



Mary Ann Mongan Library
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Library Board Explores Renovation of Covington Location

A Request for Qualifications was recently issued by the Kenton County Public Library Board of Trustees in regards to a renovation of the Mary Ann Mongan Library in Covington. The Board asking the qualified architectural design firms to provide a cost benefit analysis on several options under consideration related to the expansion and remodeling of the Mary Ann Mongan Library in Covington.

The Mary Ann Mongan Library is the main branch of the Kenton County Public Library system, which also has branches in Erlanger and southern Kenton County near Independence. At 34 years of age, the Mary Ann Mongan Library is the oldest of the three branches. It is also largest with 52,900 of square feet. The Covington location houses all of the systems administration, outreach vehicles and services and the region's largest Kentucky history and genealogy collection.

The Library's executive director Dave Schroeder states that asking for a Request for Qualifications from design firms will allow the Board to see many options. "A recent facility audit stated that while the Covington library is structurally sound, it does need to be updated mechanically with a new roof, chiller and ways to make it more environmentally-friendly."

Mr. Schroeder states, "We also want to enhance the facility to bring it up to the standards of the two other branch libraries. This includes cosmetically changing the exterior, enhancing the entrance and possibly shifting offices, storage and the collection to accommodate the needs of the community. The RFQ will allow the Board to see multiple options for this exciting project."

During this process, Library staff will also be convening community members for their input on what they would like to see in the redesigned facility. Covington branch manager Julia Allegrini will be leading this project which will begin this fall.

“We will be gathering community input in several ways: meetings in the community with community groups; open meetings at the library; as well as on-line and print questionnaires. We are also considering a random phone survey,” said Ms. Allegrini. “The library belongs to and is used by everybody in the community. We want to be able to give the architects a good feel for what people need from their library. Our goal is to provide great services in a great space for a great community.”

Community input will be gathered throughout the fall. Dates, times and locations will be listed on the Library’s Web site, www.kentonlibrary.org/covington. You can also leave comments on this site if you are unable to make it to any of the public forums.

Mr. Schroeder states that this is an exciting time for Covington and the library is proud to be part of the growth. “The Covington Library has been around for more than 100 years, having started in 1904 at what is now the Carnegie. As an anchor is this historic community, we are thrilled that we can be part of the re-vitalization of Covington. This is an exciting time for everyone who lives and works in this great city.”

The Mary Ann Mongan Library is located at 502 Scott Street in Covington. Request for Qualifications must be submitted by Thursday, September 4 in electronic format to Dave Schroeder at dave.schroeder@kentonlibrary.org. The Kenton County Public Library Expansion Committee will review all applications and select three finalists by mid-September. The Library’s Board of Trustees will select a firm during the September 16 Board meeting. The chosen architect/firm must submit preliminary plans, including budgets and conceptual drawings by December 31, 2008. The firm chosen for the RFQ will not necessarily be the architect to design and implement the final building program. For more information on this project, contact Dave Schroeder at (859) 962-4080.

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The Kenton County Public Library has three locations – Covington, Erlanger and Durr in Independence. The library is consistently one of the top ranked public libraries in the state of Kentucky and served more than 1.1 million visitors last year. The library also provides more than 4,000 free educational, informational and recreational programs and training classes annually. Learn more at www.kentonlibrary.org.