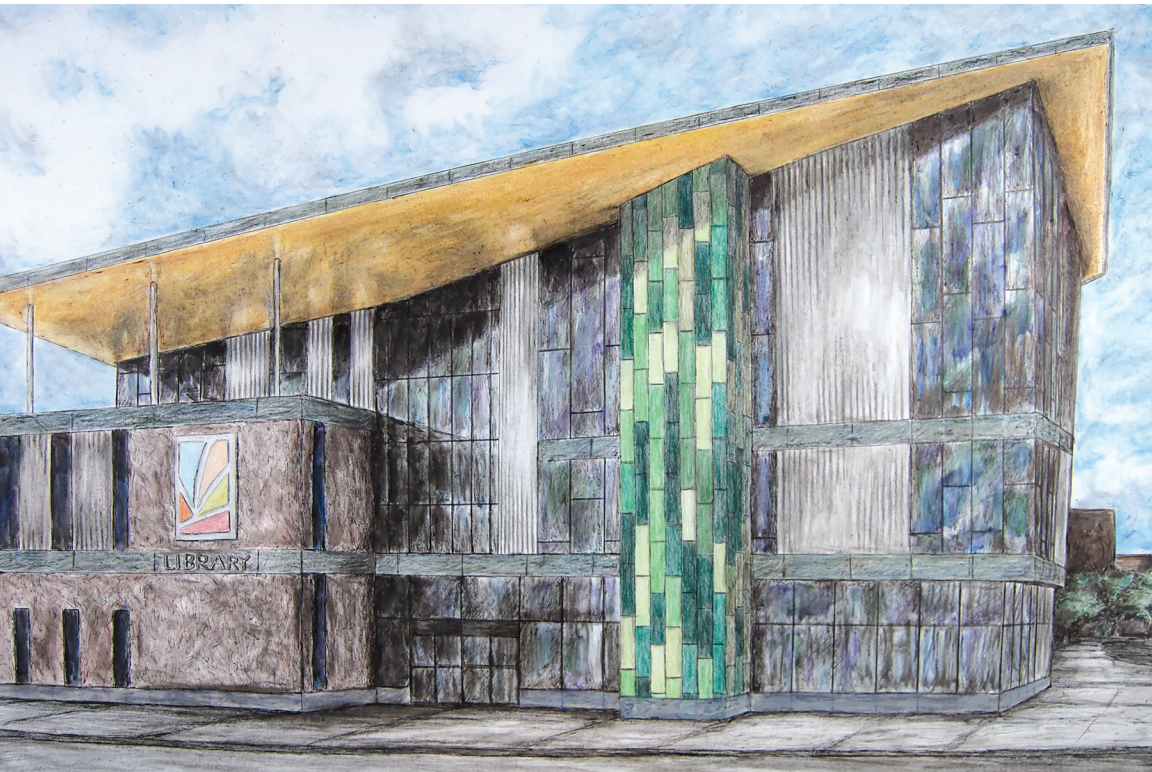

TO

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Designed & written by Jeremy Rosen





A Visual Community Narrative

THE DAYTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dayton's library system began in 1805 as several books on two shelves at the post office at First and St. Clair Streets. It was not until the 1847 establishment of the Dayton Library Association that a more promising vision of a regional library took shape, but the book collection remained limited to a meager two rented rooms on the second floor of a Main Street building. However, the success of this small community space led to calls for a permanent home, and, a few decades later, the first designated main branch was completed in Cooper Park in 1888. It was a castle-like, Gothic structure built of local limestone and trimmed in Marquette red sandstone. Growing need for larger and more up-to-date facilities led to the building's demolishing in 1960 to make way for a more modern structure

that opened two years later. Continuing need for bigger and more innovative space led to the razing of the 1962 building in favor of the current library, which opened in 2017. Built on the previous library's structural core, the new facility breathes fresh air into Dayton's public shelves with a tall, atrium entranceway around which three open stories converge. A "civic commons" concept augments the new library with performance and gallery space, a black-box theater, and an interactive children's area, all offering new possibilities for community engagement and learning. Among the most striking features are the panoramic windows that give expansive views of the city from almost every shelf and seat, encouraging of patrons the leisurely, free pursuit of knowledge.