



Books, Boxes *and* a Bunch of Brave Volunteers: *Welcome to The Layne!*

By Sarah Holibaugh

We're delighted (and a little amazed) to announce the completion of Phase 1 and the grand opening of the Rolls-Royce Foundation Research Library; a brand-new sanctuary for enthusiasts, historians, restorers, and anyone who believes elegance should always come with a good story and a comfortable chair!

The story of our new library didn't begin with blueprints or budgets... it began with people. Long time friends, retirees, car lovers, and first-time volunteers stepped forward with their hands, energy, and generosity to transform an empty space into a place of learning and belonging. They carried lumber, sorted donations, hauled literal tons of trash, labeled shelves, unpacked boxes, and laughed their way through the kind of chaos HGTV never warns you about!

What started as a simple call for help quickly snowballed into a full-blown community operation. Dozens of people rolled up their sleeves and jumped in! Each one adding their own spark to the vision. Skills varied wildly, but the mission remained the same: Let's build something that matters. Together, they turned chaos into shelves, shelves into order, and order into a library we can all be proud of!

Naturally, there were vital debates along the way, such as the true shade of "archival beige," what exactly constitutes "Art Nouveau," and whether we really needed a fireplace. (Yes. Yes, we did. It's basically law.)

Affectionately nicknamed "The Layne", a blend of our lead architect Wayne MacDonald and lead contractor Lan Hake, the new library is far more than an archive. It's a celebration of motoring heritage in all its shiny, oily, elegant glory. Decades of engineering brilliance, coachbuilding artistry, rare photographs, technical manuals, factory records, and marque lore now have a home. And once completed, The Layne will also feature a reading lounge, research tables, technical engines and chassis displays, dedicated spaces for each RROC Region and Society, and a coffee table made with a Springfield Phantom I Crankcase!

Our librarians and library volunteers, equal parts archivists, detectives, and automotive whisperers, can locate a 1930's Bentley diagram as effortlessly as they can recommend the perfect book for your next bout of automotive daydreaming. Whether you're hunting for a rare build sheet, tracking down an obscure color code, or searching for that perfect story to share at your next concours event, you've rolled into the right place. This is your invitation to come visit and explore our new library!

Every box lugged, every hour logged, every spirited suggestion ("What if we had a secret passage?" Spoiler: We have one!) is now part of the story. This library is, at its heart, a testament to what can happen when passion meets purpose, and when volunteers give their time, not for recognition, but for the joy of building something meaningful. It reminds us that even the most refined brands are shaped by human hands and generous hearts.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who cheered us on, asked for updates, or shared in the excitement. We're building more than a library — we're building a community, and Phase 1 has been a spectacular beginning.

Stay tuned... the best chapters are still to come!

Phase 2 of The Layne Library will begin in 2026



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