Library Board approves architect for major building project

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library’s (CML) Board of Trustees today unanimously approved the selection of NBBJ as the architect for the design of the new Northside Branch. The building currently housing the Northside Branch will be demolished, and a new building will be constructed in its place. Work is expected to begin in 2015 and be completed in 2016. CML intends to identify a temporary location to serve Northside Branch customers during construction.

The current Northside Branch, located at 1423 N. High St., was constructed in 1990 and has 7,728 square feet of space. The new branch is expected to be more than triple in size, with approximately 27,000 square feet once completed.

NBBJ was previously hired to design CML’s new Driving Park Branch, which opened to the public on July 12, and its new Dublin Branch, expected to open in 2016.

NBBJ creates innovative places and experiences for organizations worldwide, and designs communities, buildings and environments that enhance people’s lives. Founded in 1943, NBBJ is an industry leader in healthcare and corporate facilities and has a strong presence in the commercial, civic, science, education and sports markets. It has won numerous awards and has been recognized as one of the “greenest” architecture firms in the U.S. NBBJ has more than 700 employees in 10 offices worldwide, including Beijing, Boston, Columbus, London, Los Angeles, New York, Pune, San Francisco, Seattle and Shanghai. Clients include Amazon, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Boeing, Cambridge University, Cleveland Clinic, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Google, Microsoft, Reebok, Salk Institute, Samsung, Stanford University, Starbucks and the United States General Services Administration. Visit nbbj.com for more information.

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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 22 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.

Columbus Metropolitan Library has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio for 141 years. With its Main Library and 21 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like Homework Help Centers, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Club and the Ready to Read Corps. 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. In 2013, Columbus Metropolitan Library became the only large public library in the country to be rated a 5-Star Library for all six years of Library Journal’s industry standards rating program.

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