

Thank You for Strong Support

Drew Brookhart

Thank you to everyone in the Columbus Community who has supported the Library/Cultural Arts Center Project. The renewal of the .5% sales tax on May 10th was a big step forward for bringing a long standing dream into reality. It is powerful to know that over 65% of voters are in favor of continuing to fund community improvement projects with sales tax dollars. So what's next? During the month of June, we will be reviewing proposals submitted by construction management companies. In July, the City Council will be asked to approve a contract for construction management services and to provide staff with a notice to proceed. The construction manager and the architecture firm will work together to finalize the design. Together they will arrive at a guaranteed maximum price for the project.

The Columbus Library Foundation continues to raise money for the project. There are still Quality of Life matching dollars available for the project and the community's financial support is still incredibly important. As the design is finalized, and a guaranteed maximum price is reached, voters will be asked to once again support the project. The vote will be a request for the public to authorize bonds. The sale of those bonds will generate money that will be combined with fundraising and grant dollars. Together these funding sources will allow our community to build a long-lasting, durable, and flexible public space. A facility that will be open to everyone, striving to offer something for everyone, and standing as an example of what a hardworking, caring community is capable of building together.

A great number of individuals, families, and businesses have already contributed to the project financially. Their support helps not only the Library/Cultural Arts Center but all of the Quality of Life projects. Successfully reaching the Quality of Life matching grant goal of all four projects will result in additional funding for the YMCA/Wellness Center, East Central District Health Department, and Columbus Public Schools STEM Academy. Each of these projects is remarkable on its own. Together they are improving Columbus in the best way possible, by permanently making life better for every resident.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed financially and encourage others to join in the effort. Completing the Quality of Life effort will establish Columbus as an investment worthy community for generations to come. If you have questions about the project I invite you to attend a meeting of the Library Board to ask questions. The Library Board meets on the second Thursday of each month in the second floor conference room of the library at 4:30 pm. I am also happy to have a discussion individually. Again, thank you to everyone who has been working to make our community stronger.