

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

### Still Time to Get Involved

Over 400 people already have participated in a survey regarding what size and scope of potential additional components might be included in a new library building. The survey closes November 1 so there is still time for you to get involved and be a part of the development of a new library that will serve the community of Columbus for years to come.

The development of a new library building continues to be a priority for the City of Columbus. The project started fresh this year, beginning with community conversations to address specific issues raised during the previous design process.

Roundtable discussions and surveys conducted in the spring of 2019 showed high support for a new library building with community spaces, integrated technology, adaptable design, and for the potential of the inclusion of 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's gallery and the display of art in a new library building?

Help us design the best library building for Columbus by selecting your choices of potential additional components by visiting <http://bit.ly/CPLoptions> (English) or <http://bit.ly/CPLopciones> (Español).

Site evaluation with estimated costs is the next step in project development. Square footage numbers indicated by the survey results will allow architects with Alley Poyner Macchietto to evaluate location options. Downtown is a clear 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.

We will continue listening to the community as we work with the architects to develop and deliver the right size project for Columbus at the right price. Additional input will be sought through surveys and town hall meetings throughout the process so stay tuned for updates.

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

The public funds that are already being collected would then be combined with sizeable grants and donations previously received. 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.