



Lloyd Library Renovation Fact Sheet

June 8, 2021

Lloyd Library Explores Major Renovation



Fifty years ago, the Lloyd Library and Museum moved into its present building. A prime example of Brutalist architecture, the library was erected on the same corner where it was founded in the 1870s by the Lloyd Brothers, pharmacists, and manufacturers of nature-based medicine. Today with over 250,000 items, it houses one of the most extensive collections worldwide focused

on nature and medicinal plants.

At 30,000 square feet and with 37,000 linear feet of book storage, the building was constructed deliberately as a library—not an old house repurposed as a library. It is home to best-in-class equipment and materials. The Lloyd Library boasts perfect environmental conditions for its centuries’ old collections. It was stylish and modern for the time and is still appreciated today.

But the world has changed in fifty years, and so have libraries. No longer a quiet “best kept secret,” its use has widened from pharmacists to include those with an interest in nature, the arts, science, medicine, and history. The Lloyd Library, which is free and open to the public, remains a destination for scholars from around the world, while at the same time expanding its role to present acclaimed exhibitions and sought-after programs on contemporary issues, using Lloyd collections as their springboard. Over the past five years, the Lloyd’s attendance has grown by 1200%. The library partners with more than 50 organizations annually. This growth demands a flexible space with expanded public areas to accommodate the many functions that the Lloyd Library delivers. In addition, it looks to further expand its audience with façade

improvements so that the Lloyd will no longer be a “hidden treasure,” but immediately recognizable inside and out.

All libraries, especially those with extensive historical and rare collections, eventually run out of space. The Lloyd is no exception. It has nearly reached its capacity for books and manuscripts. 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 and recording compatibility, and equipment to support an increasingly digital world. In keeping with the high value that the Lloyd Brothers placed on the environment, the renovation will make green solutions a priority.

The Lloyd’s Executive Director Patricia Van Skaik shares that the “Lloyd Library has remained relevant for more than 140 years. Renovating this solid, serviceable, and intriguing facility will enable the library to continue its tradition of scholarship, cultural awareness and community engagement.” Lloyd Board President Heather Estridge describes the renovation as “The next logical step to meet the demands of our growing audiences.”

The Lloyd Library has released a [Request for Proposal](#) for the renovation’s Pre-Design Concept Development. Interested firms are encouraged to submit their proposal to be part of this significant and historic renovation. Deadline for submission is Thursday, July 8.

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.

