

Bent Mountain Library Extension Project

The Bent Mountain Library is a small library in Bent Mountain, VA with less than 500 total library card holders serving a growing community of young adults and homeschooled children. Due to the size of our building, we are unable to provide a quiet, appropriate learning space for these underserved parts of the community. We seek \$17,050 to add an addition to the library. The new space will be designed to provide privacy and a safe space for the community and library patrons.

The project costs include the contracted addition, furniture, books, and staff pay for the setup.

The Bent Mountain Library was once the library for Bent Mountain Elementary School. What was then an Elementary school is now divided into the Bent Mountain Center and the Bent Mountain Library. While the library has received a renovation due to a flood in December of 2022, there was not enough room in the budget for an addition, so the issue with space was left on the back burner.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in challenges related to access to educational needs nationally; our focus, however, is local. In Virginia specifically, a state report was released from the UVA School of Education and Human Development in 2022 stating that early reading skills were at a 20-year low ([X](#)) and with this, an increase in homeschooling with a decrease in outside education resources. We know this because all of the children who come to our events are homeschooled, with about 10 homeschooling families and more than 20 homeschooled children benefiting from our services. It is critical for the community to increase access and provide learning spaces for our children and young adults to catch up. It is vital for the future of

the country for underdeveloped and underfunded communities to receive the necessary education and resources to succeed and reach graduation.

Our goal is to build an add-on to the Bent Mountain library to create more space for young adults and homeschooling families. The project has three objectives:

1. Provide a safe and quiet area that promotes learning and creativity.
2. Increase young adult attendance and participation in daily library activities and program events by at least 10%.
3. Encourage homeschooling parents and students to utilize library materials and space to increase attendance by at least 5%.

Our methods for achieving these goals can be broken down into 2 categories:

1. Community Outreach

- a. Roanoke County holds many outreach events throughout the county. The county has a new bookmobile available to our branch library for outreach activities. We will implement a number of outreach events that provide free library “swag” to draw in potential patrons, offer free and easy library card sign-up at outreach events, and encourage potential patrons to come to the Bent Mountain branch. At the events we will distribute our library’s events calendars, and eventually news of the addition to the branch. This will be measurable in how many outreach events we attend, how many attendees approach our outreach, and by measuring attendance following outreach at the library itself.

2. Creating an inviting and inclusive space

- a. Just as important as outreach is making sure when they arrive at the library, they feel happy, relaxed, and welcome in the new space. Part of the mission will include decorating the space to make it feel inviting and facilitate learning. We

will fill the space with books, computers, and other learning materials for young adults and homeschooling families to utilize. We intend to also provide targeted programs for homeschooling families, as well as inclusive, fun programs within the space to draw in a wide variety of youths who can utilize the space as they wish. The success of this method can also be determined by measuring attendance following the opening of the addition, as well as providing patrons with anonymous satisfaction surveys.

If necessary, the library will conduct an evaluation of the project using staff members both at the Bent Mountain Library (library assistants) as well as external to our small branch (administrative). Bent Mountain Library assistants can gather real-time information and take informed notes that can then be properly evaluated in reference to the grant goals by admins with more knowledge of broader statistics and library information.

This project is terminal in that it has one specific end goal of creating a new addition to the Bent Mountain Library. Because of this, the model of sustainability is simply setting an appropriate budget and sticking to it in the production of the new space. Part of this will include working with the evaluator to form an appropriate, reasonable budget for the completion of the project. Roanoke County sets a specific budget for the contracting of projects like this, and after contractors will bid on who will complete the project within the budget the county has specified. This makes the biggest chunk of the budget highly sustainable. Should there be any issue with the budget following the procurement of the grant, the Bent Mountain Women's Club has generously offered to help with community fundraising by matching whatever money we receive.

The budget for this project is set at \$17,050.00. This will include the contracted addition, furnishings for the space, books for shelving and addition to the catalog, and set-up pay for the Bent Mountain Library staff to set the space up once all of the materials have arrived. These costs have been broken down in the budget narrative below:

A) Contracted Addition - \$10,000

- The budget is set by Roanoke County and will be bid upon by local contractors.
- This includes worker pay and materials fees for the project.

B) Furniture - \$5,000

➤ Shelving

i) Estey® Single-Faced Steel Cantilever Library Shelving

- 42”H, 3 Shelves, 2 Adj.
 - \$409.00 (x6) = \$2,454
 - Shipping = \$405.98
 - Tax = \$97.63
 - TOTAL = \$2957.61

➤ Seating

i) Tablet Arm Chair

- Leather Lounge Chair w/Tablet Arm & Casters 35" x 41" x 30"
 - \$589.00
 - Shipping = \$205.98
 - Tax = \$42.14
 - TOTAL = \$837.12

➤ Work tables

i) Demco® FLEXPlore Quick Ship Rectangle Tables

- Dry Erase Top 22-34”Hx60”Wx30”D

- \$329.00 (x2) = \$658.00

- Shipping = \$205.98

- Tax = \$45.79

- TOTAL = \$909.77

C) Books - \$1,500

➤ Books will be selected and ordered by Roanoke County to fill the new addition.

D) Staff set up pay - \$550

➤ It should take our staff approximately 8 hours to set up the new space.

i) 4 staff x \$16.50 /hr x 8 hours = \$528 (approximately)

NAME OF PROGRAM/PROJECT:

Bent Mountain Library Addition

SITUATION:

The Bent Mountain library is too small, and as a result, is unable to provide a safe, fun, welcoming space for YA and homeschooling patrons and families.

PRIORITIES:

Create a safe, fun, and welcoming space for YA and homeschooling patrons and families.

INPUTS	OUTPUTS		OUTCOMES	
	Activities	Participants	Short-term	Long-term
-Grant -Local Support -Blueprint -Contract workers	-Determine budget -Plan for addition -Build addition -Eval and approval -Supply resources	-Roco Admin -Contract workers -Bent mtn staff	-Increased access to resources for the Bent Mountain community -Increased space for YA and homeschooling patrons -Increased program attendance	- Establishment in the community as a fun, safe, and resourceful community space

ASSUMPTIONS

1. YA and homeschooling patrons will utilize the new space
2. We will have a big enough budget to fill the space with resources
3. We can make the space a conducive space for both learning and entertainment

EXTERNAL FACTORS

1. Community outreach needs to connect with YA and homeschooling patrons
2. The community itself needs to spread awareness of the new space
3. We will need to establish a contract within budget for the project