



Multnomah County Library

Project descriptions for proposed bond package

June 2020

About the descriptions

The project descriptions below are based on criteria and details included in the 2017 [Framework for Future Library Spaces](#), operational analysis, industry best practices, and on extensive community input over a three-and-a-half year period. Details and estimates are based on the library's most current analysis of conditions.

Note: the scope and nature of projects listed below may change during the design process, as a result of community input, market conditions, and land acquisition costs, where applicable.

Below, "neighborhood" denotes a renovation within the same or similar size of the existing library or roughly 10,000 square feet; "destination" denotes a 20,000–30,000 square foot library; and "flagship" denotes a size similar to Central Library at about 100,000 square feet. New and renovated library buildings would be subject to a thorough design process with public input.

Possible features and offerings that may be included on a project-by-project basis:

Of note: larger buildings allow for a greater number of features and offerings.

- Expanded meeting, study, reading and collaboration space
- Flexible space for performances, programs and gatherings
- Added computers and tablets
- Gigabit-speed broadband internet
- Space for public forums and civic meetings
- Additional space for highly-popular programs like storytimes for children
- Dedicated space for teenagers
- Small business incubators
- Videoconferencing facilities
- Improved sightlines for patrons and for librarians
- Local music collection
- Library of "things," (e.g. tools, seeds, tablets, wifi hotspots, appliances)
- Makerspace with 3D printers, laser cutters, robotics equipment
- Audio production studios (music, podcasts, community-based journalism)
- Video production studios (film, gaming, documentary)
- Space for artists in residence, sewing studios, and or demonstration kitchens for cooking programs



- Additional bike and stroller parking
- Space for cultural celebrations and performances with modern audiovisual technology
- Sustainability and energy efficiency updates

Proposed projects in anticipated timeline sequence (tentative):

East County Flagship Library: Builds an estimated 95,000 sf new flagship library on a new site. This library will be comparable in size to Central Library in downtown Portland and serve a similarly large segment of the county population.

Up to date sorting, storage and distribution center: Tenant improvements or construction for approximately 45,000 sf warehouse space. An automated storage, sorting and distribution facility with ergonomically designed systems and equipment will greatly reduce the number of physical “touches” needed to process each item currently and modernize MCL processes to current standards. Such a facility would reduce overall materials handling costs and expedite delivery of patron holds.

Updated support for services provided to the community outside of libraries: Tenant improvements or construction for approximately 25,000 sf space for library staff and materials who serve people in schools, child care, shelters, transitional housing, detention facilities, senior centers and other locations outside of the library.

Midland Library (Destination): Renovates 24,000 sf existing library with a roughly 6,000 sf addition on the existing site. Renovation is anticipated to be completed to life safety standards under the governing code at the time of construction.

Albina Library (Destination): Builds an approximately 30,000 sf new library and includes library administration on the existing Isom/Knott Street site. The Knott Street building (historic home of Albina Library and formerly The Title Wave Used Bookstore) will be renovated, Isom will be removed, and the garage will be renovated or removed.

North Portland Library (Neighborhood): Renovates roughly 8,700 sf of existing library, and builds an approximately 1,500 sf addition, all on the existing site. Renovation is anticipated to be completed to life safety standards under the governing code at the time of construction.

Northwest Library (Neighborhood): Builds out a roughly 10,000 sf new library at a new building/site, more than doubling the size of the existing library, and ideally transitioning from leased to owned property.



Belmont Library (Destination): Renovates roughly 3,000 sf of existing library, removes approximately 3,000 sf remaining portion, and builds an approximately 17,000 sf addition: all on the existing site. Renovation is anticipated to be completed to life safety standards under the governing code at the time of construction.

Holgate Library (Destination): Builds an approximately 30,000 sf new library on a new site or the existing site.

St. Johns Library (Neighborhood): Renovates roughly 5,600 sf existing library with an approximately 1,500 sf addition on the existing site.

Broadband: Project would ensure gigabit-speed broadband internet at existing facilities.

Efficiency and interior improvements: Reduces wait times on patron holds and increases efficiency with materials sorting and handling equipment. Refreshes paint, collection, furniture and finishes at locations across Multnomah County.

About seismic standards:

Unless noted, all new construction projects will be built to immediate occupancy seismic standards under the governing code at the time of construction. No additional allocations for seismic performance are included for leased spaces.