

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

New London Public Museum Expansion Plan



Fast Facts:

- The New London Public Museum was founded in 1917 and is one of only five public, multi-topic museums in the state
- The Carnegie Library was built in 1914. The Museum building was built in 1932. In 1986, the buildings were connected and the museum moved to the lower level
- The Museum Expansion Committee recognizes the historic importance and community love for the building. They are committed to honoring the past investment in building these structures while creating a high performance museum
- The museum space will expand from 3,000 square feet to 12,500, including doubling the exhibit and program spaces and taking the collections preservation spaces from 800 to 5,300 square feet
- The museum cares for approx. 20,000 items and archives and more are donated every year
- Modern museum standards will be implemented by improving outdated and inefficient building systems in phases
- The expansion project will be accomplished in phases over seven to nine years to ensure fundraising keeps pace

If you would like more information or to get involved, please contact Museum Director Christine Cross at christinec@newlondonwi.org or 920.982.8520

DESIGN IDEAS



Welcome Area Concept



North Wing Ideas



Lower Level Collections Lab Concept

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In 2016, the Library/Museum Board of Directors and the City of New London hired Alex Ramsey from Engberg Anderson architectural firm to create a masterplan for the museum expansion. This included a full assessment of the condition of the building, upgrades to the building systems including HV/AC, lighting, sprinklers, etc. and a plan for using the space to create an engaging museum that welcomes all and preserves the collection. In 2023, using new information and community input, Enberg Anderson updated and phased the masterplan.

Before we start the masterplan, we have the Possibilities Phase (3 years) which includes:

- We are investigating the efficiency and cost of two different plans for the first six months of this phase. One involves remodeling the walls in the new exhibit space, the other is bringing the exhibits up immediately. Both plans try to keep the museum open as much as possible.
- Living in the space, trying new things, being an idea incubator, and testing the masterplan concepts
- Inviting the community in to participate in envisioning the future museum

The first two phases (2-3 years) of the masterplan:

- Larger collection and archival preservation spaces to better care for items
- Professional design and fabrication of main exhibit, allowing for more artifacts to be displayed
- Upgraded building systems in the south wing

The second two phases (2 years) of the master plan:

- Increased space for museum educational programming and community use
- Updated building systems in the north wing
- Space upgrades for volunteers and staff to effectively and efficiently run the museum

We're taking a historic building, cherished by the community, and making it a high performance museum



ABOUT THE PROCESS

Started in 2022, the Museum Expansion Committee, an advisory committee to the Library/Museum Board, is made up of representatives from the stakeholder groups. Working with architect Alex Ramsey and museum staff, the committee helped update the masterplan. They, along with five working groups, continue to plan the museum expansion.

Sincere thanks to the many hours these volunteers have given and continue to give to this amazing community project!

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