used for shade must be packed up and stored in sheds or in the library between each program.

The project proposes the construction of an open-sided 20 x 40 foot pavilion made of pressure treated wood with a metal roof and a 4 inch poured concrete base. The pavilion will provide an additional 800 square feet of covered space, significantly expanding the library's current programming space. As the pavilion will be constructed just behind the parking lot on a level surface with no stairs, it will increase the accessibility of library programs for all ages, including those individuals with physical disabilities.

Improvements were made to the library's outdoor space in 2021 in preparation for expanded outdoor programming including the installation of an electrical line to the backyard, the purchase of an additional storage shed and dedicated outdoor furniture for programs, resurfacing the parking lot and the installation of additional security cameras for patron and staff safety and comfort. These improvements lay the groundwork for an ideal outdoor environment once the pavilion is completed.

The construction of a dedicated covered space in the form of a 20x40 foot pavilion will allow the library to increase patron comfort, save staff set up time for programs, and increase accessibility to programming in this geographically isolated community.

General Elements of the Project:

- Minimal grading and excavation of the construction site
- 4 inch poured concrete pad as a base for the structure
- Construction of 20x40 foot pavilion including installation of construction tubes to serve as footers for the structure

Description of Intended Physical Alteration to the Building:

There will be no physical alteration to the Boston Free Library building as the proposed project is a separate, free-standing structure in the library's backyard space. The anticipated pavilion structure will be 800 square feet (20 feet wide by 40 feet long) constructed of pressure treated wood with a metal roof. It will be located in the left rear corner of the library's backyard.

Ground disturbance is minimal, involving excavating to a depth of approximately 8 inches to prepare for a concrete patio area, and the installation of eight to ten construction tubes to serve as footers for the posts of the pavilion. A 4 inch poured concrete patio will cover the same space (20 x 40 feet) as the pavilion. Minimal grading will create a level surface leading up to the front of the pavilion. No environmental impact is expected as the structure will be placed away from trees in the open flat area of the library's lawn with no areas of water. The concrete pad and footers will be located far from existing trees and will not interfere with root structures, nor will the structure be near any overhead electrical lines.

Since the library is more than 50 years old and there will be minimal ground disturbance, SHPO approval was requested and received. (*See SHPO approval letter and site photos for details*).

The construction of the pavilion will create a defined and welcoming outdoor programming space that will be flexible enough to accommodate a wide variety of library and community events. Once the construction of the pavilion is complete, an educational garden featuring New York State native and pollinator-friendly plants will be created, further enhancing the welcoming environment of the library's outdoor space and creating opportunities for community education regarding the importance and care of native plants.

Impact of the Project:

Describe how the project will address one or more of the following State Aid for Library Construction Program priorities:

- increased effectiveness of library service due to increased and/or improved building space and capacity
- more efficient utilization of the building such areas as energy conservation and increased staff efficiency
- improved access to and use of building services by all library users, including those with physical disabilities
- provision of library services to geographically isolated or economically disadvantaged communities

How the Project will Address the Public Library Construction Grant Program Priorities:

Increased effectiveness of library service due to increased and/or improved building space and capacity:

The pavilion will increase the library's dedicated programming space by 800 square feet during the spring, summer and fall months. The structure will also be usable in winter months for special winter nature programs and snow day activities. Library programming conducted in the pavilion will be highly visible to the community, encouraging greater participation and engagement.

More efficient utilization of the building in such areas as energy conservation and increased staff efficiency

The pavilion will increase staff efficiency as many programs will be set up more effectively. Currently, programs hosted outdoors need to be set up and taken down each day because there is no coverage from the elements for furniture and supplies. The small pop-up tent used for shade also has to be put up and taken down before and after each event. Dedicated program space outside with coverage will allow for more effective utilization of staff time.

Improved access to and use of building services by all library users, including those with physical disabilities

The pavilion will be located a very short distance from the library's parking lot in a level space with no stairs allowing library users, including those with physical disabilities, to access the outdoor programs offered. The library's community room in the building's basement is accessible through the use of chairlifts, but the outdoor program space will be easily accessible to all library users without having to navigate any stairs, doorways or the entrance ramp.

Provision of library services to geographically isolated or economically disadvantaged communities:

The Boston Free Library is located nearly 10 miles from the closest library in a rural area of Erie County. The library provides service to four school districts and residents from more than five towns. By increasing programming space, the library will be able to accommodate larger programs with greater attendance, particularly for summer reading, community concerts, and family events.

Timetable:

The timetable should be as specific as possible, indicating the projected beginning date for the project; the duration of the proposed construction/renovation, and the projected beginning and ending dates for all contractual services; and schedules for all other significant activities impacting the project. The timetable should list all related project activities taking place during the award funding period, broken down by year.

Work is anticipated to begin in September 2023, weather permitting, with completion expected by December 1, 2023. Once the project is scheduled and begun, completion is expected to take only approximately 1-2 weeks.

Budget Narrative:

Description of budget requests, vendor costs. Please associate the proposed vendor with the construction or renovation work and cost. Describe all items entered on the Project Budget pages. The Budget Narrative should reflect the Project Budget entries and attached quotes. If the vendor quotes contain options, the narrative must indicate those options and the associated dollar value. Identify the costs that will be match fund items.

20 X 40 Foot Pavilion

Proposed Vendor: WNY Backyard Enclosures
10225 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14031

Proposed Equipment:	20x40 Foot Pavilion with Metal Roof	\$28,000
	20x40x4 Foot Concrete Pad	\$11,200
	Site work including grading, trenching and land clearing	\$ 2,200
	Discount -5%	-\$ 2,070
Total:		\$39,330.00