

2018 IONIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 LIBRARY BUILDING SURVEY

► Conducted September 20 - October 08, 2017

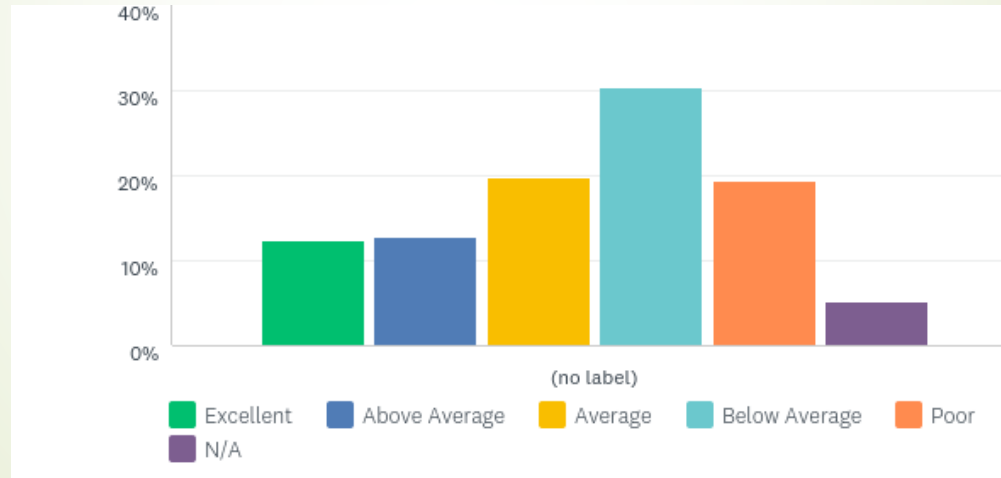
241 Total Responses – 100% complete responses

Confidence Level: 95%
Error Range: + - 6.25%

Q4: Taking into account your knowledge of other libraries, what is your rating of the facilities/program space provided in the Hall-Fowler building?

Answered: 227 Skipped: 14

EXCELLENT	ABOVE AVERAGE	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	POOR	N/A
12.33%	12.78%	19.82%	30.40%	19.38%	5.29%
28	29	45	69	44	12



Q5 Please explain your rating of the Facilities/program space in the Hall-Fowler building: ▶ Q5: Answered: 186 Skipped: 55

Q6, Please provide additional comments regarding the library building, facilities and program offerings: ▶ Q5: Answered: 130 Skipped: 111

Combined Table of Concerns & Comments Voiced in Questions 5 and 6	Times Mentioned
Cramped/crowded/tight/small/claustrophobic facility	72
Great House but a Poor Public Building/Library	49
Like current programs and services/online services	41
Lack of Program Rooms	38
Helpful/friendly/knowledgeable staff	36
The campus is poor (Includes issues of accessibility, parking, soundproofing, elevator, bathroom, signage, electrical, front door, load-bearing ability)	34
Love the historical character	32
Poor layout and seating	27
Lack of space for a large Community/Meeting Room	21
Concern with the look if an addition is made to the Hall-Fowler House or a viable reuse of the existing building if the library moves	20
Concerns with security, ease of use and dangerous features (supervision of children, winding narrow stairway, porch and front steps)	19
Well-maintained/beautiful grounds & facility	18

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Combined Table of Concerns & Comments Voiced in Questions 5 and 6	Times Mentioned
Lack of Quiet Study or Casual Reading areas	15
The building is dated/old/creaky/just a poor public facility	13
The collection is limited or there is not enough variety in the collection	13
Library Programs should be held at the Library, not off-site	12
Lack of Room for a Small Group to meet in a Conference area	10
Like the current physical location	6
Currently lack programming opportunities for kids and adults	5
Concerns with potential costs of a larger/new facility	4
Long wait time for items (or have to do Interlibrary loan request for items you should have)	4
Problems with staff	3
Concerns with changing community expectations of library service	3
Need to partner better with other community organizations	1

LIBRARY FOCUS GROUPS REPORT

► Conducted December 5, 2017 to January 6, 2018

35 Participants

Preliminary Findings

Hall-Fowler Building is important

Overall Project Cost
to some extent

Out of three scenarios, the
reuse of a facility near
downtown is gaining support

Transparency of the drive

Constant communication
with public, esp. the base

2018 FEASIBILITY STUDY

► Due January 16

11 Inquiries, Nine Formal in-person or telephone Interviews

**Contacts from several Michigan Firms;
also Illinois, Texas and Maryland**

**Nine (9) Qualifying
Proposals were received**

Abbreviated History of the Hall-Fowler Home

- ▶ Built in 1870 as the private residence of Mayor Frederick Hall
- ▶ Gifted in 1903 to the City of Ionia by his daughter, Marion Hall
- ▶ The Deed and Building Use powers still reside with the City; the library is only a lessee
- ▶ 1965 is the first mention in the archives of the building being obsolete for library purposes



Short History of The Independent Library District



- ▶ 1903 - Founded as a city department; the Hall-Fowler Memorial Library
- ▶ 1997 - Joined the Ionia County Library Association (ICLA)
- ▶ 1998 - Voters approve ICLA County-wide Operating Millage
- ▶ 2003 - County Millage vote leads to the creation of an Independent Library District [Founding members: City of Ionia, Easton Twp., Ionia Public Schools, **Ionia Twp. (2008 – reduced to 86%)**]
- ▶ 2004 – Hall-Fowler Deed does not follow to the District Library; Lease only \$1.00 per year but the district is responsible for operating & maintenance expenses
- ▶ 2000's Decade - Three Library improvement plans aborted [**2001**] or defeated [**2005 & 2007**]
- ▶ 2016 – Electorate renews millage and approves a 33% increase to the operating budget (restores funding to pre-2008 levels)

2018 & Beyond

▶ *Future Plans*

The Library Has a 2020 Vision

That is based on the Strategic Planning Committee's BHAG
(BIG HAIRY AUDACIOUS GOAL)

*The primary goal of the organization is to advocate for a **NEW LOCATION** or **AN EXPANDED EXISTING** building that will be able to provide the community with the **21st century** library services that it deserves.*

2020 Vision Starts Now

Election Day, Tues., Nov. 6, 2018

► Key Benchmark Dates:

Surveys & Focus Groups, Oct. 2017 – Jan. 2018

Updates to District Library Partners: Thru Feb. 19, 2018

Feasibility Study Review by Ad-Hoc Committee – Jan. 31

Library Board Selects Design Firm – Feb. 5 meeting

Community Info. Forums: First Set: March 13 & 22, 2018 at Main St. Music, 7 p.m.;
more to follow throughout 2018

Preserving the Integrity of the Hall-Fowler Home

- ▶ The plan regarding the building's renovation as a larger library or its repurposing will be clear and publicly available. The goal is that the city and the other community stakeholders shall insure that the building will remain accessible whatever the future use.

