Library to break ground on new Shepard Branch
Ceremony to take place Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 2 p.m.

COLUMBUS—Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) is breaking ground on its new Shepard Branch (see rendering below). To mark the occasion, CML will hold a short, highly visual program that will include library leaders and city and community officials, as well as representatives from project architect Moody•Nolan, construction manager at risk Turner Construction Company and owner’s representative Pizzuti Companies. The brief ceremony will begin promptly at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 850 N. Nelson Rd. (at the intersection of East Fifth Avenue). Parking is available on site and at the current Shepard Branch at 790 N. Nelson Rd. The event is free and open to all.

The current Shepard Branch is one of the smallest locations in CML’s 22-library system with approximately 6,000 square feet of space. The new branch, which will be located one block to the north, will be roughly 10,000 square feet with 50 parking spaces – up from 28 at the current branch.

In July 2013, CML closed on the purchase of several properties, totaling 3.2 acres, at the northeast corner of East Fifth Avenue and North Nelson Road (see map below) for the site of the new Shepard Branch. The dedication of the new branch is expected to take place in 2016.

The new Shepard Branch project is part of CML’s 10-project aspirational building program. The new Driving Park Branch opened on July 12, 2014, renovations formally began on Main Library earlier this year and the new Whitehall Branch opened to the public on April 11. Additionally, CML broke ground on its Parsons and Northern Lights projects this June.

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.

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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 142 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 2014, Columbus Metropolitan Library became the only large public library in the country to be rated a 5-Star Library for all seven years of Library Journal’s industry standards rating program.

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