

LOCAL

Plans move forward for Ithaca's Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center

Matt Steecker Ithaca Journal

Published 5:04 p.m. ET Jun. 17, 2021

Namgyal Monastery – the Dalai Lama’s personal monastery and North American seat – is moving forward with its plans to build the Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center on its grounds in the Town of Ithaca.

There is a \$5 million public fundraising campaign that will support the first phase of development of the library and learning center. A Dalai Lama Museum is planned for the second phase.

The Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center will span 9,240 square feet and will serve as a repository for all the works of the current and previous Dalai Lamas, and a place for study and exploration for the public, including students, scholars, spiritual, civic and business leaders, and practitioners of all faiths. The learning center will be a physical space as well as a virtual destination (via its website) for people across North America and the world, offering free and low-cost programming such as classes, talks, seminars, and meditation.

The development project is being led by Trowbridge Wolf Michaels Landscape Architects and HOLT Architects.

According to a news release, the projects will be the only facilities of their kind anywhere in the world.

Entertainment: Cinemapolis to reopen for public screenings; here's what's playing

Finger Lakes: GrassRoots returning in July with concerts at the Trumansburg Fairgrounds

Health care: Cornell employee from Montour Falls to be first to receive new therapy for rare disorder

“We are seeking the support of donors for a project of great benefit to all of humanity, the building of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's Library and Learning Center,” said Tenzin

Choesang, president of Namgyal Monastery, in the press release. “Our vision – one that is supported and shared by the Dalai Lama – is to encourage genuine human interconnection and unity in an increasingly divided world.”

He continued: "The Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center will do this by creating a transformational hub of compassionate and humane education that is open to everyone, both in-person and online."

A fundraising campaign for the development of the Dalai Lama Museum, which will require \$10 million to develop, will begin when fundraising for Phase One is complete, the media release stated.

Follow Matt Steecker on Twitter @OnTheStecord. To get unlimited access to the latest news, please subscribe or activate your digital account today.