



**City Council Vote  
Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers  
at Medford City Hall**

On Tuesday April 10, the City Council will be voting to approve funding for the cost of the new library building. The project cannot proceed without a yes vote. We encourage library supporters to contact the Council and urge them to go forward with this great community opportunity.

**Public Meetings about the Project**

*Tuesday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m.*  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
Room 207, City Hall

*Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.*  
**Public Information Meeting**  
Medford Public Library

**Today's Library**

Despite the current building's many limitations sixteen thousand people visit the Library every month. Our patrons work, research, read, borrow materials, and take advantage of more than 700 programs offered to adults, teens and children each year. The Library serves as a center of community activity, with the public meeting room used over 1,000 times each year for library and community programs. The Library is a critical resource for those with limited resources since library services and materials are free to all.

The configuration of the current facility does not adequately serve Medford. The smaller second floor of the building cannot be used for public services because it is not accessible, so all public and staff activities take place on the first floor. There is no separation between the adult, teen and children's spaces, creating noise issues for all users. Parking for the building is inadequate, and there is only one ADA accessible entrance/exit, which is not accessible after hours. The facility only has one public meeting space which cannot meet local demand.

To answer community demand for improved library services, the Library Trustees have embarked on an ambitious building project to transform MPL into a state-of-the-art learning center and hub for community activity. In early 2017, Mayor Stephanie Burke and the Library Trustees applied for a highly-competitive state construction grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. In July 2017, MPL was selected as one of only 9 libraries statewide to receive funding. The grant award will be \$12.2 million; a significant portion of the total project cost of \$34 million. The remaining funds will come from the City of Medford, from a capital campaign, and from other sources.



## The Building Project

Medford Public Library has retained Angela Hyatt from the Architectural firm of Schwartz-Silver in Boston to design the new facility. Many of the new features, such as multiple small-group study/meeting rooms, are informed by public input and survey results from the Library's recent strategic planning process. The proposed new building will increase the Library from 29,892 to 46,244 square feet with two full levels.



The first floor will house adult collections, public computers, a local history room, and five meeting and study rooms. Half of the second floor will house separate Teen and Children's sections with their own study and program rooms. The other half of the second floor will contain an auditorium, gallery and café space, makerspace, digital media lab, and a medium sized meeting room. These public spaces will be adaptable and available for after-hours access, with comfortable seating creating a welcoming atmosphere. The facility will be fully ADA-compliant, allowing easy access to all parts of the building for everyone, and will be energy efficient and LEED certified.

### The new building will feature:

- > 10 meeting and study rooms of varied sizes;
- > Auditorium for performances, large meetings and lectures;
- > Digital media lab for computer education;
- > Makerspace;
- > Local history room and archival storage;
- > Expanded space for public computers in all departments;
- > Gallery and exhibition space;
- > Café seating, kitchen, and vending machine area;
- > Enhanced network connections and wireless access;
- > Designated space for the Friends of the Library;
- > Improved staffing areas on both floors;
- > Self-checkout capacity;
- > After-hours access to meeting and performance spaces;
- > Expanded parking;
- > An energy efficient and sustainable design;
- > Green park area on Hillside Avenue.

These much-needed improvements will inspire patrons to greater use of the facility, and will reaffirm the Library's role as an essential part of community life. With separate, welcoming spaces for children, adults and teens and expanded technology throughout the fully ADA-compliant facility, the new Medford Public Library will be the true community information hub that is open and welcoming to all.

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Please contact the City Council and ask for their support on April 10.