

Project Overview:

Library staff and board members have been preparing for a remodel project for several years. Planning sessions with staff, board, and community members were held in the first half of 2019. Hundreds of ideas including strengths, weaknesses, needs, and threats were identified. From those, a strategic plan was developed that helped prioritize the scope of the project.

In July of 2019, Gould-Evans Architects was selected through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. After many sessions with the board and staff, a conceptual design package was presented in January of 2020. The Board of Directors approved moving forward with Gould-Evans and Schematic Design, Design Development, and ultimately construction documents were completed by the end of May. The project went out to bid the first week of June with bid closing July 2nd, 2020.

Project Priorities:

Extensive re-programming and spatial reorganization of public spaces.

- Create an engaging third-space area for the community members to interact with each other, as well as staff and popular resources
- Creation of a highly engaging early childhood space
- Creation of a business center to include adult computers, technology such as scanners and printers, as well as space for staff to assist patrons
- Development of centralized circulation area to streamline the process of holds, book returns and other functions. Space will be designed to fit a potential automated materials handling system in the future
- Changes to staff contact points to facilitate staff embeddedness throughout the library instead of at one large staff area

- Small private areas, small-medium size private meeting room to accommodate 5-15 people for interviews, tutoring, proctoring, consultations, etc.
- Private space to serve as lactation room and a quiet room for parents
- More intuitive wayfinding driven by better signage and thoughtful positioning of collections
- Preserve quiet areas for reading, research, homework, and similar functions
- Complete renovation of children's restrooms

Smarter Staff Spaces

- One breakroom instead of three
- Offices for Adult Services Manager and Youth Services Manager that aren't a part of the circulation desk

Description of Work by Level

Main Level:

The entry experience and front portion of the main level will see major changes. There will be an information desk positioned near the main entry and the existing circulation desk will be removed. This will provide an immediate contact point as well as a centralized location for returning materials as patrons enter the library.

The front portion of the main floor will be opened up into a large commons area for seating, interaction, and access of highly sought-after resources, such as best sellers and daily newspapers. There will be a lounge feel to this area, which includes a space for coffee to be served to the community. The most significant structural changes will happen in this space. The stairwell from the 1968 library construction will be removed and four large windows will be installed on the street level. This will have a drastic impact on the interior and will result in the only changes visible to the exterior.

A business center will be created on the main level to house all computers and hardware (scanners, printers, etc.)

Two small, 4-person rooms, and 1 medium, 10-person room, will be constructed. The smaller rooms will accommodate the need for spaces for interviews, notary service, test proctoring, consultations, and other needs. The large room will

serve those purposes as well as allow for smaller group meetings. Currently, these small meetings require reserving the gallery or other large rooms which are in high demand for library programs and community use.

Top Level:

The key upgrade to the second level will be the creation of a space dedicated to early childhood development. Hundreds of young children and their families frequent the library to experience early literacy programs, play with educational toys, interact, and of course, check out books. The staff in the Youth Services Department have many features in mind that will further enhance the value of the library to the youngest members of our community and their families.

The second level will also see major changes to the front area. A smaller version of the main floor commons area will be created on the second level to establish a highly engaging space for children and families. The existing bathrooms, with miniature toilets, will be modified to accommodate one family restroom.

Two small rooms will be constructed. One will serve as the dedicated nursing room. When not in use for nursing, it will serve as a quiet space, study room, tutoring room, or small meeting space. The other room will be dedicated as a full-time study/tutoring space. The library has established tutoring and reading programs that will greatly benefit from these spaces.

Basement Level:

The only change to the lower level will be to extend the existing breakroom. The staff areas on the main and top levels will be converted into offices and all staff will use the basement breakroom in the future.

With the removal of the stairwell, we will create a limited amount of additional storage for programming and office supplies.

Financial Overview

The base renovation project is estimated to cost \$1,592,431. This includes extensive improvements to the main floor and the second floor. With our initial reserves set aside for this project, the library can move forward on the base renovation project.

After assessing the project priorities and our financial position, the HPL Board of Directors approved a base budget for the project. We were able to commit \$1,500,000 from library reserve funds to the remodel when discussions initially began in the summer of 2019. We will utilize current year general funds and support from the Friends of HPL and the HPL Foundation to pay for the additional estimated costs.

FAQ

How will this project be funded?

This project will be funded by reserves already in place. Planning for the remodel began several years ago. Each year, a portion of the general fund is transferred to capital projects. This project will not deplete the reserve.

Private gifts have also been committed to supporting the project and more requests are being made.

Has the project been impacted by COVID-19?

The only negative impact seen so far is that some foundations and potential donors have shifted their giving to support COVID-19 specific projects.

Because funding for the base project is already in place, the project is proceeding on schedule.

While we can't predict the future, there has been little to no immediate impact on the library general fund.

What will happen to the commemorative bricks on the exterior that will be removed to install the windows?

The bricks will be relocated to a wall inside the main entryway.

Timeline

