

Written Comments from the Public Forum

August 16, 2010

Note: All comments were typed as written with the exception of spelling out some abbreviations for clarity's sake. In some cases, it seems that people commented on options other than the one associated with the station they were visiting.

Station about the Existing Building:

1. Minimal renovation only. Already plenty of room. Use parking passes for patrons into existing garages and lots.
2. I tutor students at the Goodwood and Carver Branch Library branches-I would never go downtown to tutor.
3. Without the jurors at the River Center Branch, the library is almost deserted during the day.
4. Maybe people don't use the River Center library because it's obsolete?
5. How can expansion of this facility be justified? Current space is underutilized by patron count in fact I.E. 4th floor closed tonight and only 3 people total on 2nd and 3rd floor.
6. With better public transportation-parking would not be a problem.
7. Awful option. The current space is an abomination.
8. Even "A" Renovation ends up with too large a branch. Close in atrium, confine Library to 2 floors, give back [to the city] upper floors.
9. Lipstick on a pig. Still a pig.

Station about the Renovation:

1. Build a new one.
2. I live and work downtown and I support a new library!
3. This option does not fully address needs! Go with one that does.
4. Renovating existing library does not create a community library that we need. I live in Mid-City but prefer downtown.
5. Expand south side toward Municipal Building.

6. The least expensive option would be the most wasteful, since it accomplishes so little. Go for Replacement.
7. We are a democratic society. All citizens should have access to services and information to be included in this process. In 2010, that will take a renovation to get it technically up to speed.
8. This option does not provide for the needs of the downtown for a facility that will attract the community.
9. I want a new library. 😊 Don't be short-sighted. Plan for the future.
10. This program won't work for the future vision of Baton Rouge. Don't settle for small ideas.
11. Talk to Coleman Brown.
12. This option does not address energy-efficiency as well as it should. The building is still unattractive and not welcoming. I favor expansion or rebuild.
13. Renovation is needed & logical but there is low demand for circulation & child & teen services-make space fit needs not wishes.
14. The RCB should conform to other branches. Allot 9 million for repair. \$2 million for shared parking. Return balance to LBOC.

Station about an Expansion:

1. Renovation is the way to go. It keeps the collection up which is the most important. The cost is within range.
2. The proposals are filled with "wants." The real "needs" have not been determined.
3. Do not expand. Let DDD and others develop "Visitor's Center," etc. Consider closing RCB and find small site.
4. Rooftop terrace, café, long hours, 8am–12 am, business center, garden center. New Library please. Plan for future & parking. No more meetings & surveys.
5. I live, work, and spend all of my time downtown and am in favor of rebuilding of the downtown Library. It would be a great heavily used asset to our community...and a wise use of our tax dollars.
6. Current building is wholly inadequate. A small renovation and addition will still be inadequate. Why should downtown patrons be denied the information and access of others?
7. Don't be short-sighted. Plan for the future. We need a new Library....and a Business Center.

8. Need parking for this idea-not acceptable without parking.
9. Will work if can't do total rebuild-the collection needs expansion for use, but parking would be good.
10. Cost-wise-building a new Library would be so much more efficient. Baton Rouge needs a great downtown Library-please don't waste money renovating.
11. For the additional cost, it is worth it to completely re-construct and have a significant architectural highlight in the downtown!
12. The additional space is ideal, and the cost should allow for significant additional space...but it's not significantly different to build new. Better choice is to rebuild than scab on.
13. Today at 5:15 on the way to this meeting I walked thru the library: 1) Restrooms: UGH! 2) All computers (12-15) were taken by patrons 3) Boxes stacked underneath stairwell probably in violation of Fire Code! Definitely NEED Renovation/Expansion. Either renovate/Expand or Replace. Replacement offers a lot for a little extra money. Must not cut number of books or Auditorium space! NEED adequate, separate children's and teen Space! Welcoming areas for downtown tourists, guests, and convention goers. Research facilities for downtown schools/businesses. Open spaces, security, elevators, restrooms CRUCIAL.

Station about Replacement:

1. I want a new library with a café, rooftop garden, public restrooms, garden center. Meeting room. No more surveys & meetings!
2. Would like to see a new building and parking. LEED certified.
3. The Replacement plan is the only one that makes sense to me. Why not add more parking for revenue? The Business Resource Center is needed!
4. Replacement at \$19 million is ludicrous! Remodel. "Downtown" is blessed with Carver Branch Library and Eden Park-they don't need a 3rd!
5. We want to be like Vancouver& Seattle. 3rd Option is my choice. New Library.
6. Replacement is clearly the most sensible option given the problems with the existing building.
7. Rooftop terrace and coffee bar would be great. Tech lab for projects!
8. Replacement: The most bang for the buck!
9. I do business downtown regularly and have brought my children to this library. I favor a remodel and expansion or a complete rebuild. Downtown pays higher taxes-give them what they deserve.

10. Please build us a new Downtown Library! We've been promised one for years!
11. We need to have a forward thinking progressive identity with the best state of the art amenities in a new Library-reflecting the Library system as a whole & our great city also.
12. I live and work downtown-with all the new great things going on-a replacement library would be a perfect addition to accommodate all of Baton Rouge.
13. This option should pursue LEED certification-actually all should.
14. This is a depressing example of why Louisiana has higher public spending (& taxation)/capita than more progressive states. I.E. We spend our resources on buildings and bridges that serve almost no one instead of on real needs, e.g. literacy.
15. Must at least Renovate/Expand but Replacement offers so much more for a little more money. Hope you can go for a Replacement.
16. Keep our young brilliant minds and build a structure for the future generation.
17. Unnecessary expense-Dreams don't equal needs.
18. We need iconic, great architecture and we need a library downtown that represents the vision of the future of our community. Dream big. Replace the old facility with an excellent, technologically-advanced building that will be a destination.
19. I live downtown. Please...Please...Please.
20. Courthouse was just built with no parking except for judges? Let's solve this issue for both buildings at the same time.
21. Replacement option offers the most for the money and is the best way to go.
22. I support the complete reconstruction of the Library...I live and work downtown and believe this would best put to use my tax dollars-a new sustainable and attractive building. Thank you.
23. It's about time. Residents of Baton Rouge deserve a downtown library with space for the community to come together. The replacement isn't just about a building or more parking. It is about investing in our community and our future.
24. Replacement handles parking plus collections size!! Best value for money!
25. Minimal Renovation at the absolute most-bring restrooms to code-replace elevator-High "E" glass-wait 10 years and judge the need.
26. I live downtown!! I want to use this library-collection needs expansion!

27. What a great way to endorse education in BR!
28. Consider building expansion to the south between Municipal Building-at least 40 ft→ and up.
29. The far-reaching potential of what a first class facility like this could provide for downtown & BR is endless! Those who think this is about books are short-sighted. This is about cultural expansion & offering the public more.
30. Extreme makeover-Downtown really needs it.
31. I am very deeply hoping that the board understands what this type of service for our community gathering & not to mention what it do for us nationally!
32. Replacement is best value-small additional cost meets all needs & best addresses challenges inherent in downtown location + exciting design grabs attention and interest.
33. We need a totally new Library-expansion/renovation are not valid options. Build from scratch. It is not feasible to have a modernized downtown without a fantastic library system. Look to West Palm Beach for example-10 years ago, their downtown area was overrun by prostitutes & crack dealers. Now, it is a wonderful clean place with nice park & library system and local restaurants & businesses. We need a NEW Library!
34. I am split between Expansion and Replacement, but lean more towards Replacement-for a few \$ more, get much more.
35. Thank you for holding this meeting downtown-where its many users/potential users work & live.
36. The replacement costs for getting 46 parking spaces is ridiculous!
37. I live & work downtown & I support a new Library with a Business Center & Parking.
38. The RCB does not deserve “special” treatment! All other branches are 15,000 sq. ft. Use alternate A, Release upper 2 floors to C/P Gov.
39. I live and work downtown and the RCB is my branch-it needs to be as nice and as up-to-date as every branch in EBR! Please make it so!

Station about What If ...?

1. **What If...** New building and parking lot of USPS on North Blvd and the interstate to use parking available under interstate.
2. **What If...** Inscape.

3. **What If...** We flushed the toilet with rainwater as opposed to perfectly good drinking water that we pumped from 1000' below.

4. **What If...** Add drop boxes for books-Not just the Library-@other buildings in the area.

5. **What If...** Improve electrical & I.T. capabilities in library now. Prove that public will use expanded PC services (only thing being used at capacity now). If demand for other services also increases, that would be a reason for more space than a branch (~12,000 sf).

6. **What If...** It was all in at half the \$? Parking too? [→ pointing to Coleman Brown's proposal on table.]

7. **What If...** Food would make me visit the Library more. A coffee shop or a café would certainly entice me to visit more often.