

Architects selected to design KPL expansion project

A key piece of the Kitchener Public Library (KPL) expansion project fell into place when Levitt Goodman Architects, in association with The Walter Fedy Partnership and Phillip H Carter Architect, were selected to design the central library expansion and a parking garage.

“A public library is not just a warehouse of books. It is a community place where people gather to learn, share, listen and be heard,”

— Dan Carli,
chair of the KPL board

Levitt Goodman Architects are providing consulting services for the design and construction of the renovation and expansion project and the nearby underground parking garage project, at a cost of approximately \$1.757 million.

The remainder of the consultants' fees will be split between the Province of Ontario and the Region of Waterloo, who have partnered with the city and the KPL to construct the new three-level, 412-space underground parking structure that will meet the needs of the library and the Civic District as a whole.

“Levitt Goodman and their associates demonstrated a clear understanding of a public library’s unique design needs,” said Dan Carli, chair of the KPL board. “A public library is not just a warehouse of books. It is a community place where people gather to learn, share, listen and be heard. Such a place requires not only an innovative design, but also one that takes into consideration the community that it serves. Levitt Goodman and the team they have assembled were a unanimous choice.”

The consultants and architects will be responsible for providing standard architectural services throughout the project — including program development, schematic design, design development, construction documents, construction procurement, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, construction/contract and post-construction administration.

The KPL will oversee the design and development of the library space; and the parking structure will be coordinated through the city’s transportation planning section with input from the library and parking partners.

While the project is being designed, tendered and constructed as one project, the library renovation and expansion project and the underground garage will be funded separately.

Following years of financial planning for



PROJECT PLANS – The architect for the expansion of Kitchener Public Library’s main branch, and a parking garage, has been announced.

the central library expansion, last fall city council voted to contribute about \$35.8 million in capital funding toward the project; \$32.5 million is from EDIF and the remainder will come from other sources including development charges and deferral of other KPL capital projects.

Since then, the parking partnership

between the province, the region, the KPL and the city also formed.

The cost-sharing formula between the four parties will reflect the percentage of total spaces allocated to a given partner.

The KPL’s 112 spaces represent 27.2 per cent of the total 412 spaces.