

Stinson Memorial Public Library District

Stinson Memorial Library

409 S. Main St.
Anna, IL 62906
(618) 833 -2521



Cobden/Alto Pass Branch

100 Front St.
Cobden, IL 62920
(618) 893-4637

September 25, 2026

For Immediate Release:

Stinson Memorial Public Library receives Jeffris Family Capital Campaign Grant

Stinson Memorial Library, a small town public library and an international architectural treasure, was awarded a Capital Campaign Grant at the end of August through the Jeffris Family Foundation. The grant was awarded for \$250,000 with a two to one fundraising matching requirement over the next three years. After the fundraising period, the library will complete \$750,000 in restoration projects to the building.

When driving by Stinson Library, you'll see a rough cut limestone building rising out of the landscaping, with stained glass clerestory windows surrounding the upper rim of the building. These nature inspired and natural elements are locally sourced. The design was thoughtfully made to blend the architecture by mimicking nature from our area. The inside of the building shows historic features such as fused wooden beams, geometric designs, and Tennessee marble staircase. The building, while needing extensive restoration, has stuck true to the Prairie Style architecture in which it was designed.

The library was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 for national architectural significance. Its architect, Walter Burley Griffin, was one of the leading designers in Prairie Style architecture and went on to famously design structures internationally. Griffin has a strong architectural following based in the Midwest, Australia, and India.

Stinson Library had previously received a Heartland Fund Grant through the Jeffris Family Foundation in 2024. Their support, the library was able to complete a study of the property, building composition, and design, which gave us a comprehensive Historic Structure Report to utilize in restoration, planning, and upkeep of the building. The library was noted to be in overall fair condition, though immediate issues need to be addressed, which is what the Capital Campaign funds will be designated towards restoring.

Over the next three years, the library will raise \$500,000 towards the grant matching requirement. The total \$750,000 raised will allow for much needed restoration projects to be completed.

Proposed restoration to be completed:

Building Moisture Control

- Moisture infiltration investigation
- Repairing failed external concrete sealants
- Internal downspouts drainage improvements

Masonry and Concrete Repairs

- Repairs to exterior cracked and spalling limestone, already identified
- Repointing of mortar joints and stucco repair in North Wall
- Surface subgrade drainage system and water barrier project

Stained Glass Window Restoration

- Restoring and recementing 33 leaded stained-glass windows
- Replacing broken sidelight panels
- Replastering and painting window repair area

Interior Finishes Updates

- Replacement of all lower-level flooring and refinishing
- Plaster stabilization, repair, and refinishing
- Clean and polish terrazzo stairs
- Prepare and paint all interior wall finishes
- Reconstruct stained glass light covers

The Jeffris Family Foundation mission is to aid in the preservation and restoration of Midwest architecture and historic sites. Stinson Library was awarded the grant based on the significance of its historical legacy.

Through local support, we can match the generous contribution to the building's restoration and preservation. To donate and learn more, please visit <https://stinsonlibrary.org/library-restoration/>