

## **COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** 2 May 2022

**Subject:** Airdrie Multi-Use Facility and Library – Concept Design Report

**Boards Routed Through:** N/A

**Date:** N/A

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### **Issue:**

Council is being presented with the Concept Design Report for the new Multi-use Facility and Library.

### **Background:**

During the special Council meeting on March 15, 2022 Council unanimously endorsed the hybrid option theme for the multi-use space. This theme has an arts and social agency focus with elements of a learning continuum focus. Gibbs Gage Architects has been working on two concept design options, both of which align with Council's key project objectives. Gibbs Gage will present the Concept Design Report and highlight how each of design options present different opportunities for how the overall facility could function and flow as it comes to life with people gathering to learn, connect and celebrate.

The Concept Design addresses how the project will be formed to reflect the project objectives. This is accomplished through:

- Site analysis and urban contextual analysis
  - The general approach to the site
  - Potential shadow development plan
  - Major access points
  - Circulation networks
  - Location of underground and surface parking
- How the building will be positioned on the site
- The overall shape of the building footage

- The building program needs, which is the foundational base of the Library Functional Program
- Relationship diagrams that indicate how spaces will be laid out in plan and how these spaces interact with each other

The Concept design will not show building floor plans, sections, or elevations. These will be part of the Schematic Design presentation.

The two concept design options that will be shown to Council have the following main characteristics:

- Option 1: features the atrium as a room - the gathering space - surrounded by the interaction of the other spaces in the library and in the multi-use space.
- Option 2: features the atrium as a street, layering the activities/services provided by all the entities that function independently of the Library's program.

Any of the two options will fulfill the project objectives as well as Council's vision for the facility. In both options, the uses spill into each other, maximizing the spaces for the public.

### **Alignment with South Saskatchewan Regional Plan and AirdrieONE:**

AirdrieONE:

The unique arts and cultural aspects of Airdrie contribute to its overall identity, sense of place and quality of life.

- The Focus for Arts and Culture is on how the City supports and enhance these aspects in the community and find opportunities to link them with sustainability.
- Sustainability Perspective: arts and cultural events and facilities are vital to making social connections between various groups in the community and contribute to Airdrie's sense of identity, place and community. More than just entertainment, arts and culture provide the means for the community to express itself in a variety of ways and in a variety of formal and informal venues.

In alignment with Council's project objectives and the community aspirations for arts and culture, the multi-use space within the new facility can serve as an opportunity to formalize connections to art by means of dedicated space for residents to learn, create and connect through art.

### **Boards Routed Through:**

Upon endorsement of Concept Design by Council, CSAB will be presented with the Council endorsed concept for their information.

## **Alternatives/Implications:**

1. Council could choose to provide approval to the project team to proceed to the next stage of the project, the schematic design, based on one of the options presented by the architects. This will allow the design to keep moving forward and continue working on the details of the spaces.
2. Council could choose to provide approval to the project team to proceed to the next stage of the project, the schematic design, based on a specific combination of elements from each of the options presented by the architects. This will allow the design to keep moving forward and continue working on the details of the spaces.
3. Council could choose to table the approval to proceed to the next stage and request the project team to work with the architects to bring other options that will address Council's concerns/questions. Choosing this option will delay the project schedule.

## **Public Engagement and Communications Plan:**

The new Multi-Use Facility and Public Library project delivers on two of Council's Priorities: Expanding Community Facilities and Revitalization of the Downtown. It is critical to develop a plan that informs the community about progress on the project and to provide opportunities to actively engage the community. The project communications plan is being developed to achieve the following objectives.

### Communication Objectives for the Project

- To ensure internal and external stakeholders are aware of the progress of the project.
- To ensure internal stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in the project within specific, pre-defined terms.
- To ensure a high level of community awareness of the project progress.
- To maximize project understanding.
- To have project summary information easily accessible to those who seek it.

Various tools and tactics will be developed and employed over the course of the project that will educate and engage residents throughout each of the phases (planning phase, construction phase and grand opening). Using various communication vehicles, the team will strategically and continuously highlight the background information on the new Facility (research outlining the need for the new facility), the benefit it will bring to residents (opportunities for gathering, learning and engagement) and educate residents on the Facility's connection to Council's Strategic Priorities and the revitalization of Airdrie's downtown.

## **Recommendation:**

That Council approves one of the concept design options presented by Gibbs Gage Architects in order to proceed to the next stage of the project, the schematic design.

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Michelle Lock, Director of Community Services  
Claudia Usuga, Community Facilities Project Coordinator

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| Presenter:   | Michelle Lock   |
| Department:  | Community Services  |
| Reviewed by: | Michelle Lock   |
| Attachments: | #1: AMUFL Concept Design Report_FINAL_22-04-25  |
| Appointment: | Stephanie Yeung, Design Lead - Gibbs Gage Architects<br>David Wittman, Executive Leader – Gibbs Gage Architects |