

Sayers, Margery

From: Milton Matthews <easyrun54@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 8:01 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Letter in Support of HCEDA Budget Requests for FY 2023
Attachments: Letter to Howard County Councilmembers .docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

County Councilmembers,

Please accept the attached letter representing my support for Howard County Economic Development Authority's Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2023.

Thank you for all of your work on behalf of Howard County.

Milton W. Matthews

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

23 May 2022

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

- The Honorable Opel Jones, Chair, District 2
- The Honorable Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair, District 3
- The Honorable Deb Jung, District 4
- The Honorable Liz Walsh, District 1
- The Honorable David Yungmann, District 5

IN SUPPORT OF – *Howard County Economic Development Authority Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2023*

Dear County Councilmembers:

I am Milton W. Matthews, former President/CEO of Columbia Association, and a member of the Board of Directors for Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA). I am pleased to provide written testimony in support of HCEDA's budget requests for Fiscal Year 2023.

I have served for approximately eight years as a member of HCEDA's Board of Directors. Over those years, I have witnessed significant growth and evolution of HCEDA in its multifaceted approach to supporting the changing needs of the business and entrepreneurial communities within Howard County. As a county that relies heavily on the property tax and personal income tax as primary revenue sources for its annual operating budget, it is imperative that there be collective support and encouragement for these essential stakeholders in Howard County. Their success contributes to a "thriving" Howard County, today and into the future.

I ask that you please fund the following budget requests, which will support HCEDA's ongoing efforts to further the growth of Howard County's business and entrepreneurial communities.

- ***Marketing*** – \$200,000 for marketing efforts to extend HCEDA's reach and grow its connections with minority enterprises within Howard County. The goal is to connect minority enterprises with services provided by HCEDA and the Maryland Innovation Center. Additionally, the requested funds will supplement HCEDA's work directed at promoting Howard County to out-of-market firms seeking to relocate, which is a critical component of HCEDA's Strategic Plan.
- ***Staff Position for Small and Minority Business Outreach*** – the budget request will add a business development position to support small and minority business outreach. During the COVID-19 pandemic, HCEDA expanded and intensified its operations, producing accomplishments in providing grant support to many impacted businesses in Howard County. A business development

specialist dedicated to working closely with small and minority business owners would be beneficial in delivering programs and technical assistance focused on the needs of these invaluable community stakeholders.

- ***Additional Funding for Agriculture Innovation Grants*** – in support of the County's farming community, HCEDA's focus will be to assist the owners with furthering the viability and capabilities of their businesses and, in some cases, moving into new markets. The Agriculture Innovation grants have proven to be a successful tool in supporting this longstanding industry in the County, while creating full and part-time jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HCEDA's budget requests for Fiscal Year 2023.

Sincerely,

Milton W. Matthews
11748 Morningmist Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Sayers, Margery

From: Sean Monaco <smmonaco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2022 7:21 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Pedestrian & Bike Infrastructure for the people

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Councilmembers:

I am a resident of District 3 and implore you to fully fund bike and pedestrian infrastructure in this year's budget. I live near the Guilford Road and Oakland Mills Road intersection, which is currently seeing much needed improvements - but there is still so much more to do.

We live within 2 miles of lots of amenities off Snowden River Parkway, but there is not a consistent sidewalk, or safe roads to bike on to get there. The young kids in our neighborhood have to ride the bus to Guilford Elementary, even though it is less than a mile to their school. All our trips must be done by car. Even walking down Guilford Road towards the Patuxent Branch Trail Head you have to walk along the shoulder of the road. There is no reason we should have to drive to walk a path.

Additionally, please consider PROTECTED bike lanes, instead of just painted lanes. Paint on pavement does not keep cars from hitting cyclists. The safest way to protect everyone is for safe sidewalks, protected bike lanes, and better street design throughout the county.

Please consider that not everyone wants, or can drive. There is often a lot of discussion in Howard County about increasing traffic...but it is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If people can ONLY travel by car, they will.

Thank you,
Sean Monaco



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

May 22, 2022

Dr. Opel Jones
Chairperson, Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CB34-2022 - FY 2023 Budget Amendments

Dear Council Chair Jones:

The Howard County Chamber (Chamber) works diligently to support job creation and economic investment in Howard County. As a business organization, we recognize that the issue of housing is inextricably linked to that of business growth. For over a decade, the Chamber has participated in numerous housing related meetings and supported policy decisions pertaining to the redevelopment of Downtown Columbia. With concerns related to housing affordability, Downtown Columbia, and overall economic development, the Chamber comes forth to state our opposition to several amendments that have been introduced as part of the FY 2023 budget process.

Housing – Amendments 3, 20, and 23

Howard County leads in many quality-of-life factors. Yet, we are consistently plagued with issues of housing affordability. As such, the Chamber is concerned that moving \$5 million of PAYGO for the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund to a contingency reserve will further hinder the implementation of the full spectrum of housing as called for in several community plans. On a similar note, proposed amendments 20 and 23 would stifle funding for the new Library or New Cultural Center (NCC). The NCC must continue to be supported proactively by the County so that it can be the recipient of important and needed State funding for the housing component. Any actions that suggest that this project will be further delayed by the local government likely will result in other non-Howard County housing projects being prioritized for critical gap financing by the State.

Additionally, proposed Amendment 20 would move \$1.666M in planning and engineering funding for the new Central Library to contingency and not be released until submission of a “satisfactory strategic plan, including a funding and concept plan for the library project, including the housing and parking components. It is understandable that Council members would want to feel comfortable about the usage of public dollars. However, there is believe

that the numerous questions and concerns can be remedied without moving to contingency the \$1.666M in new Central Library funding.

Economic & Community Development – Amendments 5, 21, and 22

The Covid19 pandemic impacted numerous businesses and industries and while many are recovering, there are countless that still warrant public support. Not to mention, there are community projects that are counting on local dollars for grant matches. Amendment 5 places \$5 million in funding for business/pandemic relief and grant match into contingent funding status whereas Amendment 21 places \$20 million in potential federal grant funding status into contingent funding status.

Amendment 22 places \$9 million already approved by the State to support the jughandle project in Downtown Columbia into contingent funding status. This project is important considering that the Chamber and other business groups spoke in favor of this project last fall in a MDOT priority letter meeting. This project will accommodate increased traffic flow to Downtown Columbia and promote safe biking and walking on local roads like Broken Land Parkway in the corridor by funneling vehicular traffic away from these streets. Collectively, these amendments threaten the County's ability to be nimble and move in an expeditious manner when state and federal funding opportunities arise.

The Chamber understands the council's desire to be good stewards of public dollars and we know that you take your fiduciary responsibilities seriously. Simultaneously we believe there are opportunities to work collaboratively to address concerns and avoid unnecessary resistance, confrontation, or bureaucracy. For the reasons outlined, the Chamber reiterates our opposition to Amendments 3, 5, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

Respectfully,



Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President/CEO, Howard County Chamber

Sayers, Margery

From: Peter Engel <pengel@househoward.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2022 6:41 PM
To: CouncilMail; Jones, Opel
Subject: Opposition to Amendments 3, 20, and 23 to CB 34
Attachments: Housing Commission Opposing Amendments 3, 20, and 23 to CB 34.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Please find attached a letter form the Howard County Housing Commission opposing amendments 3, 20, and 23 to CB 34. Thank you and we would be happy to answer any questions.

Peter Engel
Executive Director
Howard County Housing Commission

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May 22, 2022

The Howard County Council
The George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Re: Amendments 3, 20, and 23 to CB 34-2022

Dear Councilmembers:

The Howard County Housing Commission opposes amendments 3, 20, and 23 to CB 34-2022. Each of these amendments delays the creation of desperately needed affordable homes for the people of Howard County, while providing no meaningful improvements or safeguards. We urge the Council, if it supports the health, well-being, and security of its low and moderate income residents, to turn down all three amendments.

Amendment 3 would take \$5 million that is intended for the newly established Housing Opportunities Trust Fund and place it into Council controlled contingency. In order to obtain the funding, the Administration would need to provide the Council with rules regarding certain aspects of the fund. This will merely serve to delay the fund, which means extending the time that some Howard County families will live in overcrowded or unsafe conditions or struggle every month to pay the rent.

Director Cimino provided the Council with an implementation plan for the fund that addresses the various public policy issues raised in the amendment. DHCD's plan is sound and will result in a reasonable allocation of resources. We are confident that the Fund is in a position to move forward now and that there will be opportunity for regular input from both the public and the Council.

Amendment 20 would also result in delay for the County's residents in need of affordable homes. The amendment takes planning money for a new central library in downtown Columbia and moves it to contingency, pending approval by the Council of a list of project and downtown details. This information was provided to the Council by the Library System in its presentation and was further discussed in a follow-up letter submitted recently. The new central library will be built in conjunction with a mixed-income housing development that will provide about 75 new affordable homes in the downtown – one of several projects that were intended by Administration and Council in 2016 to ensure that the downtown will be a place for all County residents.

Both the library and the associated housing have funding plans. The housing portion cannot move forward until additional planning has been done, however, the County Executive and the Library System have demonstrated that funding in the form of tax increment revenues and other library dollars are available to cover the cost of the project. The Council has received this information along with the other items mentioned in the amendment.

Amendment 23 seeks to place in contingency non-County funds that will be used to help build the new Toby's Dinner Theater and the County's new arts and culture center (the NCC). This beautiful facility is an integral part of the Artists Flats mixed-income housing that also occupies the site. The projects must move forward together, which means that any delay in the NCC means a delay in the housing. The amendment seeks a signed agreement and collateral for the funds in question. Such agreements typically are part of the closing process and not completed in advance. The County clearly must be comfortable that all funds necessary for the project are in place before closing. If funds are not available the County would simply not close.

Both the NCC and Artists Flats have had to overcome the biggest spike in construction prices in memory. Supply chain issues have caused substantial price increases in the cost of building materials and labor. The State recently announced a large fund to help housing projects that are short of resources. Artists Flats is in dire need of this money and could be eligible for up to \$10 million. However, if the project is once again hung up at the County level, the State could decide that other properties are moving more quickly and allocate the money elsewhere. This is the time to move forward, not delay.

I recently received an email message from a family of four that is sleeping on the floor of a relative's home. Grassroots has been unable to help them and they are seeking housing assistance. Housing Commission housing is full. Please don't make such families wait any longer. Please oppose amendments 3, 20, and 23. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Engel
Executive Director

Sayers, Margery

From: LINDA Wengel <lwengel@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2022 3:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Jones, Opel
Subject: Fwd: LWVHC opposes budget amendments 3,20,23

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

The League of Women Voters of Howard County urges rejection of amendments 3, 20 and 23 to the 2023 operating budget, each of which will further delay the implementation of three affordable housing projects in Downtown Columbia.

During this time of rapidly rising rents and labor shortages, the need for workforce housing is more acute than ever. This year when the county's financial outlook is positive, we believe it is incumbent on this council to fund the three projects in this fiscal year. Affordable housing in Downtown Columbia can no longer be put on the back burner.

We urge you to vote no on budget amendments 3,20 and 23, Thank you.

Krista Threefoot
President
League of Women Voters of Howard County

Sayers, Margery

From: Grace Morris <gmorris@hhpcorp.org>
Sent: Sunday, May 22, 2022 9:31 AM
To: Walsh, Elizabeth; Jones, Opel; Rigby, Christiana; Jung, Deb; Yungmann, David; CouncilMail
Subject: Support for Affordable Housing in Downtown Columbia
Attachments: CCLtrDowntownProjects.May22.2022.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good morning Council Members:

Please see our comments attached. We hope that you will give our input serious consideration as you move through the budget process.

My core business hours are 7:30 am to 2:00 pm Mon-Fri. If you are reaching me outside of these hours please expect a delay in my response. If it is an urgent matter that cannot wait until I return to the office, please text or call me on the cell number listed below. If this is an emergency and it is outside of our normal business hours such as evenings, holidays and weekends contact our Call Center at 443-714-7610. If lives or property are at risk, please call 911.

During these difficult times, Heritage Housing Partners has remained open for business as an essential service. We will continue to provide the best possible level of service to our clients and our communities. while protecting the health and safety of our residents and our team members. Stay safe.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Grace Morris

Grace A. Morris, Executive Director
Heritage Housing Partners Corp.
Non Profit Collaborative
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive
Mail stop 305
Columbia, MD 21046
443-518-7687 (direct)
301-455-4637 (cell)
www.hhpcorp.org
Owner | Manager | Developer

“It is not the honor you take with you but the HERITAGE you leave behind” – Branch Rickey



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HHPCorp
Heritage Housing Partners

To: Council Chairman Jones, and Councilmembers Jung, Rigby, Walsh, and Yungmann

From: Heritage Housing Partners Corporation

Date: May 22, 2022

Support for: C0364 – FY2021 New Cultural Center (NCC)
L0020 - FY2021 New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation
F5976 – FY2018 North Columbia Fire Station
F5977 – Replacement Fire Station #7 (Banneker)

Opposition to: Amendments 20 and 23

Heritage Housing Partners Corporation, a provider of affordable housing in Howard County for over 50 years, strongly supports the housing related capital budget items. They are critical to the implementation of the Affordable Housing Plan for Downtown Columbia and will lead to the creation of more than 300 homes for low- and moderate-income persons in Downtown. We ask that you vote for the full funding of these projects as proposed by the Administration, without Amendments.

We have recently learned that there are amendments being proposed to the County's capital budget that will impact Downtown Columbia's affordable housing projects – Artists Flats and Library Residences. These properties will bring **affordable and accessible units** to Downtown Columbia, a great location for people with disabilities to live.

We are most concerned about any Amendment that will impact the Artists Flats project's ability to be competitive for much needed gap financing under the State's Community Development Administration's new "Multifamily Capital Fund." This fund was recently announced and is targeted to projects with high public purpose and large financing gaps. The Artists Flats project fits this description perfectly so any delay, such as moving funds to contingency, would undermine efforts to secure this limited and sure to be highly competitive assistance.

OWNER | MANAGER | DEVELOPER
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive #305
Columbia, MD 21046
443-518-7685
www.hhpcorp.org



HHP Corp
Heritage Housing Partners

The Artists Flats project will include 87 affordable and 87 market rate units in an elevator building. This is a significant project as it is targeting very low income residents as well as persons with disabilities. The affordable units are expected to include:

11 at 20% AMI
22 at 30% AMI
6 at 40% AMI
33 at 50% AMI
15 at 60% AMI

It is expected that there will also be six Weinberg units reserved for people with disabilities and 31 of the units will have project-based vouchers meaning that the tenant pays only 30% of their income for rent and utilities.

We also ask that you do not move \$1.666M to contingency for the new Central Library project. Any additional information you may wish to have can be provided without transferring the funding to contingency.

We also asks that you do not move any proposed funding for the New Cultural Center (NCC) to contingency. The NCC must continue to be supported proactively by the County so that it can receive much needed State funding for the housing piece of the project. Any actions that suggest that this project will be further delayed by the local government likely will result in other housing projects in the State being prioritized for critical gap financing over this project. We must continue to move forward together to demonstrate the County's commitment to keeping this project on track.

By working together, we can ensure that there is a complete spectrum of affordable housing opportunities for all who call Howard County home. Thank you for your commitment and service to our community.

Sayers, Margery

From: A Shallal <andyshallal1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 5:52 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Reject Amendment 22

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Councilmembers:

I am writing in opposition to Amendment 22 to CB34-2022, the FY 2023 Budget legislation.

This proposed amendment would unnecessarily delay the completion of an important element of transportation infrastructure, the long-planned off-ramp from US 29 into Downtown Columbia, aka the "jug handle". This new infrastructure will provide a much needed regional benefit to those traveling on US 29, especially during Merriweather concerts, when residents, students, employees and other visitors to the area often get caught up with concertgoers in traffic. I have seen this with my own eyes and have waited in those lines. Many of our customers say that they avoid coming to the area when there is a concert directly due to the traffic flow. I understand that this much needed improvement has been planned for more than a decade and I was looking forward to have it begin construction this summer. This ill-planned amendment would put at risk the \$9 million of state funding granted for the project, and potentially leave Howard County taxpayers on the hook for the cost in the future.

Please reject this unnecessary amendment so that the citizens of Howard County and businesses like mine can all benefit from this much needed improvement as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Andy Shallal

All the best,

A Shallal, Founder and CEO Busboys and Poets
Cell: 202-903-7006
Twitter: @andyshallal
Instagram: @andyshallal

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Sayers, Margery

From: Cyndi Gula <cyndigula@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 5:30 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF - Howard County Economic Development Authority FY2023 Budget Request

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

May 20, 2022

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
Opel Jones, Chair, District 2
Christiana Rigby, Vice Chair, District 3
Deb Jung, District 4
Liz Walsh, District 1
David Yungmann, District 5

IN SUPPORT OF - Howard County Economic Development Authority FY2023 Budget Request

Members of the Howard County Council:

My name is Cyndi Gula, Managing Director of Gula Tech Adventures, and I serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA). In my position, I get an up close and personal look as to what the HCEDA does for the community. Their efforts are unparalleled when it comes to supporting all kinds of business throughout the entire county. No business is without importance.

Navigating through the pandemic has forced many businesses to look beyond their comfort zone to seek help. HCEDA has been there creating services where there were none to help understand new COVID funding sources, government 'Good Standing' requirements, and provided pivoting assistance to help keep their businesses going (one sector to which I am specifically referencing was helping restaurants with take-out ordering and other technology they had previously not had to consider as well as connecting farms with them if there were ways they could help each other). Additionally, the HCEDA reached outside their own expertise and stepped up to enable grant assistance to both for-profit and non-profit organizations. The passion and care that was displayed by the HCEDA staff was amazing and made sure they were there for others, even as they faced their own difficulties during this period.

The specific focus and outreach to small and minority businesses has been especially impactful. The recognition of gaps and purposeful efforts to correct for those gaps has expanded the businesses served and hopefully those efforts will continue to connect more businesses and the community together. Regular sessions on the various assistance available to all kinds of businesses is really helping make Howard County a great place to live, work and play.

I believe the business community is stronger because of the efforts put forth by the HCEDA staff. This year's proposed budget includes specific requests for efforts that will help HCEDA be able to continue to support the changing needs of the business and entrepreneurial communities within Howard County while still providing the activities which are fundamental to the economic success of the county.

Please support the following requests for funds for the following efforts:

- Marketing - HCEDA is requesting \$200K to enhance its marketing efforts to reach deeper into the minority communities within the county to connect them to the services provided by HCEDA and the Maryland Innovation Center. In addition, these funds will enhance efforts for promoting the county to attract businesses, because it is now more critical than ever to position Howard County to out-of-market firms seeking to relocate.
- Small and Minority Business Outreach Staff Position - HCEDA is also requesting funds to add a business development position to support small and minority business outreach. Because of work accomplished during the pandemic and the focus on providing grant support to the most impacted businesses, HCEDA was able to connect to a large portion of its business community that needs ongoing support. A business development specialist dedicated to the small and minority business owners would be beneficial to this sector to deliver programs and technical assistance in a way that meets the needs of these businesses.
- Additional funding for Ag Innovation Grants – In order to support the farming community and help farms move into new markets or enhance the viability and capabilities of the business, Ag Innovation grants have proven to be a successful tool in supporting this important industry while creating full and part-time jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the HCEDA’s budget request and I would be happy to discuss any activity or efforts of the HCEDA directly with any council member.

Cyndi Gula
Gula Tech Adventures

Sayers, Margery

From: Phillip Dodge <Phillip@dtcpartnership.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 5:23 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Opposition to Amendment 22 to CB34-2022

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Councilmembers,

I am writing in opposition to Amendment 22 to CB34-2022, the FY 2023 Budget legislation.

This proposed amendment would needlessly delay the construction of the long-planned off-ramp from US 29 into Downtown Columbia, sometimes referred to as the “jug handle.” The Jug Handle will not only have a positive impact on our residents’ daily lives, but it will also foster greater economic development by making it easier, quicker, and safer for residents, employees, and visitors to enter and exit Downtown Columbia. Additionally, we believe that this improvement will make Route 29 a better prospect for the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit.

As Downtown Columbia grows, the jug handle and related improvements will be crucial for quickly moving people to and from Route 29 into downtown. From concerts at Merriweather Post Pavilion, to Symphony of Lights, to our growing live-work-play neighborhoods in Downtown Columbia, as well as for Howard County General Hospital and Howard Community College which share this key access point with other Downtown Columbia destinations, this piece of infrastructure will benefit many Marylanders for years to come.

Most importantly, this improvement has been planned for more than a decade and it is ready to begin construction this summer. This ill-planned amendment would put at risk the \$9 million of state funding granted for the project, and potentially leave Howard County taxpayers on the hook for the cost in the future.

Please reject this unnecessary amendment so that the citizens and businesses of Howard County and visitors to our growing downtown can all benefit from this much needed improvement as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Phillip Dodge
Executive Director
Downtown Columbia Partnership

Sayers, Margery

From: Angela Brade <angela.brade@hclibrary.org>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 4:52 PM
To: CouncilMail; Sayers, Margery; Respass, Charity; Tonya Aikens
Cc: Stephanie Shane; Sun, Holly; pengel@househoward.org; Walsh, Sharon; Cookson, David
Subject: Amendment 20 to CB 34 - 2022
Attachments: FAQs_Part2.pdf; HCLS DTC Branch vision apr2022.pdf; HCLS_Amendment_20 to CB 34 - 2022.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good day,

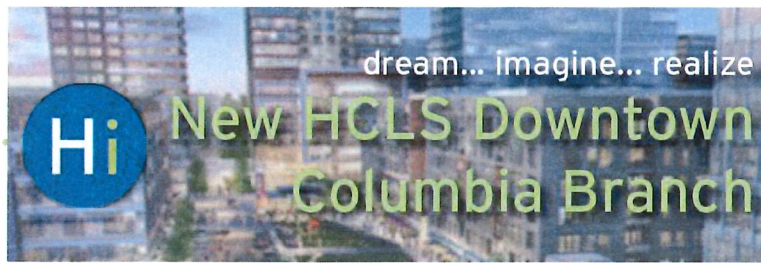
The attachments documents are in response to Amendment 20 to CB 34 - 2022.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you and have a great weekend.

Angela Brade | Chief Operating Officer, Support Services
Howard County Library System | 9411 Frederick Road | Ellicott City, MD 21042
410.313.7797 office | 443-310-1684 cell
(she/her/hers)

[2021 Five Star Library](#) | 2013 Library of the Year | Listen to our [HiJinx](#) and [HoCoCast](#) podcasts, read our [blog](#), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [issuu](#), and [Spotify](#).

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, Part 2

What is the estimated cost of the new Downtown Library and Housing?

Library (library and associated portion of the garage) is estimated at \$82.8M. The Library building is estimated at \$75.3M, and associated parking is \$7.5M. The housing and associated portion of the garage is estimated at \$61.6M.

What are the funding sources for the construction?

The construction of the library will be completed using Other GO Bonds supported by Downtown Columbia tax increment revenue, GO bonds, and Maryland State Library Capital Grant Program. This is reflected in the CIP project page for L0020.

Is the GO Bond funding part of the county's capital project forecast?

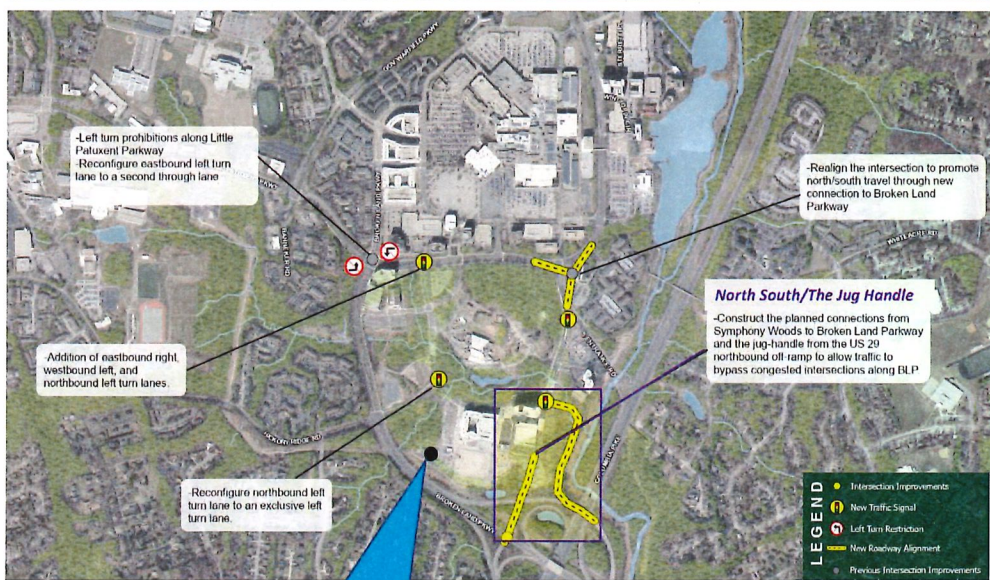
Yes. The Budget Office forecasts, monitors, and evaluates the use of GO Bonds for all County capital projects. GO Bonds are now included as a project source in L0020.

Is the jug handle, north-south connector or other traffic projects planned for downtown Columbia part of the library project?

No. The library and housing project is a standalone project and not impacted by the timing, funding or construction of other transportation projects.

Downtown Columbia Transportation Planning and Alternatives Analysis

Technical Report – 22 December 2021



Mead & Hunt

Howard County Library and Housing (black dot)

Figure 30: Phase 2 with Mitigation Improvement Map

57

What is the Project Timeline and Strategic Overview?

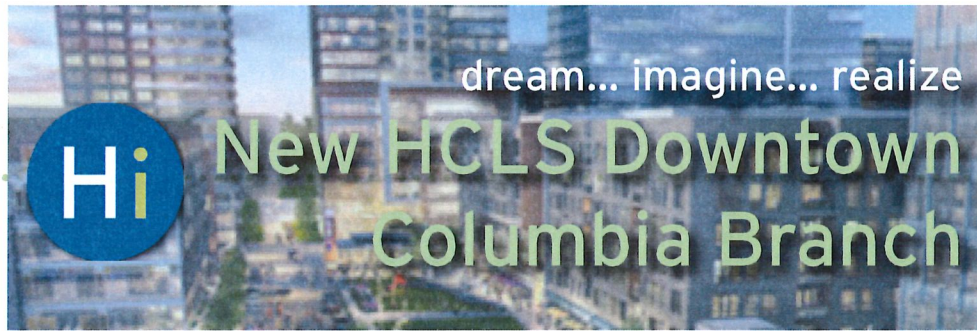
Because this is a unique building with a library on the first two floors and housing above, deliberate planning and analysis has been conducted to ensure the project is funded appropriately, efficiently planned and executed with the best project management principals to ensure the team maximizes the county investment.

- **FY20** – Library and Housing Project Team was assembled to determine the best strategy to design and construct this one-of-a-kind building in Maryland. Planning funding was used to identify the land lot, conduct cost estimations regarding the current day building costs and select a development team
- **FY23** – Library Project Team plan to begin the Community Engagement and Schematic Design process to ensure this building for the community reflects the entire Howard County Community and addresses community requirements for library services.
- **FY24** – Project team will continue with the Design Development stage, Permit Process and other pre-construction work.
- **FY25**- Construction begins
- **FY26** – Construction is completed. This unique and state of the art building opens as the first of its kind in Maryland and to all residents.

Will the project follow federal, state and county procurement guidelines?

Yes. In preparation for the project, The Housing Commission led the procurement process which followed federal procurement policy. A Request for Proposals (“RFP”) was issued in September 2019 for a development team, with key team members including a developer, architect, and general contractor.

It was a very competitive procurement with eight firms submitting proposals in response to the RFP. Leadership of the Housing Commission, Howard County Library System, and the Department of Public Works participated as panel members in the interview and selection *process*. *A team consisting of Enterprise Community Development, Grimm + Parker Architects, Costello Construction, and Harkins Builders was selected for this project.*



VISION: HCLS Downtown Columbia Branch + Business and Arts Education Center

“Valued by our customers as educational necessities and vibrant community hubs, our libraries are places to learn, connect, and engage through notable author talks, community conversations, book discussions, classes for all ages, enlightening events, and more. The new flagship Downtown Columbia Branch, the largest in our system, will enable HCLS to expand our STEAM education focus, better meet customer demand for additional classes, and enhance business and workforce development offerings, adding to the thriving downtown scene. We eagerly anticipate the opportunities this new space will present not only for new Merriweather District residents but for all Howard County residents and visitors.”
– Tonya Aikens, HCLS President & CEO

As one of the nation’s leading library systems and among Howard County’s most valued institutions, Howard County Library System (HCLS) is poised to position its new Downtown Columbia Branch as the cornerstone of the Merriweather District, bringing its award-winning curriculum and events to the new location. HCLS is consistently ranked a 5-Star library by *Library Journal* and remains the only system in Maryland to achieve this prestigious designation. Historical and current trends continue to demonstrate how much those who live, work and play in Howard County value and use HCLS’ self-directed educational materials, and fill its classes and events to capacity.



HCLS DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA BRANCH

As the civic anchor, the Downtown Columbia Branch is a vital component of the Merriweather District, creating *the* place to learn, connect and engage for *all* Howard County residents. The new 100,000 sq. ft. branch will:

- Serve as a destination and anchor attracting people of all ages and interests.
- Be the county’s premier destination for public education, offering HCLS’ nationally ranked and award-winning curriculum in an interactive and engaging environment.
- Continue the placemaking tradition of functioning as the public square and community living room, bringing all sectors of the community together in ways no other institution or business can.
- Leverage community assets, knowledge share, and build better community.
- Be iconic in design and functionality, effectively drawing customers across and beyond the county.
- Provide community space for all people.
- Be welcoming to all.

- Estimated cost: \$82.8M
- FY23 request: \$1.6M for planning, community engagement, and design
- Developer: Enterprise Community Development
- General contractors: Costello Construction and Harkins Builders
- Architect: Grimm + Parker



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All

FIRST LIBRARY AND HOUSING PROJECT IN MARYLAND

The Downtown Columbia Branch project will include market-rate and affordable housing units along with a public parking garage.

EXISTING BRANCH CONSTRAINTS

- The existing Central branch is undersized for the existing population and does not meet Maryland State minimum library guidelines of one SF per capita for library systems.
- Significant population growth downtown will increase demand on the branch and exacerbate existing constraints.
- **Classroom space:** Central branch has three small community rooms, which combined total 1870 SF (50 percent less than other comparable branches). These spaces are forced to do triple duty as instructional spaces for teens, instructional spaces for adults, and spaces for community meetings and engagement, resulting in deep customer waitlists and classes left unscheduled.

For reference, East Columbia, Elkridge and Miller offer 3,715, 4,496, and 5,712 SF respectively.

- **Teen Space:** Central Branch has no designated space for teen engagement and collaboration. A small space, made possible by moving book stacks to create 150 SF in a back corner, is neither welcoming nor inviting to teens and is 81 percent smaller than the smallest teen space in other branches.
For reference, East Columbia, Elkridge and Miller offer 2,134, 1,192, and 1,632 SF respectively.
- **Parking:** Space needs extend to the exterior. With just 130 parking spaces, the current location is constrained in its ability to meet community demand. Opened in 1981, the parking lot was constructed to accommodate a population of 124,746, which is 38 percent of Howard County's current population. The lack of adequate parking has been an issue since 1981 and continues to constrain the number and types of classes and events that can be held at the Central Branch resulting in service inequities for customers.
For reference, East Columbia, Elkridge and Miller offer 375, 166, and 234 (400 including the Ellicott City Senior Center and HCLS Administrative Branch spaces) parking spaces respectively.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Why is the new Downtown Columbia Branch needed now?**
The existing branch is undersized to serve the current population, is further constrained by the addition of new housing units, and is slated for demolition as part of the Downtown Columbia plan.
According to the County's Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement, after the new Downtown Columbia Branch has been constructed and the library has transferred all operations to the new building, the existing Central Branch site will be conveyed to the Housing Commission. The existing site will then be developed by the Commission as a mixed-income residential project containing between 40 and 50 percent Low Income Units.
- **Where is the new branch scheduled to be built and who owns that property?**
The new branch is slated to be located on Parcel D-9, Plat 25444 (previously 24623). The property is currently owned by the Howard County Housing Commission.

TIMELINE

FY23: Begin design

FY24: Continue design, and begin permits and pre-construction services

FY25: Start construction

FY26: Complete construction

"Libraries are the kinds of places where ordinary people with different backgrounds, passions, and interests can take part in a living democratic culture...the kinds of places where the public, private, and philanthropic sectors can work together to reach for something higher than the bottom line." –

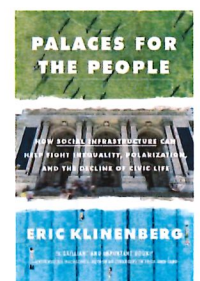
Eric Klinenberg, *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*

"The aim of this sweeping work is to popularize the notion of 'social infrastructure'—the 'physical places and organizations that shape the way people interact'... [Klinenberg] posits that a community's resilience correlates strongly with the robustness of its social infrastructure. The numerous case studies add up to a plea for more investment in the spaces and institutions (libraries) that foster mutual support in civic life."

– The New Yorker

Klinenberg appears at HCLS on April 27 at 7 pm to discuss his book.

Register for this online event at <https://howardcounty.librarycalendar.com/event/eric-klinenberg-palaces-people-how-social-infrastructure-can-help-fight-in-equality>



- **When was the Central Branch most recently renovated? How much was spent on those renovations?**

The Central Branch first opened in 1981 and was modernized in 2000–2001. Minor interior alterations were completed in 2016 in a combined renovation project with the East Columbia Branch. Due to the pending development of the Merriweather District, renovations at the Central Branch were minimal and addressed structural, end-of-life, interim fixes and enhancements to address customer needs (e.g., new paint, new carpet), and transformed space formerly used by administrative staff into public space. The total funding allocated for Capital Project L0016 (both branches) was approximately \$6M with Central receiving about 35 percent.

- **Who owns the property on which the current Central Branch is located?**

The County owns the property.

- **How long has this new Downtown Columbia Branch been planned?**

Howard County's *Downtown Columbia Plan* (adopted in 2010) recommended that a new Central branch be built in Columbia's new Downtown. In 2019, HCLS engaged G4 Architecture, Research, and Planning, Inc. to update its Master Plan, which calls for a new 100,000 SF Downtown Columbia Branch to meet the increased number of new residents and visitors and to meet the Maryland State minimum library guidelines of one SF per capita.

- **Why is a 100,000 SF library needed?**

As noted in the Existing Branch Constraints section on page 2, the current Central Branch is not large enough to accommodate existing customers. At completion of the redevelopment plans, downtown Columbia will feature 1.25 million SF of retail space, 4.3 million SF office/conference space, 640 hotel rooms, and 6,244 market-rate and affordable housing units. These new residential units will expand Columbia's population by a minimum of 15 percent.

- **Will the new branch require additional staff?**

No additional staff will be required for this branch.

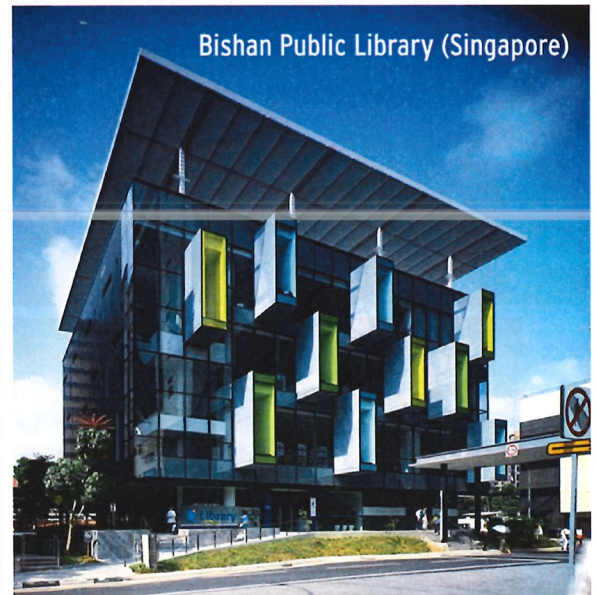
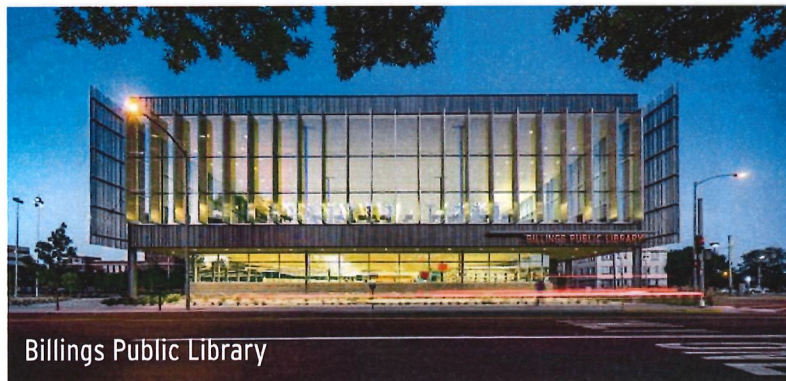
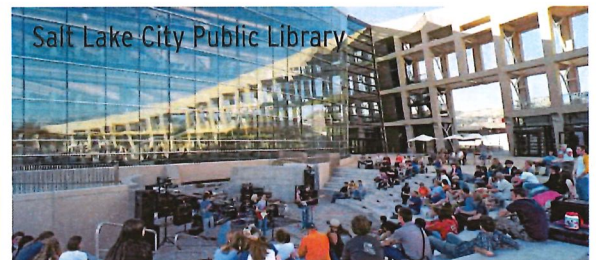
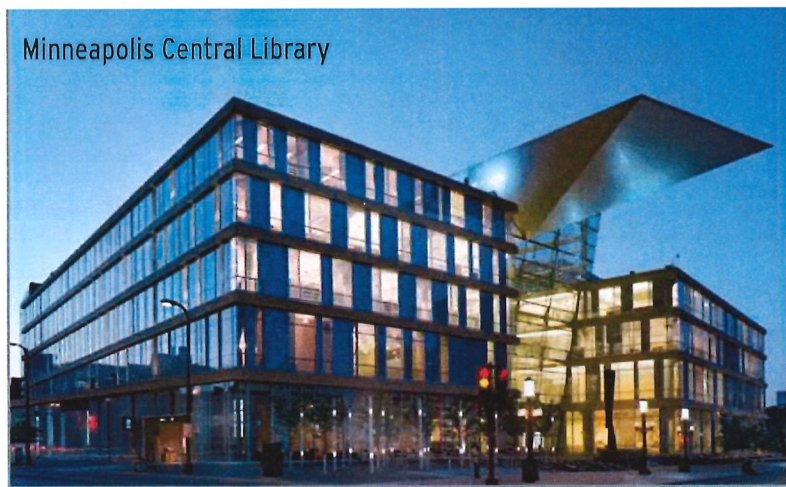
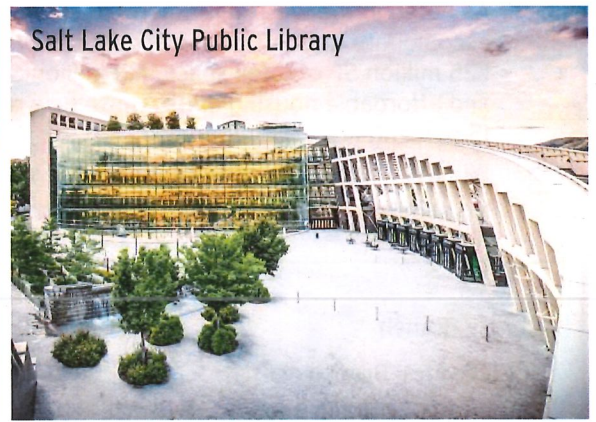
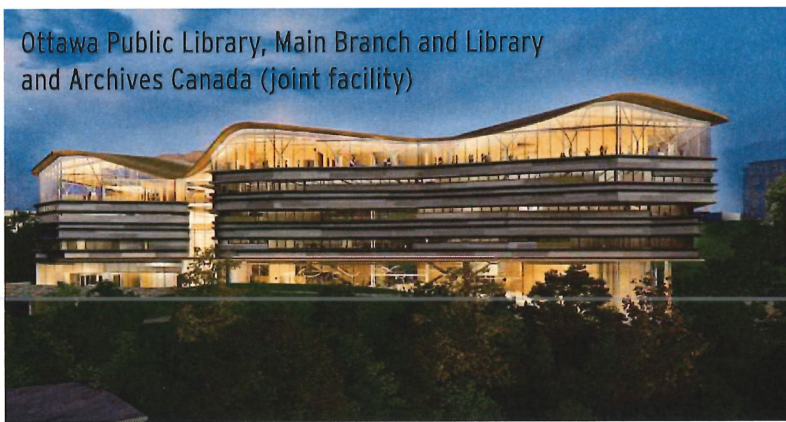
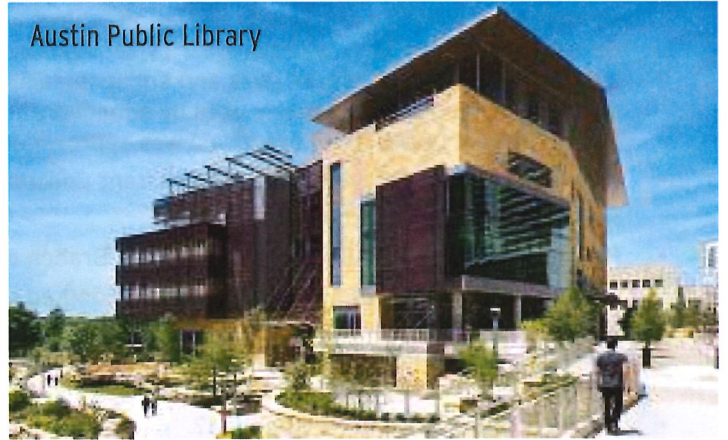
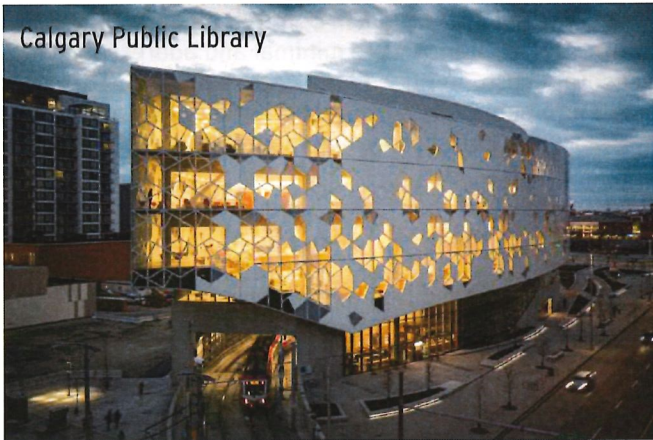
Library Branch	SF	Year Opened (Renovated)	Budget
HCLS Central Branch	46,000	1981 (2016)	\$2.2M
HCLS East Columbia Branch	40,000	1994 (2018)	\$3.9M
HCLS Elkridge Branch*	35,000	1993 (2018)	\$33.1M
HCLS Glenwood Branch	30,000	2000 (2021)	\$1.3M
HCLS Miller Branch*	63,000	2011	\$29M
HCLS Savage Branch	24,000	1991 (2014)	\$5.3M

*certified LEED Gold buildings

EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATIONAL AND GATHERING SPACES



EXAMPLES OF MAJOR DOWNTOWN LIBRARIES THAT SERVE AS DESTINATIONS AND ECONOMIC DRIVERS





Howard County Library System

County Council Budget Work Session
Amendment No. 20 to CB 34 - 2022

May 26, 2022

Tonya Aikens, President & CEO

Angela Brade, COO Support Services



HCLS Facilities Master Plan

HCLS's Facilities Master Plan is our strategy map of our facilities

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

With a 1.5Fcapita planning target, HCLS will need to add approximately 80,000-100,000 SF of additional library space by 2030 to meet the service demands of the growing Howard County population. The 2004 Master Plan recommended that HCLS build capacity primarily through a network of large, full-service, well-located destination libraries (rather than adding smaller neighborhood-scale facilities). This strategy is still the best way for HCLS to build capacity for service within available operating funds.

Two major capital projects are recommended by this Master Plan Update: build a larger downtown Columbia branch to replace the soon-to-be-demolished Central Branch and an additional new branch.

implemented many of the Master Plan. Renovations, facilities have significantly improved, allowing the libraries to keep pace with the demands of the growing community. Recent projections indicate that the population could grow by as much as 16 percent by 2030. This will place additional demand for library space and construction will create a more diverse population center in downtown Columbia within the next five years. The 2004 Master Plan anticipated in the 2004 Master Plan and a process to revisit and adjust the recommendations. Group 4 Architecture, Research and Commissioned to facilitate the process, and discussion with HCLS leadership and input from the HCLS Board and the



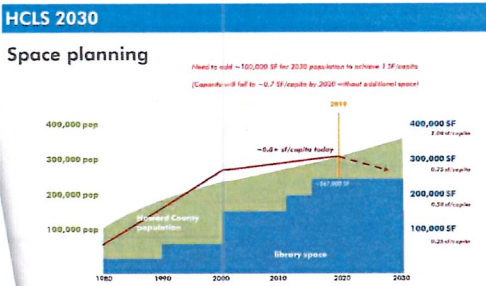
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to prepare for the future and continue delivering high-quality public education for all, Howard County Library System (HCLS) is proactive about planning – including its facilities. For the last 15 years, HCLS' decision-making about facilities has been guided by a Facilities Assessment and Master Plan first published in 2004. The 2004 Master Plan established a clear vision and framework for the system's facilities in Howard County through 2030, and recommended a series of capital projects to ensure adequate service to the community.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE



Central Branch feels a little crowded, and there's not enough tables for seating."

—2019 community survey respondent

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM FACILITIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE

NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE



In particular, more than 6,200 new residential units are planned as part of the retail downtown redevelopment and expansion plan, which will expand Columbia's population by 15 percent or more. The mix of housing will attract young professionals, but also offer long-term Howard County residents an opportunity to downsize within their community. Nearly 15 percent of the new residential units are proposed as affordable housing, which will more than double the supply of affordable housing in Howard County, according to the Baltimore Sun (April 2019).

The vision for Columbia is of a walkable community where people can live, work, learn, and play (Common Columbia Revitalization Monitoring Report 2020).

The plan for downtown Columbia includes a new connector road directly through the current site of HCLS' Central Branch, which will be demolished once the new branch is constructed.

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM FACILITIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Downtown Columbia development vision (source: Downtown Columbia Redevelopment Monitoring Report)

Build a New Downtown Columbia Branch

A new central branch located in the Merriweather District in downtown Columbia is envisioned as a regional destination for culture and commerce as well as a vital and vibrant residential community anchor in its own right. The library would be situated at one end of a new pedestrian promenade and connect to an existing trailhead, bridging the



Demand for adult instruction in this area also continues to rise as evidenced by long waitlists for Project Literacy and similar classes. The new branch will need to offer increased, and more flexible space to keep pace.

- **Arts education:** HCLS' art education collection would relocate from the Central Branch to the new downtown branch. As demand continues to increase, the new facility will need to accommodate display, storage, and performing arts spaces for customers of all ages. To further support the artistic, educational enrichment of the community, the downtown branch is slated for an auditorium or multiple auditoriums that use audiovisual technology to support performances, akin to public libraries in New York, Chicago, and Jacksonville.

The new downtown Columbia branch is a high priority for implementation. HCLS will have the opportunity to refine the specific program for the proposed new downtown branch through the design process.

Build a New Branch

Given the updated population projections and the planned size of the new downtown branch, it is anticipated that HCLS may need to add another 20,000 to 30,000 square feet to achieve its 1.5F/capita target. The 2004 Master Plan recommended building another full-service branch, and this still appears to be the most viable and sustainable strategy for building this additional capacity. HCLS anticipates that this branch could be located somewhere west/south of Columbia to support current and future growth in that area. It should continue to monitor community development and access to library services as it evaluates potential locations for the new branch.

RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM FACILITIES MASTER PLAN UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

HCLS Strategic Project Plan Overview – L0020

Develop a strategy that will eliminate the current limitations and challenges, address community need, maximize the land provided and be fiscally prudent with funding.

Because this is a unique building with a library on the first two floors and housing above, deliberate planning and analysis has been conducted to ensure the project is funded appropriately, efficiently planned and executed with the best project management principals to ensure the team maximizes the county investment.

- **FY20** – Library and Housing Project Team was assembled to determine the best strategy to design and construct this one-of-a-kind building in Maryland. Planning funding was used to identify the land lot, conduct cost estimations regarding the current day building costs and select a development team
- **FY23** – Library Project Team plan to begin the Community Engagement and Schematic Design process to ensure this building for the community reflects the entire Howard County Community and addresses community requirements for library services.
- **FY24** – Project team will continue with the Design Development stage, Permit Process and other pre-construction work.
- **FY25**- Construction begins
- **FY26** – Construction is completed. This unique and state of the art building opens as the first of its kind in Maryland and to all residents.





FY23 High Level Work Plan

Project Initiation and AE Team mobilization which includes:

- Meet w full team to insure the coordination with the Residential portion and Howard Hughes
- Develop clear scope separation discuss operations aspects of the user groups, Library and Residential
- Develop the garage design to understand the users' operations between Residents, library staff, and public parking

Conduct community engagement which includes:

- Refining the Program of spaces, then get community feedback on initial design approaches. As well as, establish an overall project schedule and permit process, meet w code agencies

Commence the foundational engineering analysis and determinations which includes

- Geotechnical studies
- Civil site analysis to determine stormwater concepts, utility access, zoning, and parking needs.
- Establish sustainability goals, meet w team to clarify path to meet the goals

Commence the Schematic Design Process

- Schematic Architectural floor plans of whole building
- Building sections with Library
- Exterior elevations with material selection and development
- Library exterior and interior renderings
- Structural analysis and schematic structural drawings.
- Schematic Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing layouts – including coordination of residential / library
- Development of telecom/ IT/ audio visual/ acoustic
- Cost estimating done by Enterprise at each deliverable
- Construction input from the GC during design

Project Team

- Integrated Project Team
- Leverage expertise of project team
- Collaborative work team
- Informed stakeholders
- Culture of Teamwork, Transparency and Accountability

FY23 Funding:

- Confirm Project Schedule
- Project Initiation and Reporting framework
- Commence Community



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All



Funding Overview

Goal:

Develop a strategy that will eliminate the current limitations and challenges, address community need, maximize the land provided and be fiscally prudent with funding (*deliberate planning and analysis has been conducted to ensure the project is funded appropriately, efficiently planned and executed with the best project management principles*) to ensure the team maximizes the county investment.

Financial Snapshot:

Per Conceptual Budget of 05.17.2022		Library	Residential	Total
Construction	Site Development	\$4,547,400.00	\$1,160,225.00	\$5,707,625.00
	Sheeting and Shoring	\$184,800.00	N/A	\$184,800.00
	Building	\$57,186,760.00	\$40,957,675.00	\$98,144,435.00
	Garage Parking*	\$6,189,750.00	\$4,454,100.00	\$10,643,850.00
	A/E, Permit, Dev Fees & Soft Costs	\$1,853,840.00		\$1,853,840.00
Equipment	FF&E	\$5,423,450.00	\$275,000.00	\$5,698,450.00
	Security / AV & IT	\$175,000.00	In Building	\$175,000.00
Planning	A/E, Permit, Dev Fees & Soft Costs	\$7,254,000.00	\$15,146,303.00	\$22,400,303.00
	Total Project Costs	\$82,815,000.00	\$61,993,303.00	\$144,808,303.00



* Number parking spaces and structure will be further evaluated during schematic planning process

Funding Overview

What are the funding sources for the construction (CIP project page for L0020)

- Downtown Columbia tax increment revenue
- GO bonds
- State Library grants

Howard County, MD
FY2023 HCLS Board Proposed Capital Budget (\$000)
Program: LIBRARIES

Project Information	Funding Source	PRIOR Appropriation	Fiscal 2023 Budget	TOTAL	Fiscal 2024 Budget	Fiscal 2025 Budget	Fiscal 2026 Budget	Fiscal 2027 Budget	Fiscal 2028 Budget	Fiscal 2029 Budget	Total
L0020 FY2021 NEW HCLS CENTRAL BRANCH & BUSINESS/ARTS EDUCATION CENTER											
Relocation of HCLS Central Branch due to Downtown Columbia	B	-	1,666,000	1,666,000	3,100,000	-	31,561,000	-	-	-	36,327,000
Redevelopment plans. The funding will enable the full planning process to proceed as planned.	G	-	-	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	-	6,000,000
	O	488,000	-	488,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	488,000
	OG	-	-	-	-	21,457,000	18,543,000	-	-	-	40,000,000
Total		488,000	1,666,000	2,154,000	5,100,000	23,457,000	52,104,000	-	-	-	82,815,000

April 27, 2022

Howard County, MD

HCLS Board Approved



Responsible Spending

Funding:

- FY20 \$488K Allocation enabled initial project planning and scope
- FY20 \$150K Encumbered expense
- FY20 \$338K Remaining

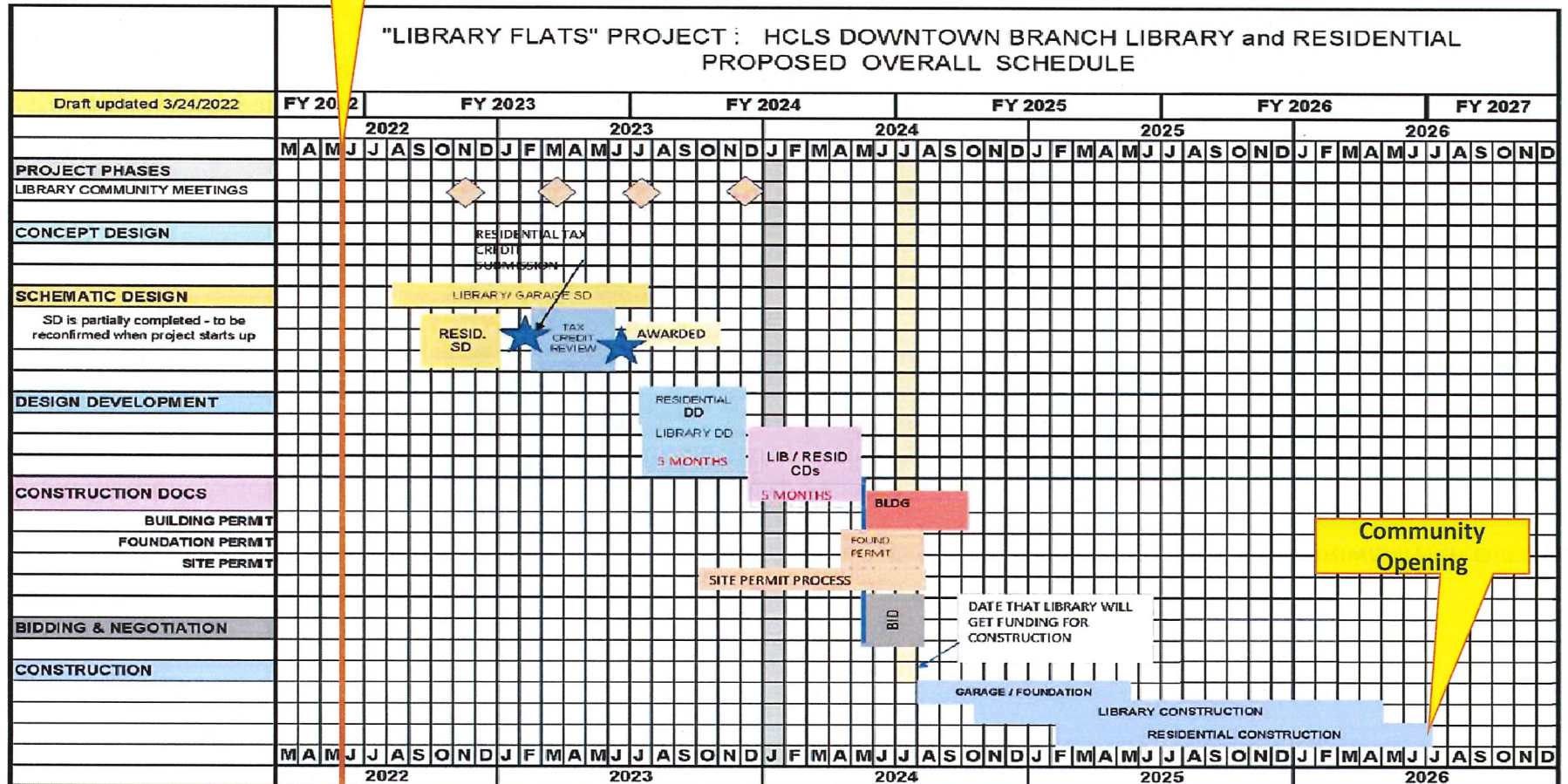
Accomplishments:

- Completed competitive bid process in accordance with HUD procurement procedures. Evaluated 8 development teams and selected finalist.
- Confirmed location of library and housing and completed preliminary site tests.
- Analyzed and completed preliminary parking scenarios.
- Confirmed project scope and library footprint.
- Completed timeline projects and preliminary budget.
- Developed high level conceptual designs.



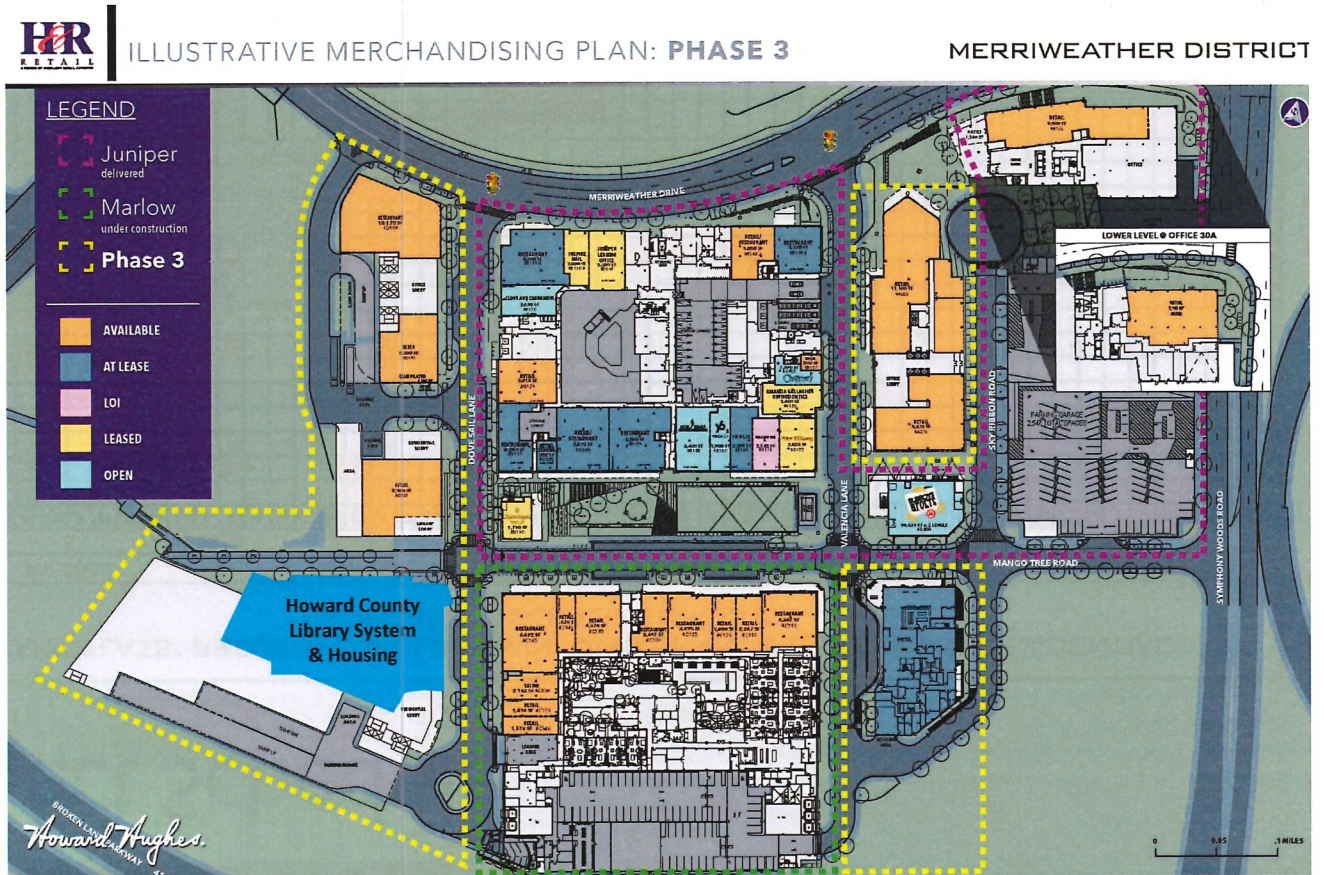
High Level Project Schedule

Today



High Level Site Concept

- Vital social infrastructure for all community members.
- Increased footprint to address space limitations
- Additional classrooms for current and anticipated increased community demand
- Flexible and accessible community spaces for all community members' diverse needs
- Increased digital access areas inclusive of computing and software access, expansive digital printing, etc.
- Increased parking estimated at 321 spaces, a 60% increase



High Level Project Concept



High Level Project Concept





THANK YOU!

Tonya Aikens, President & CEO

410.313.7795

Tonya.Aikens@hclibrary.org

Angela Brade, COO Support Services

410-313-7797

Angela.Brade@hclibrary.org



Sayers, Margery

From: JT Nader <jtnader@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 11:20 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Please fully fund bike and pedestrian projects

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council People,

I'm writing to urge you all to fully fund bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects. I live in District 1 and I'm an avid bicyclist, runner, and walker. The value of bike and ped projects can not be overstated: it promotes the health and well-being of all people and our planet! We need to do more to make these activities easily accessible, more interconnected, and Safe. Please invest in these projects for our kids and our planet's health.

Thank You, John Nader

Sayers, Margery

From: william rovito <wrovito@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 9:12 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: HCEDA FY2023 Budget

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Members of the Howard County Council:

My name is William Rovito, owner of HoCo Fence, and I serve on the Board of Directors for the Howard County Economic Development Authority as Treasurer. I am pleased to provide written testimony in support of HCEDA's FY2023 budget request. As a member of the community, I believe this year's proposed budget includes specific requests for efforts that will help HCEDA better support the changing needs of the business and entrepreneurial communities within Howard County.

Please support the following requests for funds for the following efforts:

Marketing - HCEDA is requesting \$200K to enhance its marketing efforts to reach deeper into the minority communities within the county to connect them to the services provided by HCEDA and the Maryland Innovation Center. In addition, these funds will enhance efforts for promoting the county to attract businesses, because it is now more critical than ever to position Howard County to out-of-market firms seeking to relocate.

Small and Minority Business Outreach Staff Position - HCEDA is also requesting funds to add a business development position to support small and minority business outreach. Because of work accomplished during the pandemic and the focus on providing grant support to the most impacted businesses, HCEDA was able to connect to a large portion of its business community that needs ongoing support. A business development specialist dedicated to the small and minority business owners would be beneficial to this sector to deliver programs and technical assistance in a way that meets the needs of these businesses.

Additional funding for Ag Innovation Grants – In order to support the farming community and help farms move into new markets or enhance the viability and capabilities of the business, Ag Innovation grants have proven to be a successful tool in supporting this important industry while creating full and part-time jobs. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

William Rovito
Owner, HoCo Fence

Sayers, Margery

From: Pat Sylvester <psylvester@ats2.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 6:59 PM
To: CouncilMail; Sayers, Margery
Cc: Jones, Opel; Jung, Deb; Rigby, Christiana; Walsh, Elizabeth; Yungmann, David; Delorenzo, Carl; Sidh, Sameer
Subject: RE: CB34-2022 - Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC) - Capital Budget Support Testimony - C0364, L0020, F5976, F5977
Attachments: CB34-2022_CapBudget_CDHC Support_NCC_Banneker_NewLibrary_final.docx; CB34-2022_CapBudget_CDHC Support_NCC_Banneker_NewLibrary_final.pdf

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Chair and members:

I am re-sending the written testimony of the Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC) supporting the capital budget items for the NCC, new Central Library and the two fire stations affecting Downtown Columbia. I have reviewed all publicly posted testimony and cannot find our submission from May 10. I wanted to be sure you received it in advance of consideration of amendments to the FY2023 Capital Budget (CB 34).

CDHC opposes proposed amendments 20 and 23 and asks that you not move any proposed funding for the new Library or NCC to contingency. The NCC must continue to be supported proactively by the County so that it can be the recipient of important and needed State funding for the housing component. Any actions that suggest that this project will be further delayed by the local government likely will result in other non-Howard County housing projects being prioritized for critical gap financing by the State. We have all worked hard to bring this project forward. Please, let's continue to move together to demonstrate the County's commitment to keeping this project on track.

We would also ask that you not move to contingency the \$1.666M in new Central Library funding. We understand that you may want additional information and we expect that information can be put together without transferring the funding to contingency. Again, let's all work collaboratively to address concerns and avoid unnecessary dissidence, confrontation or bureaucracy.

Thank you,
Pat Sylvester
President, CDHC

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Pat Sylvester](#)
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 1:35 PM
To: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov
Cc: [Councilman Opel Jones](#); [District 4](#); [Rigby, Christiana](#); ewalsh@howardcountymd.gov; dyungmann@howardcountymd.gov
Subject: CB34-2022 - Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC) - Capital Budget Support Testimony - C0364, L0020, F5976, F5977

Council Chair Jones and Councilmembers Jung, Rigby, Walsh and Yungmann:

Attached please find the testimony of CDHC in SUPPORT of the Administration's proposed funding for the following projects:

C0364 – FY2021 New Cultural Center
L0020 - FY2021 New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation
F5976 – FY2018 North Columbia Fire Station
F5977 – Replacement Fire Station #7 (Banneker)

Approval of these projects as proposed is critical to keeping the Affordable Housing Plan for Downtown Columbia moving forward.

Thank you.
Patricia Sylvester, President
Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

COLUMBIA DOWNTOWN HOUSING CORPORATION (CDHC)
9820 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 224, Columbia, MD 21046
(O) 410-313-6316; housing@howardcountymd.gov

To: Council Chairman Jones, and Councilmembers Jung, Rigby, Walsh, and Yungmann

From: Patricia Rynn Sylvester, President, CDHC

Date: May 10, 2022

RE: CB 34-2022 - Testimony in Support:

C0364 – FY2021 New Cultural Center

L0020 - FY2021 New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation

F5976 – FY2018 North Columbia Fire Station

F5977 – Replacement Fire Station #7 (Banneker)

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation (CDHC) supports the capital budget items listed above because they are critical to timely implementation of the Affordable Housing Plan for Downtown Columbia and the creation of more than 300 homes for low- and moderate-income persons in Downtown, a very expensive rental market. We ask for your favorable vote for full funding of these items as proposed by the Administration.

C0364- FY2021 – New Cultural Center

The New Cultural Center (NCC) is the first of four mixed-use public facilities planned for Downtown Columbia. CO364 updates the financing plan for NCC showing both its increased costs and the non-County funding sources committed to cover them. Approval of CO364, as proposed by the Administration, will enable this unique development to move forward. NCC will be a positive addition to Downtown through its physical design, its planned arts and theater activities, and the creation of 87 critically needed affordable apartments in an otherwise very expensive housing market. It will be a significant enhancement to Downtown.

L0020 – FY 2021 New HCLS Central Branch & Relocation

The FY 2023 capital budget includes \$1.67 M for planning and engineering of the new Central Library to be located in the Merriweather District. This new Central Library will also be a mixed-use building including approximately 150 residential units with about 50% affordable and financed using Low Income Housing Tax Credits. It is important that the new Library's development schedule be compatible with the State's schedule for awarding its competitive housing finance resources. The current schedule shown in L0020 accomplishes this. CDHC requests your support for full funding of this FY 2023 request and support for the proposed schedule. All county residents benefit from our first-class library system. Planning for the new Library is an investment in the future of all county residents including those who live and work in Downtown, as well as empty-nesters, seniors, and people with disabilities. Approval will result in the new Library being able to begin vertical construction in FY2025 and complete both

The Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation ("CDHC") serves as the Downtown Columbia Housing Foundation recognized by the Howard County Council under Title 28 of the Howard County Code. CDHC is organized specifically to fulfill the vision of the Downtown Columbia Plan for a full spectrum and diverse mix of housing in Downtown Columbia, including affordable housing that will ensure low, moderate and middle- income families will have an opportunity to live in Downtown Columbia.

the housing and Library in FY 2026. Additionally, timely forward movement on the New Library will enable the current Library site to be transferred to the Howard County Housing Commission and developed as a mixed income residential community with about 50% of the units affordable. Both Library site developments are expected to add about 150 units of affordable housing to the County's inventory.

F5976 – FY2018 North Columbia Fire Station
F5977 – Replacement Fire Station #7 (Banneker)

Redevelopment of the Banneker Fire Station site and creation of a new North Columbia Fire Station are critical to:

- address existing shortcomings in fire service to the North Columbia area;
- proactively address the future fire safety needs of the planned new residential, commercial and job growth in Downtown Columbia over the next 10 years; and
- enable the creation of 100 units of critically needed affordable senior housing.

The new Banneker Fire Station will be the third mixed use public facility in Downtown to include affordable housing. In this case, 100 units of senior housing. Currently, the North Columbia Fire Station is planned as the temporary home for the Banneker Fire Station while the existing station is redeveloped. The inability to agree on the site for North Columbia continues to jeopardize the timely redevelopment of Banneker with 100 units of senior housing. CDHC asks that the Council work with the Administration, the Board of Education, and other stakeholders to settle on a site for the North Columbia Station and to keep the Banneker Replacement Station on schedule with the funding proposed by the Administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments. Please do not hesitate to contact CDHC if we may be of assistance as you work through the items discussed above.

Sayers, Margery

From: Marc Levin <mlevin@muih.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 2:45 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Additional testimony of MUIH on budget bill
Attachments: Additional Written Testimony of Maryland University of Integrative Health on Budget Bill 5-19-22.pdf

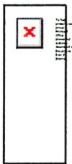
[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Howard County Council

Attached is additional testimony of Maryland University of Integrative Health on funding for MUIH in the proposed county budget.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Marc



Marc Levin

President and CEO

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Additional Testimony of Maryland University of Integrative Health
Support of Proposed Funding for Maryland University of Integrative Health
in the County Budget

May 19, 2022

The proposed county budget includes funding for MUIH toward the building of a community focused Whole-Person Health and Wellness Center which will provide expanded integrative health services and education to residents of Howard County as well as other benefits to the county. Our goal is to develop a nationally recognized successful community-oriented facility that ultimately serves as a model for others to replicate across the country.

The new community focused Whole-Person Health and Wellness Center will include a teaching kitchen with hands on stations for up to 30 participants at a time and a demonstration kitchen for larger group presentations, a comprehensive integrated health care clinic that will include a specialized integrative pain management program, a therapeutic yoga studio, and a classroom. It will be the first center in the country to include all these aspects.

Benefits of the new center to residents of the county and the county include:

- Free classes/sessions to residents of the county in the hands on teaching kitchen
- Free classes/sessions to residents of the county in the demonstration kitchen
- Free classes/sessions to families of the county in the hands on teaching kitchen
- Free classes/sessions to families of the county in the demonstration kitchen
- Free classes/sessions to children of various ages in the hands on teaching kitchen
- Free classes/sessions to children of various ages in the demonstration kitchen
- Free classes/sessions to underrepresented individuals and families of the county in the hands on teaching kitchen

- Free classes/sessions to underrepresented individuals and families of the county in the demonstration kitchen
- Collaboration with the Department of Community Resources and Services to provide free classes/sessions to their clientele in the hands on teaching kitchen
- Collaboration with the Department of Community Resources and Services to provide free classes/sessions to their clientele in the demonstration teaching kitchen
- Collaboration with the Office on Aging to provide free classes/sessions to their clientele in the hands on teaching kitchen
- Collaboration with the Office on Aging to provide free classes/sessions to their clientele in the demonstration teaching kitchen
- Collaboration with the Health Department to provide free classes/sessions to their clientele in the hands on teaching kitchen
- Collaboration with the Health Department to provide free classes/sessions to their clientele in the demonstration teaching kitchen
- Collaboration with the Howard County Public School System to provide free classes/sessions to their students in the hands on teaching kitchen
- Collaboration with the Howard County Public Schools System to provide free classes/sessions to their students in the demonstration teaching kitchen
- Free classes/education sessions to residents of the county on various health and wellness topics based on the modalities offered in the new integrative clinic
- A progressive pain management program available to residents of the county
- Potential positive impact on the opioid crisis by having a progressive pain management program available in the county
- Free classes/education sessions to residents of the county on mindfulness and its impact on health and wellness
- Collaboration with the Department of Community Resources and Services for outreach as well as education sessions to their clientele for the modalities offered in the integrative clinic
- Collaboration with the Health Department for outreach as well as education sessions to their clientele for the modalities offered in the integrative clinic

- Collaboration with the Office on Aging for outreach as well as education sessions to their clientele for the modalities offered in the integrative clinic
- Intentional outreach to underrepresented populations for services and educational sessions from the integrative clinic
- An investment in the health and well-being of the residents of the county
- An investment in preventive and whole-person wellness of the residents of the county
- An expansion of the health and wellness services available to residents in the county
- Improved quality of life for residents of the county
- Attract individuals from across the region to come to the county for the unique services and education sessions being offered
- Be an additional positive factor for individuals to consider when thinking about moving to the county
- Be an additional positive factor for companies to consider when thinking about moving to the county or starting a business in the county

Howard County is a leader in quality of life for its residents and this center reflects the movement of health and wellness beyond hospital care.

We urge you to support the funding for this new and very beneficial center in the proposed budget.