

## Quincy Public Library Proposed Renovation Project

### Library Needs:

#### New HVAC

The all-electric HVAC system installed in 1974 is in disrepair and is not energy efficient. The old HVAC system requires frequent repair, including replacing Freon, with an average monthly expense of \$500 just to keep the system running. Heating and Air professionals have explained that this is a “dying system” and even if existing leaks are found and repaired, new ones are likely to spring up. In addition, replacing and repairing parts on a system this old would require custom cutting and fitting of parts. Even more concerning, the production of this type of Freon will stop as early as 2010, making it difficult and expensive to obtain.

The Library proposes to install a new, much more energy efficient system. The expense to install this system includes the cost of the HVAC system, installation of new ductwork, electrical upgrades, and repairing or replacing ceiling and walls that would be damaged in the process. The architects recommend the addition of a fire suppression system while the ceilings are open for the other work.

#### Children’s Department

The Library has seen a tremendous growth in participation of Library activities, particularly children’s activities. This June, nearly four times as many children participated in summer activities than participated four years ago. The current Children’s Department is located in the lower level of the Library. Locating the Children’s Department on the main floor in the Annex facility would allow twice the amount of space for Children’s materials and services, and added convenience for parents visiting the Library with their children. In order to move the Children’s Department, a new entrance must be built to provide easy access to all services. Potential security concerns in the Children’s Department will be alleviated with better sight lines and a central circulation desk at the sole entrance.

#### Off-Street Parking

The Library opened in 1974, with 28 public parking spaces, 15 staff spaces, and minimal street parking. Parking on the street requires walking to the building across a 30 foot bridge. Parking in the existing lot provides entrance to the lower level, where steps or an elevator that does not meet ADA standards allow access to the main floor. By far the most frequent complaint heard at the Library is the inability to find parking. Especially during programs and events, patrons are forced to park in neighboring non-library lots or blocks away. The proposed parking lot would be adjacent to the new entrance with 103 public parking stalls, including four reserved for handicapped parking. A covered awning would allow drop off and pick up of patrons regardless of weather.

#### Summary

The proposed building renovations would not only solve the current and pressing needs of the library: the need for a new energy efficient HVAC, the need for a handicapped accessible building, the need for a larger, more secure Children’s area, and the need for additional parking- it would also provide new and enhanced spaces for Library services. The new Children’s space would nearly double in size with adequate space for the popular puppet shows, storytimes and crafts that take place daily in the department. The increased square footage would allow the Library to have a space designated for Teens only, something that has not been possible in the past, as well as adequate seating for library patrons. A covered awning would allow patrons to be dropped off or to wait for a ride protected from the elements. A larger, more accessible meeting room would provide better seating and allow more patrons to attend programs. The current meeting room size has forced the library to pay for multiple programs to accommodate the demand, or to turn patrons away. A central entrance would allow for better security of materials and people, as the area would be staffed at all times, allowing staff to see all patrons as they come and go.