

OUR CITY.  
OUR LIBRARY.  
OUR FUTURE.



SAWYER LIBRARY FOUNDATION

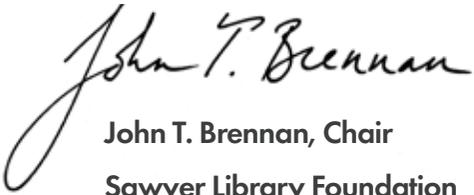
# From Our Leaders

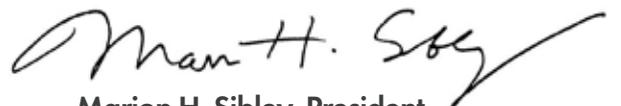
The Sawyer Free Library's buildings have served us well for almost half a century. But our future is at risk due to the deficiencies and shortcomings of our structures. Building systems are at the end of their useful life and jeopardize the continuity of public hours and services. The building layout compromises public safety and has restricted accessibility for many visitors. Public spaces are insufficient for current uses and not suited for the technology of today and tomorrow.

Now is the time to write the next chapter of the Sawyer Free Library and move forward with a comprehensive building plan. We have an historic opportunity due to a \$9.3M award from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Construction Grant program. To qualify for this grant, we must raise the remaining \$18.7M.

To that end, the Sawyer Library Foundation was formed in late 2019 to work hand-in-hand with the Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library to bring this project of revitalization and reimagination to life. The Foundation Board consists of non-profit and business professionals with deep ties to the Gloucester community and substantial fundraising experience.

We invite you to discover the 2025 Sawyer Free Library and Saunders House and join us in making a profound difference in our library, our city, our future.

  
**John T. Brennan, Chair**  
**Sawyer Library Foundation**

  
**Marion H. Sibley, President**  
**Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library**



“The 2025 Library will fulfill our community’s aspirations in being a center for innovation, where arts and culture thrive, where our history is cherished, where residents learn and where all feel welcomed.” - Jenny Benedict, Library Director



Exterior walkway looking towards City Hall.

# Our Storied Past

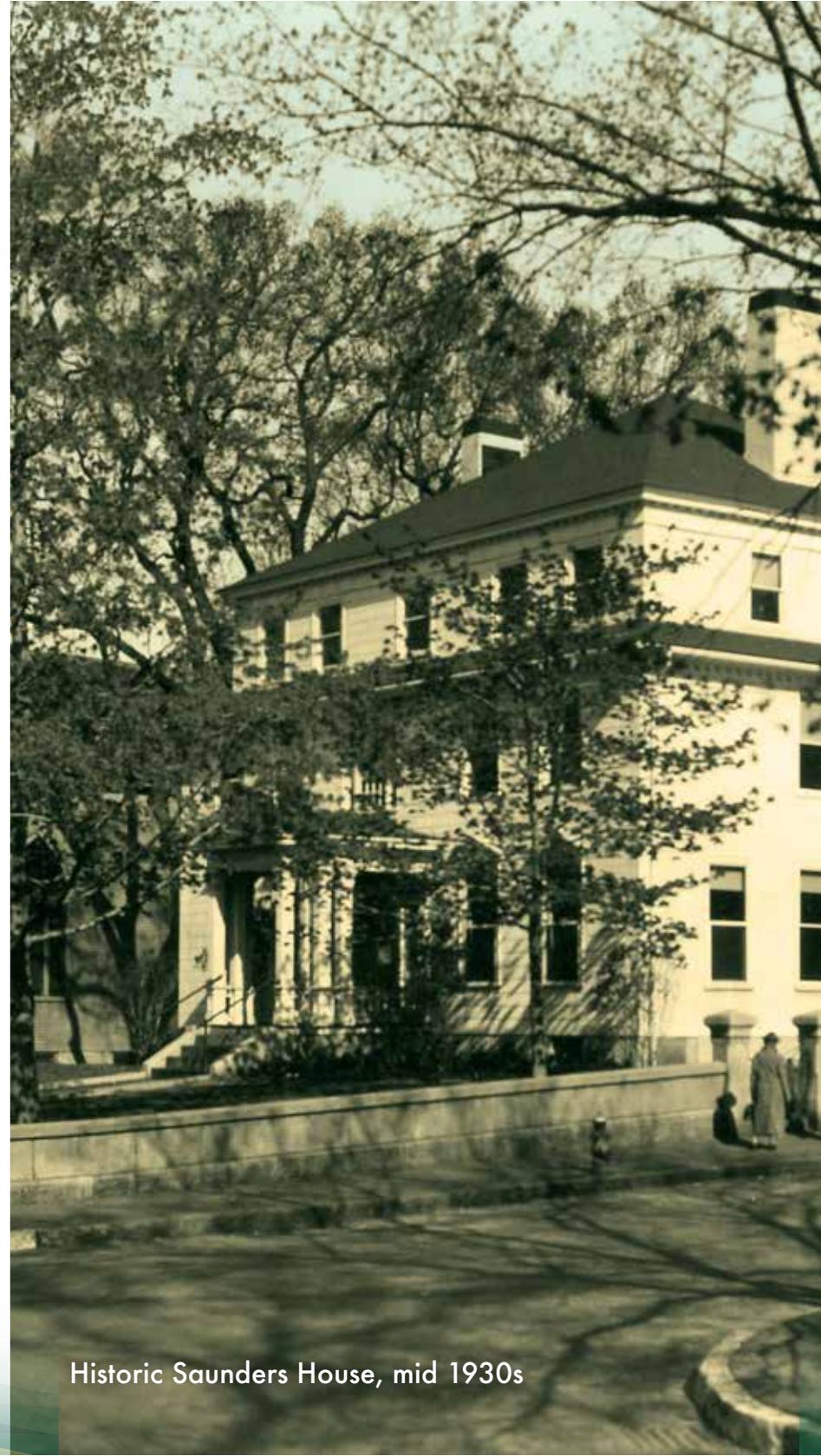
## We are vested in preserving our legacy

In 1884, Gloucester's great benefactor Samuel Elwell Sawyer purchased the Saunders House at 88 Middle Street as a home for the Sawyer Free Library. Sawyer, a self-educated man, stated at the dedication ceremony his objective of fostering civilization by feeding the minds of people of all ages, from childhood to old age, through books.

Sawyer believed that education and being of service to the community were the keys to individual and collective achievement. He located the Library in the heart of Gloucester, giving it a prominent place in perpetuity among our civic, cultural and religious institutions.

In subsequent decades, the 1910s and 1970s, Sawyer's generous gift and admirable objectives required ongoing community support to build extensions that addressed changing library service priorities and community demographics.

**Renewed investment is needed now in order for everyone in our community to have an equal opportunity to advance in this century.**



Historic Saunders House, mid 1930s



# Our Treasured Values

We are guided by time-honored beliefs

## *Literacy*

We champion literacy in all its forms. We embrace a broad definition of literacy as the ability to locate, evaluate and communicate using a wide range of resources including text, image, video and audio sources.

## *Intellectual Freedom*

We safeguard and promote people's essential rights to information, ideas and all forms of creative expression.

## *Privacy*

We are committed to maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of our cardholders' personal information and their borrowing history.

**Upholding these rights is fundamental to the future of our democratic society.**

**“The only thing that you absolutely  
have to know is the location  
of the library” - Albert Einstein**

# Our Unique Purpose

## We are the community's learning place

Our public building is one of the most visited in Gloucester. It is the only public place that is open and free to all. The only public place where people of different backgrounds can come together to create, experience and share ideas. For people who are not part of an educational institution or a workplace, the Library is often their only connection to participating in community life.

At Sawyer Free Library, everyone is a learner, finding their way in a complex and dynamic world that is changing rapidly. Learning that is flexible and adaptable, as it is in our Library, is uniquely suited to our environment. Our Library's fundamental assets—our public venue, information resources, technological infrastructure, expert staff and long-standing partnerships—are valued highly by the public and our network of educational, cultural and social organizations.

Our mission is to be a place of learning, innovation and creativity to nurture and strengthen the community. We inspire and empower individual and collective growth through lifelong learning, social engagement and cultural connectedness.

**Investment in our Library is a strategic investment in our whole community.**



**“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation” - Walter Cronkite**



# Presenting Our 2025 Library

Designed to benefit everyone!

Five years of study and dialogue with the community, Library Board and staff have culminated in a new vision and comprehensive building plan for the Sawyer Free Library and the historic Saunders House.

**The vision is worthy of our heritage and our future. The reimagined building structures and interior layouts protect their historic feel while enhancing the Library as a place of creation and communication. It is a vision that fosters the values of place, belonging and connection in the Gloucester community.**

## A New Standard for Our Community

**The building plan is based on design principles that put people first: accessibility, sustainability, health and safety.**

### **Accessibility**

Access to physical environments is a barrier that prevents many people from fully exercising their rights and participating in social, cultural and professional life on an equal basis with others. The 2025 Building Plan recognizes the diverse needs of people of different ages and abilities and exceeds accommodations required for ADA compliance. Our design principles facilitate dignified, equal and intuitive use by everyone.

- Maximize equitable access and independent movement throughout the buildings
- Communicate wayfinding in multiple sensory formats
- Provide acoustic environments compatible with space sizes and functions





### ***Sustainability***

Global climate and ecological change are significant challenges in sustaining our environment now and for future generations. The 2025 Building Plan considers the impact of our buildings on greenhouse gas emissions, natural energy and building material resource consumption, and water usage. Our design principles minimize our environmental impact and enhance the sustainability of our facility.

- Optimize energy usage by improving energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources
- Maximize restoring building materials and sourcing locally manufactured products
- Conserve water and protect water quality

### ***Health and Safety***

For people to feel included, welcome and open to making connections in the Library, they must feel physically and psychologically safe in our buildings. The 2025 Building Plan anticipates potential threats and limits their risk. Our design principles protect the well-being of the public and staff.

- Maximize natural and artificial lighting
- Increase visibility through open layouts and clear lines of sight
- Locate public spaces for children and families away from main entrances
- Ensure good indoor air quality and adequate ventilation

Interior of reading room on first floor,  
looking out to Dale Avenue.





# The 2025 Sawyer Free Library

## A Once in 50-year Opportunity

**The renovation and expansion of the Sawyer Free Library is a once in 50-year opportunity to secure the future of our public institution.** The plan for the 2025 Sawyer Free Library realizes our vision by respecting our history and modernizing our building for technological advancements, new methods of learning and new ways of sharing ideas and information.

### **Exterior**

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library is a 30,000 sq. ft. building with two major components and a connecting entryway to the historic Saunders House.

**A welcoming entrance.** An inviting direct pathway from Dale Avenue to a covered porch welcomes people into the 2025 Sawyer Free Library and Saunders House. A new connecting entryway between the two buildings features an extension of the coveted Matz Gallery exhibition space.

**A renovation of the existing building.** The renovation keeps the building's exterior design by local architect Donald F. Monell, including brick façade, roof style and arched window shapes.

**A modern addition.** The 15,000 sq. ft. addition expands the Library toward School Street. The exterior reflects its place in time as a modern structure with a brick base matching the existing building and a continuous ribbon of windows above.

# The 2025 Sawyer Free Library *(continued)*

## A Once in 50-year Opportunity

### *Interior*

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library features three levels with an open and easy to find central circulation core. Each floor has a consistent purpose and blends traditional library spaces for study and reflection with new spaces for connection.

### ***2nd Floor: Bigger and better spaces for children and teens***

The 2nd Floor is a vibrant and interactive space dedicated just for children, teens and their caregivers. Its 10,000 sq. ft. doubles the size of the current Children's Room and accommodates designated areas, furnishings, library resources and technology for each age group.

### ***1st Floor: A revitalized traditional Library***

The 1st Floor Main Library is inspired by an atmosphere of cherished calm, abundant natural light and treasured book collections. The two reading rooms offer plenty of comfortable seating for focused study and reading for pleasure, as well as ample stacks for browsing. The new addition satisfies community demand for a quiet reading room and more meeting space.

### ***Ground Floor: New destinations for connection***

The Ground Floor fosters the Library's attraction as a destination with community spaces that connect people of all ages with culture, digital learning and community conversations. A generous daylit atrium showcases local art and invites discovery of the Library History Center, Digital Makerspace and Community Program Room.



“The library is an arena of possibility, opening both a window into the soul and a door into the world” - Rita Dove



# The 2025 Saunders House

## Preserved and Restored

The historic Saunders House at the corner of Middle Street and Dale Avenue was one of the grandest houses in Gloucester and Boston's North Shore when it was built as a private residence by Thomas Saunders in 1764. To this day, it remains a prominent landmark of Gloucester's Historic District. The Saunders House is unique in the grandeur of its original features and the murals added in subsequent years.

**The significant architectural features will be preserved for historic study and the rooms restored for contemporary community use. The Saunders House will continue to be joined to the Sawyer Free Library and will be open to the public.**

### Saunders House preservation work includes:

- Stabilizing and conserving the WPA Frederick L. Stoddard and the 1980 Howard Curtis murals
- Refinishing the character-defining woodwork in the main stair hall and southeast parlor

### Restoration work includes:

- Reinforcing the structure of the 1st and 2nd floors
- Installing a lift and accessible restrooms
- Replacing building system components, including HVAC, fire suppression and electrical equipment

**The total project investment for the 2025 Saunders House is \$3.2 M and will be funded through grants.**



**“The historic Saunders House is a defining architectural property in downtown Gloucester, forever connecting us to our heritage and the generosity of our forefathers.” - Prudence Fish**

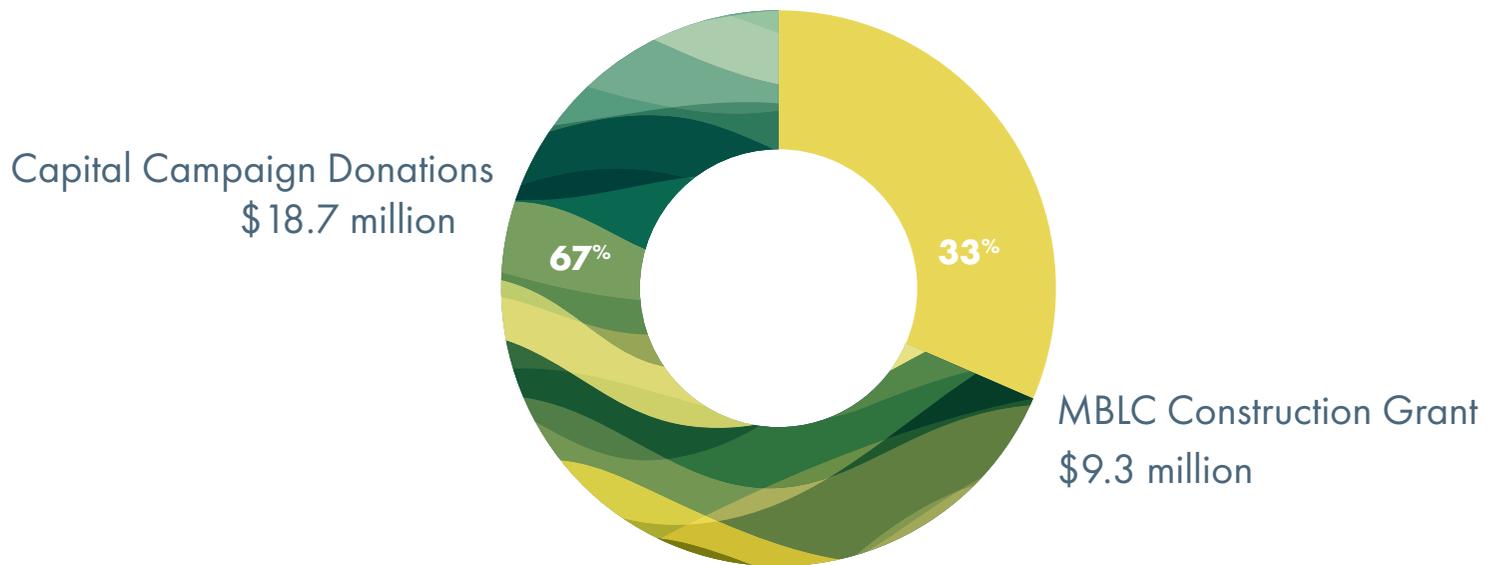


# Community Investment

## Let's Build a Better Community Together

The vision and plan for the 2025 Sawyer Free Library will become a reality, touching the lives of families, friends and neighbors, through financial support from our community. Pledges from generous private supporters, individuals like you, must be secured by the end of 2022 for Gloucester to qualify for the MBLC Construction Grant.

<b>Total Project Investment</b> .....	<b>\$ 28M</b>
<b>MBLC Construction Grant</b> .....	<b>\$ 9.3M</b>
<b>Campaign Goal</b> .....	<b>\$18.7M</b>



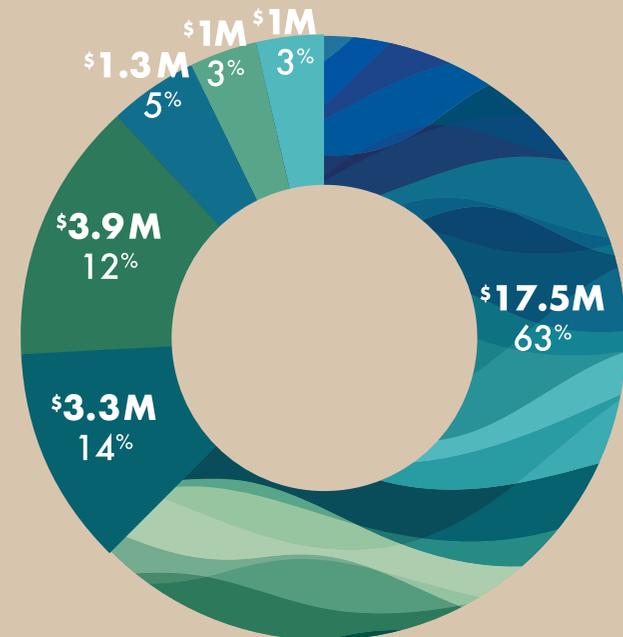
# Major Project Costs

## 2025 Sawyer Free Library

### Major Project Costs:

Construction .....\$17.5M  
15,188 sq. ft. new addition.  
15,377 sq. ft. renovation

Professional Services .....\$ 3.3 M  
Contingencies.....\$ 3.9 M  
Transition .....\$ 1.3M  
Fundraising Expenses .....\$ 1M  
Furnishings & Equipment .....\$1M





Cut away view of 1st floor



Cut away view of ground floor



# Donor Naming Opportunities

## 2025 Sawyer Free Library

**New Addition – \$4,000,000**

**Existing Building – \$4,000,000**

**Community Room – \$2,000,000**

**Main Floor Reading Room – \$1,000,000**

**Matz Gallery (listed as supported by naming donor) – \$1,000,000**

**Children’s Room – \$1,000,000**

**Teen Room – \$750,000**

**School Street Atrium – \$500,000**

**Quiet Reading Room – \$500,000**

**Digital Maker Space – \$250,000**

**Library History Center – \$250,000**

**Children’s Program Room – \$200,000**

**Conference Room – \$100,000**

**Teen Creation Space – \$100,000**

**Total = \$15,650,000**

The Sawyer Free Library is grateful for gifts at all levels and seeks to provide appropriate recognition to all donors while recognizing our major donors’ extraordinary generosity. Please reference the insert in the back of this brochure for more naming details.

**Our City.  
Our Library.  
Our Future.  
Now is the time  
to pledge your support  
for our next chapter.**

# Leadership



## Capital Campaign Steering Committee

### Honorary Fundraising Chair Mayor of Gloucester

Sefatia Romeo Theken (*Ex officio*)

Barry Weiner, *Chair*

Fran Aliberte

Glenn Alto

Jenny Benedict, *Library Director*

Karen Bell

Linzee Coolidge

Bill & Stephanie Cuff

Deborah DeCotis

Frederica Doeringer, *Vice Chair*

Peter Feinstein

Meredith Fine

Beth Graham

Joe Grella

Mern Sibley

Carolyn Stewart

Sarah Oaks, *Campaign Manager*

Peter Pearson, *Campaign Consultant*

## Sawyer Library Foundation Board of Directors

John T. Brennan, *Chair*

Glenn Alto, *Treasurer*

Karen Bell

Linzee Coolidge

Frederica Doeringer

Meredith Fine, *Secretary*

Joe Grella

## Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library Board of Trustees

Mern Sibley, *President*

Fran Aliberte, *Vice President, Corporate Communications Chair*

Anne-Marie Anderson, *Secretary*

Jenny Benedict, *Library Director (Ex officio)*

Peter Brau

Jason Brisbois, *Building & Grounds Chair*

John Day, *Friends Liasion*

Neil Glickstein

Joe Grella, *Treasurer, Budget, Finance, and Investment Chair*

Priscilla Malboeuf

Beth Morris

Melanie Murray-Brown

Simon Paddock, *Capital Projects Chair*

Marsha Sloane, *Lyceum Committee Liaison*

*Architectural renderings and floorplans by Oudens Ello Architecture.*

**2 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930 | [www.sawyerfreelibrary.org](http://www.sawyerfreelibrary.org)**