



Media Contact:

Laura McPhail

Director of Public Relations

256-979-6266

lmcphail@hmcpl.org

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.
- How big will the new library be?
We are still in the design phase, but we project the new library will be 35,000 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 South Huntsville community center. 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.
- 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. Demolition will take place in Fall 2017, and we project a groundbreaking ceremony in Spring 2018. Construction is estimated to continue for 18+ months, and we are projecting a move-in date around Fall 2019.
- 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 \$8.4 million. While in the quiet fundraising phase, we have already received several large donations to help cover the \$4.4 million community fundraising goal. We are now transitioning to the active fundraising phase and encourage anyone who would like to contribute to contact library Director of Institutional Advancement Susan Markham 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/capitalcampaigns) for news and updates regarding this project. If you have any additional questions regarding the new South Huntsville Library, including fundraising, design, layout, amenities, necessity, etc., please contact Susan Markham at smarkham@hmcpl.org. Questions regarding the proposal process, bid process, construction and architect selection, etc. should be directed to city officials.

Additional information can be found at BigPictureHuntsville.com. “Like” our Facebook page (facebook.com/newsouthhuntsvillelibrary) for updates.