



Exploration Commons at 50 East Ribbon Cutting

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Carroll County Public Library
1100 Green Valley Road
New Windsor, MD 21776

Library Announces Grand Opening of Exploration Commons at 50 East

Carroll County, MD – Carroll County Public Library (CCPL) will hold a ribbon cutting celebrating the grand opening of Exploration Commons at 50 East on Friday, December 17 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Exploration Commons at 50 East will open to the public on Saturday, December 18. Operating hours of the space will be Monday – Thursday from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The new, first of its kind space, is located with the Westminster Branch at 50 East Main Street in downtown Westminster, Maryland.

Exploration Commons at 50 East is an interactive space where people, ideas, and tools come together to create, innovate, and collaborate in a makerspace, professional teaching kitchen, and meeting spaces. The mission of this new space is to create engaging experiences in a collaborative environment for individuals to achieve professional, educational, and personal goals. The makerspace provides software and equipment for design, development, and fabrication in a collaborative space that encourages individual and community learning. Exploration Commons' teaching kitchen brings commercial kitchen equipment and access to local and national experts. Meeting room spaces offer flexible seating arrangements with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment to support a variety of uses.

Exploration Commons at 50 East will:

- Offer access and training for those looking to learn new job skills to succeed in a changing workforce.
- Connect career mentors with youth and adults seeking new workforce opportunities.
- Offer self-directed and instructor-led learning opportunities, tailored to meet each person at their individual skill level.
- Provide tools, training, and support for startups and businesses to develop innovative products and services.
- Connect individuals to formal training and certification pathways.

“For generations libraries have connected communities. We are excited to enter this next phase of library service with the addition of Exploration Commons, where we will connect our customers with engaging

experiences in a collaborative environment to achieve professional, educational, and personal goals.” –Leza Griffith, President, Carroll County Public Library Board of Trustees

“Maryland’s public libraries continue to be innovators, bringing the latest in technology to their communities. Exploration Commons is the next stage of libraries, combining access to modern equipment and the necessary software with the ability to learn from highly trained staff who are dedicated to assisting each customer with their ideas and making those ideas a reality. We are delighted to bring this next generation of libraries to Carroll County.” –Andrea Berstler, Executive Director, Carroll County Public Library

“This project was possible because of public and private funding and support. The generosity of our community has allowed CCPL to become and remain one of the best libraries in the State. With Exploration Commons at 50 East, we join national leaders and innovators.” –Sharon Hafner Yingling, Chair, Exploration Commons at 50 East Fundraising Committee.

For more information, please visit <https://explorationcommons.carr.org> or <https://library.carr.org>. A full list of upcoming programming at Exploration Commons will be available soon at <https://bit.ly/3d6hFCh>.

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