Library tops out new Karl Road Branch

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) earlier today topped out its new Karl Road Branch with the final steel beam. The lived-streamed event is available to view. This construction milestone marks the topping out of the first project in the second phase of CML’s 4-project aspirational building program.

CML CEO Patrick Losinski was joined by project architect, Jonathan Moody from Moody Nolan, and Turner Construction’s Vice President and General Manager, Brian Mooney.

The current Karl Road Branch, which was built in 1988, has 20,000 square feet. When completed, the new branch is expected to be approximately 40,000 square feet. The new two-story Karl Road Branch is being built on the same parcel of land in front of the current branch.

The Karl Road Branch project represents the kickoff of Phase II, which will renovate or rebuild an additional four locations:

- The new Karl Road Branch is expected to open in 2021
- Planning is underway for a Hilltop Branch renovation and expansion
- Planning is underway for a new Gahanna Branch
- Planning is underway for a new Reynoldsburg Branch

CML hopes to have all four Phase II projects completed by 2024.

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 30 to 40 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.

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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.

Visit [columbuslibrary.org](http://columbuslibrary.org) for more information and to track progress of CML’s ambitious building program.

Visit [columbuslibrary.org/press](http://columbuslibrary.org/press) to view other Columbus Metropolitan Library press releases.
Hi-res images are available upon request.

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 Centers, 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 and career 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. CML was also named 2010 Library of the Year by Library Journal.

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