

## Discovery Centre Project Update

Project update period (May 2024 to November 2024)

Prepared by the Hamilton Public Library and City's Indigenous Relations Team

### Project Summary and Strategic Alignment

The Hamilton Public Library is leading a Work Plan to develop a concept which incorporates: a full-service library branch, Indigenous community gathering space, exhibits and gallery space, café, and visitor amenities.

The Discovery Centre Project envisions a partnership with the urban Indigenous community and the Hamilton Public Library working together to advance reconciliation by creating an Indigenous-led and staffed Indigenous gathering place within the redeveloped space, where stories can be shared about Hamilton's history, including Indigenous stories and those from diverse communities that have shaped Hamilton.

Project is aligned to: Urban Indigenous Strategy, Civic Museum Strategy, Economic Development Action Plan, West Harbour Secondary Plan "Setting Sail", and "Honouring Our Roots – Creating space for Indigenous voices".

### Key Project Achievements

- **Collaboration with the urban Indigenous community through on-going outreach and engagement**  
The City's Indigenous Relations Team (IRT) and Hamilton Public Library Staff attended the PAANG Celebration of Growth, and Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC) Pow Wow this summer. Staff also attended the June Circle of Beads meeting.
- **Selection of members for the Study Governance Steering Committee and Working Group**  
Terms of reference and membership in both groups has been set. Members are drawn from City of Hamilton staff, IRT staff, Hamilton Public Library staff, and the Indigenous community. Regular meetings will be held from October on. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on October 3. The Steering Committee met on November 5.
- **Library's West Harbour Site Vision Board Committee**  
The first meeting of the newly established Board Committee was carried out in May where the terms of reference for the committee were approved and an overview of the Study was provided. The second meeting occurred on September 25, providing project updates with a focus on public engagement for the Study.

### Key Planned Actions for Upcoming Period (to Next Scheduled WHDSC Meeting)

- Issuance of the Study Request for Proposal for consulting services
- Community Engagement Strategy and Plan created
- Regular meetings of the Working Group and Steering Committee

### Risks / Issues

A cyber-incident has delayed issuance of the Request for Proposal for consulting services and has impacted the timelines for the hiring of the consultant. Additional work was also required to create a procurement process which recognized the input of the Indigenous Community Working Group members. The original timeline called for a Request for Proposal for consulting services to go to market in Q1 2024. This has been delayed until Q4 2024. The delay will likely impact the delivery of the proposed concept.

### Resource Update

**Financial:** The Hamilton Public Library has identified \$250,000 using Library funds to advance the project. There is no financial impact to the West Harbour accounts.

**Staffing:** Staff capacity with the City and Library has been confirmed as part of forming the Project team.

### Community and Parties of Interest Engagement and Communications

- Circle of Beads: Hamilton Public Library and the IRT met with the Circle of Beads in June to bring a progress update.
- Indigenous Community Gatherings: The City's Indigenous Relations Team and Hamilton Public Library Staff attended the PAANG Celebration of Growth and HRIC Pow Wow this summer.
- Open Streets: Hamilton Public Library attended Open Streets in May and June.

### Work Plan Timelines

The Project work plan consists of the following Items and targets:

1. Hamilton Public Library Program Design and Development Study; Facility and Space Needs Assessment (Q1 2024 – Q4 2025)
2. Hamilton Public Library Staff-led Project Work (Q1 2024 – Q1 2026)
3. Indigenous Partners and Community Collaboration (Q1 2024 – Q2 2026)
4. Public and Stakeholder Consultation (Q1 2024 - Q4 2025)
5. Progress Updates (Q1 2024 - Q4 2025)
6. Hamilton Public Library Delivery of Proposed Concept (Q1 2026)
7. Recommendation Report with Proposed Concept to WHDSC (Q2 2026)

Due to the delay in issuing the RFP, the Recommendation Report with Proposed Concept will likely be delayed as a result. A full evaluation of the Study timeline will be completed once the consultant has been brought onto the project and any changes to estimated completion will be reported through future updates.