

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

The Library Needs Your Input

The development of a new library building continues to be a priority for the City of Columbus. The project has started fresh, beginning with community conversations to address specific issues raised during the previous design process. We are listening to the community to gain input for elements of a new design.

Program development is now underway using data collected through preliminary community conversations and surveys. Options for various components have been drafted so additional public input can be collected to see what the citizens of Columbus would support being included in a library building project.

Roundtable discussions and surveys conducted in the spring of 2019 show high support for a new library building with space for Arts Council and/or Children's Museum components. We are now asking what size and scope you think those potential add-on features should be.

Consider the development of a new library building project that will benefit Columbus for years to come. Do you want a community room that holds 150 people, 300 people, or something in between? How about increased space in the Children's Room for an interactive exhibit or dedicated space for a Children's Museum? How much space would you support being dedicated to the Arts Council and the display of art in a new library building?

Help us design the best library building for Columbus by selecting your choices of add-on components by visiting <https://conta.cc/2zrWWF8>. Please share your thoughts and help us design the best building for our community by participating in a short survey regarding the size and scope of potential additional features.

Site evaluation is the next step. Once we know what Columbus wants in a new facility, square footage numbers will allow the architects to evaluate four location options. Downtown is an obvious location to consider, with the fire station and previous community center buildings slated for demolition by this time next year. We are open to other location suggestions, so contact us if you know of land available in an ideal location.

Alley Poyner Machietto Architecture has been hired to draft the facility's design. A construction manager at risk will actively work with Alley Poyner to deliver the right size project for Columbus at the right price.

When a design is finalized, voters will be asked to authorize bonds for the project. This will not be a new or additional tax. The already authorized half-cent sales tax will be used to repay all bonds issued for the project.

The public funds that are already being collected will be combined with sizeable grants and donations. Columbus Library Foundation and community volunteers are actively fundraising. Currently, the private sector has committed \$5 million.

Stay informed of all the great things your library is up to by visiting <https://columbusne.us/library>. You will find a link to the survey, as well as links to subscribe to our newsletter, and you can also follow us on Facebook.