

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What happens if the referendum question on the November 3, 2020 election does not pass?

A: The Board of Trustees may vote to place the referendum question on the ballot for the April 6, 2021 consolidated election.

Q: Where is this library going to be located? | Will the library be moving?

A: The library is not moving as part of this renovation.

Q: Where will the new spaces be located? | How will these changes be accommodated in the existing library?

A: The existing library will be expanded by 9,000 square feet.

Q: When was the library built?

A: The existing building was constructed in 1970 and expanded in 2002.

Q: How much will the renovation and expansion project cost?

A: The estimated cost of this project is approximately \$9,600,000.

Q: How will the Library pay for the renovation and expansion?

A: To pay for this work the Library is proposing to issue bonds in the amount of \$9,600,000.

Q: How much of the total project cost relates to existing capital needs?

A: Of the \$9,600,000, approximately \$1,600,000 is directed toward replacing mechanical systems that are at the end of their service lives and will have to be replaced even if the referendum is not successful.

Q: What community input did the Library use to determine the need for this project? | How did the Library determine that there was interest in the community for this type of project?

A: In response to the Summer 2017 Community Survey, Board and staff have been working with StudioGC Architecture to develop a sustainable plan to take the Library into the future.

Q: What is the referendum question that will appear on the ballot?

A: "Shall the bonds of the Antioch Public Library District, Lake County, Illinois, in the amount of \$9,600,000 be issued for the purpose of repairing, improving, remodeling and expanding the existing Antioch Public Library building and furnishing necessary equipment and acquiring electronic data storage and retrieval facilities in connection therewith?"

Q: What is a bond referendum?

A: A bond referendum is a voting process that gives voters the power to decide if a public entity should be authorized to raise funds through the sale of general obligation bonds. A general obligation bond is a long-term borrowing tool (in this case, 20 years) in which a public body pledges its full faith and credit (taxing power) to repay the debt over a specified term. Generally, general obligation bonds are the least costly financing option available to the community for potential bond projects being considered. Once the bonds are paid off, the tax associated with the bonds will go away.

Q: What changes are included in the building project?

A: The building project includes: expanded space for children, a dedicated teen room, more study rooms, a work area supporting small businesses and home-based workers, a studio space for hands-on projects, an enlarged and improved public meeting room, as well as a fireplace reading room and coffee area.

Q: What is the cost of the project for taxpayers?

A: The total project cost is \$9,600,000, which would result in approximately an additional \$50 per year in property taxes for a home with a market value of \$200,000 (or \$0.14 a day).

Q: Has the Library previously gone to referendum for building costs?

A: The Library will be turning 100 years old in 2021, and this will be the first time a referendum question has been submitted to the Library District for funds dedicated solely to a building project. The Library did go to Referendum in 1999 to request an increase in operating costs, which was the first time in the Library's history that the levy rate was increased. NOTE: After reading through old Library Board minutes, we discovered that the Library did request funds solely dedicated to a building project in 1966, which is when it was a Township Library.

Q: Will Library services be impacted by the construction project?

A: The design and construction would be completed within 16-24 months after voter approval, based on current estimates and construction timelines. The design of the additions will enable them to be largely constructed while the library is in operation. Phasing of the interior work will allow the library to remain in operation during much of the construction though some closure will be required during certain construction operations.

Q: What percentage of my property tax bill goes towards the Antioch Public Library District?

A: Approximately 2.7% of your tax bill goes towards the Antioch Public Library District.

Q: Who designed the proposed changes to the Library? | Who will manage the renovation and expansion building project?

A: The Board of Trustees has contracted with the architecture firm, StudioGC to design the proposed changes to the Library. If the referendum passes StudioGC will also oversee the building project.

Q: What changes can we expect at the Library as part of this project?

A:

- Bigger and more functional spaces for children and teens to explore and engage
- Designed to be a more welcoming experience with comfortable spaces, a fireplace and coffee bar for reading and gathering
- A dedicated studio space for crafting, technology and hands-on learning
- An inspiring environment for collaborative work, small group meetings and expanded small business support

Q: Where can I find more information about this project?

A: The Library has a webpage dedicated to this building project. Visit APLD.info and view the "Reimagine Your Library" page, listed under the "About" tab. You can also attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees or the Renovation and Expansion Committee. Board and Committee meeting dates are posted at the Library.

Q: Why include a coffee bar and fireplace in the redesigned reading area

A: These amenities were included in the design based on feedback provided by patrons. Residents have requested these facilities be considered in a renovation project. The Board has sought to address this request by asking the Library's contracted architecture firm, StudioGC Architecture, to design a space that is consistent with local library trends and patron preferences. The space and amenities are designed to support existing services. Many if not most contemporary libraries have fireplaces. This is not a new idea, fireplaces were often the focal point of Carnegie-era libraries as well. The "Coffee Bar" is essentially a coffee dispenser in the reading room. Coffee, tea, and other beverages are currently provided to attendees of programs and events. The reading room is part of the library anyway so there is very little cost associated with adding coffee. This space will allow for a centralized area for this type of service to continue to be offered to patrons and will expand its availability. Aspects of the design, such as the fireplace, are designed to enhance the Library experience for patrons seeking diversified reading and meeting areas. The costs of these amenities have been included in the overall budget. The

operating costs of the proposed renovated and expanded Library are not expected to exceed current operating costs.

Q: Why does the design include so much 'open' space?

A: The Library is constantly seeking to meet the diverse and increasing requests for programming and services made by our community. To best meet these needs the renovated and expanded Library has been designed to offer patrons and staff the maximum amount of flexibility when using space and holding events. The design includes increased study areas, small meeting rooms, large meeting rooms, and flexible spaces that can be transitioned to accommodate needs, programming and events. Lower level computer and staff offices become the Studio space, the Eide room is made larger and the Children's program room was expanded out to accommodate more children in programs. Other areas are open and will be provided with movable shelving and furniture. In the event of large programs like concerts, lectures, dance performances, or receptions these spaces can be opened to provide the wider event space required. In the future these same areas could be sectioned into rooms with walls, without the need to plan for additional capital expenditures.

Q: How has this project been prioritized above other needs in the Village of Antioch?

A: The Antioch Public Library District is an independent unit of government, responsible for providing services to residents of the district and maintaining the Library – separate from the Village of Antioch. The project subject to the upcoming referendum is professionally designed to enhance the Library as a place of engagement and a cultural center for our community.

Q: Why is a 'small business support' space included in the design plans?

A: Both residents and business owners within the Antioch Public Library District are taxpayers who support the Library. Patrons may be affiliated with the Library both as residents and business owners. Both groups are eligible to access services provided by the Library, including hundreds of business-related courses and materials that may be used to help them promote and grow their business. The 'small business support' space was designed to meet the identified needs of this dynamic constituency. This space also serves the increasing number of people that are working from home.

Q: How was the overall cost identified?

A: The Library has employed StudioGC Architecture to design the proposed renovation and expansion plans. They have designed public libraries for over thirty years and are proficient in completing projects under regulated procurement and construction environment that public agencies within the state of Illinois must operate. The project costs have been reviewed by an independent cost estimator and securities firm.