

Central Library Renovation



- Central Library will close to the public on December 24, 2020 as it undergoes a two-year renovation to meet the growing needs of our customers.
- The renovation will move the library forward as an important part of an urban community that inspires literacy, creativity and lifelong learning.
- Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2021. The library will reopen in early 2023.
- All five floors of public and staff space will be part of the transformation.
- This is the first major renovation of Central Library to take place since its opening in 1991.

Key Dates:

- December 24, 2020 – Central Library closes
- Early 2021 – Construction begins
- Early 2023 – Central Library reopens

Renovation Highlights:

- Approximately 28,000 sq. ft. of public space will be added within the existing building.
- Approximately 6,000 sq. ft. of additional secondary space is planned for the fourth floor overlooking Celebration Square.
- Customers will be able to browse and borrow thousands of new books, DVDs, video games and much more.

Fact Sheet

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- All five floors of public and staff space, including the Glass Pavilion, Breezeway and the Noel Ryan Auditorium are part of the renovation.
- The new facility will meet AODA requirements to provide barrier-free access.
- Increased self-serve options and access to improved technology will be featured.
- Additional Makerspace and Maker elements will include sound and video studios, maker studio, digitization, digital creation and virtual reality capabilities.
- A new interactive and creative children's space on the first floor will enable enhanced programming and gathering.
- Students will benefit from more single-use quiet spaces and multi-use rooms that will support a wide range of programming, meeting and study needs.
- An enhanced Open Window Hub will support homelessness outreach and prevention.
- Customers will have access to a new reflection room for prayer, meditation or quiet contemplation.
- The Glass Pavilion will become a flexible space equipped with computer and tablet technologies to accommodate after-hours research and study.
- An upgraded Breezeway will enable customers to vend physical materials, access digital collections and download library eBooks, movies and music, with holds lockers for picking up reserved materials after hours.
- The Noel Ryan auditorium will feature a modern, flexible space configuration, with updated technology for streaming and simulcasting.
- New and enhanced food services will be located on the main floor.
- A new public art installation will reflect the library as a City landmark.
- Total project budget is \$42.8 million.
- Plans are currently underway for relocating staff, collections and programs.