



NAMGYAL MONASTERY

INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center

The primary mission of the Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center is to preserve the teachings of His Holiness and to continue his efforts to unite this world's seven billion people in peace and harmony. In 2016, His Holiness chose the Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies in Ithaca, NY as the official site of this international treasure.

The Message of His Holiness

The Dalai Lama's message of the importance of cultivating human values of loving-kindness, compassion and forgiveness is increasingly important during these times of seemingly unrelenting difficulties and suffering. His Holiness firmly believes that developing the warm-heartedness and compassion of every human being is essential for relieving suffering and bringing about peace in our world.

How the Library and Learning Center will preserve his message and continue his work

The Library and Learning Center will be a lasting resource where people from all over the world and from all walks of life can study and practice the teachings of His Holiness with the support and guidance of monks from Namgyal Monastery. The goals of the Library and Learning Center are aligned with the often-stated commitments of His Holiness:

- To serve as the central repository for the collected works of the current and previous Dalai Lamas of Tibet, as well as the Tibetan Buddhist canon (the Tengyur and Kagyur).
- To promote positive human values such as loving-kindness and compassion by researching and teaching how to nurture these qualities in individuals and communities.
- To promote harmony and understanding among followers of various religious traditions as well as people without religious tendencies by hosting discussions on shared human values and ethics.
- To foster the science of the mind and consciousness, as elucidated in classical Indian Buddhist texts, and promote discussions between Buddhist scholars, Western scientists, philosophers, educators, and practitioners from around the world.
- To preserve the Tibetan culture of non-violence and environmental protection, as well as the Tibetan language – uniquely suited to philosophical analysis and debate – by supporting the efforts of Tibetan communities to educate their children and to share their heritage with others.

The Library and Learning Center facilities

The Library and Learning Center will have an overall size of more than 9000 sq ft. The facilities on the first floor include an exhibition area next to the lobby, twenty-four seats for private study, four computer workstations, a small reading corner along with four other areas with comfortable chairs for reading. The second-floor facilities include a Great Hall seating up to 250 persons for conferences and other presentations, a large reading room, a conference room and a quiet room for meditation.

The Library and Learning Center will hold the precious teachings of His Holiness including both printed and electronic copies of all 127 books written by him. These are his teachings on secular ethics and human values, compilations of discussions at the Mind & Life Institute, general teachings on Buddhism, instructions and guidance for those new to Buddhism and detailed commentaries on classical Buddhist texts. There will be recordings of the conferences that His Holiness has participated in as well as a complete set of at least 80,000 hours of teachings recorded since 1964 and other materials currently not available to the public.

In addition to works by His Holiness, the Library and Learning Center will hold the collected works of all the previous Dalai Lamas as well as a precious copy of the Kangyur and Tengyur (the works of Indian and Tibetan Buddhist masters), hand printed with wood blocks in Tibet. Some of these works have been translated, and these translations will also be available at the Library and Learning Center. These are the documents that His Holiness has studied and taught from for decades.

The exhibition area will display photos, awards and articles of religious significance belonging to His Holiness. These awards include replicas of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to His Holiness in 1989 and the US Congressional Gold Medal awarded in 2006. Items of religious significance include the throne that he has used for over 30 years and a complete set of his religious robes and ritual hats.

As well as a physical space, the Library and Learning Center will be a virtual destination via its website for people around the world, offering free and low-cost academic programming.

Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies

The Library and Learning Center will be built on the grounds of the Namgyal Monastery Institute of Buddhist Studies in Ithaca, NY. At the request of His Holiness in 1992, Namgyal Monastery Institute was established as the North American seat of his personal monastery in Dharamsala, India. The facilities of Namgyal Monastery Institute, also known as Dü Khor Choe Ling, include a residence for His Holiness and up to 20 monks, a meditation room seating 75 people, as well as lodging for 36 short-term or long-term students and other guests. Dü Khor Choe Ling is the site for teachings on Tibetan Buddhism by Namgyal monks, for gatherings of the local Tibetan community, and for annual Kalachakra religious ceremonies.

The original Namgyal Monastery was founded in Tibet by the second Dalai Lama in the 16th century. Since then, the monks of Namgyal Monastery have cared for and assisted the Dalai Lamas. In turn, the Namgyal monks receive direct instruction and guidance from His Holiness. Their oversight of the Library and Learning Center will ensure the preservation of his legacy by those who know him best for generations to come.

Project status

Plans for the construction of the Library and Learning Center are complete, and a general contractor selected. Construction started in early spring 2022, with the grand opening ceremony planned for July 6, 2023, the 88th birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. Plans for the Dalai Lama Museum, which will allow a more extensive display of belongings of the 14th Dalai Lama and previous Dalai Lamas, are postponed until after completion of the Library and Learning Center.

For more information about this project and a virtual tour of the architect's rendering of the building, please visit [The Dalai Lama Library and Learning Center](#).