

The Sharp logo is displayed in a bold, red, sans-serif font on a white background.

Industry

Public Library

Organization

Fort Lee Public Library, New Jersey

Challenges

- Improve collaboration, staff training, and public access to technology
- Create flexible rooms for meetings, workshops, study groups, presentations and events
- Maintain reliable, secure access to critical systems

Technology Solutions

- Sharp Managed IT services and hardware
- Backup and disaster recovery solutions
- Cybersecurity solutions
- Large-format displays
- Sharp AQUOS BOARD® interactive displays
- Full AV integration
- Projector and drop-down screen
- Direct View LED display (dvLED)
- Laptops

Results

- More efficient staff trainings and interactive instruction in the Learning Lab
- Collaborative after-school study space for teens
- Community room equipped for meetings, presentations, workshops, concerts and gatherings
- Reliable IT infrastructure to help support critical services and digital resources
- Technology that supports the library experience without distracting from the people, programs and community connections at its center

Fort Lee Public Library Builds a More Connected Community Experience

Serving the Fort Lee community since 1919, Fort Lee Public Library is a vibrant hub for learning, work, cultural programming, and community services, welcoming more than 23,000 visitors each month. With multilingual collections, digital resources, technology and programs for all ages, the library uses Sharp interactive displays, AV technology and reliable IT support to make its spaces more flexible and connected for everything from study groups and staff training to community events and public announcements.

Challenges

Fort Lee Public Library has long been more than a place to borrow books. On a typical day, students and remote workers settle in with laptops, community groups gather for meetings, staff prepare rooms for programs, and patrons move through the building to learn, work, connect and participate.

As the library prepared for renovations, its team wanted to build on that activity with spaces that could adapt to different needs throughout the day. The goal was not simply to add technology. It was to make it easier for staff to host programs, for groups to collaborate, and for patrons of all ages to feel comfortable using the library in the ways that mattered most to them.

“The Learning Lab’s large AQUOS BOARD is tons of fun to use. It’s made staff trainings more efficient since we can present and record sessions directly from the board. We also appreciate that there are so many ways to connect and share content on the board depending on the presentation or activity.”

— Chris Yurgelonis, Library Director

Solutions

Fort Lee Public Library collaborated with Sharp to evaluate technology opportunities. Together, they identified ways to support collaboration, learning and day-to-day operations.

To support overall network operations, the library added Sharp Managed IT services, IT hardware, backup and disaster recovery and cybersecurity support.

Throughout the building, large-format displays in conference rooms give staff and community groups a practical way to share content, with easy connect HDMI and Wi-Fi capabilities.

The Learning Lab includes a Sharp AQUOS BOARD interactive display, allowing users to share content, write directly on the screen and work together in real time. The board supports staff training and library programs such as Canva workshops and introductory budgeting classes.

The community room was designed as a flexible gathering space with full AV integration, a projector and a drop-down screen. The space can support local government meetings, presentations, concerts, workshops and other community events.

Outside, a large Sharp dvLED display helps the library promote events and maintain a visible connection with the community beyond its walls. Laptops help support everyday work for staff, and are also loaned out to students and patrons for use during their visit.

Results

The updated environment is helping Fort Lee Public Library support the many ways people use the building each day. Students and remote workers have places to connect and



work. Staff can prepare rooms, host trainings, and support a busy program schedule. Community groups have more flexible spaces for meetings and presentations.

The impact is especially visible in the ways patrons have embraced the technology. After the library opened a conference room to teens after school, students began using the interactive display as a collaborative study tool.

The community meeting room has become one of the library’s most flexible and well-loved spaces. It can host a local government meeting one day, a concert or workshop the next, and smaller gatherings such as a silent book club in between.

A password-protected tablet mounted on the wall puts the room’s AV controls in one easy-to-use place. With a few taps, staff can lower the screen, power on the projector, choose what is displayed, switch between a participant’s phone and a connected computer and adjust the surround sound throughout the room. The ease of use makes the room more practical for the people who run the library’s busy calendar and more welcoming for the community members who use it.

Behind the scenes, managed IT services provide the cybersecurity, backup and disaster recovery and hardware support to help keep critical services available.

Outside, the dvLED display also helps the library communicate with patrons beyond its doors, giving staff a prominent way to highlight programs, announcements and upcoming events.

Fort Lee Public Library is showing how a modern library can remain grounded in its community mission while creating more ways for people to learn, participate and feel at home.