

# GILLETT PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMUNITY CENTER/COMMUNITY SQUARE PROJECT



# HISTORY

**In 2011, the GPL began planning for an expansion project that would include a much-needed second meeting room space as well as provide additional seating for WIFI/studying/socializing.**

**The Friends of the GPL paid for an architectural plan that would have added approximately 2000 sq. ft. to the back of the existing building.**



**In the fall of 2013, BMO Harris announced that they would be closing their branch next door, and our library changed its focus from remodeling the existing structure to reconfiguring the bank building to meet community needs.**

**The GPL was able to purchase the bank using only donated funds (no taxpayer money was used) in May of 2014.**

## Good places promote sociability



These are the spots where you run into people you know.

They are the places you take friends and family when you want to show them the neighborhood.

They are the center of the action by offering people many different reasons to go there.

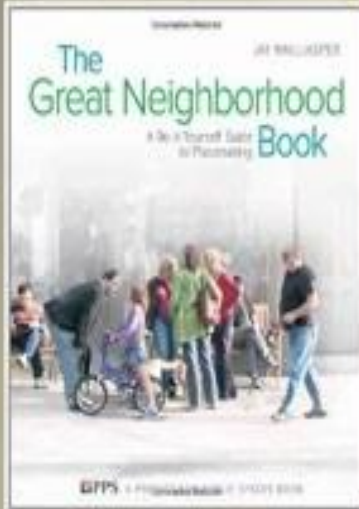
## The Project for Public Spaces

<http://www.pps.org/>

### **OUTSIDE THE BOX GRANT**

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# 11 principles of Placemaking

**The Great Neighborhood Book:  
A Do-it-Yourself Guide to Placemaking**  
by Jay Walljasper

1. The community is the expert (not outside professionals).
2. You are creating a place, not a design (the blueprints are much less critical to its success than the management plan and the involvement of local citizens).
3. You can't do it alone (find partners to bring resources, innovative ideas, and energy to the project).
4. They'll always say "It can't be done" (when government, business people say it won't work, what they really mean is "We've never done it like this before", and it's a sign that you're on the right track).
5. You can see a lot by just observing (take a close look at your neighborhood to see what does and doesn't work).
6. Develop a vision (it needs to come from the people who are there, not outside professionals).
7. Form supports function (know how people use the space in the beginning so you don't need to make changes later).
8. Make the connections (a great neighborhood place offers many things to do, all of which enhance each other and add up to more than the sum of the parts).
9. Start with petunias (little things can set the stage for big changes, especially by proving to local skeptics that the change is indeed possible).
10. Money is not the issue (if you have a spirited community, you'll find creative ways around financial obstacles).
11. You are never finished (80% of the success of any good place is due to how well it is managed after the project is done)

# PEOPLE WANT TO SOCIALIZE



Citizens everywhere are clamoring for the chance to comfortably and conveniently gather in public.

There has been an explosion of new and revitalized waterfronts, public markets, bike trails, parks, square, shopping streets, libraries, and other places where people can mingle with one another.

Now, a new generation of technological breakthroughs can enhance, rather than diminish, our opportunities to participate in public life (cell phones, laptops, and Wi-Fi). You have the chance to be plugged into the world and your community at the same time.

# REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN



Palm Beach FL revitalized its main thoroughfare by tackling a problem common in many cities today...a downtown that empties out after businesses close at 6:00 PM.

They launched a night-time weekly event that featured local artists along with good food and drink...booths were staffed by difference non-profits who took home a portion of the sales.

They now successfully draw-in people from other communities, and the economic impact on the area has been tremendous.

# CREATE MORE PUBLIC SEATING

## PROBLEM

A New Hampshire town had removed public seating a few years earlier, fed up by a few teenagers who would perch on benches and antagonize passersby. Young people that were polled stated that the scarce seating meant that there's only enough space for the bad kids to sit down.



## SOLUTION

So instead of removing seating, they added more to encourage more young people to come to downtown. This was a much more effective solution to the problem and made more sense than discouraging them in order to weed out a few troublemakers.

# PHASE ONE

Create multiple meeting room spaces in the bank building & add a second bathroom.

A second bathroom was added, additional counter-tops were installed to accommodate large groups, and tile flooring replaces the carpeting.

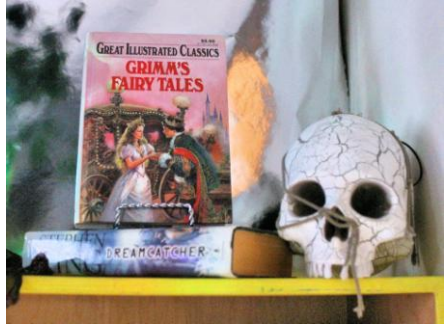
- **Northwoods Meeting/Banquet Room** accommodates up to 150 for weddings, parties, business events
- **Red Cedar** accommodates up to 10 for smaller groups
- **White Pine** accommodates up to 10 for smaller groups
- **Blue Spruce** accommodates up to 8 for small group

*Completed May 2015*





# HAUNTED HOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES



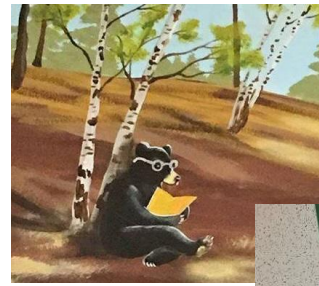
# PHASE TWO

Convert the library's existing meeting room space into library space...

- Remove window wall between library and meeting room.
- Add more seating for Wifi/studying/socializing.
- Add more shelving for library materials.
- Flip-flop the public computer area and the Circ Desk...staff are more centrally located and public computer stations are more open/less congested.

*Completed in April 2016*









**Completed August 2016**

# TEEN ZONE @ the COMMUNITY CENTER every Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:30



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READ MORE

*Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is the central hub of the global Placemaking movement, connecting people to ideas, expertise, and partners who share a passion for creating vital places.*

PLACEMAKING AGENDAS  
FROM INADEQUATE TO EXTRAORDINARY PLACES



Reimagining Our Streets as Places: From Transit Routes to Community Roots

Placemaking and Place-Led Development: A New Paradigm for Cities of the Future

Ten Strategies for Transforming Cities and Public Spaces through Placemaking

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www.pps.org/reference/libraryattributes/

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## How to Make Your Library Great

To succeed today, libraries must master many different roles—some traditionally associated with libraries, some not. Their new, multi-faceted missions must be supported with great design, strong amenities, and popular programs. That’s a lot to juggle, but when everything works together, libraries become places that anchor community life and bring people together. To help libraries fulfill their potential as neighborhood institutions, PPS offers the following strategies as a roadmap to success.

### 1. GREAT LIBRARIES OFFER A BROAD MIX OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Because libraries tend to be centrally located within neighborhoods, they are ideal places to offer numerous community services—from child care to job placement to income tax advice to university extension courses. These types of community offerings are a crucial part of the mix for libraries seeking to become multi-use destinations.

The Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, Maine, for example, works with the Mid Coast Hospital and Parkview Adventist Medical Center to offer “Health Kits” to childcare providers. This equips caregivers to initiate conversations with children (left) about sensitive topics like living with disabilities, going to the doctor, and conflict resolution.

### 2. GREAT LIBRARIES FOSTER COMMUNICATION

Innovative libraries aren’t content serving as one-way conduits of information; they want to foster dialogue and exchange with their users. To that end, many libraries house community access television and radio stations, and other means of disseminating information freely. The Rotterdam public library, for instance, has a broad range of programs to share Dutch language and culture, including an in-house movie theater (below). In one annual program,

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### 5. GREAT LIBRARIES BECOME PUBLIC GATHERING PLACES

The spaces inside and outside libraries are perfect for public proclamations, celebrations, fairs, and festivals – as well as smaller but no less important events that occur on a regular basis, like brown bag lectures or midday concerts. These activities reinforce the library’s role as a community anchor, and leading libraries are jumping at the chance to attract people by expanding their programs. To succeed as lively gathering places, a library can offer an eclectic mix that may include outdoor exhibits on science or history, temporary public art installations, games and chess tables, or outdoor play areas linked to the children’s reading room.



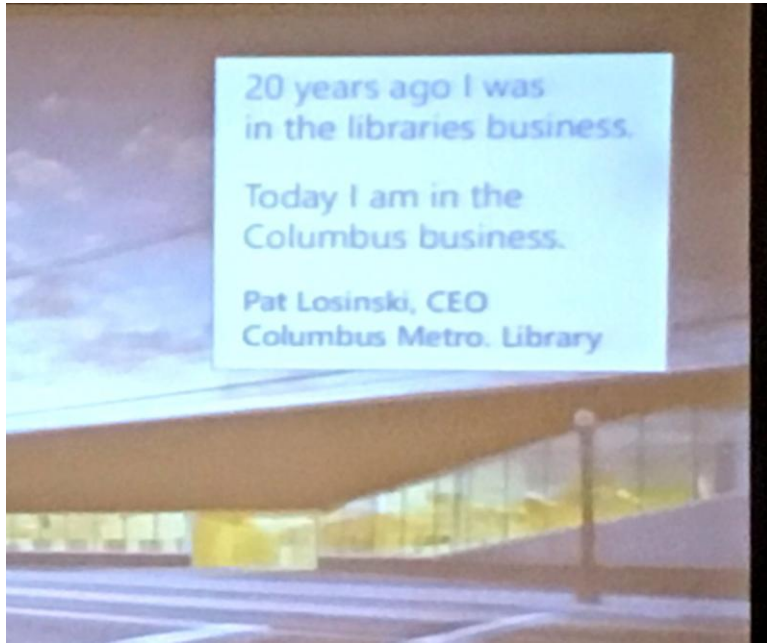
The Public Library (left) in Mississauga, Ontario plays a central role in revitalizing public space in this city near Toronto. By participating in activities like this “ribfest”, Mississauga’s library has become a center of public community life.

### 6. GREAT LIBRARIES BOOST LOCAL RETAIL AND PUBLIC MARKETS

The public goals of libraries mesh very well with the community-minded aims of public markets. As more cities and towns turn to markets to spur the local economy and encourage new business development, it is becoming common to see library lobbies, parking lots, and sidewalks used for farmers markets, book markets, or art markets.

Libraries may be for lending, but there’s nothing wrong with getting in on the retail action too. Some sell used books in a gift shop or open a café to serve patrons and residents. Others provide their communities with international newsstands and video rental facilities. Making use of their prime locations, libraries can rent space to arts organizations and commercial galleries, or for public events—even weddings!





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