



St. Joseph County Public Library

### **What is the Main Library Block Project?**

The Main Library Block Project consists of the complete renovation of the current Main Library building, the construction of a new Community Learning Center and auditorium along Michigan Street, and the creation of a courtyard and greenspace.

### **What can I expect from the new Main Library and the Community Learning Center?**

- Dedicated teen area that includes self-directed creative activities and technology support
- Quiet spaces and more study rooms for reading, research, classwork, and group tasks
- Updated Local and Family History space to protect unique local resources and promote study and research
- Courtyard and greenspace for community programs and private events
- Larger, more flexible, and more accessible spaces for community meetings, business trainings, events, conferences, and collaborative work
- Expanded 250 seat auditorium to meet increasing demand for public program space and allow for a more diverse range of community and Library events
- New public computer and digital lab space
- Larger children's area with age appropriate zones and parent and caregiver resource space

### **What impact will the project have on our community?**

Projects of this magnitude with these kinds of services, virtually all of which are free to the public, touch every corner of society and every person in our community. These projects are poised to revitalize the **entire** Library Block. The **entire** downtown area is experiencing growth and development, and the new Main Library will create a space for our community to connect, work, study, and relax. It will create spaces to meet the needs of all members of our community.

### **When will the Main Library close and construction begin?**

The Main Library will be closed starting November 1. Groundbreaking will occur in early 2020, and the project is estimated to take 18-24 months to complete.

### **Why is the Main Library Block Project being done now?**

We did not undertake a project of this scale lightly. The idea for the Main Library renovation has been under discussion for well over 10 years. The public-private partnership that developed between SJCPL, the Community Foundation, and the City enabled a dream project to become a reality.

### **Why does the Main Library have to close during the renovation?**



St. Joseph County Public Library

To accomplish this ambitious project, SJCP L will move out of its current Main Library location. The renovation of the current Main Library will be extensive, and the conditions will be unsafe for staff or the public to use the building during construction. The renovation of the Main Library and the construction of the new Community Learning Center will take place simultaneously. This timeline is the most cost effective option and has the shortest duration of construction.

### **Why wasn't a temporary downtown location chosen?**

SJCP L hoped to have a presence in downtown South Bend during this project. As part of move planning, over 20 locations were considered but ruled out for a variety of reasons, including cost to rent the space, poor conditions, and suitability for the collection. Brown School is uniquely suited to accommodate 50 library staff members from multiple departments, along with storage for much of the present Main Library collection and the equipment that goes along with it. We are more than grateful to the South Bend Community School Corporation for offering us a temporary home. Being at Brown will allow us to deepen our partnership with public schools and save taxpayers many of the costs of a commercial leased space.

### **Why can't the project be phased to keep the Main Library open longer?**

The renovation of the Main Library and the construction of the new Community Learning Center will take place simultaneously. Phasing a project of this type, where new construction would take place first, followed by a renovation would mean an escalation in cost of \$1 million to \$1.5 million dollars. This approach would also prolong the construction timeline and would mean the Library would remain under construction for an estimated 3 years.

### **How can I continue to use Library services?**

The temporary Keller Park Branch will open in December 2019 in the former Brown School throughout the renovation. The Branch will be open Monday-Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm. Keller Park will be home to parts of the Main Library collection, Studio 304 equipment, and Local and Family History resources.

There are nine other Library Branch locations throughout the area, and extended hours will be available at select branches. Centre Township and German Township will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays beginning September 8. In November, Centre Township and Francis will be open in the evenings from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

### **How is the project being funded?**

The projects, anticipated to cost \$34 million to \$38 million, will be funded in part by a \$5 million library bond issue to build an annex for a new Community Learning Center and a \$15 million



St. Joseph County Public Library

library bond issue to fund renovations to the existing Main Library. The Community Foundation has pledged \$10 million in private donations and the City of South Bend is contributing \$4 million in funds.

**When was the last time the Main Library was under renovation?**

The St. Joseph County Public Library is embarking on the largest construction project it has undertaken in 60 years. The Main Library was built in 1960 and expanded in 1992.

**Is there a plan to help unsheltered and low income individuals who rely on the Main Library during the renovation?**

The decision to move out of downtown South Bend temporarily was not made without consideration for the needs of all our community. Five of our branch locations are on or close to bus routes, and Librarians will be doing outreach in the community to support those who rely on the Main Library. The Library is currently working with the City of South Bend and other organizations who serve the unsheltered population to provide information about support services.

# What is happening to Library services during Main Library closing?

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November 2019

As the Main Library prepares to close on November 1, some Library services will be impacted during the transition. Here is information about these changes. Check the Library's Facebook page or [sjcpl.org/renovation](http://sjcpl.org/renovation) for updates or more information.

| Services                                | Details   |
|---|---|
| Hold Pickup                             | From November 1-December 2, holds for Main Library will be sent to River Park for pick up. In advance, we recommend that you please change your holds pickup location to the most convenient branch location. |
| Material Return                         | The materials dropbox at Main Library will continue to be available until November 16. After this date, materials can be dropped off at any Library Branch.   |
| Phone System                            | The SJCPL Call Center will be available throughout the transition. Questions or concerns can also be emailed to <a href="mailto:library@sjcpl.org">library@sjcpl.org</a> .                                    |
| Discovery Passes                        | Discovery Pass checkouts at Main Library will cease on October 28. Passes will be available at the Keller Park when it opens on December 2.   |
| Studio 304 Equipment                    | Studio 304 equipment will no longer be available for checkout on October 22. Equipment will be available at the Keller Park Branch when it opens on December 2.   |
| Local & Family History Research Queries | LFH will not be accepting queries until December 2.   |
| Art Prints                              | Art prints can be checked out until November 1. Patrons can return prints to any branch location. The art print collection will be discontinued after Main Library is closed.                                 |
| Toy Collection                          | Toys can be checked out until November 1. Patrons can return to toys to any branch location. The toy collection will be discontinued after Main Library is closed.  |
| Homebound                               | Service will continue at Main until staff relocate to Keller Park.  |