Rendering of the art site, interior view looking towards the west windows of the new Black Cultural Center

North Portland Library
Art Glass Wall
Supplemental Materials

Site Address: North Portland Library, 512 NE Killingsworth St, Portland, OR 97217
Project Scope: One artist/artist team will be selected to create a 2-dimensional artist-designed glass wall which will be installed along the west side of the new Black Cultural Center, with the option to extend beyond the glass onto the surrounding wall that frames the window area, depending on the artist's vision and budget allocations
Project Budget: $55,000
Submissions Due: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 11.59pm PDT.

More About the Library Capital Building Projects

The renovation and expansion of North Portland Library is part of the first phase of the Library Capital Building Projects. Approved by voters in 2020, the building project will include expansions and renovations to seven branch libraries; building a destination library in East County; adding gigabit speed internet to all libraries; and creating a materials handling and distribution center, also known as the Operations Center. Based on the Multnomah County Library (MCL) project sequencing, all building projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of 2025/beginning of 2026. Some of the first projects include Albina, North Portland, Midland and Holgate libraries.

The new Multnomah County Library Operations Center was the first real estate purchase for these projects. This building leads the way for the additional building projects and will be located near the intersection of NE Glisan and NE 122nd Ave, approximately 8 blocks from Midland Library, in east Portland, Oregon. After the Operations Center, North Portland Library will be one of the first locations to reopen, currently scheduled for fall 2024. The Art Glass Wall artwork at the Black Cultural Center within North Portland Library is one of several public art elements intended for the revised site.
Since the scope of the building project is substantial and will impact different communities with different needs, MCL has made a strong commitment to community engagement throughout this process to ensure that each community will be authentically engaged in the building and service design of each library. Additionally, the building project is being guided by Capital Planning Project Principles as well as the following library pillars: free access for all, a trusted guide for learning, the leading advocate for reading and a champion for equity and inclusion. As part of this work towards equity and inclusion, the architecture teams for many of these projects are being led by women of color.

More About the North Portland Library Project Team

As part of the Library Capital Building Projects, North Portland Library renovations are being led by Multnomah County Library. Construction is being overseen and coordinated in conjunction with Andersen Construction. RACC is stewarding the public art elements allocated by Multnomah County's Percent for Art Program.

The North Portland Library design team includes LEVER Architecture and Noll & Tam Architects.

LEVER is a leading architectural practice recognized for design excellence and material innovation. From offices in North Portland and Los Angeles, they collaborate with communities, institutions and creative companies to design buildings and spaces that elevate human experience. They see architecture as a tool for moving the world forward, leveraging the forces that shape our broader culture to create buildings that amplify client and community goals and aspirations. Design excellence is the fulcrum of LEVER's approach to making buildings that are simple, elegant, beautiful, and inherently useful.

Noll & Tam believe in creating uncommon spaces for the common good. They have deep experience in a multitude of sectors and are champions for inclusiveness and uniqueness. They have a passion for architecture with a keen sense of empathy and believe you can’t have both without being devoted to sustainable design. Their values connect them to their partners and communities where they find inspiration for designs that make them feel whole. Ever since their founding, the & has been bringing it all together. Noll & Tam’s uncommon nature defines and unites them in a wonderfully meaningful way. They celebrate this in everything they do, for the benefit of all.

Community Engagement, Site Plans and Other Resources

Albina & North Portland Libraries Community Engagement Report
North Portland Library City Site Map
North Portland Library Neighborhood Site Map
North Portland Library Building Site Plan
North Portland Library Ground Floor Site Plan
North Portland Library Rendering - East
North Portland Library Rendering - Southeast
North Portland Library - BCC Exterior
BCC Exterior + Glass Wall Art Site (Green)
BCC Interior + Glass Wall Art Site (Green)
Glass Wall Art Site - West Elevation
North Portland Library Interior Concept