



# ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY

## RESOLUTION

### Facilities Master Plan

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 16, 2025

#### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ELKHART PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF A FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

**WHEREAS**, the Elkhart Public Library (“EPL”), founded over 120 years ago, has long served as a cornerstone of learning, civic engagement, cultural enrichment, and community connection for all residents of Elkhart; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Downtown Library building—originally constructed in 1963 through the generosity of the Martin Foundation and the philanthropic support of NIBCO—has served the community admirably for more than six decades and continues to honor the legacy of the Martin family’s investment in literacy, education, arts, culture and opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**, despite a minor refresh in 2016, the Downtown Library’s core building systems, layout, and infrastructure have aged significantly, and the facility no longer fully supports the modern service expectations, accessibility needs, and programmatic demands of a growing and diverse community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Library’s four branch locations—constructed between 1987 and 2000 and refreshed between 2020 and 2022—along with the Library’s auxiliary storage facility, also require evaluation to ensure long-term sustainability, optimal use of materials, and alignment with 21st-century library service models; and

**WHEREAS**, the Library Board of Trustees has a fiduciary responsibility to steward public resources wisely, to plan proactively for future needs, and to ensure that the community’s investment in Library facilities is made with transparency, accountability, and the best available data; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes the importance of grounding any future capital improvements in a comprehensive, professionally developed **Facilities Master Plan** that includes community engagement, staff input, cost modeling, site analysis, assessment of building systems, and long-term strategic recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board acknowledges that the Master Plan will serve as a foundational document informing future decisions about potential capital fundraising, grant opportunities, and financing strategies, and reaffirms that no decisions regarding construction or renovation will be made prior to the completion and public presentation of the plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Elkhart Public Library is committed to continuing transparent, inclusive communication with the public throughout this process and to honoring the legacy, stewardship, and historical significance of the Downtown Library facility while responsibly planning for the next 50 years of library service;

#### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Trustees of the Elkhart Public Library hereby endorses and authorizes the release of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan.
2. The Board affirms that the purpose of the Facilities Master Plan is to gather data, assess needs, and provide options—not to commit to any predetermined design, addition, demolition, construction, or site relocation.



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3. The Board supports a process that includes significant community engagement, opportunities for public input, and transparent communication regarding goals, findings, and recommendations.
4. The Board reinforces the importance of honoring the history of the Downtown Library and the philanthropic contributions that enabled its creation, while recognizing the necessity of evaluating all viable options—including renovation, expansion, or new construction—to meet future community needs.
5. The Board directs that the completed Master Plan be presented publicly and used to inform any future decisions regarding capital investments, fundraising strategies, or financing mechanisms.

#### BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Trustees expresses appreciation to the staff, community partners, and supporters—including the Martin Foundation and NIBCO—for their ongoing commitment to ensuring that the Elkhart Public Library continues to connect people to resources, information, and experiences that help them reach their fullest potential.

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*David A. Spotts*  
*Laura Steffy*  
*Joe McDermott*  
*Cynthia Purdy*  
*John [unclear]*  
*Jim Staker*  
*Jim [unclear]*

ATTEST:

*Laura Steffy*

Secretary of Appropriating Body

*Jim [unclear]*

President of Appropriating Body