

Contact:

Suzanne Harold

City of Astoria

sharold@astoria.gov

503.298.2450

Andrea Trulove

Hennebery Eddy Architects

atrulove@henneberyeddy.com

503.227.4860

Michelle Winningham

O'Brien & Company LLC

michelle.winningham@obrien-co.com

503 516 3774

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**Astoria Library Renovation Begins**

Renovation will double usable building space, add media and meeting rooms, and expand children's and teen areas

ASTORIA, Ore., Sept. 17, 2024 – Renovation of the Astoria Public Library in Oregon's northwest coastal city has begun, marked with a ceremonial groundbreaking on Sept. 3. The renovation modernizes the building to meet 21st-century library requirements, including additional meeting rooms, a media room, expanded programming spaces, a larger children's area, and improved accessibility. The \$10.7M project is supported by an \$8M bond measure passed with overwhelming voter support in November 2022. Construction is anticipated to conclude in Fall 2025.

The Astoria Library, built in 1967, was designed by Ebba Wicks Brown, the second licensed female architect in Oregon. The renovation retains the building's refined midcentury Brutalist/International style while introducing daylight and opening the library to the streetscape. By expanding into the basement, which is visually connected to the main level by an open staircase, the project doubles the usable space in the building to 18,000 square feet and creates new social spaces, a gallery, and areas for kids and teenagers. There will also be space for archives, storage, and the Astoriana Room for historical and retrospective collections.

"Starting construction on this community-supported library renovation is an exciting milestone for the City of Astoria," said Suzanne Harold, Astoria Library Director. "This renovation truly honors and embraces Astoria's culture and history, while transforming the library into a modern, relevant space for the many Astorians who use our rich resources each day. From bond support to participation during the design process, the Astoria Library is truly by and for our entire community."

Designed by Hennebery Eddy Architects and constructed by O'Brien, the renovation design reflects the input of the Astoria community provided through focus groups with teens, seniors, young families, advocates for houseless individuals, and the indigenous local Native community. When complete, the library will serve as a vibrant gathering place for Astoria's diverse community.

During construction, the library will operate from a temporary location at 1512 Duane St. in downtown Astoria. Library patrons can also check out materials online and at the nearby Warrenton and Seaside

libraries with their Astoria library cards. Building project updates can be found at astoria.gov/Building_Project_Info.aspx

About Astoria Public Library

The Astoria Public Library was founded in 1892 as a subscription library, later becoming a public library run by the City. It moved four times in its first 75 years, finally settling at its current location in 1967. The Library’s mission is to explore ideas, engage minds, and excite imagination. It provides programs and materials for all ages, from birth through adulthood. As a member of the Northwest Library Cooperative, the Astoria Public Library shares its collection with the libraries in Seaside and Warrenton, creating a network of services for all library patrons in Clatsop County.

About Hennebery Eddy Architects

Driven by a passion for community, connecting people to nature, and making others successful, Hennebery Eddy Architects designs to inspire, foster belonging, and contribute to a regenerative future. We are thoughtful architects, planners, interior designers, and preservationists who create spaces where people gather, work, learn, and recreate. Founded and headquartered in Portland, Oregon, our staff of more than 100 serves clients throughout the West with additional studios in Bend, Oregon, and Bozeman, Montana. henneberyeddy.com

About O’Brien

O’Brien builds the places people love, from hotels, wineries, and restaurants to multifamily housing, luxury homes, manufacturing hubs, and civic facilities. As a trailblazer in the early integration of design and construction in the Pacific Northwest, O’Brien offers a range of delivery methods—design-build, construction manager/general contractor, or design-bid-build—ensuring the highest value for clients. Our collaborative approach fosters innovation, creativity, and exceptional results. With five offices spanning the Oregon Coast, Portland Metro, Willamette Valley, and Central Oregon, our team members live and work in the communities we serve. We are driven by a shared commitment to help these communities thrive. obrien-co.com

Images

Renderings of the Astoria Public Library and a photo from the groundbreaking, captions, and copyright information can be found at <https://bit.ly/APL-groundbreaking-media>

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