



APPLETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
2411 S. Kensington Drive
Appleton, WI 54915
920-832-6170 | FAX: 920-832-6182

TO: Members of the Appleton Public Library Board of Trustees
Members of the City of Appleton Common Council
FROM: Dean Gazza, Director of Parks Recreation and Facilities Management
Colleen Rortvedt, Library Director
DATE: February 28, 2023
RE: February Library Building Project Update

City staff continue to work with architects Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM) on the library project.

Project Progress

City staff, The Boldt Company and SOM have modified the design to reduce the scope of the project. They presented their updates to the City of Appleton Common Council at the council's [January 18 meeting](#). A [PDF of SOM's presentation](#) is also available for viewing.

Major changes include reducing excavation, combining meeting spaces to serve a dual purpose, and shifting the location of meeting spaces. The new design still meets project objectives for accessibility, safety, sustainability, flexibility and connectivity, including:

- Increase in space for service to children and teens
- Additional spaces for collaboration and creation
- Increase in number of study and meetings rooms, with varying sizes and accommodations
- Lower shelving, two public elevators, and easier to navigate restrooms
- Improved sight lines for safety and a better browsing experience
- Geothermal system for heating and cooling, along with rooftop solar panels
- More natural light and overall improved lighting
- A more flexible floor plan allowing for the building to change with community needs
- Improved efficiency in staff spaces and layout

The revised design provides the library with the space to support current and future needs and is responsive to the feedback we heard from the community. In addition, it provides the flexibility to adapt to new and emerging needs for the future with a design that will serve our community for generations to come.

Timeline

The current timeline is below. Please remember the schedule may be impacted by many factors including lead time for products, supply chain, weather, etc.

- Spring 2023 – Project Goes to Bid
- Construction Starts – Upon Approval of Bids and Completion of Contracts
- Opening Day – TBD

Communication

We continue to promote our building project webpage – apl.org/building - as a place for community members to find information related to the project. The webpage includes monthly updates, project FAQs, project spotlights (such as plans and permits, capital campaign etc.), and an area to provide feedback/questions.

Capital Campaign

[Friends of Appleton Public Library](#) continue to work with the Capital Campaign Committee to cultivate private philanthropic support for the library building project and keep potential donors informed of the city's approach to deliver a cost-effective plan. Plans for the public phase of the campaign will shift to align with the city's updated timeline, bid process and groundbreaking.

Stay up to date on the library building project or sign up for email updates by visiting apl.org/building.