



Friends of the Regina Public Library

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2042 Garnet St., Regina, SK S4T 2Z6

September 16, 2025

Regina Public Library Board
2311 12th Avenue
Regina SK S4P 0N3

Re: RPL Board September 23, 2025 meeting

Friends of the Regina Public Library (FRPL) would like to submit the following for the consideration of the Regina Public Library (RPL) Board at their September 23, 2025 meeting, to make a presentation, and to have this letter and its Appendices and Attachments included in the official public record.

We are particularly concerned about the Request for Qualifications for Central Library planning, to be discussed on the 23rd.

We refer you to our presentation to City Council in March 2025 with our comments value of the Central Library and costs, and on the architectural heritage significance of Central Library, further reinforced by the City of Regina's own Statement of Significance for Central Library (Appendix 1), and reiterated again in a letter from the National Trust of Canada to the City of Regina, which underlines their firm understanding of the national heritage significance of Regina's Central Library to the history of Canada(Attachment).

In brief:

1. Central is a Municipal Heritage building. It opened in 1962, and since 1995 has been legally protected within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District (VPHCD) bylaw, under the provincial Heritage Property Act. <https://www.regina.ca/bylaws-permits-licences/bylaws/Victoria-Park-Heritage-Conservation-District-Bylaw/>
2. Designed by Regina architect Kiyoshi Izumi, the first known Japanese - Canadian architect, Central's value has been respected in the City's

Statement of Significance, in the 2007 Regina Declaration by local and national proponents in the Ordinary Amazing Symposium <https://www.canadianarchitect.com/the-ordinary-amazing-symposium-the-cultural-value-of-modernist-architecture/> , and in the 2024-2025 MacKenzie Art Gallery exhibition "Spring on the Prairie: Kiyoshi Izumi and the work of Izumi Arnott and Sugiyama". <https://mackenzie.art/exhibition/spring-on-the-prairie/>

3. Submissions made to the City Council on March 17, 2025 letters from citizens with important and inspiring information and photos. (See March 17, 2025 Delegates List – Presentations under RPL heading and also letters listed under Communications <https://reginask.iqm2.com/Citizens/Calendar.aspx>) This record has been updated to include the letter from the National Trust for Canada.
4. Central Library has been nominated for this year's Top Ten Endangered Places List for Canada. <https://nationaltrustcanada.ca/what-we-offer/endangered-places> Contact FRPL for nomination letter.
5. Although the building has never had a major renovation in its lifetime, and "RPL has resisted investing significant sums of money to improve or perform maintenance on the current library unless it is absolutely necessary" (<https://central.reginalibrary.ca/assets/2017051.pdf> , Central Library Business Case 2017/02, p.19.), it remains in fine structural condition, according to all assessments.
6. The RPL Board has a moral and legal duty to follow the spirit of the VPHCD bylaw and the Heritage Property Act, and that any proposals for renewal on the current library property ought to be in keeping with the guidelines and purposes of this legislation.
7. Renovation of the current heritage building would cost much less than demolition and replacement. Even with putting on additional storeys, the cost would be less. See the Deloitte report Central Library Business Case <https://central.reginalibrary.ca/assets/2017051.pdf>, pages 1-2, 26-27. Previous studies for the RPL have indicated the possibilities of renovation and expansion, rather than a new building. A plan was actually made in 1993 for an expansion of the building, available from the Saskatchewan Archives. (Arnott Kelley O'Connor & Associates Ltd., Architects, Engineers, Planners. This was the successor firm of Izumi Arnott and Sugiyama, who were the original architects and repository of knowledge about the building.)

8. Rehabilitation and expansion would be the most environmentally sensitive action, rather than having the current building go to the landfill.

In conclusion, the Request for Qualifications, being discussed in today's agenda, should require the applicants to have a commitment to the history of Regina, the vision for a sensitive expansion, and knowledge of processes for rehabilitating the current Central Library building to create a renewed improved building for library purposes in its current ideal location.

Sincerely,

Joanne Havelock, Chairperson
Jim Elliott, Board member
Friends of the Regina Public Library

Appendix: City of Regina Statement of Significance for Central Library

Attachments:

National Trust for Canada letter of March 12, 2025 to Regina City Council discussion of RPL budget "Re: March 17 - CM25-3 : 2025 Proposed Budget: Appendix D - Service Partner Budget Submissions – Proposed Demolition of Important Heritage Building, Regina Central Library (2311 – 12 Avenue)"

Jeannie Mah, submission to March 17, 2025 Regina City Council discussion of RPL budget "RPL Central Library + City Hall. March 2025"

CITY OF REGINA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR CENTRAL LIBRARY

Regina's Recent Past 1930-1976: Historical Context and Statements of Significance

**Regina Central Library
2311 12th Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
1962**



Description

The Regina Central Library is the two-story flat-roofed building with a large covered entry porch on the southwest corner of 12th Avenue and Lorne Street adjacent to Victoria Park in the downtown area of Regina, Saskatchewan.

Values

The Central Library is important for its aesthetic, social, cultural, and historical values, in particular for its bold non-traditional form and rich material palette, and as a public institution expressing openness onto Victoria Park.

With its dynamic sculptural entry, and abundance of exterior finishes and textures, the Central Library is important for projecting an image of a modern institution reborn in 1962 on the site of the 1911 Carnegie Library.

The building exhibits the expression of the interior functions through the manipulation of exterior forms and sense of transparency, both hallmarks of the Modernist aesthetic. The protruding window-less Dunlop Gallery volume contrasts with the recessed and glassy entry, and the building's diverse exterior materials and details, such as the aluminum screens and polished granite facing, all make the Central Library an excellent example of Modernist design. The building is socially and culturally important for enduring on the very prominent site adjacent to the Victoria Park, having replaced the original Carnegie Library in the same location. It is also important for communicating its multifaceted community role (library, resource centre, meeting venue, art gallery) in the egalitarian Modernist idiom at the centre of the City. The Library is an excellent example of Regina's desire to reflect contemporary design thinking, exhibiting the building and urban planning fashions of the day, and reflects the particularly active period of rebuilding Regina in the Modernist mould in the early 1960s, as the Library, the Bank of Canada Building and the Saskatchewan Power Corporation Building - all surrounding Victoria Park - were completed within several years of one another.

The building is historically valued for its association with its architects Izumi, Arnott & Sugiyama, an important local firm whose work is found throughout the Province. The building is also important for its association with the building contractors Smith Brothers & Wilson Ltd., one of the very earliest contractors of consequence in the West, building many of the early government and institutional buildings from Saskatchewan to British Columbia.

Character-defining Elements

Site

- Location on historic site of Carnegie Library
- Location on historic Victoria Park
- Contemporary garden at the lower level containing columns and other remnants of the original Carnegie Library Building
- Low flat-roof form
- Double height entry porch over a basement level courtyard
- Contrasting windowless form enclosing the Dunlop Gallery on north side of building

- Abundance of exterior materials: stone claddings of varying colour, aluminum curtain wall glazing, remnants of the old Carnegie Library, aluminum screens, concrete
- Horizontal band of windows facing east
- Extensive aluminum screening outside the Reading Room
- Medallion adjacent to entry steps worked from Tyndall Stone from the demolished Carnegie Library
- Exterior 'baseboard' of diorite
- Polished granite of varying colours covering various parts of the building
- Escalator connection between main and second floors
- Double height central space in the stacks/reading room wing
- Front Entry details
- double height main entry porch floating over sunken garden
- grouping of slender rectilinear polished granite columns
- concrete ramped access in combination with staircase, steel handrails
- expansive glass wall and doors into main floor lobby
- contrasting solid form of adjacent walls with glassy entry

**Denise Cook Design • Birmingham & Wood • Dr. Keith Thor Carlson •
Stephanie Danyluk • Dr. Jean Barman • Dr. J. William Brennan
31 December 2010**



March 12, 2025

His Worship Chad Bachynski
Mayor, City of Regina & Members of City Council
Regina City Hall
2476 Victoria Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 3C8

Re: March 17 - CM25-3 : 2025 Proposed Budget: Appendix D - Service Partner Budget Submissions – Proposed Demolition of Important Heritage Building, Regina Central Library (2311 – 12 Avenue)

Dear Mayor Bachynski & City Council,

On behalf of the National Trust for Canada, I am writing to express our concern regarding the future of the Regina Central Library, part of the City of Regina's Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District. We urge the Mayor and Council to consider the significant heritage value of this exceptional modernist building before committing to fund the Regina Public Library's *Central Library Renewal* plans, which are premised on the demolition of the existing building and construction of a replacement.

The Regina Central Library opened in 1962 and is a striking and renowned example of Canadian mid-century modern architecture. Designed by Kiyoshi Izumi, a distinguished Regina architect and the first Japanese Canadian to enter the profession, this iconic 3-level structure blends a rich palette of materials (including textured granite matching the nearby Cenotaph) and expression with modern style, to communicate its multi-faceted community role as a library, art gallery, film theatre, and meeting venue. It is one of a group of important cultural buildings designed by Izumi and his firm Izumi, Arnott & Sugiyama in Regina, including the former Mackenzie Art Gallery and Conexus Arts Centre. The Central Library is recognized as a pathbreaking building that has gained a national profile in the Canadian design community. Along with the Saskatchewan Power Building (1963) across Victoria Park, the Regina Central Library stands as one of the finest examples of mid-twentieth century architecture in the city.

This is a building of very high heritage interest. The Regina Central Library features on Regina's Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District Bylaw (1994), which was developed to help protect the historic integrity and vibrancy of the city's historic "commercial, financial, and professional core." It was also enacted in recognition that "Many of the buildings in the District were designed by prominent local architects," including the library's designer, Kiyoshi Izumi.

We understand from the 2015 "Regina Public Library Assessment" that the building needs recapitalization, including repair/replacement of various mechanical systems (a normal upkeep for a 60-year-old building) along with an accumulation of deferred maintenance. Currently, the Regina Public Library Board is seeking to expand the Central Library to 125,000 sq.ft. to accommodate new programs, while the current building only has 45,000 sq ft open to the public with the other 30,000 sq. ft devoted to administration. The cost of these proposed upgrades and the desire for almost double the library floor space, has led the RPL Board to seek the demolition of the 1962 heritage building as well as

funding from the City of Regina for this purpose. Opportunities to adapt the heritage building and create more programming space or expand on the Library property footprint do not appear to have been adequately explored.

Created in 1973, the National Trust for Canada is the leading national charity dedicated to the conservation of Canada's historic places. The Trust believes that heritage places and older buildings are integral to solving community challenges and meeting contemporary needs, including climate resilience, inclusion, identity and sense of place, and community wellbeing.

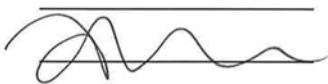
From a heritage perspective, the Regina Public Library immediately offers three compelling arguments for why it should be retained, reused, and leveraged for any future development. The first is its heritage value, as described above. The preservation of heritage contributes to the quality of the environment for everyone and defines the character of communities including areas like Regina's Victoria Park. The Central Library was carefully and thoughtfully designed and constructed and was celebrated for many decades after opening. It also creates more compelling and attractive spaces for city visitors and residents alike, where the reinvention and evolution of buildings – rather than demolition and replacement – tells the story of a city's development.

Secondly, if the building is demolished the materials are likely to be sent to the landfill. Rather than valuing the materials and craftsmanship in the existing structure, demolition throws these away. Any new building would begin with a massive deficit on the balance sheet for the labour, energy, and materials that were wasted when the old building was destroyed.

Thirdly, it makes more economic sense. Calgary's new downtown library and Edmonton's refurbished 1960s structure have both been wildly successful with the public and are roughly the same size but their costs of construction were very different: \$245 million in Calgary, and \$84.5 million in Edmonton. Similarly, the UBC Renew program took 10 aging buildings (1920-1960s) and retrofitted them rather than replacing them with considerable financial savings (3 buildings renewed for the price of 2 new ones) and reduced environmental impact (60% of interior retained and 80% recycled or refurbished).

The preservation and continued use of heritage places, including the Regina Central Library, provide economic, social, and environmental benefits to communities. They are places of gathering, self-definition and of shared memory. They contribute to our economy by encouraging tourism and creating green jobs. Heritage conservation is about meeting the needs of communities today, not just preserving something that existed in the past. The Regina Central Library offers an opportunity for the City of Regina to demonstrate leadership in the reuse of this building, to capitalize on its physical, aesthetic and economic value, and to create something needed by local residents today.

Sincerely



Patricia Kell, DPhil
Executive Director

After the excellent MacKenzie Art Gallery 2024 exhibition which celebrated brilliant local architect Kiyoshi Izumi and his Regina firm Izumi, Arnott and Sugiyama, we should all now realize that it is imperative to not allow the RPL Board to demolish our Central Library.

We have now learned that Regina architect Kiyoshi Izumi is the 1st known Japanese - Canadian architect. The War Measures Act of 1942 had forced Japanese-Canadians to leave the West Coast. Businesses and homes were confiscated, and never returned. Izumi left Vancouver as a teenager, matriculated from Regina College in 1944, earned an architectural degree in 1948 from the University of Manitoba, and after a Pilkington Glass traveling scholarship where he spent a year studying the economics of town planning at the London School of Economics, he received the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Scholarship in 1950, which he used to complete a graduate degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in city and regional planning. Izumi returned to Regina in 1954, and with Gordon Arnott, established the firm of Izumi Arnott and Sugiyama.

The history of Japanese-Canadians in Regina has defined our city with Izumi Arnott and Sugiyama's Central Library, along with other civic buildings - the Centre of the Arts, and the Massey Award nominated but now demolished Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery extension, as well as the row of the six modernist houses on Quinn Drive. The 1956 Quinn Drive houses, which were their homes, were an early example of a modernist and multi-cultural neighbourhood, and, along with our cherished RPL Central Library, are a vital vision of the struggles and successes of Japanese-Canadian history in Regina.

Internationally recognized Japanese-Canadian Regina architect Kiyoshi Izumi created an iconic library for \$925,000 - under million dollars, which still compares favourably in beauty, style, design, and function to newer multi-million dollar public libraries. Even RPL's own consultants agreed that Central Reading Room, flooded with natural light filtered by a jaunty sunscreen, was very similar to their new multi-million dollar Scandinavian example!



What Will the New Library Provide?

1. SPACE FOR MORE BOOKS, records, film, periodicals, newspapers, pamphlets, pictures and maps attractively displayed.
2. Bright and comfortable BROWSING AND LOUNGE AREAS.
3. A quiet STUDY AREA.
4. A library for BOYS AND GIRLS.
5. A STORY HOUR room.
6. Special area for ART AND MUSIC.
7. RECORD LISTENING and FILM VIEWING facilities.
8. A GALLERY for art exhibits, record concerts, film showings, book fairs and meetings.
9. Improved service for BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.
10. Space for MICROFILM READERS, PHOTO-COPYING and PUBLIC TYPING.
11. ADULT EDUCATION activities.
12. Meeting rooms for STUDY AND DISCUSSION GROUPS.
13. Space for EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS.
14. GUIDANCE FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS and those working with children.

An adequate Central Library will improve the quality and scope of branches and bookmobile services and make possible the future extension of these services to new areas.



What Will the New Library Look Like?

The site is the north fifteen lots bounded by Smith, Twelfth and Loree. This includes the site of the present building and is owned by the Library. The PLAN provides adequate space to serve the city for the foreseeable future. The PLAN IS NOT FOR A GRANDIOSE OR IMPOSING BUILDING.

The BUILDING will have a full basement area, a main floor and a partial second floor. The EXTERIOR FINISH will be cut stone trim, pressed stone panels, some metal panels and generous use of glass. It will be an economical but beautiful library with a friendly and inviting atmosphere.

This is the absolute minimum requirement. To reduce the cost:

1. The children's department has been located on the lower level.
2. No provision is made for servicing the bookmobiles at Central. The bookmobile headquarters will remain at Albert Street.
3. The closed stack area and meeting rooms will remain unfinished for the present to reduce the initial cost.
4. ECONOMY IN INTERIOR FINISHES AND DETAILS will be the rule.

What Will It Cost?

Based on the current city assessment and mill rate, the only \$80 per annum will be required on each current property tax of \$100 over a 20 year period to finance the \$925,000 required. Over a period of years the Library Board by voting has managed to save money from operating costs, and this sum amounting to \$110,000 will be used to cover additional costs of moving, furnishings and fixtures.



Based on the Citizens' Committee for a New Library.



The Izumi Modernist Central Library was built after a plebiscite vote, demonstrating that Regina once practiced fiscal restraint and citizen participation when taking on civic debt. Before the vote for a new Central Library, the Chief Librarian, the RPL Board, and volunteer citizens worked hard to explain to Regina citizens why we needed a new and bigger Central Library to replace the beloved 50 year old Carnegie Library.

Central Library was built of the highest quality durable materials, **after** a civic vote. “The plan provides adequate space to serve the city in the foreseeable future. The PLAN IS NOT FOR A GRANDIOSE OR IMPOSING BUILDING. (...) It will be an **economical** but **beautiful library** with a friendly and inviting atmosphere,” the pamphlet *A New Library* said. It still is!

Sixty years later, at an RPL Board meeting on September 27th, 2022, with no funding nor plans in place, and with no discussion of Central Library’s heritage value, nor its provincial protection within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District (1996), the RPL Library Board voted to demolish Central Library, with a promised new library to be built on the same site.

In March, 2024, we learn that, suddenly, the new library may not stay on its historic 1912 Carnegie Library site. Why would the RPL give up its prized and historic location on beautiful Victoria Park? The monetary gain from the sale of RPL’s prime Regina land was not mentioned during the financial discussion of the June 2024.

With no architectural plan or even a location decided, Regina citizens are being asked to take on a debt of between \$92 million and \$119 million for a new Central Library, with the assurance that “the Market will fully participate.” (Jeff Barber, June 2024 RPL Board meeting).

Is this any way to plan and build a lasting public institution? Developers should not decide on the fate of a Public Library. It is responsibility of the Regina Public Library Board to use our public funds wisely, and to work with architects to create or renovate the best library possible.

Central Library’s atrium is now roped off: we can no longer pack our books and put on winter coats there. **If we are not even using what we already have, how can we ask for more?**

Central Library is an outstanding example of modernist architecture, as recognized by national architects and the Regina community who signed the **Regina Declaration** at the **Ordinary Amazing Symposium** in 2007, which confirmed that our Central Library “**is a building of national, historical, cultural and architectural merit, and urge City Council and the Library Board to find a way to keep and maintain and enhance the heritage value of this fine building consistent with the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada; as well as explore creative possibilities for a building enlargement that would complement the 1962 building, so it can continue to serve the changing needs of Regina’s people, and enhance its key public spaces.**”

While we might understand the RPL Board's "new library envy" of Calgary, Halifax, and Surrey, with expansive atriums, our Library Board currently refuses to allow the Regina public the use of our beautiful 2 story atrium, which, as Bernard Flaman says in his essay in Biblio Files (2017) "shines like a beacon, even on a cold snowy winter evening".



RPL's own 2015 Building assessment tells us that Central Library *is distinguished by its aluminum sunshades, granite exterior cladding and sections of curtain wall glazing, with a Reading Room which receives ample natural light from full height curtain wall glazing on the north, west and south sides. It **holds Municipal Heritage Designation and is located within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District (Bylaw 9656).***

This 2015 report discusses Renovating Modernist Buildings: *Using a 'historical restoration' approach, the building envelope is upgraded but its appearance remains unchanged with minimal intervention. Using a 'historically sensitive' approach, the building's modern characteristics are maintained but the new elements are added which compliment the original structure. (...). **The original materials, such as terrazzo, granite cladding and aluminum were of good quality and have been more or less well maintained.*** https://cld.reginalibrary.ca/sites/default/files/RPL%20Building%20Assessment_%20Feb%202015.pdf.

Why would the RPL not consider Winnipeg's excellent example of a green cost-effective retrofit and expansion, which, within its contemporary revitalization, successfully preserved its history, material, and embodied energy. Completed in 2005 for \$21 million, the Winnipeg Millennium Library added 40,000 sq ft of new space, construction of a new fourth floor, and renovations throughout the existing 110,000 sq ft library. <https://www.patkau.ca/projects/winnipeg-millennium-library>

The Centennial Libraries of both Winnipeg and Edmonton were expanded rather than demolished, with great success. Trevor Boddy tells us in Canadian Architect that "The all-new Calgary library and the radically renovated library in Edmonton both have a similar floor area, at approximately 22,000 square metres and 15,000 square metres respectively. However, at \$245 million, the Calgary library budget was nearly three times the \$84.5 million cost of the Stanley Milner Library, " <https://www.canadianarchitect.com/think-tank-stanley-a-milner-library-renewal-edmonton-alberta/>

Central Library, designed by an internationally known local Japanese-Canadian architect should be preserved, maintained, and sensitively expanded. Retention of the existing building within the context of rehabilitation is the most sustainable approach. As a Green city, we should not throw a quality building, with its sequestered carbon and embodied energy, into the landfill. The embodied energy of materials when a building is demolished - wastefully discarded - is an environmental cost that a sustainable city must take into account.

The rehabilitation of Central Library, updated to meet current codes of safety, accessibility, ventilation, and energy, in consultation with specialists to insure conservation standards, would be the most sustainable approach, allowing the City of Regina and the Regina Public Library to develop a reputation for sensitive and imaginative retention and preservation of its built heritage. Because Central Library is protected within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District, it should be treated with respect: it should be preserved, maintained, retrofitted, and sensitively expanded. CORA -A-1025

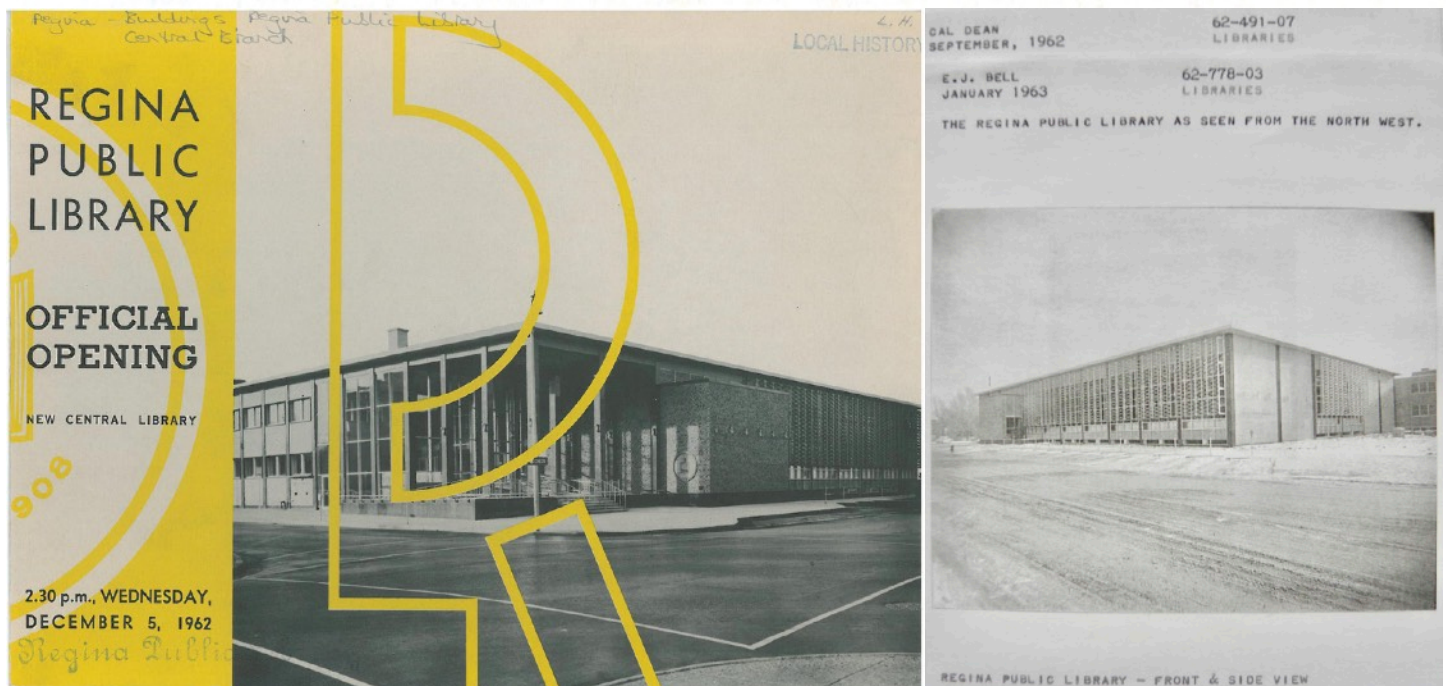


With great foresight, Central Library included future plans for expansion. From the official opening programme of December 5th, 1962 : “The building is designed for a future mezzanine floor over the centre third of the large adult service area. A multi-storied wing can be added on the remaining 6,500 square feet of the site. “ You can see the parcel of land, which faces Smith Street, in drawing on the right.

The building is designed for a future mezzanine floor over the centre third of the large adult service area. A multiple storied wing can be added on the remaining 6,500 square feet of the site. The building is air-conditioned except for refrigeration which can be added as funds are available.

Izumi, Arnott and Sugiyama, Architects.

Smith Brothers and Wilson, General Contractors.



We understand from the Kenyon report of 2012 that two further floors could be added to Central Library. <https://central.reginalibrary.ca/assets/20120605-building-assessment-p.pdf>

The RPL wants to expand the Central Library to 125,000 square feet, to accommodate population growth and additional programs and services. From the Leader Post: Jun 12, 2024 “The current Central branch is approximately 75,000 square feet, with only 45,000 accessible to the public and the rest used for back-end and administration purposes.

“This building was built in 1962 for a city less than half the size it is now,” said RPL director and CEO Jeff Barber ahead of Tuesday’s board meeting. “We’re at a point where we can’t implement services that we know Reginans have asked for without taking some other service down.”

While it is true that Regina's Central Library was built in 1962 to serve its population of 110,000, Jeff Barber ignores the fact that, over the last 60 years, Regina Public Library has astutely built five new suburban branch libraries to serve our city as it grew - Regent Park 1966; Glen Elm 1979; Sherwood Village 1981; South Albert 1985 - which moved and became George Bothwell 1994; Sunrise, 1990 - and has recently rebuilt two inner-city branches, Prince of Wales and Albert Library. The RPL Board should be proud of its diligent service to our growing city.

Our already iconic modernist Central Library could be dynamically expanded onto the west lot to meet our future needs. We could frugally, yet with great imagination, build onto our existing history, allowing the City of Regina and the Regina Public Library to develop a reputation for sensitive retention and preservation of its built heritage, and honour our internationally known local architect, Kiyoshi Izumi.



Cindy Kobayashi tells us, at the September 2022 RPL Board meeting, that Reginans are 'modest, and that we settle for "good enough", but that she envisions more. What I find sad and disheartening is that the RPL Board cannot see the iconic mid-century modernist beauty of our beloved Central Library. The RPL Board show little regard for their own Heritage building, doubly protected, both civically and provincially, within the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District.

Central Library is an important thread of the national history of Japanese-Canadian history, as well as our local history. This is something we should be proud of, these are the stories that we should be allowed to be told,, rather than simply erased.

Jospeh Pettick's SaskPower Building and Kiyoshi Izumi's Central Library are the modernist (kitty) cornerstones of the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District. SaskPower has recently been carefully revitalized.

The ramp, considered in 1962 to be "state of the art " by Health and Welfare, is now called "inaccessible" because its elegant hand-rail is 1.5 cm too low. A 1.5 cm difference (or 2/3 of an inch) should not give cause to tear down a building. Yet, upon examination, we see that the ramp has been insensitively and inaccurately repaved, with about 1.5 cm of asphalt added on top of the concrete. The RPL has created its own "inaccessible" problem, and then blames the building.



Terri Sleeva, who uses a wheel chair, says: "There are very few buildings in Regina that compare with the RPL from the accessibility point of view. Excellent and well-maintained outdoor ramp, auditory signals in elevator, wheelchair accessible washrooms already exist."

RPL tells us that it wants to be accessible + inclusive, yet it is confusing when we arrive for an RPL Film to see a lit-up CLOSED, with both doors locked: we must assure the security guard that we are actually going to see a free film.

In 1992 we attended a Regina Public Library public meeting about the future of Central Library, when the RPL Board was proposing to tear down Central Library because the boiler needed to be replaced. Citizens were outraged! Central Library was then only 30 years old. People in the audience remembered working hard on the “Say Yes” plebiscite to build this library. At least in 1992, a public discussion paper was circulated,, and further public meetings were held. Thirty-three years later, although the same boiler is still guilty of being old, and has not been replaced.

During the 2022 Library tours to show us how bad Central Library was, Kevin Saunderson told us that to remove the boiler, the atrium would have to be demolished. The Heritage Architect on the tour with us pointed out that old boilers are removed by cutting them into pieces; there would be no need to destroy an atrium to change a boiler. These inaccuracies leave us in doubt of what is actually true. Since the 2022 demolition decision, no public discussions have occurred.

Central Library, built for less that \$1 million, is a quality Heritage Building worthy of protection, preservation, and revitalization.

Growing up as a child of immigrants, living in a grocery store on the block next to the Carnegie Library, I depended on Regina Public Library for intellectual nourishment. I still do!

I firmly support tax dollars going towards Regina Public Library.

I am in favour of the rehabilitation of Central Library. This most sustainable approach would allow the City of Regina and the Regina Public Library to be a glowing example of a green sustainable city, while practising frugality.

I strongly oppose the destruction of quality architecture and Regina history. Please remember: the most economical building is one that already exists.

Jeannie Mah

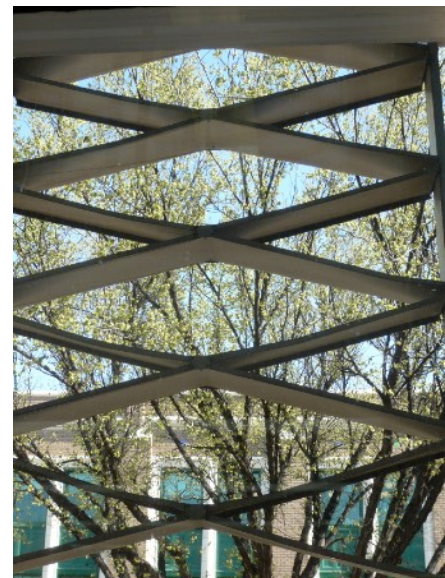


Appendix A: Mid-Century Modernism

The Palm Springs Architectural Museum, a former bank, is very similar in style to our Central Library, both with jaunty sunscreens. In Palm Springs, modernism is celebrated: it is a tourist attraction!



Regina has amazing modernist architecture, and the best examples frame Victoria Park.



Appendix B: Heritage Designation + Heritage Conservation District

1) <https://regina.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?appid=ca149dac606f40c19fa82ed6bf485531&mobileBreakPoint=200>

Regina is home to Saskatchewan's only Heritage Conservation District.

The [Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District Bylaw \(VPHCD Opens in new window\)](#)

) was approved by City Council on May 27, 1996. Distinct from the designation of individual property as a municipal heritage property, designation of a municipal heritage conservation district is intended to identify all or any part of a broader area within a municipality that is reasonably expected to contain heritage property that is not subject to any other designation.

Properties that are designated as municipal heritage properties as part of the VPHCD must adhere to guidelines outlined in the VPHCD bylaw for the alteration and maintenance of properties, including buildings, structures, and landscapes within the VPHCD. Alterations and renovations that may change the main features that contribute to the property's heritage value require approval to ensure that the work retains the heritage value of the property.

Any property built pre-1965 that is part of the Victoria Park Heritage Conservation District is considered a Municipal Heritage Property and is eligible for Heritage Incentives.



2) <https://reginadowntown.ca/downtown-regina-cultural-trailway/>

Regina Public Library. Designation: Municipal Heritage Property 1984
Victoria Park Conservation District 1996

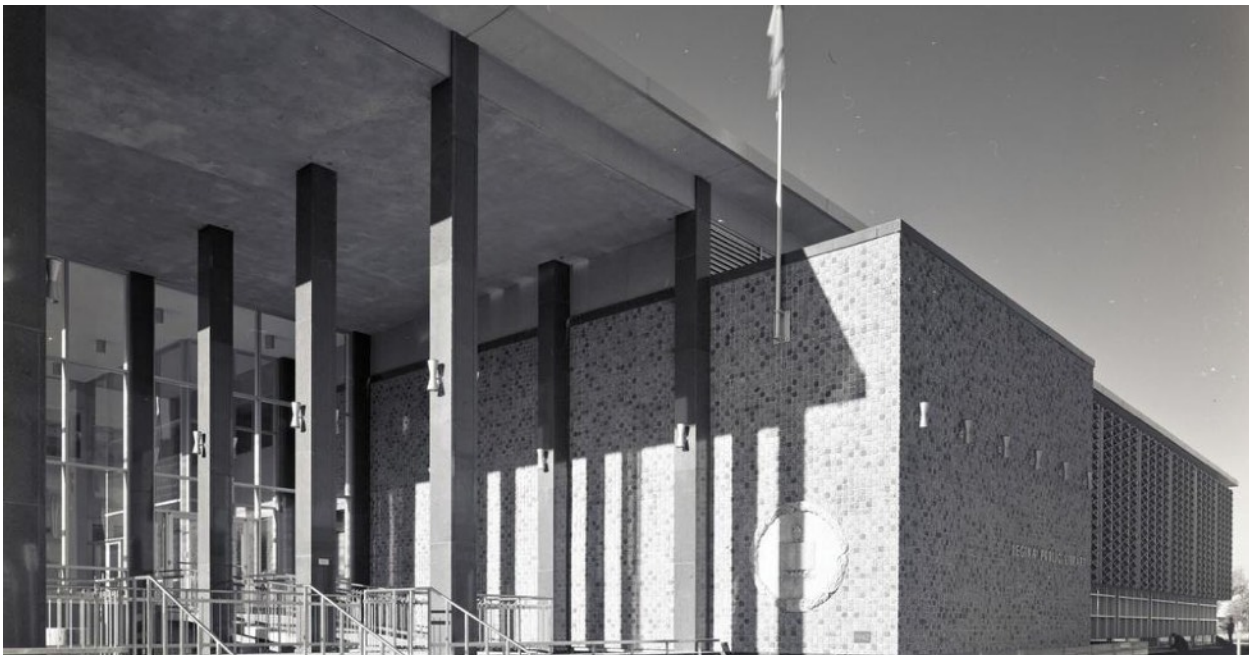
Regina's public library system began in 1907 when Regina citizens petitioned City Council for a free public library. City Council opened the first library in City Hall, but soon a larger library was needed. The American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated \$50,000 (the rough equivalent to \$1 million in modern currency) in funding assistance for Regina's library.

City growth and increased library use left the Carnegie Library unsuited for its community's needs. Demolished in 1961, the Carnegie Library was replaced by a new library designed in the Modernist or International style by the Regina firm Izumi, Arnott & Sugiyama. Modernist elements of the Regina Central Library include a low-slung roof, rectangular massing, cubist composition, and aluminium sunscreen-equipped windows. Clad in textured granite, the library, whose glassy entrance vestibule is oriented toward Victoria Park, matches the Cenotaph's granite in the park.

Elements of the Carnegie Library were incorporated into the design of the current library. The columns that once framed the entrance are sunken into the courtyard, the stone lintel (or beam at the top of a doorframe) with a beautifully carved “Regina Public Library” is in entrance vestibule.

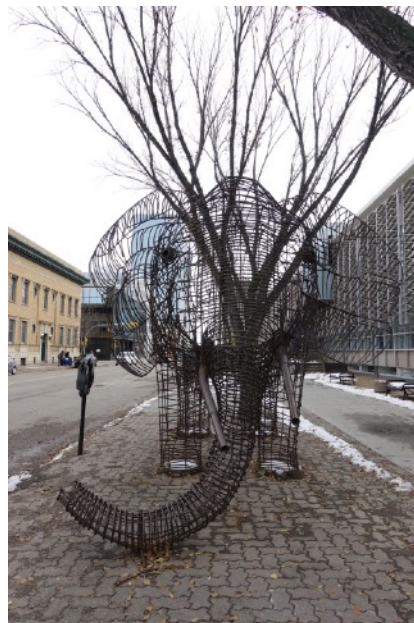


The circular date stone from the Carnegie Library, reading Qui Legit Regit (“He who reads, rules”) is set into the granite of the east wall. Note the original mid-century lights



CORA detail

Outside the library on 12th Avenue is “Rusty”, a wire elephant sculpture created by Saskatchewan artist Russel Yurisy in 1981, and named by schoolchildren. Originally a temporary display, Rusty was purchased and became a permanent piece of public art.



Appendix C. The Granite of Regina Public Library

Granite, the hardest-wearing of the earth's materials, covers the exterior of Central Library.

The original cantilevered granite steps, removed and replaced with cement.
The double cone mid-century lights have been removed.

The cut and smooth granite, of varied hues, covering the exterior walls, is in beautiful shape.



