



Library, and Museum

Helping the Community Preserve Its Heritage and Tell Its Story

Thanks to past support from our community, the Patrick J Dowling Library at the UICC was the first and largest all-Irish library in the United States dedicated to Ireland and Irish America. Established in 1975, the library collection contain over 3,000 titles, periodicals and houses a number of rare books and unique materials related to the Irish diaspora. Additionally, the Patrick Dowling Library has acquired an outstanding collection of primary source materials on extant and historical San Francisco based Irish-American organizations that have existed since the later half of the 19th Century.

In recent decades the library has also become a repository for hundreds of pieces of memorabilia and ephemera donated to the Center by local Irish American families. We currently cannot provide a public space to display all that we have built up in our collections and storage spaces. Over the past fifty years the library has outgrown its physical location at the UICC (ca. 900 square feet), and looks to move the burgeoning collection, artifacts, and ephemera to a larger dedicated space within the proposed new Irish Center building. The newly proposed space (14,000 square feet) for the library and museum will allow for permanent, temporary, and digital museum installations and library exhibitions on themes that will have broad interest not just to the local San Francisco Irish American community but the broader community of the American west.

The Need For Dedicated Space



The new facility for the library and museum will also help us to grow our youth and adult educational and cultural programming, and to provide opportunities for learning about Ireland's history, and culture. The new space will offer life-long learners of all ages access to primary sources of information about the contributions of the Irish diaspora to the San Francisco Bay Area's history. A proposed conference and classroom spaces will allow us to offer a multitude of programs and services including special lectures and talks, seminars, weekend immersion classes on a range of topics, including the Irish language. The library on an ongoing basis collects photographs, one-of-a-kind manuscripts, newspapers, artifacts, old maps, archives and documents belonging to local Irish American families and organizations which make up part of the historical contributions to the history of the west. The new space will ensure that all these items are archived and preserved for the next generation of Irish Americans to enjoy.