



FAQs for Y/ Library Collaboration

- **How will the facility be divided between the library and the Y?**

The YMCA will own the facility and lease space to the library. The specific areas of the building utilized by both total approximately 65% (YMCA) and 35% (Library) by square feet. At approximately 35 percent of the 36,000 square-foot building, the library's usable space would be nearly 3 times (2.86) more than the 30/31 facility. The collaboration provides facility efficiency for both as the shared lobby, parking, outdoor space and mechanical areas will result in shared costs.
- **Will this raise taxes for Rock Island citizens?**

The initial capital project would be privately funded through fundraising, with the projected campaign goal based on the pending results of the financial feasibility study. Annual Library operations are funded by the Library's City budget and Library Tax Levy. The Library budget changes yearly based on need and is determined by the Library Board of Trustees with City Council Approval.
- **What is happening to the 30/31 Branch of the library?**

The 30/31 Branch will be closed at the end of 2019, and is up for sale. This collaboration moves the library one-step closer to achieving its long-range plan of expanding in the neighborhood served by 30/31, and would provide excellent library services in a newer facility. The Downtown and Southwest locations of the Rock Island Library remain available for patron service, as does the Library's online service options. The library is also implementing a Mobile Library that will serve all of Rock Island, including the central corridor neighborhoods of 30th Street and 31st Avenue.
- **What are the benefits for the Rock Island Public Library?**

The ability to offer an expanded facility and additional services in a centrally-located neighborhood of Rock Island where there is demonstrated need. The Library has been working on a building improvement plan for more than five years. Working with the Y as a partner offers the best potential for the Library to achieve its goals for enhancing patron service, in the most fiscally responsible manner possible.

Sharing the building with the Y provides cost efficiencies, and ensures residents can access in-person library services within a three-mile radius of their home. Input from the Library's Community Conversations brought up needs for a centrally-located library with meeting rooms for small groups, more space for all-ages programming, and a modest collection for browsing and borrowing. Partnering allows the library to provide the amenities not currently available at the 30/31 facility. For the first time, the library would be able to offer services requested by patrons, including:

- Space for small meetings and study groups
- Upgraded technology
- Community Room for large programs
- Extended parking
- Walkability in a neighborhood setting, and

- Outdoor access for programs and reading

With several schools in the area, the ability to design attractive and usable areas for use by school-age youth is another new advantage. The Library could further collaborate with the Y on mind and body programming for positive youth engagement. With similar missions and mindsets, the two partners can be stronger when they work together.

- **What are the benefits for the Y?**

In 2018 Two Rivers YMCA accepted responsibility to serve as the administrative agent for Nourish, a community-based nutrition program that currently prepares and serves over 1,500 free meals/snacks per day to nearly 35 youth afterschool programs across Rock Island County. The Illinois State Board of Education prefers to limit the number of site sponsors in each county and any new afterschool programs offered by youth serving organizations in the Illinois Quad Cities are directed to collaborate with Nourish for their meal/snack source. The demand continues to increase and the YMCA has already had to turn down a program request because of a lack of capacity. The new location at the Tri-City Jewish Center would allow the YMCA to both increase capacity with a larger, fully updated commercial kitchen while meeting the obligations of our strategic plan by utilizing the three current kitchens for community-based nutrition education programs.

Income based membership is an important part of our mission and social responsibility focus. Rock Island needs a safe, secure location where people of all ages and backgrounds can grow in spirit, mind, and body. When kids are out of school, the joint YMCA-Library facility and its amenities will offer a place for kids to remain physically active, socially engaged and academically supported. Youth and adults will have the opportunity to interact and learn from one another in a supportive and safe location.

- **Will this center compete with RIFAC and other City of Rock Island Facilities?**

Two Rivers YMCA and the Davenport YMCA contracted Triangle2 to complete a comprehensive community membership-program study in 2017. The study results showed the need for increased access to exercise and social programs in Rock Island beyond what is currently offered. The Rock Island YMCA would offer similar facilities and equipment as other YMCAs and recreation centers in the Quad Cities. However, the central location, facility size and amenities complement operating sustainability and study results.

Many City officials and leaders participated in community forums last spring where details of this project were shared and received with a general feeling of support. Furthermore, lower income households are also much more likely to suffer from the three most prevalent chronic diseases: heart disease, cancer and diabetes. While the area has a large medical institution to help treat acute chronic disease and many multiple fitness providers, there is not a single institution that focuses on the prevention of chronic disease with a full menu of programs like the Y's Reclaim, Parkinson's, Livestrong and Diabetes Prevention programs.

- **Why wouldn't the YMCA consider other areas of Rock Island?**

The data in the study conducted by Triangle2 shows accessibility in Rock Island is limited for low-middle income households. It also concluded that a central location and the Y's income-based membership would provide more access to those needing these services the most. This project also complements the outcomes of the 2018 Community

Health Assessment Report that shows Scott County residents have almost twice the accessibility to recreation and fitness facilities as their neighbors in Rock Island County.

- **What will happen if this project is not completed?**

This unique facility collaboration offers a central and welcoming community service/public learning center in Rock Island. Community leader forums identified intergenerational programming and literacy as essential to meeting the strategic needs of Rock Island in the future. Mixing the library's public sector and the Y's non-profit services in one location offers new service and program partnerships that work to the benefit of Rock Island. The continued absence of an inclusive facility to offer YMCA and Library community services such as character development, mentoring, literacy, nutrition education, multicultural/multilingual programs and youth development would perpetuate limited graduation rates, crime prevalence and high poverty.

The Library Board of Trustees has already announced closing the 30/31 Library to move forward with a plan for a newer neighborhood facility. Not achieving the outcome of moving to the Tri-City Jewish Center would take the Library back to the drawing board for its building plan, and sharply limit its goal to provide the enhanced services and facilities requested by patrons. The newly expanded Library and collaboration with the YMCA is essential for continuing public education and self-betterment. Sharing resources allows the Library to provide the contemporary education, lifelong learning, and community connection services needed in this densely-populated portion of the City.

Rock Island youth would also continue to suffer from food insecurity. Currently the YMCA's out-of-school nutrition program is at capacity and cannot prepare or distribute meals for additional programs. The Tri-City Jewish Center has a fully updated commercial kitchen that would complement and centralize the current network of kitchens at the Moline Y's Spirit, Mind and Body Center, Moline Boys and Girls Club and Martin Luther King Jr. Center. Without the additional kitchen, the YMCA may have limited success toward our goal of helping youth and families establish healthier nutritional habits and lifestyles.