



## Ironwood Carnegie Library

235 East Aurora Street

Ironwood, MI 4993

Phone (906) 932-0203

Fax (906) 932-2447

[www.ironwoodcarnegie.org](http://www.ironwoodcarnegie.org)

### **Ironwood Carnegie Library Renovation Proposal**

The Ironwood Carnegie Library was built in 1901 with a gift of from Andrew Carnegie to serve the needs of a small U.P. community that produced much of the iron which helped him build his fortune. We are the oldest continually operating Carnegie in the State of Michigan and were placed on the Historic Register in 2011. Our library is spatially representative of the library as it was back when it was built, with the exception of spaces being used for differing purposes. The library is a true cornerstone of the city it serves.

Yet today, the Ironwood Carnegie provides so much more than the building was ever intended to accommodate. The needs of our patrons continues to evolve, and the library continually adapts to offer 21<sup>st</sup> century resources, technology and programming to patrons from across the age span who reside twelve hours from their state capital and over two hours away from any larger city.

We know that accessibility, energy efficiency, and safety are necessary to serve all of our patrons, young and old, in a building that represents Ironwood's past, present, and future.

In a community where over 26% of our population is 65 and older, a public library is often one of the few places that offers them social engagement and age related resources, as well as technology and the help needed to use it. And while our project will benefit everyone who uses our library and who visits our city, many of the components will support our goal of serving older/vulnerable adults, many dealing with aging conditions, and persons with disabilities.

Our proposed renovation project will:

- 1) Renovate current non-fiction area to create a much needed ADA compliant restroom on the main level. We would purchase mobile shelving to replace lost shelves and replace flooring throughout main area.
- 2) Create an off street parking area to give older/disabled patrons easy access to the library.
- 3) Create an accessible outdoor community area with benches, shrubs, and plants for patrons, visitors and those waiting for public transit
- 4) Add outdoor water access
- 5) Replacement of our 20+ year old boiler system to a new, energy efficient system
- 6) Replacement 21 window blinds that are 50+ years old with energy efficient window coverings
- 7) Replacement of outdated security cameras to assure safety inside and outside of the library.

