
ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATION STUDY

INFORMATION SHEET

WHO IS CONDUCTING THE ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATION STUDY?

In June of 2013, the City of Astoria commissioned a renovation study of the Astoria Library. The study has four goals: needs assessment, building program, cost estimate, and fund-raising strategies. Ruth Metz Associates (RMA), a library consulting firm based in Portland, is conducting the study.

WHY STUDY THE ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY?

All of the building systems-- water, power, heat, ventilation, handicapped access, and so forth-- are in need of repair and updating to current building codes. The City wants to know what it would cost to bring the building up to code and make it conducive to efficiently providing 21st century library services.

The Astoria Public Library study will result in a building program and cost estimate for renovation. This information will help the City leadership consider and determine next steps. This study is preliminary to any future architectural planning and design.

WHAT IS A BUILDING PROGRAM?

A building program is a physical description of what will be occurring in the building and all of the necessary physical components that take up space--shelving, seating and tables, meeting rooms, work spaces, and so on. This is the method by which the Study Team will determine the space needs.

WHAT WILL IT COST TO RENOVATE THE ASTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY AND HOW WOULD WE PAY FOR IT?

The Study will determine the estimated cost of renovation. An endowment of about \$800,000 would seed the renovation. Funds in excess of this would have to be raised through grants and donations from organizations, individuals, and corporations.

IS THE LOCATION RIGHT FOR THE LIBRARY?

The library has been in its present location at 450 Tenth Street since it was built in 1967. It is important historically, having been provided in part by the Astor's, and because it is one of several buildings of that period that together establish a civic center for Astoria. Therefore, the focus of the study is to determine what can be done to the current library facility and at what cost.

WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF THE OLD HOTEL (WALDORF) NEXT TO THE LIBRARY?

The Waldorf Hotel building has been deemed not safe for occupancy. It is not owned by the City. However, the space needs of a renovated Astoria Public Library could possibly benefit from the adjacent hotel space. The Study Team is aware of the hotel space and is considering whether or not that space might be needed to meet the space requirements in the recommended building program.

HOW HAS THE PUBLIC BEEN INVOLVED IN THE STUDY?

The Study Team has and continues to conduct interviews, focus groups, radio discussions, and public meetings to learn about the service needs of Astorians. A public meeting on August 6th presented the preliminary needs assessment and an overview of library service trends and best practices. A needs assessment survey is posted for public input on the library's website and will remain open for comment until September 17th, 2013. The Study Team will present findings and preliminary recommendations at a final public meeting on September 10th. A final report will be presented to the City Council in October.

HOW CAN I FOLLOW THE STUDY OR ADD MY COMMENTS?

Complete the needs assessment survey on the library's website (<http://astorialibrary.org/page/545>). Fill out a **Comment Form** online at the same website or visit the library to submit your suggestions in person. Subscribe to **email updates** about library news and events or "like" the Astoria Public Library on **Facebook**. Attend the concluding public meeting on September 10, 2013 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Liberty Theater.