

## **Astoria Public Library**

450 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Astoria, OR 97103



### **Press release**

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## **Progress Report and Building Program for the Astoria Library Renovation Study: Public Meeting on Tuesday, September 10**

**How do Astorians' library service priorities translate into a library building program? A public meeting** to hear and discuss the suggested building program for renovating the Astoria Public Library will take place on Tuesday, September 10, at the Liberty Theater. Doors will open at 5:00 pm.

The building program describes the space and square footage requirements of the library. It is based on input from Astorians and best practices and norms for public libraries today. The City and library leadership and the consultant team are especially interested in hearing feedback on the consultant team's recommendations.

The meeting will take place between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Presentation and group discussion will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Following the presentation and group discussion, all are invited to the McTavish Room for refreshments and an opportunity to speak in more depth to members of the consulting team, city staff, and library board members.

The study of the Astoria Public Library has welcomed all ideas about the vision for the library and desired services. Now residents have the opportunity to hear about the highest service priorities and how these services translate into a recommended building program. These priorities were garnered through progressive conversations in the community that included public meetings, interviews, focus groups, Sunday Market, comment on the library's website, and a community-wide questionnaire.

RMA has met with community stakeholders, library patrons, library staff and city staff throughout July and August. A survey seeking input from community members is available online at ([www.astorialibrary.org](http://www.astorialibrary.org)) and is awaiting public response. A paper copy of the survey is also available at the Astoria Public Library.

This study is preliminary to any future architectural planning and design. Seeing how the Astoria Library can be renovated to provide contemporary library services and at what cost will help the Library Board and the City determine appropriate next steps.

The City of Astoria commissioned a renovation study of the Astoria Library in June 2013. 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.

On Sunday, September 15, the community will have another opportunity to comment at the Sunday Market. Members of the Library Board, Astor Library Friends Board and staff will be taking public comment between the hours of the Market, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

*The Astoria Public Library is a department of the City of Astoria, providing tax-supported services to all residents living within the city boundaries. The library holds over 50,000 print and audio-visual materials, provides access to downloadable e-books and other online resources, and offers programs for all ages. Guided by the mission statement "Explore ideas, engage minds, excite imagination", the Astoria Public Library is an active and responsive part of the community. For more information about Astoria Public Library programs and services, contact library staff at 503-325-7323 or [comments@astorialibrary](mailto:comments@astorialibrary), or visit the Astoria Public Library at [www.astorialibrary.org](http://www.astorialibrary.org).*