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Public consultation for the Central Library continues Meeting 2: July 8

Halifax Public Libraries is continuing the public consultation process to help guide the design of the new central library. “The meeting on July 8 is the second of five public meetings,” said Judith Hare, CEO of Halifax Public Libraries. “The focus of each meeting is different. The meeting in June was an introduction to the project and the architects; we also collected ‘big ideas’ from everyone. At this meeting, we’ll be getting more specific and asking people how they think the library of the future is organized,” said Hare.

The architects will share sketches based on ideas raised so far. “We heard from 250 people at the last meeting. We collected those ideas and made sketches based on what you told us,” said George Cotaras, lead architect for the central library.

The meetings follow a World Café format, which is a conversational process designed to capture the collective intelligence in the room. Participants engage in discussions at tables of six; then, move to a new table to discuss a new topic. Staff visit tables to collect ideas for the ‘idea wall,’ a large banner in the room. Some of the themes that emerged at the June 10 meeting were: green, awe-inspiring, innovative architecture, flexible space, multicultural and inclusive.

The consultation phase is part of the total \$55-million budget for the Central Library project. Future public consultation meetings will happen on Aug. 25, Sept. 30 and Nov 4.

This public meeting will take place on **Thursday, July 8**, from **7-9 p.m.** at the **Dalhousie Student Union Building**, in the McInnes Room (6136 University Ave.). Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for coffee, tea, displays and musical entertainment. Library staff will provide stories, games and activities for children ages three and up.

For those unable to attend the public meeting, it will be broadcast live at halifaxcentrallibrary.ca. A chat room will be set up for use during the live broadcast. For more information about the Central Library, visit **halifaxcentrallibrary.ca**

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