

Central Library Renovation



About the Central Library Renovation Project

Central Library is set to undergo a major renovation to meet the growing needs of our customers and changing business priorities. The renovation will move the library forward as an important part of an urban community that inspires literacy, creativity and lifelong learning.

All five floors of public and staff space, including the Glass Pavilion, Breezeway and the Noel Ryan Auditorium will be part of the renovation. This is the first large-scale renovation of Central Library to take place since its opening in 1991.

Central Library will close to the public on December 24, 2020. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2021. The library will reopen in early 2023.

Renovation Highlights

During the renovation period, approximately 28,000 sq. ft. of public space will be added within the existing building, along with plans for an additional 6,000 sq. ft. of secondary space on the fourth floor overlooking Celebration Square.

Customers will be able to browse and borrow thousands of new books, DVDs, video games and much more.

The new facility will meet AODA requirements to provide barrier-free access.

Upgraded technology throughout the building will offer more self-serve options, along with greater access to digital collections and in-library services.

Additional Makerspace and Maker elements will include sound and video studios, maker studio, digitization, digital creation and virtual reality capabilities.

Backgrounder

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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 with their library cards, with kiosk-like screens to access our digital collections and download library eBooks, movies and music. Library holds lockers will allow customers to pick up reserved materials after hours.

The Noel Ryan auditorium will feature a modern, flexible space configuration, with updated technology for streaming and simulcasting.

Food services that offer exciting choices will be located on the main floor.

A new public art installation will grace the building - a tribute to the library as a City landmark.

The total project budget is \$42.8 million.

The renovation project aligns with the 2019 Library Master Plan's strategic priorities:

- **Enhance the Customer Experience:**
Increase self-service technology to maintain service levels and allow staff to focus on higher level tasks
- **Invest in Technology to Bridge the "Digital Divide":**
Respond to customer needs and meet industry standards
- **Develop 21st Century Facilities:**
 - Add approximately 28,000 sq. ft. and capture infill space on the fourth floor of approximately 6,000 sq. ft.
 - Maximize the opportunity to redevelop Central Library by including underused spaces