

NEWS RELEASE
North Olympic Library System
2210 South Peabody Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 26, 2021
Contact: Noah Glaude, Library Director
360.417.8500 x7717; NGlaude@nols.org
Re: Sequim Branch Library Recommended for \$2 Million Grant
Attached: *Sequim Library Expansion Concept Floor Plan.png*
Sequim Library Expansion Concept Exterior.png

In June 2020, the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) applied for the [Library Capital Improvement Program Grant](#) administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce. The funding would help correct pressing facility issues at the Sequim Branch Library; issues which have been exacerbated by the effects of COVID-19. In October 2020, NOLS was notified that its application was selected as a recommended project, ranked 5th out of 33 applications, with recommendation for full funding of the project.

The grant allocation must be approved during the current 2021 Washington State Legislative session. There is currently \$10 million allocated for Library Capital Improvement Program (LCIP) Grants in [Section 1060 of Governor Inslee's proposed 2021-23 budget](#). In the House, [HB 1080](#) is currently being considered by the Capital Budget Committee.

If project funding is approved by the Legislature, the Sequim Branch Library will be awarded \$2 million in matching funds to help improve critical infrastructure including:

- Additional square footage to allow for adequate spacing of public seating, computers and shelving
- ADA-accessible bathrooms for the public and staff
- Expanded meeting room space with improved emergency exits
- Additional staff work area (individual offices, storage, improved shared work room)

Past Ballot Measures

NOLS has been seeking ways to mitigate the building challenges at the Sequim Branch Library during the past 20 years. Most recently, in November 2018, there were two measures on the General Election ballot: the creation of a Library Capital Facility Area (LCFA) and a bond to fund a new Sequim Branch Library building.

The creation of the LCFA passed, but the bond narrowly missed the 60% supermajority required for passage. It was encouraging to see the strong community support for the project (over 58.5% voted yes to fund the project), but discouraging to come so close to funding the critical project, only to fail by very small margin.

About the Library Capital Improvement Program

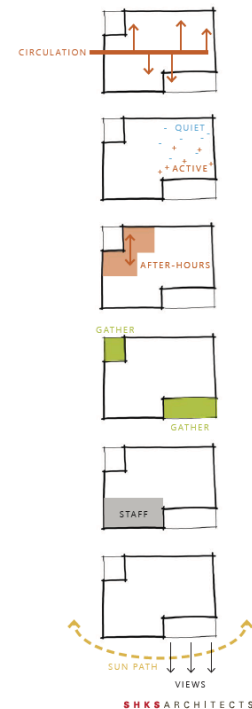
The Library Capital Improvement Program was created by the Legislature in the 2019 Regular Session to assist libraries to acquire, construct or rehabilitate their facilities. The maximum grant amount to any one entity will not exceed \$2 million and a 50% match of the total cost of the project is required. NOLS has the grant's required matching funds in Capital Reserve. Priority is given to library facilities located in distressed or rural areas; Clallam County is both.

Using the architecture firm that designed plans for the proposed new Sequim Branch Library in 2018, NOLS was able to develop preliminary plans to expand and renovate the existing building. "While a scaled-back project was not the Library's first choice, current plans to renovate and expand the current building would address many critical issues with the existing space, and be a tremendous benefit for the community," said Library Director Noah Glaude.

COVID-19 Impact

After COVID-19 forced NOLS to close its facilities to the public last spring, the Library pivoted quickly to offer new remote services and provide many online resources to support the community. Curbside library service began in June 2020 and the 5,700 square foot Sequim Branch Library became NOLS' busiest branch, receiving 26% (6,200) more patron visits between June and December 2020 than the 30,000 square foot Port Angeles Main Library. Despite the effects of the pandemic, the need for library services remains high.

More information about the Sequim Library Project, including conceptual plans and drawings and the project's history, can be found at www.nols.org/sequimlibraryproject.

[illegible]



3D rendering of conceptual building front (west side).

###