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New South Huntsville Public Library Fact Sheet

- What will be the location of the new South Huntsville Public Library?
The new library will be built on the old Grissom High School campus. Along with other organizations, the new library will be the cornerstone of the Sandra Moon Community Complex.
- What is the timeline for this project?
Demolition of the northern end of the old high school was completed in January 2019. The project will go out for bid this Spring. Construction is estimated to continue for 18+ months, and we are projecting a move-in date around Fall/Winter 2020-21.
- How big will the new library be?
The new library will be 39,000 square feet.
- What kinds of amenities will this library have that makes this building different and better than the current library?
The new South Huntsville Library will feature:
 - An open/bookstore-style floor plan
 - Enlarged meeting spaces that will be accessible after hours
 - Private study rooms with the latest technology available in each space
 - Art gallery
 - An indoor fireplace for cozy reading
 - Studio lab
 - Plenty of natural light
 - Family bathroom facilities
 - Separate children's storytime room
 - Interactive early literacy center
 - Tween gaming 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 1409 Weatherly Plaza SE, opened in 1997 in what used to be an Ace Hardware store. The building was not designed to be a library, thus imposing limitations on available



space in an already small storefront. With the number of patrons we serve in South 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 Sandra Moon Community Complex. With a theater, sports fields, and other recreational amenities co-located, it was a natural fit for the library to also go on that site. It will be convenient for the community, and is also close to shopping and restaurant options.
- What will happen to the old building?
The current building serving as Bailey Cove Branch Library is a municipal building and the City of Huntsville will determine how to repurpose the building.
- What will happen to the old Grissom building?
The portion of the building where the library will go will be demolished, and the library portion will be new construction. The City of Huntsville has proposed plans for the rest of the building, and for accurate information on that, we suggest you visit HuntsvilleAL.com or BigPictureHuntsville.com.
- Will you be expanding your staff when you move into the new building?
Staffing will accommodate the needs of the community.
- Who is the architect?
The city has selected Fuqua and Associates for the design phase.
- How long has the prospect of a new South Huntsville Library been in serious consideration?
We have had discussions and planning sessions for this library since 2013, when County Commissioner Phil Riddick championed a new library with a \$2 million pledge.
- Have you sought any input from the public regarding a new library?
Yes. Since 2013, we have had forums co-hosted by Big Picture Huntsville and Valley Hill Country Club, as well as information offered at several PTSA meetings, all 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 \$11 million.
- Where can I find additional information and updates?
Up to date information can be found on our website at huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org/south

*For information on how you can donate to the South Huntsville Capital Campaign, please email Caroline Kennedy, Capital Campaign Director, at ckennedy@hmcpl.org