

Carnegie Library Fact Sheet

- Carnegie Library is one of 19 branches of Live Oak Public Libraries (which has branches in Chatham, Effingham and Liberty Counties).
- Purpose of the restoration:
 - To preserve the significant integrity of the facility
 - To return the library to its traditional role noted for its African-American focus
 - To restore an historic treasure for the community
- Features of the new Carnegie Library include:
 - Special reference collections of African-American materials
 - Circulating children's collection
 - Computer training lab
 - Digital archives cataloging center
 - Over 30 computers for public use
 - Community meeting room
- Building was originally dedicated on Aug. 14, 1914 (this is 90th anniversary)
- Original architect was Savannahian Julian de Bruyn Kops
- Cost was \$12,000 from the Carnegie Foundation, \$3,000 from local supporters
- It is Prairie style associated with Frank Lloyd Wright
- Features – clean lines, variegated brickwork, use of natural light, open interior space, oversized eaves, and thoughtful window placement – interior motifs are typical of the Arts & Crafts movement
- Architects for the addition are Hansen Architects of Savannah
 - Paul Hansen and Patrick Phelps
- Goal for the project was to remain faithful to the original style of the building yet incorporate the latest technology
- Became part of the larger public library system in 1963 with the end of segregation
- Remained in continuous use until 1997 when it was closed because of poor and unsafe conditions
- Original building was 4,200 square feet – now about 7,000 square feet

- Total renovation project cost – just over \$1.3 million

Naming opportunities:

- East Wing – In Honor of Associate Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas by Harlan Crow of Crow Holdings
- Reading Room – In Memory of Celeste G. Hatcher by her family (Laura C. Jones)
- Children’s Reading Room – In Memory of John Beary by the Library Trustees

Funding Sources for the 2004 Addition and Restoration:

Two special appropriations totaling \$1 million

SPLOST Technology Fund \$52,500

Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation launched a capital campaign to raise the balance from private sources, which included these major private donations:

- Crow Holdings - \$175,000
- Huizenga Family Foundation – \$25,000
- The Robert W. Woodruff Foundation - \$50,000
- The Hodge Foundation - \$10,000
- The Family of Celeste G. Hatcher - \$5,000
- Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation - \$3,000

There were hundreds of smaller private donations that helped to make the project possible and demonstrated the interest, importance and relevance of the library to the community.