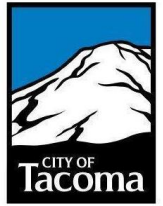


CITY OF TACOMA

2023 LIBRARY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT

\$2 MILLION FOR THE REMODELING OF MAIN LIBRARY

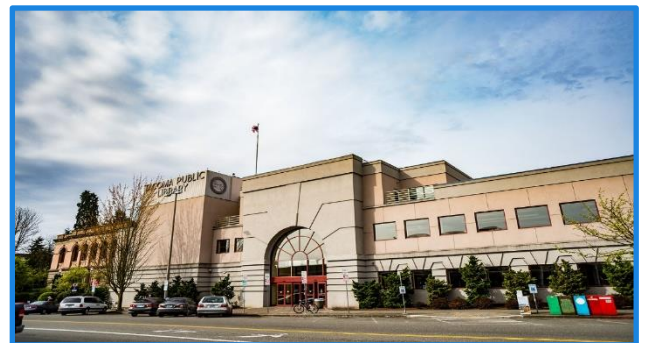


Project Request: The City of Tacoma requests the Legislature to allocate \$2 million through the Library Capital Improvement Grant Program for the remodel of Main Library. By adding a dedicated space for in-person library services and local non-profits to occupy, the Main Library will better serve its community and increase traffic for all other establishments/organizations located in downtown Tacoma.

Background: The Main Library, a one-part “Carnegie” historic building from 1904 and one-part 1952 brutalist building, has not undergone sufficient interior updates since the 1990s. Renovations are needed to address structural issues including drywall repair due to water damage and to replace carpet that is worn to the degree concrete is exposed in areas. The Main Library was also recently discovered to be one of the City’s highest carbon emitters. This funding would help to remedy that as the work would be certified LEED silver. Additionally, the funding will provide much needed updates to inefficient fixtures and furnishings.

Why this is needed: The Tacoma Main Library serves an important function within the community. It provides access to information and resources, supports literacy and education, and offers educational and community meeting space. The current library facility is in need of repairs and renovation to better, and more equitably, meet the needs of the community. With hopes of completing construction by 2024, the remodeled Main Library will partner with local nonprofits to make their services and educational programming more widely available to Tacoma residents. Examples of the relationships between the Main Library and community organizations include the Tacoma Tool Library (a resource for shared tools), Write 253 (a youth-focused literary arts organization), and Tacoma Arts Live (a performing arts organization). The current plan looks to consolidate traditional library services to the Carnegie building and the first floor of the 1952 building while an open concept design on the second floor will foster community engagement through the partner nonprofits’ services. The improvements will provide much needed renovations and will create a more, inviting, appealing space that will allow the Main library to function as a modern library, offering an innovative maker space and many opportunities for community to engage with each other.

Finances: The total cost of renovation is \$7 million, and the Main Library has already received funds from Tacoma Public Libraries (\$2 million), the City of Tacoma (\$2 million), and applied for the Federal National Endowment for Humanities Award (expected \$1 million). This \$2 million grant from the state will help complete the Main Library construction phase and leverage additional local and federal funds which may require a match.



Main Library 2022