June 8, 2021

Lloyd Library Explores Major Renovation to Support Its Growth

The Lloyd Library and Museum, located on Plum Street in downtown Cincinnati, houses one of the world’s most extensive collections focusing on nature and medicinal plants. Once a Cincinnati “best kept secret,” the Lloyd has seen attendance grow by 1200% over the past five years, as its use has widened from primarily pharmacists and scholars to include those with an interest in nature, the arts, science, medicine, and history.

This dramatic growth in attendance demands a flexible space with expanded public areas to accommodate the many functions the Lloyd Library delivers. The Lloyd Library has released a Request for Proposal for Pre-Design Services and accompanying Fact Sheet. It encourages interested design firms be part of this significant and historic renovation. Deadline for submission is July 8, 2021.

“The Lloyd Library has remained relevant for more than 140 years,” said Lloyd’s Executive Director Patricia Van Skaik. “Renovating this solid, serviceable, and intriguing facility will enable the library to continue its tradition of scholarship, conservation leadership, historical preservation, and community engagement.”

As a destination for scholars from around the world, the Lloyd Library has expanded its role to present acclaimed exhibitions and sought-after programs on contemporary issues, using Lloyd
collections as their springboard. Spanning topics including environmental impact, food scarcity and medicinal cannabis, the Lloyd has brought new perspectives to timely issues.

“We recently lost long-time Lloyd supporter and Board member Paul Sittenfeld,” said Heather Estridge, architect and current Lloyd Board President. “Paul helped give momentum to our vision of integrating the Lloyd Library within the community to serve not just academics, but everyday gardeners and environmental conservationists. That shift began with programming and the hiring of key museum staff. The next logical step is to update the building to meet the demands of our growing audiences.”

The Lloyd looks to further expand its audience with façade improvements so that the Lloyd Library will no longer be a “hidden” treasure, but instead be immediately recognizable. At near capacity for book storage, the renovation process will look for solutions to safely consolidate and continue easy access to library collections, along with infrastructure improvements, including work areas for employees with scanners, video/recording compatibility, and equipment to support an increasingly digital world. In keeping with the high value that the library founders, the Lloyd Brothers, placed on the environment, the renovation will make green solutions a priority.

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The Lloyd Library and Museum is located at 917 Plum St. in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact the Library at (513) 721-3707 or email contact@lloydlibrary.org or visit LloydLibrary.org.