LIBRARY FEASIBILITY STUDY

In 1952, when the Monterey Public Library was built, the collections were almost entirely books, and the catalog was a cabinet with cards and drawers.

Today, we serve a city whose population has doubled. We maintain collections of audiobooks, DVDs, and CDs—formats never imagined in 1952.

Computers are a necessity, as are electrical outlets for our customers’ devices. Vibrant programming occurs daily for children, teens, and adults. At peak-use periods, finding space to read or study is a challenge.

As our esteemed Wurster-designed building approaches its seventieth year, it is no surprise that plumbing, ventilation, heating, and elevator systems are showing signs of advanced age.

This is why last year the City hired architectural consultants to undertake a Feasibility Study of the building and the community’s expectations of their library. We convened a Library Project Team of community leaders and residents, conducted in-person and online surveys, and led 12 focus groups with teens and adults to hear about what you value most.

Four options for modernizing and expanding the facility were presented to the Library Board. They recommend making critical upgrades and enlarging the facility to better accommodate demand: more seating and group study space, a larger Community Room, an expanded California History Room, and flexible areas for collections and programs. The findings will be presented to City Council.

The full report will be available at: monterey.org/library/About-Us/Feasibility-Study
California’s first public library, Monterey Public Library, was founded by a group of residents who recognized that a library is a force for good in a community. Your support continues this legacy. This past year your contributions through MC Gives! kept thousands of local children engaged in learning all summer long. Your contributions toward programs helped teens build life skills and adults learn about new technology. Gifts for current needs purchased a welcome sign in multiple languages, and endowment contributions help preserve the library’s future. Our statistics illustrate the deep impact of your generosity.

As we turn towards 2020, we see a horizon of hopeful new developments.

• The formation of a new Foundation to support the Library promises to engage more community members in the life of the Library.
• We’re eager to present the Library Facility study to the City Council. The study lays out several approaches to address the challenges presented by our 67-year-old building.

Looking into 2020—toward the City’s 250th year, and the Library’s 170th—we are deeply grateful to our forward thinking founders, and to you. When you invest in your library, you build a brighter future for everyone.

—Inga Waite, Library Director
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Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference and is received with deep gratitude. While every effort has been made to be accurate, if we have made any errors, please accept our sincere apologies. Please call us at (831) 646-5632 so that we may correct our records.
On behalf of the Friends, I’d like to share some major news about our approach to fundraising.

Last fall, the Library and the Friends undertook a study of our fund development program to see how we could build on your generosity to expand support. We engaged a group of consultants, Library Strategies, who help public libraries with fundraising. Through the study we arrived at a consensus that a Foundation would help coordinate efforts to support MPL and increase our visibility in the community.

In July, the Friends Board voted to broaden our mission to become a Monterey Public Library Friends and Foundation. This model has been successful in other communities, and we are convinced it is the best approach here. To make this possible, we will invite new people to join our Board and membership with a focus on seeking financial support to improve MPL programs, services, and facilities, and to build the Library Endowment. We’re excited about this new direction and will share more in the coming months.

Doug Holtzman, President, Friends of the Monterey Public Library
COMING UP AT MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER
Creative Connections: The Serendipitous, the Curious, the Momentous
Sunday, November 24, 2:00 PM
Writer, artist, and correspondence enthusiast Alyson Kuhn explores creative connections: meetings or correspondences with people who influence our creative lives. Registration. Adults

Brews for Books Fundraiser
Wednesday, November 27, All day
10% of your tab will be donated to MPL when you show your library card or Brews bookmark at Alvarado Street Brewery on the last Wednesday of the month.

DECEMBER
Holiday Book Sale
Saturday, December 7, 10 AM–3:30 PM
Join the Friends in the lobby for a special sale of gently used books, DVDs, CDs for all ages!

Health Benefits of Crystal Medicine Singing Bowls and the Symphonic Gong
Wednesday, December 11, 6:00 PM
Join us for a talk by Valianna Francis and SkyeSong Fell, R.N. Learn how vibrational frequencies affect the human body, mind and spirit. Registration. Adults.

Winter Art Program
Saturday, December 14, 2:00–4:00 PM
Drop in and create something at the library. Make an ornament or a gift to celebrate the season! All ages.

JANUARY
Gaspar de Portolá: the Founding of Monterey
Sunday, January 12, 2:00 PM
Join us for a monthly Living History Series with actor Howard Burnham in celebration of Monterey’s 250th Anniversary.

Raised on Songs & Stories
Saturday, January 25, 2:00 PM
Experience an afternoon of Celtic music with Irish Balladeer Paul Carroll. All ages.

Winter Reading Program
January 26 – March 7
Read together this winter. Children in preschool – 5th grade can track their reading and earn a free book.