London Public Library strengthens people and neighbourhoods by creating connections that enrich lives, inspire discovery, foster creativity, and expand possibilities.

London Public Library has been a highly used and valued community resource for more than one hundred and twenty years. More than 143,000 Londoners use their Library card regularly. That is almost half of all Londoners! Your Library is a place where everyone feels welcome to gather, learn, create and develop. An important touchpoint in the lives of so many, your Library works hard to provide the services, resources and social connections that our community needs to be the best it can be, individually and collectively.
The Campaign

The skills needed to be successful today and tomorrow are changing rapidly. How we learn, share knowledge and create are changing too. The rapid growth of technology and digitization, 24/7 connectedness, and the unprecedented speed at which information flows means that we need our Library, the centre of lifelong learning and community building in London, more than ever before. London Public Library needs your help to ensure that everyone in our community can learn new skills and develop their creativity so that they can be successful today and in the future.

How?

By making Central Library and its spaces the hub of our city’s creative and intellectual potential.

Our community has spoken. They take pride in the enduring values of their public library such as equitable access to information, expression and knowledge. Londoners value their Library as a place to gather, to read, to find information and to strengthen their social connections. They also need their Library to support them with rapidly changing learning needs, to offer inspiring physical spaces, and to provide new resources, services and activities that respond to the changing world around us. They want their Library to help them to succeed at school, at home and in the world.

LPL has embarked on a $4.5 million revitalization campaign project at the Central Library. The City of London has generously supported the project with a $2.5 million capital contribution. LPL donors have contributed $1 million and LPL is reaching out to businesses, individuals, foundations and service clubs to raise the remaining $1 million needed to complete the project.
What are Creative Spaces?

People are yearning for a place to express themselves artistically, to experiment, to discover new ideas, to build and take apart, to solve a problem and to share their experience and knowledge. Creative Spaces provide the purpose-built environments and the materials, tools, technology, expert help and interactive discussions needed to make the most of these experiences. Creative Spaces encourage everyone to learn by doing. They provide access to the technologies, materials and expertise that would not otherwise be available to many in our community in a place where they feel welcomed and supported. In the process, people of all ages learn to be out-of-the-box thinkers and to make previously unimagined connections with new disciplines, new ideas and new people. The result? Greater social connectedness, rich intergenerational learning, exposure to important new literacies and opportunities and an enhanced culture of discovery in our community.

Imagine the possibilities for each and every member of our community when given access to these Creative Spaces in a revitalized Central Library. Imagine the powerful impact that we can make together when we equip our community to turn today’s challenges into a future full of opportunities. Imagine a place where every citizen is meaningfully supported in learning, teaching and creating.

We need your help to realize our community’s full potential. To build a future in which the possibilities are infinite, not just for some, but, for all.

London Public Library’s mission has always been to nurture our community’s unexplored potential, the potential that lies in each visit made, in each resource shared, and in each connection made. Creative Spaces in your Library are at the very heart of what libraries do best: empowering communities by providing high-quality information, resources and connections that many are not able to afford or access on their own.
London Public Library is in a unique position with our Creative Spaces. Our programs are free, our staff are highly-valued mentors, and we provide equitable access to all in a welcoming space that is familiar to all members of our community. This includes opportunities to learn and develop through hands-on exploration, experimentation and experience. These community-led Creative Spaces will be the start of a ribbon of creativity: the spaces and resources of Central Library will extend into the community through collaboration and shared programming with community partners and will build the creative capacity of our city as a whole.

The Impact

A revitalized Central Library builds community capacity

The reimagined Central Library will provide the resources and inspiration needed to meet the expectations of new and more diverse groups of Library users and partners, which will drive program growth and increase collaboration. The Central Library will be a bustling hub of creativity and diversity, where ideas and knowledge are freely shared.
Central Library Matters to London

Creative Spaces are economic drivers
London Public Library has an annual economic impact of more than $102 million and a return on investment of 452%. Your Library is an excellent investment, with economic contributions that impact our community’s literacy, education levels, exposure to the skills needed in today’s job market, small business growth and social and mental health. A revitalized Central Library will provide all members of our community with access to the equipment, technology, expert help and social connections needed to help them develop as creatives, innovators and problem solvers.

The Central Library will be the cornerstone of a revitalized downtown
Cities are only as vibrant as their downtowns. The Central Library has been an anchor of London’s downtown since 2002, with more than one million visitors each year. The reimagining of Central Library will facilitate new opportunities that will draw an even greater diversity of Londoners to their City’s centre, driving growth and making London stronger and more vibrant. People will gravitate to Central Library’s Creative Spaces to work on their own creative projects, to collaborate, and to be part of the excitement around learning and creating that will define our downtown and our city.
We need your help to realize our community’s full potential. To build a future in which the possibilities are infinite, not just for some, but for all.

Your gift will help us reach our goal of $1M to create five new value-added, cutting-edge Creative Spaces.

Campaign Priorities

Children’s Creative Space:

It is never too early to develop creative skills and a love of learning to last a lifetime. We are developing a space in the Spriet Family Children’s Library that will engage children and families in play-based learning. Curious minds will be stimulated with resources for building, making art and learning how to make an everyday object come to life and a “Messy Space” will encourage children to really use their imagination and bring creativity to life through play.
**Exploration & Creativity Hub:**
This is a space for the fabrication of physical objects as well as a space for playing with emerging technology. It may include items such as; 3D scanning software, 3D printers, laser cutters, sewing machines, augmented reality goggles, motion-controlled technology and screen-printing tools. This is a space about physical, creative endeavour. Lifelong learning is not just reading – it’s also about making, doing and sharing practical knowledge with others. The Central Library’s new Creativity and Exploration Hubs will bring together teens, adults and seniors from all walks of life, to make and repurpose items using a variety of low and high tech tools and materials.

**Enhanced Computer Lab:**
These high performance computers will provide users of all skill levels with the latest hardware and software needed to support the development of digital design and programming skills. Many in our community do not have access to technology and the internet at home. Students need to complete technology-rich school projects, job seekers want to learn the technology skills needed in today’s competitive job market including the game design sector, and many of us will benefit from using the latest technology to pursue our personal creative projects. These specialized computers and related programming will be in high demand.
Digital Media Studios:
These studios will provide teens and adults interested in producing and editing video, audio, music, graphics with purpose built spaces and equipment including a recording studio, sound mixing boards, music recording software, green screens, computers and more. Many music, video and graphics projects at the secondary and post secondary school level require extensive equipment and rental space that is out of reach for most people. The Central Library’s Digital Media Studios will provide teens and adults with free access to cutting-edge video, audio, music and graphics equipment and spaces they need to empower them to learn and create. These studios may include hardware, software and green screen space for creating films and music recording.

MemoryLab:
The Ivey Family London Room is a gem at London Public Library. The new Central Library will be enhanced with self-service equipment to allow individuals and local heritage organizations to digitally reproduce historic photos, genealogical records and other important family and local history documents. A revitalized Ivey Family London Room will enhance users’ ability to explore family and local history by providing access to new, self-service digital reproduction equipment. Equipment to transfer media such as home movies on VHS to other formats, including digital. Interest in local history and genealogy is very strong in London and this lab supports that population. We will foster the excitement of community story; past, present and future. A key function of a library is to preserve the memories of the past for the future generations.
Conclusion

Londoners love their Central Library. It is an engine of economic and personal growth, an important contributor to lifelong learning and social connectedness and a vital downtown destination. Libraries everywhere are changing to meet the increasingly diverse needs of communities, and London Public Library is no exception. The Central Library revitalization will ensure that it continues to be a world-class facility that delivers exciting and innovative opportunities for exploration, learning, skill development and growth that will make our city and our citizens flourish.
With your help, we’ll make space for our community’s creative potential to flourish. The possibilities are infinite.

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