

WHY ARE WE HERE?

- To fulfill the consultation requirements of Appendix 18 of the Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) which indicates that when the U of A undertakes a substantial development it will hold two open houses: the first open house to show site options and conceptual plans, the second open house to show preliminary design.
- The Research and Collections Facility (RCRF) is a substantial development and tonight is the second open house and opportunity for our neighbours to review the proposed preliminary design for the RCRF.
- To have an opportunity to meet with U of A representatives and ask questions about the RCRF project.
- To provide feedback on the RCRF project.

WHAT IS THE RESEARCH & COLLECTIONS RESOURCE FACILITY?

BACKGROUND

The Book and Record Depository (BARD) is a library storage facility located off-campus. BARD is a high-density facility that houses less frequently accessed library materials, research collections and the University Archives. Together these constitute one of Canada's most significant academic and cultural resources.

Over the past 7 years, the University has been investigating options to relocate the collection from BARD to a location that would provide better access by the academic body. After much research and discussion the U of A Board of Governors has decided that a new facility referred to as the Research & Collections Resource Facility will be built on the U of A South Campus.

There is an urgency to complete this project in time to receive the collection in the spring of 2017.

PROJECT GOALS

- Provide an appropriate, functional and welcoming space for staff, students and visitors for academic and special research purposes and goals;
- Be located in a more suitable, low-risk location, decreasing the liability exposure and risk profile, protecting the irreplaceable collection and the University Archives;
- Improve the proximity of the facility to North Campus, ideally accessible by LRT for better access by students, staff and researchers;
- Accommodate growth and the backlog of unprocessed materials to the collection;
- Accommodate up to one million items relocated from current on-campus storage facilities to free up valuable space for academic requirements; and
- Provide appropriate quantity, type and function of space for processing, storing, and digitizing materials in the collection.

FUNCTIONAL PROGRAM

Space is also required for staff, student and public use. The staff component includes office space for RCRF staff and Archives staff, additional book processing space, a collaboration space, lockers, kitchenette, copy room and office supplies storage.

Public support spaces are intended for the use of researchers and visitors wanting to access items from the University Archives, which must remain within the facility and are not able to be borrowed.

OPERATIONS

Staff:

The facility will have less than ten library staff.

Parking:

Staff requiring parking permit would be assigned at Lot 65, just east of Saville Parking Lot J. Accessible/visitor dropoff would be handled by 115A Street layby.

Facility operations:

The facility will include a digitization centre and a reading room for archives and other special materials by appointment as well as the operations required to send material to other libraries and to store it securely.

Public use:

The facility is open to the general public by appointment only and only for use of materials stored in the building that cannot be transferred to another library.

Truck traffic:

The library's small vans will be delivering and picking up material at the facility on a daily schedule. There are no night time deliveries.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

There is a target established for the team to achieve Green Globes certification. Some architectural considerations include:

- Efficiency in the building envelope;
- Siting and orientation of the building;
- Energy model targets;
- Selection of products and materials that meet sustainable design criteria; and
- Consideration in developing a Building Service Life Plan.

CHALLENGES

The challenging aspects of the RCRF project are:

- Meeting program requirements while aligning with campus planning guidelines.
- Confirmation of 9.1m (30') high density storage capacity to accommodate the combined BARD Collections, University Archives and Maps – achieved through the engagement of an expert racking designer and supplier (Space Saver) early in the validation phase to verify, optimize and develop project-specific overall reduced storage area, while meeting the 20 year capacity growth objective.
- Balancing LRDP Planning Principles with shorter and longer term operational needs of RCRF – achieved through

extensive analysis of siting options and design that engages the public realm to improve researchers, students, staff and service access from the east. Ample opportunity for future growth in the west part of the site for potential academic and/or collection expansion was addressed through realizing reduced site coverage.

- Construction budget – higher cost due to geotechnical conditions confirmed to exist on site, and a racking system priced in US Dollars, resulting from a less favourable CAD to USD exchange rate. This challenge has been addressed by budget adjustment within the overall approved project funding amount.
- Confirmation of Program through conversion of the programmed Component Gross Square Metres (CGSM) into Building Gross Square Metres (BGSM) – addressed through a critical review and prioritizing of all functional areas, increased use of shared and open spaces resulting in a reduced general circulation and economized size of all reviewed operational components. Space program update, rationalizing and validation process included participation of Library Services.

OPPORTUNITIES

Development of Site #3 of Sector 12, District 2 brings a new Academic/Research facility onto South Campus. The purpose designed Research Collections and Resource Facility (RCRF) provides safe, environmentally controlled high density storage to establish a modern records depository with a holding capacity accommodating up to 20 years growth projections. The design is conceived to provide for expansion opportunities to accommodate future academic and/or storage needs. Through a mindful approach to the new facility site placement and site coverage, both the operational shorter-term library and collections considerations and longer-term campus growth goals are balanced.

RCRF provides for a venue for advanced collections and archive access and research. It includes a dedicated reading room for pre-arranged study that is critical for academic success, augmented by secure, purpose designed library and archives staff services, sorting and processing areas.

A rebranding of the University's Research Collections and Resource endeavors through this facility.