

New Northside Location FAQ

1. Why does the library need another building?
 - a. In 2022-2023, the library conducted a Strategic Planning assessment that revealed more space is necessary to reach the needs of our community. The Strategic Plan that was adopted by the library board in December is available at mybcpl.org/library-expansion
2. What will the new location be called?
 - a. The official name will be determined at a later date after a very deliberative process.
3. What will the former NCC building be used for?
 - a. The new branch will allow us to reach significantly more school-aged children with resources and support due to its proximity to several schools. There is also potential for community partners to have office space in the building furthering our idea of a community hub. Think of it more as a community center rather than a traditional library space.
4. How much will this new branch cost?
 - a. The building and grounds are being gifted to the library from the former congregation of North Christian Church. There will need to be renovations to bring the building up to accessibility standards before opening. Funding requirements for those renovations would be over time and not all at once. This would be possible through issuing bonds, grants, and fundraising. Operational costs will be absorbed into the library's operating budget with no increase in taxes.
5. When will the new branch open?
 - a. While the grounds will be used immediately for summer and fall programming, it will be at least 5 years before the building will be fully operational. Lots of conversation has to take place with the community and our partners to fully understand what the community wants and needs this campus to be.
6. How do you plan to convert it from a church to a library? What will happen to the Christian artifacts like the cross at the top of the building?
 - a. North Christian Church is well-known throughout our community and abroad. The process to rebrand the space will be thorough and respectful. Working with selected architects, we will redesign the space to more closely represent our neutrality while celebrating the welcoming atmosphere it has always offered. The cross on the steeple is the property of the congregation and we will work with them to determine next steps.
7. What if I have ideas on how the space could be used?
 - a. We're excited to start dreaming with you/our community! You're welcome to provide ideas on our form located at mybcpl.org/library-expansion