

Building Our Future by Drew Brookhart

As I was playing with my first child, he is three months old, I started thinking about what I could do that would make life better for his generation. As I considered my son's future I was drawn to thinking about the past and how decisions made then are benefitting me now. I have benefitted from roads, water systems, public schools, universities, libraries, hospitals, the internet, and the postal system. I have benefitted from access to medicine, and the freedom to learn. I have benefitted from affordable energy, the banking system, and smart agriculture. All of the things that are making my life possible today would not exist without the investment of those generations that came before. We are lucky to be in a position to invest and build something great for the future right here in Columbus.

We have a new wellness center, a new health care facility, a new high school, and soon a new library and cultural arts center. These Quality of Life projects have attracted the support of people who believe in the transformational power of education, healthy living, technology, literature, and art. People that want to create a foundation for the future of their community. These people are our friends, neighbors, and family. All of the Quality of Life projects make Columbus a better place to live, work, and raise a family. By extension these projects make Columbus a stronger place to locate a business and invest. The Library/Cultural Arts Center is the only Quality of Life project that will use City sales tax funds. No property tax will be used in the construction of the new facility. The City is working to make this huge improvement possible at our existing sales tax level.

I have heard from several people that they are concerned about the price of developing a new library building in downtown Columbus. As the Columbus Public Library Director I am working hard to meet the community's needs and keep them in harmony with our community's budget. I am not alone in this effort. Elected and appointed board members are all concerned about protecting the financial viability of our community now and for the future. We all live in the same town and we all want to have safety, prosperity, and progress for our families. To that end we are working together to build a lasting legacy that will be financially sustainable over the long term. Early in the New Year we will be working with the community to develop the final design of the Library/Cultural Arts Center. We will be considering materials, size, service and function. Together we will refine our plan and arrive at an accurate project price that will help us be successful.

The new Library/Cultural Arts Center will be a place where we can learn, interact, discuss ideas, hold business meetings, hear speakers, listen to live music, watch a play, experience new technology, access the internet, and gain a deeper understanding of our world. Experiences at the Library/Cultural Arts Center will help our children understand that learning is fun and that the more they learn the more they will be able to contribute to the world their children will inherit. This is a time, a place, and an opportunity to do something great.