October 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Budget and Finance

From: Daniel Bollman  
Vice President for Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Facilities

Subject: Authorization to Plan  
MSU Main Library – Renovation to East Wing for Special Collections

RECOMMENDATION
The Trustee Committee on Budget and Finance recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to plan for improvements to the Main Library to better preserve vital MSU collections.

RESOLUTION
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby authorizes the Administration to plan for the project entitled “MSU Main Library – Renovation to East Wing for Special Collections.”

BACKGROUND
The MSU Libraries houses a collection of over 7 million volumes, along with thousands of other resources in print and electronic formats, including invaluable special collections. This includes the Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections, one of the world’s foremost collections of distinct materials, scoped in popular culture, radicalism, Michigan authors, culinary materials, and rare books. The Murray and Hong Special Collections holds over 450,000 printed works, numerous manuscript and archival collections, and an extensive collection of ephemera valued at over $135 million.

Most of the Murray and Hong Special Collections are housed in the basement of the Main Library in space that does not have an adequate HVAC system for maintaining proper temperature and humidity control, is in the one-hundred-year flood plain, lacks capacity to support collection growth including processing, work and viewing areas.
Description of Project:
As planning begins, the project is anticipated to include renovation of the third floor East Wing of the Main Library to provide necessary improvements for proper temperature and humidity control necessary for long-term preservation. This will include environmental separation and isolation from exterior building envelope, mechanically isolated to support stringent temperature and humidity controls; relocation of existing and installation of new compact shelving; and workspace for professional staff, librarians, and archivists.

The Main Library is on the corner of West Circle Drive in the north academic district.

Communication Plan:
Input will continue to be solicited from the campus community during the planning phase.

Preliminary Project Cost Information
The planning for this project will incur costs for consultants, designers, and cost estimating. The source of funds for the project is expected to be from gifts to the MSU Libraries, including the generous gift from Keelung Hong that named the “Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections.”


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