



CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY Announces Progress of Exploration Commons at 50 East

PRESS RELEASE

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Architect and Major Gift Just Announced for Exploration Commons at 50 East

Carroll County, MD – The Board of County Commissioners for Carroll County has named Manns Woodward Studios as the architect for Exploration Commons at 50 East, an interactive space where people, ideas, and tools come together to create, innovate, and collaborate in a makerspace, culinary center, and meeting space. The 14,000 square foot community space will be in the lower level of the Westminster Branch Library.

A major gift to Exploration Commons at 50 East from Sharon Hafner Yingling and John Yingling has also been announced. The \$50,000 gift will help support learners and entrepreneurs of all ages to bring ideas to life. The state-of-the-art meeting and learning space will offer equipment, resources, and training for areas such as: digital fabrication, game and app development, virtual and augmented reality, robotics, textiles, cybersecurity, culinary arts, audio and videography, and photography.

Sharon Hafner Yingling is serving as committee chair for the fundraising and said of the gift, “John and I are proud to do our part in making Exploration Commons at 50 East a reality. We believe this exciting project will transform Main Street and benefit all of Carroll County.”

Of the space, Jason Stambaugh, MAGIC Board of Directors said, “Exploration Commons at 50 East will create new horizons for innovation, work, and play in our community. Children and adults alike will be afforded experience and opportunities previously only available in major cities. I can’t wait to see and hear about all of the amazing things that people learn and build. We’ll look back in 30 years and see that this space was a critical piece of the puzzle for creating incredible growth and prosperity in Carroll.”

The total cost of the project is \$3.9 million, of which \$2.5 million will be funded by the State and the County. The remaining \$1.4 million will be met through private donations and grant funding.

Manns Woodward Studios is a Maryland based architectural firm that specializes in the design of public safety and community driven buildings. The firm focuses on the design of fire stations, libraries, schools, and community centers. Their portfolio includes the Carroll County Public Training Center, Havre De Grace Library, and Maryland Food Bank.

Construction is slated to begin in Fall of 2019 with project completion in the Spring of 2020. More information about the project may be found at <https://explorationcommons.carr.org>.

For information about making a gift to the campaign, call 410-386-4500 or visit <https://explorationcommons.carr.org/techxcellence.asp>.

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