

New York State Aid for Library Construction
Redesigned East Driveway and Pathways; Improved Accessible Parking
Canajoharie Library Project

The Canajoharie Library (and by extension the museum) is chartered to serve a population of 6,320, however, our annual building attendance regularly approaches 20,000. Patrons and visitors alike consistently relate the difficulty they face when navigating the distance between our current accessible parking spaces and the building. The current driveway design also lacks crosswalks and a safe drop-off spot for senior transportation vans, school buses, etc.

We propose to apply for a New York State Aid for Library Construction grant to address the following:

- 1) engage a civil engineer to redesign the east entrance drive and the east pathways leading to the building, creating better pedestrian and vehicle visibility and thus safer access to the building
- 2) remove a cumbersome and failing water feature (reflecting pool) located between the building and parking lot, using this area for improved pathways, etc.
- 3) increase the number of accessible parking spaces and place them closer to the building
- 4) cover design, materials, and construction costs

The grant package does not require a design draft or final, however, we have met with two different architecture firms who have supplied preliminary design ideas (attached) so that a preliminary timeline can be considered, and all costs estimated. **The grant package is due September 1, 2023.** Awards are announced July 2024. If successful, the project will start on September 1, 2024, and will be completed September 30, 2025:

Design	September 1, 2024 – December 30, 2024
Demolition	May 1, 2025 – May 30, 2025
Construction	June 1, 2025 – August 18th, 2025
Landscaping	August 19, 2025 – September 30, 2025

Design Fees	\$14,005.00
Demolition and Construction	\$98,442.00
Site Improvements	\$22,386.00
Bond (7%)	\$8,458.00
Contingency (15%)	\$19,393.00
Overhead and Profit (15%)	\$22,302.00
Project Total	\$185,000.00 (rounded)

A NYS Aid for Library Construction grant funded the restoration of the Reading Room Windows in 2020; the 25% required match was proved by the Stockman Family Foundation. **If successful, the Redesigned East Driveway and Pathways; Improved Accessible Parking Project discussed here would be funded entirely by grant and other support money.** This project addresses the east driveway and pathways, the terrace and reflecting pool area, and the current accessible parking spaces areas. The main parking lot and west driveway designs are not impacted by this project, however, we anticipate that an improved east driveway will benefit current and future uses of the entire parking lot and its associated green space.

The online grant portal includes a dropdown menu indicating project site ownership:

- 1) Owned by applicant
- 2) Owned by School District
- 3) Leased by applicant with a minimum of 10 years lease term from the date of anticipated completion
- 4) Otherwise legally available (i.e. located in a municipal building)

The Canajoharie Library maintains but does not own the property immediately surrounding the building (terrace with reflecting pool; east driveway and pathways; parking lot). We have confirmed that the library falls under option 3. In lieu of a lease, the grant package requires a letter of permission from the owner. The letter of permission should state that the library will have use of the building for at least ten years from the completion of the construction project and that the owner is aware of and gives permission for the construction project. The letter should be signed, dated, and on official letterhead. We request this letter from the Arkell Hall Foundation, Inc, owner of said property, and hope that the Foundation joins us in support of this community-minded project.