



TOGETHER O'FALLON
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O'FALLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Executive Summary

As a result of the Small Group Work Activity
Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026 • Together O'Fallon Community Workshop #2

OVERVIEW

On February 5, 2026, more than 70 community members participated in the second Together O'Fallon Community Workshop at the O'Fallon Knights of Columbus. The session was led by co-chairs Todd Reichelt and Lexi Baysinger. O'Fallon Public Library Director Ryan Johnson delivered a presentation based on questions and feedback from the first session on November 6, 2025. Topics included: space, location, programs, services, features, amenities and detailed financial information.

Participants then worked in small groups to design the amenities of their ideal future library. Each table was given a base library configuration and a fixed amount of additional square footage and budget. Groups collaborated to select and prioritize additional amenities, such as multipurpose space, study rooms, makerspace areas, café space, and other community-focused features, without exceeding the provided limits.

The activity was designed to promote collective decision-making and discussion, with each table identifying a recorder and facilitator to ensure the final selections reflected group consensus. Participants were also invited to suggest additional amenities and provide feedback or questions about the proposed library design.

Most Selected Amenities

The most frequently selected amenities across tables were:

- Additional Multipurpose Space
- Tech-Enabled Workspaces
- Additional Study Rooms
- Larger Children's Area
- Additional Quiet Space

These amenities represent the strongest shared priorities across all of the small groups. They reflect a desire for flexible gathering space, strong support for work and study, and amenities that encourage longer visits.

A second tier of frequently selected amenities included:

- Café / Coffee Shop
- Makerspace Area
- Sensory Room
- Small Business Pop-ups
- Memory Lab

These spaces were widely supported and indicate a strong interest in family-friendly environments, flexible gathering areas, creative opportunities, and amenities that enhance the overall visitor experience.

Amenities selected less frequently, but still supported by multiple tables, included:

- Larger Teen Area
- Banking Services
- Mailing / Shipping Services
- Art Gallery
- Historical / Museum Space

These amenities reflect interest in specialized services, cultural and historical features, and practical community conveniences, though they were not prioritized as strongly as other space needs.

Themes from Table Comments

A review of the written comments reveals several consistent themes across groups.

Outdoor Space

Outdoor programming areas, covered learning spaces, landscaped gathering areas, and garden concepts were repeatedly mentioned. Participants clearly see outdoor space as an important extension of the library.

Flexibility and Multi-Use Design

Many tables emphasized combining functions within spaces, integrating art throughout the building, and designing rooms that can adapt to multiple purposes.

Comfort and Atmosphere

Comments referenced natural light, comfortable seating, and welcoming environments that encourage people to gather, read and stay.

Revenue and Operations

Participants discussed café operations, potential usage fees for certain spaces, and overall financial sustainability.

Clarification and Planning Questions

Questions were raised about parking, transportation access, children's programming, sensory room supervision, and storage needs.

Overall Interpretation

The data reflects strong alignment around a flexible, community-centered library that supports study, work, creativity, and gathering. Participants prioritized adaptable space, strong academic and work support areas, and welcoming amenities, while also emphasizing outdoor integration and thoughtful operational planning.