

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** Oxford Public Library

**Project Title:** Oxford Public Library and Media Center

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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Oxford Public Library and Media Center

#### Background and Introduction

In 1784 with 28 members and an equal number of books, a subscription library was established to "promise Knowledge and Literature in the Township of Oxford..." It became a free public library in 1939 but had no permanent home until December 1970 when a colonial style building was erected on Second Street through the bequest of Clyde Alexander in memory of his wife Katherine Bicking Alexander. Today, the Oxford Public Library has a patronage of over 9,000 and a collection exceeding 50,000 items. A small entrance addition was constructed in 2000 in order to facilitate accessibility. Because of the burgeoning and diverse growth of Oxford since 2005, physical expansion is necessary to ensure our Oxford Public Library's continued quality of services for generations to come.

The proposed Master Plan and Expansion Design consists of a new addition, a renovation to the existing library building, and significant site improvements. The design team of SMP Architects worked with the Library Director and Board of Trustees to set design goals that reflect the Library's Mission Statement to "provide welcoming spaces for community interaction, access to information and lifelong learning." These goals follow:

- To support the current and future programs of a 21st Century library,
- To foster community engagement, information literacy and lifelong learning for Oxford's increasingly diverse population,
- To create an attractive, serene and environmentally responsible venue in the center of Oxford Borough.

All design decisions have been driven by the three project goals identified above.

#### Enhanced Broadband and Technology Goals

The Oxford Public Library and Media Center will increase public access computers from eight to twenty-four. The Center will provide for a Business/Research technology area, an enhanced Media and Screening Area, a Regional Art and History Research Area, and not less than twelve flexible use Laptop computers for public access.

In the Borough of Oxford (population 4,300) 68% of the population is estimated to be renter occupied. The portion of population who achieve education beyond post secondary is less than 6%.

The Library Media and Technology center model will provide:

- Sustainable mentoring and instruction for Social Networking applications,
- Competitive education opportunities for the underprivileged population,
- Community Activity space with technology-centered programming,
- Interactive broadband access to video conferencing and global outreach for author discussions, talks, cultural and social interaction.

Through networking applications such as Skype, library users will connect a rural Chester County Community with the world.