

Timeline of Ann Arbor District Library Building Program 1958 to January 2010

1958 The Ann Arbor Public Library moved from the Carnegie Library building on Huron Street to a new library designed by Alden B. Dow at the current location of 343 S. Fifth Avenue.

1965 The Nellie Seymour Loving Branch opened on Creek Drive, and an addition was completed in 1980. The original building and the addition were designed by architect David Osler. The building was awarded the AIA Michigan Award of Merit in 1966. Loving Branch was the first branch library of the Ann Arbor Public Library.

1977 The Downtown library was renovated and doubled in size. The addition was designed by Donald E. Van Curler.

1977 The West Branch was opened in the Maple Village Shopping center, and was expanded with relocation to the Westgate Mall in 1983. It was remodeled with another expansion in the mid 1990's.

1981 The Northeast Branch opened in the Plymouth Mall shopping center. This location was remodeled with several additions over the 27 years it was used as a branch library.

1991 A second addition doubled the size of the Downtown Library. Osler-Milling was the architectural firm for this addition. This addition predated the American with Disabilities Act and the introduction of computing in libraries. The Downtown library has been well maintained over the past 19 years, but there have not been any major renovations and no additions.

1995 AADL established and came with ownership of the Loving Branch on Creek Drive, the leases for the Westgate Branch (current location), and former NEB in the Plymouth Mall. The Downtown Library was leased to the AADL from the AAPS for \$1.00 per year for ten years until the deed was transferred to the AADL. The transfer occurred in December 2005. This transfer agreement gives the AAPS right of first refusal in the event that the AADL Board decides to sell the building. The AAPS has 12 months to consider and decide. If the AAPS chooses to purchase the building they are required to pay only 65% of the estimated value and there is a process for determining the estimated value. If the AAPS chooses not to purchase the building, AAPS will receive 35% of the net on the building after the sale. The building was appraised in October 2007.

1997 Board received and accepted the recommendations in the David Smith Study concerning branch buildings and services. The major recommendation was to purchase property and build four branches from 12,000 to 16,000 square feet each in each of the four quadrants in the district with the Downtown Library remaining the central location.

1999 The AADL purchased the property on Oak Valley Drive where Pittsfield Branch is located.

2000 The AADL purchased the property on Eisenhower Boulevard where Malletts Creek Branch is located.

2002 The Northeast Branch located in the Plymouth Mall was reopened in February after a remodel to increase space for computing and a larger program room.

2004 The Malletts Creek Branch opened in January of 2004 and the Loving Branch on Creek Drive was closed. Malletts Creek was awarded the AIA Michigan Award for Sustainable Design in 2005. Malletts Creek was designed by Luckenbach|Ziegelman.

2004 The Loving Branch building was sold in April.

2004 The AADL purchased the property on Traverwood Drive where Traverwood Branch is now located.

2005 The deed for the Downtown Library from the Ann Arbor Public Schools to the Ann Arbor District Library was transferred in December.

2006 The Pittsfield Branch opened in March on Oak Valley Drive. Pittsfield Branch was designed by Luckenbach|Ziegelman.

2006 The lease for the Westgate Branch was renewed for three years with two one-year options commencing February 1, 2007. We will be entering the first of the two one-year options in February 2010.

2007 AADL hired library consultants PROVIDENCE Associates LLC to undertake a study examining the functions of the Downtown building and evaluate the building's feasibility for the next 20 years. The results of this study, which consisted of focus groups with over 100 users of the Downtown Library, led the AADL to begin the process of redesigning the Downtown Library. The findings of this study led the AADL Board to issue a Request for Qualifications for Architectural and Engineering Services that eventually resulted in the selection of Luckenbach|Ziegelman Architects, PLLC of Ann Arbor.

2008 A joint survey with the Downtown Development Authority in the spring provided the AADL with feedback from over 6000 members of the Ann Arbor community about the future of the Downtown Library. This survey was followed in June 2008 with three facilitated public meetings, open to all members of the community, about the Downtown Library Project.

2008 The Traverwood Branch opened on June 30, 2008 and the NEB in Plymouth Mall was closed. The Traverwood Branch won the AIA Michigan Award for Building Design in 2009, and was featured in a PBS documentary that aired across Michigan in 2009. Traverwood Branch was designed by InFORM Studio Architects.

2008 The Library Board voted at its November meeting to suspend the Downtown Library Project as a result of the national and local economic downturn. 75% of the schematic design for a replacement building on the current site of the Downtown Library had been completed.

2010 The AADL will enter into the first of two one-year options on the Westgate Lease for the West Branch in February 2010.