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MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW BUILDING

Fundraising well underway for the \$10.2 million project

MADISON, Ala. (October 25, 2016) – The earth will start moving on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. when officials break ground for a brand new, state-of-the-art library that is coming to the city of Madison. The library's new building will be located at 142 Plaza Boulevard, just two doors east of the Madison Public Library's current location. A reception will immediately follow at Madison Public Library, 130 Plaza Blvd., where plans and drawings for the new library will be on display.

Despite the fast-growing population of Madison that has forced the library to move twice already, the institution has continued to serve Madison for nearly 40 years. The Madison Public Library (MPL), currently located at 130 Plaza Boulevard in a building that was constructed in 1997, was designed to serve a population of about 25,000. With a current population that is double that, the city of Madison requires a bigger, more innovative space to adequately serve this growing area.

"Anyone who has visited our library in the past couple of years know that we are bursting at the seams," said Madison Public Library Manager Sarah Sledge. "We are so fortunate to have a community that not only supports the idea of a great library for Madison, but also heavily uses it. The challenge we are faced with every day is how to adequately and proactively provide services and quality programs for so many people with limited space to accommodate the wonderful, free things we offer."

MPL is second only to the Downtown Huntsville Library in terms of circulation, but at only 15,000 square feet, still operates in a building that is a fraction of Downtown's size. MPL currently provides 600,000 items per year in circulation, serves 17,400 households, issues over 4,100 library cards each year, and exists in close proximity to 13 public schools.

The new building will be 25,000 square feet, and will include the following amenities and features:

- An open, bookstore-style floor plan for easy browsing
- Larger meeting spaces that will be accessible after hours
- Private study rooms as well as a small board room, with the latest technology in each
- Art gallery featuring rotating collections
- Expanded Friends of the Library Bookstore
- Studio Lab
- An indoor fireplace for cozy reading
- Family bathroom facilities
- Separate children's storytime room
- Interactive early literacy center
- Separate teen space
- A large outdoor screen for movie screenings, presentations, and more
- A natural outdoor amphitheater
- New state-of-the-art technology for printing, researching, and more

Each of these upgrades and improvements will allow for a more engaging, innovative, and creative learning environment at MPL. The City of Madison has committed to an \$8.5 million bond toward this project, but the total estimated cost is \$10.2 million, leaving a \$1.7 million gap. After a \$833,333 donation from Redstone Federal Credit Union, the project is left with a \$1 million community fundraising goal. Anyone who would like to contribute to this project may contact HMCPL Director of Institutional Advancement Susan Markham at smarkham@hmcpl.org.

"We are thrilled to have an opportunity to increase our presence in the Madison community," said Markham. "The library is an essential cornerstone for any city, and provides a common denominator in equal opportunities for all walks of life. Young, old, rich, poor...we literally provide the same products and services for free to everyone who walks through our doors. By supporting this new library, you are supporting your own community's future success."

For information, news, and updates regarding this project, visit HuntsvilleLibraryFoundation.org/madison or follow at facebook.com/newmadisonlibrary. If you have any additional questions regarding the new Madison Public Library, including fundraising, design, layout, amenities, necessity, etc., contact Susan Markham at smarkham@hmcpl.org.

About Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

This is the public's library. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit 12-branch system that serves all of Madison County, Ala. For nearly 200 years, the library has been dedicated to enriching the educational, recreational and cultural lives of communities in Madison County through materials, information and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning. In addition to the collection of over 500,000 items, HMCPL also provides outreach services, a BookMobile and BookBike, online services, training, an extensive digital collection, public-use computers, free Wi-fi, meeting spaces and much more. For more information about HMCPL and its services, please visit 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 value to the community. This team of dedicated individuals works year-round to raise funds for the 12 branches of HMCPL 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.

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