



**City of Duluth Communications Office**

Mayor Emily Larson  
411 West First Street • Duluth, Minnesota 55802 • [www.duluthmn.gov](http://www.duluthmn.gov)

*For more information, please call 218-730-5309*

DATE: 2/22/2023

SUBJECT: Mayor Larson, Duluth Library Foundation announce partnership

BY: Kelli Latuska, Public Information Officer

## **Mayor Larson, Duluth Library Foundation Announce Partnership**

[DULUTH, MN] In a news conference Wednesday, February 22, Mayor Emily Larson announced a partnership with the Duluth Library Foundation on a process for a community-informed predesign for conversion of the Downtown Library to a multi-purpose, regional community service center.

Three resolutions will appear on the Duluth City Council agenda tomorrow at their agenda session outlining this partnership:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Duluth Library Foundation to fund half of the community engagement and pre-design processes.
2. A contract with [NEOO Partners](#) for community engagement.
3. A contract with [MSR](#) and the Duluth office of [LHB](#) for architectural design services related to the pre-design.

“We have this amazing opportunity to convert the downtown library space into one that services the Duluth community in a meaningful and holistic way,” said Mayor Larson of the pre-design process. “Co-location of the Workforce Center into the Library would hub critical community services into the space our community is already so comfortable in, removing barriers for folks who use these services and inviting a more active and engaged environment for the Downtown Library. It’s incredible to have the support of the Library Foundation and to strengthen the City’s partnership with them in this way.”

“The Library Foundation is excited to partner with the city on a robust community engagement process that will inform the pre-design of a new downtown facility. As

champions of the library working to increase its capacity to serve the region, we see this as a critical investment in supporting library innovation and the evolving needs and interests of the community. We're invested in seeing this project to fruition, creating a welcoming space for education, enrichment, and economic opportunities for all people," said Erin Kreeger, Executive Director of the Duluth Library Foundation.

Duluth City Council will review the three resolutions at their agenda session on Thursday, February 23 at 5:15 PM. City Council meeting agendas and information can be found here: <https://duluthmn.gov/city-council/>.

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