Cincinnati, OH

Group 4 Architecture, Research +Planning (Group 4), hired by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to create a plan for re-envisioning the Main Library’s two buildings and the Price Hill Branch Library will host listening and learning sessions Wednesday, Sept. 26, and Thursday, Sept. 27, to solicit community feedback to inform project planning.

On Wednesday, Sept. 26, Library staff and design and planning consultants from Group 4 will hold two different listening and learning sessions to hear from the community about how the two buildings which comprise the Main Library might be reconfigured to better meet their needs. The first session, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., will consist of an open house where anyone can drop in to share ideas and ask questions. The second session, 6:30-8 p.m., will be a structured meeting to outline the basic steps and timeline for upgrading the Main Library’s two buildings and to explain opportunities community members have to be a part of the process. Both events will be held in the atrium of the Main Library, 800 Vine Street.

On Thursday, Sept. 27, Library staff and Group 4 will also hold two sessions regarding the Price Hill Branch Library. The open house will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and the structured meeting will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Both of these sessions will be held at the Price Hill Recreation Center, 959 Hawthorne Ave.

All of these events are open meetings and anyone interested in attending is welcome. For those unable to attend either event, an online survey will be distributed later this fall. These sessions and the survey are the first step towards creating a facilities master plan for the entire library system.

A construction project at the Main Library began in April and involves replacing carpeting and brick flooring on all three floors and renovation of the first-floor restrooms. That work is scheduled to be completed in September. The Library’s decision earlier this year to keep both the south and north buildings of the Main Library has created an opportunity to rethink how they are configured and to identify solutions and opportunities so that they better serve the public.
The Price Hill Branch Library closed July 3 due to significant damage to the ceiling. The branch is temporarily relocated in the Price Hill Recreation Center. The Price Hill Branch was one of the branches in line for extensive renovations, including adding accessibility for people with disabilities, using funds from a 1-mill levy approved by Hamilton County voters this May. Price Hill is now the priority facilities project due to the ceiling collapse.

Group 4 is based in San Francisco, California. Their body of work includes extensive work with the Dayton Metro (OH) Library, Multnomah County Library (OR), Johnson County (KS) Library, Jefferson County (CO) Public Library as well as libraries in Carlsbad, CA and San Francisco, CA.

For more information about these planning sessions, please visit www.CincinnatiLibrary.org or call 513-369-6900.

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About the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is one of the largest and busiest libraries in the United States. We serve a population of more than 800,000 people with a collection of more than nine million items. Our mission is to connect people with the world of ideas and information. To learn more, visit CincinnatiLibrary.org or call 513-369-6900.