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## City, HMCPL officials to announce new library in North Huntsville

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (May 12, 2016) – A new state-of-the-art library is in the works for the community now served by the small Bessie K. Russell Branch Library (BKR) at 3011-C Sparkman Drive. Find out more when officials from the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library and the City of Huntsville announce the North Huntsville Library capital campaign on Tuesday, May 17, at 2 p.m. at the future site of the new library, right next door at the former Berachah Academy.

“Libraries have become our community learning centers, and it is incredibly important to have this kind of programming and amenity in all parts of our city,” said Mayor Tommy Battle. “We are very excited to see Berachah campus repurposed into a beautiful new library for our North Huntsville citizens to enjoy.”

The people who use BKR come from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Housed in a double-wide mobile home, BKR has served the community well since 1975, but it needs to grow to meet increasing demands. Following extensive renovations to the Berachah building, the much larger North Huntsville Library will be a vital part of a new town center for North Huntsville.

As part of the planning process, the public was invited to a BIG Picture forum on Feb. 9 to help shape a vision for the library and the rest of the campus. Here are some of the most popular options discussed in that community meeting:

- Additional public computers and a computer training lab
- Expanded children’s programming
- Artwork inside and outside the library
- Study rooms for children and adults
- Community meeting rooms
- Garden
- Public performance area
- Spaces for STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) programming

For the new North Huntsville Library to become a reality, the whole community must get involved. Leading the library's fundraising push is a committee chaired by Kim Lewis.

"This committee's clear and focused vision can only be realized with partnerships from public and private business sectors as well as the community," Lewis said. "Our collective commitment to this fundraising effort will benefit children and adults alike, now and in the future. We need you to join us."

The City of Huntsville has committed \$2 million toward this effort as it did for the New Bailey Cove Library in South Huntsville. With the city's \$2 million allocation and support from early donors, the North Huntsville Library is almost half way to reaching its goal of \$5 million. Many thanks to all our early donors, including our first major donor, the Cecil B. Ashburn Foundation.

For more information on HMCPL's capital campaigns, please contact HMCPL Marketing Director Michelda Johnson at 256-532-2358 or [mjohnson@hmcpl.org](mailto:mjohnson@hmcpl.org), or visit [huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org/CapitalCampaigns](http://huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org/CapitalCampaigns).

### About the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

This is the public's library. The Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit 12-branch system that serves all of Madison County. For nearly 200 years, the library has been dedicated to enriching the educational, recreational and cultural lives of our communities through materials, information and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning. In addition to the collection of more than 500,000 items, HMCPL provides outreach services, a BookMobile and BookBike, online services, training, an extensive digital collection, public-use computers, free Wi-Fi, meeting spaces and more. For more information about HMCPL and its services, please visit [hmcpl.org](http://hmcpl.org).

### About the Huntsville Library Foundation

Founded in 1986, the Huntsville Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to advocate for the library and to acquire resources that enhance the library's value to the community. This team of dedicated individuals works year-round to raise funds for the library's 12 branches to better serve Madison County. The Foundation believes that a great library helps make a great community. For more information about the Foundation, please visit [huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org](http://huntsvillelibraryfoundation.org).

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