



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

Updating Our Library for the Future



Why Update Our Library Facilities

- Quality of facilities impacts quality of service
- Branches are inconsistent in condition, appearance and service delivery
- Service changes left large areas of Main Library either empty or underutilized
- Last new facilities were completed in 2015
- Library staff initiated the plan to assure safe, customer-friendly library services



Overview of Our Library Facilities

- Main Library downtown (North and South)
- 40 branch libraries
 - 16 in Cincinnati
 - 17 in other cities and villages
 - 7 in townships



Use of Facilities

- America's 2nd busiest public library
- Consistently ranked among nation's best
- Among Ohio's most cost-effective large libraries
- Intensity of use measured by transactions:
reference questions, program attendance, items
borrowed and computers sessions per sq. ft.
 - Average for all branch libraries = 31/sq. ft.
 - Main Library = 6.9/sq. ft.



Need to Update Our Aging Facilities

Our library owns 33 branches:

- 3 are new
- 10 are 85-112 years old, 3 never renovated
- 10 are 44-58 years old, 7 never renovated
- 10 are 15-35 years old, 9 never renovated

7 branches are rented or contributed



Main Library

Includes more than half (542,382) of our total sq. ft.

Performs multiple functions:

- Serves as a large branch library for downtown residents, workforce and students
- Home to our largest permanent collection
- Serves as a regional reference center
- Houses centralized support services

Underutilized as branch library and regional reference center on transaction per sq. ft. metric



Planning for Main Library

- 4 public departments use only 24% of North Bldg.
 - Children's Learning Center
 - Homework Center
 - MakerSpace
 - TeenSpot
- Relocate these services into the South Bldg. to improve customer service, convenience, space utilization and economic efficiency.



Planning for Main Library

- Relocate centralized support services into an Operations Center
- A proper facility for shipping, call center, technical services ...will improve functionality and reduce operating costs
- GBBN study found space remaining after support services are moved, Main can house all services with space for growth and new services.
- We are seeking the best facility for these functions.



Changes at Main Library

- To ensure efficient use of taxpayer funds, we must consider re-purposing or selling the North Bldg.
- Re-purposing could add meeting/training space, retail/café space, an auditorium or other uses.
- Opinions of North Bldg. market value vary –
 - Auditor tax value, \$15.7 million
 - Recent opinion of value, \$8.5 million
 - MAI appraisal, \$3.9 million



System Funding Needs

- We have identified more than \$18 million in maintenance/repairs needed.
- Major renovations, branch replacements and accessibility projects are estimated at \$36 million.
- Total unmet system need \$54 million – at present no funding source and therefore no schedule.



What's Included?

- Making all facilities fully accessible
 - Madisonville
 - Walnut Hills
 - Price Hill
 - Norwood – auditorium and accessibility
 - Cheviot
 - Wyoming
- Renovating Hyde Park



What's Included?

- Completing deferred maintenance
- Updating furniture, fixtures and facilities
- Acquiring or constructing branches to replace Miami Township, Mt. Healthy, Elmwood Place and Greenhills
- Renovating and re-purposing Main Library



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Main Library Needs Total 8M



- General major renovation
- Exterior painting and tuck pointing
- Sidewalk replacement
- LED lighting
- Windows
- Flooring
- Energy retrofit
- Elevator replacement
- Furniture and sign replacement



Current Funding is Inadequate

- As a result of funding reductions from the state and operational priorities, since 2000 we have rarely been able to fund annual maintenance adequately
- Currently funding renovations and major maintenance at \$2 million annually
- Best case and with no inflation, the work will be completed in 2044 – 27 years.



Benefits of Updating Our Libraries

- Provides each community with a branch that is well maintained, accessible and up to date
- Reduces the operating costs of the Main Library – without reducing services
- Increases functionality of centralized services through an Operations Center
- Better service for our customers and communities