

Main Library Renovation FAQ (updated February 13, 2009)

Will the Main Library be closed during the renovation period?

The Main Library will **not** close during the renovation period, but **will be closed for a two week period** from March 16, 2009 until March 31, 2009 to allow time for staff to reorganize resources for the public and to move the majority of the collection to storage for the renovation period. During the two weeks the Main Library is closed, all other PPL locations remain open for their normal business hours. Beginning March 31st, we will reopen for our normal operating schedule, which is:

Sunday, Monday	Closed
Tuesday-Thursday	10am-7pm
Friday	10am-6pm
Saturday	10am-5pm

When the Main Library reopens on March 31st, there will be greatly reduced public space available. The entire circulating collection, periodicals, government documents, and public computing will be located on the 1st floor in the space that currently houses the Young Adult Fiction collection, public computing, periodicals, and government documents. **The entrance to the Library during the renovation period will be at the side of the building on Elm Street. The current entrance on Monument Square will be closed.**

How long is the renovation expected to last?

The renovation begins April 1, 2009 and is expected to last approximately one year, until the spring of 2010.

What collections will be available at the Main Library during renovation?

Space at the Main Library will be severely constricted during the renovation period. Therefore, collections and resources located at the Main Library will be greatly reduced. We will retain our new books collection, most of our Young Adult fiction collection, the large majority of our Music/Movies/Audiobook collection, and approximately 10% of the remaining collections. There will be virtually no seating, tables, study carrels, or desks available in the Main Library during the renovation. See below for ways to access items that are not on the shelf but are available in our catalog.

Will public computing be available during the renovation?

The number of public computers will be decreased to 12, and there will be no division between computers for youth and those for adults. Express computing, non-internet computers, color printing, scanners, and typewriters will not be available. Time limits on the public computers will be strictly enforced. We will still have wireless access for visitors with their own computers.

Can I use the Portland Room while construction is going on?

The Portland Room will be available by appointment only during the renovation period. In order to make an appointment, please call the Portland Room staff at 871-1700 ext. 747.

Will the piano be available? Will there be a practice room?

There will be no piano or practice room available during the renovation period, but we will reinstate these services when the renovation is complete.

Will Children's and Young Adult Services be restored at the Main Library after the renovation, or is the move of the children's materials to the East End Community School location permanent?

When the Main Library renovation is complete, there will be a greatly improved and expanded Sam L. Cohen Children's Library and a new separate Teen Center in the Monument Square facility.

How will I get books, movies, and music that aren't at the Main Library but are available in the system? Can I order books and other materials on the Library's website and pick them up? Can I still order items from other libraries to be delivered to PPL?

Over the past year, the Library has taken significant steps to make it easier for members to acquire items. We've implemented these changes to make the overall patron experience easier and more accessible generally, but they will have significant benefits for Main Library members during this period. If you would like to request a PPL item, a MaineCat item, or an ILL item to pick up at your local Branch or at the Main Library, this can now be done online, in person, or by phone.

To request a PPL item online, find the item you want in our catalog, and request the item be held for you at your pick-up location by clicking on the blue “REQUEST” button at the top of the screen. If the item is available at a PPL location, staff will retrieve it for you and deliver it to your preferred pick up location. If PPL owns the item but it is not available, your request adds your name to the waitlist for the next available copy. When the item is delivered to your pick up location, PPL will send you a notice that the item is ready. **The fastest notification is via e-mail**, so please give your e-mail address to add to your patron record. Otherwise, notices are delivered via postal mail. This service is always free to Portland Public Library cardholders. Please expect delivery of your requested item to take approximately 4 business days to account for differing hours of operation at all of our Branches and the temporary storage site.

To request an item from another Maine library via MaineCat online, search the PPL catalog for your desired item. If the item is not available through our catalog, you may automatically search the statewide catalog of Maine libraries by clicking on the blue button at the bottom of the screen that says “Search MaineCat.” When your item appears on the screen, you can click on either “Display holdings of Maine Info Net Libraries” or “Request this Item.” Fill in your library card information and select a pickup location. We will send you a notice when the item is ready for pick up, usually 5-8 business days. This service is always free to Portland Public Library cardholders.

To request an item from another library anywhere in the world via interlibrary loan (ILL) electronically, please fill out the ILL request form, which is available on our website at <http://www.portlandlibrary.com/ill/ill.htm>. We will request the item from another library and send you a notice when the item is ready to be picked up (usually 7-21 days). Please note that while this service is usually free, some libraries do charge for accessing items, making copies for delivery, etc.

To request a PPL, MaineCat, or ILL item by phone from the Main Library, please call 871-1700 x730 to reach the Lending Services Desk. You may also contact any of the PPL Branch locations to request an item by phone or visit any location in person to request staff assistance in locating or reserving an item for delivery. Please note that you will need your PPL card number to complete any of these services. The Library’s catalog is accessible from our website (www.portlandlibrary.com). From the homepage, click on “catalog” on the left-hand side of the screen.

Will the Brown Bag Lecture Series continue during the renovation period? Will there be other program offerings?

Our flagship author program, the Brown Bag Lecture Series, will continue during the renovation period. There will be a brief hiatus in programming during the month of March, but beginning in April the BBL Series will be offered in partnership with the Community Television Network. Programs will take place at CTN’s studio, housed at 516 Congress Street (about 1½ blocks west on Congress Street from the Main Library, next to MECA and CVS Pharmacy). The Series will continue to follow its normal format, but in addition to audio podcasts available through our partnership with the Maine Humanities Council (<http://mainehumanities.org/podcast/index.php>), the Brown Bag Lecture Series, taped in front of a live studio audience, will air regularly on CTN and be available on both the CTN and PPL websites.

Who designed the renovated building? Who is doing the construction? Where can I find out what the new building will look like?

The design and construction projects for the Main Library went through the City of Portland’s normal bidding process. Both the architectural firm and the construction firm hired to administer the projects are local Maine businesses. Scott Simons Architects, a Portland-based firm, designed the project and Ledgewood Construction in South Portland is handling the construction. If you’d like to see drawings of the renovated building, please go to our website at www.portlandlibrary.com and click on Reach for the Stars on the left-hand side of the screen. During the renovation period, we will also have a page on our website that documents construction progress.

Has the Library raised all the money it needs to pay for the renovation?

The Library has raised over \$7 million thus far, enough to complete Phase I of the project which includes renovations to the 2nd (Main) level, half of the 1st (lower) level, including the Rines Auditorium, and the building façade. We are still raising funds to complete Phase II of the project, which includes the 3rd and 4th floors and the back half of the 1st floor. Phase I and Phase II can be completed independently of each other or, if enough funds are raised, can be combined for a seamless construction experience.

To learn more about Portland Public Library Online Services, visit our web-site at www.portlandlibrary.com.