



Media Contact:

Laura McPhail

Director of Public Relations

256-979-6266

lmcp@mail.hmcpl.org

New North Huntsville Public Library Fact Sheet

- What will be the location of the new North Huntsville Public Library?
The new library will be built on the old Berachah Center campus.

- How big will the new library be?
The new library will be 16,000 square feet. This is 10 times larger than the current library.

- What kinds of amenities will this library have that makes this building different and better than the current library?
The new North Huntsville Library will feature:
 - An open/bookstore-style floor plan
 - Meeting spaces that will be accessible after hours
 - Private study rooms with the latest technology available in each space
 - Computer/workforce development lab
 - Studio lab
 - Plenty of natural light
 - Family bathroom facilities
 - Separate children's storytime room
 - Interactive early literacy center
 - Separate teen space
 - Cafe
 - Outdoor seating
 - State-of-the-art technology

- What about the current building makes a new library necessary?
The current library, located at 3011-C Sparkman Drive, opened in 1975 in a double-wide trailer, where it has served North Huntsville for the last 40 years. The facility does not meet the needs of the community, and with the number of patrons we serve in North Huntsville, we outgrew the current building long ago.

- Why did you choose this location for the new building?
The location was chosen by the City of Huntsville as part of the North Huntsville community center. With a greenway, sports fields, outdoor artwork, an amphitheater, and other recreational amenities co-located, it was a natural fit for the library to also go on that site. This site is also a busy, active area between schools with plenty of traffic.



- What will happen to the old building?
The current building serving as Bessie K. Russell Branch Library is a municipal building and the City of Huntsville will determine how to repurpose the building.
- What will happen to the Police and Fire Training academy?
The Police and Fire Training academy that currently uses the Berachah building will vacate prior to construction.
- What will happen to the gym?
We do not have information about the gym.
- Will you be expanding your staff when you move into the new building?
Staffing will accommodate the needs of the community.
- Have you chosen an architect?
The city has selected Fuqua and Associates for the design phase.
- What is the timeline for this project?
Fundraising has begun and we hope to break ground in Spring 2018.
- Have you sought any input from the public regarding a new library?
Yes. We had two town hall forums (in February 2016 and July 2016) conducted with Big Picture Huntsville to discuss the project and the amenities the public would like to have in their new library. These meetings have been publicly announced and well-attended.
- How much will this library cost?
The total cost of the project is estimated at \$4.5 million. We have already received several large donations to help cover the \$2.5 million community fundraising goal. We encourage anyone who would like to contribute to contact library Director of the Department of Institutional Advancement at smarkham@hmcpl.org to discuss giving opportunities.
- Where can I find additional information and updates?
We encourage you to visit the Huntsville Library Foundation website (HuntsvilleLibraryFoundation.org/north) for news and updates regarding this project. If you have any additional questions regarding the new North Huntsville Library, including fundraising, design, layout, amenities, necessity, etc., please contact Susan Markham at smarkham@hmcpl.org.

Additional information can be found at BigPictureHuntsville.com. "Like" our Facebook page (facebook.com/newnorthhuntsvillelibrary) for updates.