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New South Central Regional Library project officially underway *Mayor, community break ground on second of three regional libraries*



Louisville, KY (September 18, 2015) ---- With shovels in hand, Mayor Greg Fischer, Library Director Jim Blanton, Councilwoman Madonna Flood, the Library Advisory Commission, the Library Foundation, and members of the community officially broke ground today on the new 40,000 square foot South Central Regional Library located on the corner of Jefferson Boulevard and McCawley Road in Okolona.

The South Central Regional Library is similar in size and scope to the new Southwest Regional Library – which opened nearly a year ago – and will be the second of three regional libraries included in the Louisville Free Public Library’s Updated Master Facilities Plan (the third regional library will be built in Northeast Jefferson County). Replacing the much-smaller Okolona branch, the South Central Regional Library will enhance service for more than 160,000 people in south central Jefferson County.

“From my first day in office, one of my primary goals has been to help Louisville become a city of lifelong learning,” said Mayor Fischer. “And one of the keys to lifelong learning has been to support and invest in our Louisville Free Public Library system. I am excited about the fantastic resources the South Central Regional Library is going to provide for our citizens.”

The state-of-the-art building will feature an expanded materials collection including more bestsellers, DVDs, large type, materials in multiple languages, books for youth and graphic novels, and will provide the latest technologies in touch-screen computers and self-service check-out. In response to suggestions from the community at three local forums and in online surveys, the design will include comfortable, quiet spaces for reading and studying, several meeting rooms, an auditorium, a large children’s area, and a separate teen space.

“When libraries are at their very best, the inspiration starts at the front door,” said Library Director Blanton. “I, for one, cannot wait to see this amazing facility come to life, and provide the community with a world-class resource that will energize and expand opportunities for learning, growth and engagement.”

The design team includes JRA Architects of Louisville, Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd. of Minneapolis, and staff from the library.

All aspects of the building's design have been planned to incorporate advanced, eco-friendly technologies and architectural design to save energy, reduce waste, and improve quality of life. In addition, LFPL is committed to keeping as many trees as possible in order to preserve the beauty of the site and to minimize environmental impact. A number of the hardwood trees removed from the site will be milled and reused on the interior of the new library.

The total price tag for construction, books, computers, and furnishings is estimated at \$14.5 million, with \$6 million coming from the state, \$6 million in capital funds allocated by Mayor Fischer and approved by the Metro Council, and the additional \$2.5 million to be raised from private donors through the Library Foundation.

Construction of the South Central Regional Library is to be completed in early 2017.

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Louisville Free Public Library connects the residents of Louisville and Jefferson County to knowledge and information at our 18 locations and on the web at LFPL.org. Come on in, the whole world's inside.