

PRESS RELEASE

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Library unveils signature transition element to be incorporated into the design of new Dublin Branch

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) has unveiled the concept for the signature transition element that will be incorporated into the design of the [new Dublin Branch](#) at 75 N. High St.

In May 2017, Dublin City Council appointed a committee charged with selecting a signature transition element for the new branch. This architectural focal point would articulate the transition from historic Dublin to its future. Committee members are:

- Vicki Newell, Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission
- David Rinaldi, Chair of the Architectural Review Board
- Tom Holton, Dublin Historical Society President
- Rick Gerber, Historic District Business Association Chair
- David Guion, Dublin Arts Council Executive Director
- Architects from NBBJ (hired to design the new Dublin Branch)
- Alison Circle, CML Chief Customer Experience Officer
- Patrick Losinski, CML Chief Executive Officer

A public workshop was held at the current Dublin Branch on June 13 to give community members the opportunity to provide their input about the signature transition element. Based on feedback from this workshop and the input gathered from eight committee meetings, NBBJ developed three ideas. These concepts derive from the historic Dublin school that occupied the Dublin Branch site in the 1800s.

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The conceptual rendering above (which does not depict refinements or landscaping) shows the committee’s recommendation: a recreated corner of the historic school (see inset) in the proposed south plaza of the new Dublin Branch.

The other two options considered by the committee:

1. would have lent that same space to a work of public art to be determined
2. would have highlighted the outline of the former school with subtle changes in pavement

Committee members will present their recommendation to Dublin City Council this evening. CML expects to present the final site plan to Dublin City Council at its Sept. 11 meeting.

At 41,000 square feet, the new 3-level branch will be approximately double the size of the current branch, which will be demolished prior to construction. Additionally, an adjacent 4-level parking garage will be constructed by the City of Dublin with 200 spaces reserved for branch customers. CML plans to begin construction of the new Dublin Branch later this year and open in 2019. Turner is the construction manager at risk and NBBJ is the architect.

“Twenty-first century libraries reflect the communities they serve,” said CML CEO Patrick Losinski. “This architectural element – and the new library it highlights – will serve as a visual embodiment of Dublin’s history and its motto: ‘Where Yesterday Meets Tomorrow’.”

CML is working to identify a temporary space for the Dublin Branch to relocate during construction.

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The Dublin Branch project is part of CML's 10-project aspirational building program:

- The new **Driving Park Branch** opened July 12, 2014
- The new **Whitehall Branch** opened April 11, 2015
- The new **Parsons Branch** opened June 4, 2016
- The transformed **Main Library** opened June 25, 2016
- The new **Northern Lights Branch** opened Sept. 24, 2016
- The new **Shepard Branch** opened Oct. 13, 2016
- The new **Northside Branch** opened June 22, 2017
- Planning is underway for a new **Hilliard Branch**
- Planning is underway for a new **Martin Luther King Branch**

CML hopes to have all 10 projects completed by 2020.

CML understands that great libraries create stronger communities, and each branch is an essential hub that reflects the unique needs of the neighborhood it serves. Some of CML's 23 locations are 40 to 50 years old and inadequate to meet the demands of a growing 21st century community. Demands and expectations will continue to grow, along with the population of Franklin County.

CML's aspirational building program is the result of a community-wide process that will continue to serve the needs of Franklin County well into the future. The plan is a multi-phased comprehensive blueprint that reinvents and revitalizes the entire 600,000 square feet maintained by the library.

In addition to being a vital community asset, Columbus Metropolitan Library strives to minimize its environmental footprint. With each new building or renovation project, CML plans to use sustainable building materials, incorporate glass for natural light to reduce energy costs and introduce other design and building elements friendly to the natural environment.

Phase one of CML's aspirational building program is transforming and significantly upgrading seven urban branches (Driving Park, Whitehall, Parsons, Martin Luther King, Northside, Northern Lights, Shepard) and two suburban branches (Hilliard and Dublin). In addition, changes to Main Library represent a major investment in downtown Columbus and the Discovery District.

Visit columbuslibrary.org for more information and to track progress of CML's ambitious building program.

Visit columbuslibrary.org/press to view other Columbus Metropolitan Library press releases.

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Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club and Ready for Kindergarten. The library's Strategic Plan supports the vision of "a thriving community where wisdom prevails," which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college readiness and employment resources.

CML was named a 2011 National Medal Winner by the Institute for Museum and Library Services for work in community service, the highest honor for libraries and museums. Columbus Metropolitan Library has been rated a 5-Star Library by Library Journal for seven of the eight years the magazine has published its industry ratings.

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