



Contact:

Callie Kolacny

Email: ckolacny@hayslibrary.org

Phone: 785.625.9014 ext. 58

www.hayslibrary.org

For Immediate Release

Hays Public Library Gearing Up for Remodel

In August, a remodel project will begin to update several areas of the Hays Public Library. It has been 17 years since any significant changes have been made to the building. During that time, the services have adapted to meet the needs of the community, but the physical space has remained the same. This project will update the building to better serve the public.

Planning for this remodel has been underway for several years. Last summer, the library held stakeholder meetings to find out what the community wants from their library. The information gathered from those meetings has guided development of the renovation plans.

Gould-Evans Architects has been contracted to plan the renovation. They have been working with HPL staff since last fall developing plans to reorganize public spaces and reconfigure staff work areas. Gould-Evans Architects experience includes public library projects such as the Lawrence Public Library and the Indian Creek Library in Olathe as well as local projects including the Fort Hays Art and Design Building.

The bulk of the remodel will occur on the first and second floors. Project highlights on the first floor include a more welcoming entrance, an engaging space for community interaction and popular resources at the front of the building, a designated area for a business center, and private meeting rooms.

Like the first floor, the front portion of the second floor will see major changes. It will become a comfortable and inviting area for children and families. Two small rooms will be created for studying and tutoring with one dedicated for nursing when needed. A key piece of the renovation on the second floor will be the creation of a space dedicated to early childhood development.

The project is estimated to cost \$1.5 million to \$1.75 million. The library has built a reserve to cover a majority of the project expense with support also coming from private foundations.

The Hays Public Library Board of Directors last week approved a construction bid from Paul-Wertenberger Construction. Work is scheduled to begin in August. During construction, materials and staff will be relocated as needed, but every effort will be made to continue providing services to the public. For more information and current updates, visit www.hayslibrary.org.

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