

## **Astoria Public Library**

450 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Astoria, OR 97103



### **Press release**

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## **Astoria Library Renovation to be discussed at Public Meeting on Tuesday, August 6**

A public meeting and preliminary discussion of the renovation study of the Astoria Library will take place on Tuesday, August 6 at the Liberty Theater. Doors will open at 5:00 pm. The meeting will take place between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm. The City, library leadership, and consultant team are especially interested in hearing about the library service needs and ideas of our citizens, including both current needs and anticipated needs.

The City of Astoria recently commissioned a renovation study of the Astoria Library.

The study has four goals: needs assessment, building program, cost estimate, and fund-raising strategies. Ruth Metz Associates (RMA), a library consulting firm based in Portland, is conducting the study. Both RMA and the city are seeking a robust community response. RMA has been meeting with community stakeholders, library patrons, library staff and city staff throughout the month of July. The public comment taken as part of the preliminary needs analysis at these meetings will be combined with comments taken at and after the August 6 meeting. Additional opportunities to comment include a booth at the Sunday Market on August 18. Comments can also be delivered to the Astoria Library at any time.

This study is preliminary to any future architectural planning and design. "We need to see how the Astoria Library can be renovated to provide contemporary library services and at what cost. Then the City will be better able to determine next steps," according to Brett Estes, Community Development Director/Assistant City Manager.

RMA will present the preliminary needs assessment findings in a public meeting and discussion on Tuesday, August 6, 2013. In addition, RMA will also present a review of public library trends and best practices, including in library technology as a backdrop to a dialog with and input from Astorians. The City, library leadership, and consultant team is especially interested in hearing about the library service needs and ideas of Astorians, current and anticipated.

The meeting will take place at the Liberty Theater between 5:30 and 7:30 pm. Doors will open at 5:00 pm. Presentations and group discussion will take place from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Following the presentations and group discussion, all are invited to the McTavish Room for refreshments and an opportunity to speak in more depth to members of the consulting team, city staff, and library board members.

On Sunday, August 18, the community will have another opportunity to comment at the Sunday Market. Members of the Library Board, Astor Library Friends Board and staff will be taking public comment between the hours of the Market, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

*The Astoria Public Library is a department of the City of Astoria, providing tax-supported services to all residents living within the city boundaries. The library holds over 50,000 print and audio-visual materials, provides access to downloadable e-books and other online resources, and offers programs for all ages. Guided by the mission statement "Explore ideas, engage minds, excite imagination", the Astoria Public Library is an active and responsive part of the community. For more information about Astoria Public Library programs and services, contact library staff at 503-325-7323 or comments@astorialibrary, or visit the Astoria Public Library at [www.astorialibrary.org](http://www.astorialibrary.org).*