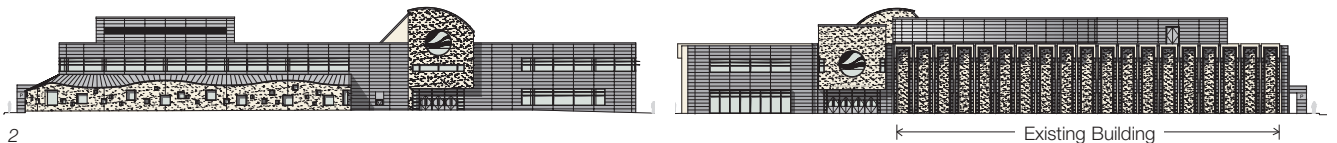


## Allen County Public Library/Main Library

Addition and Renovation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana



1



2

This two-story, 190,000 square foot addition to and renovation of the existing 230,000 square foot Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana creates a monumental civic building that integrates the best aspects of the existing library and acts as a revitalizing influence in the downtown area.

An initial concept design phase, which included workshop interactions with major public and private Fort Wayne entities, identified the basic urban and architectural design strategies that met the goals of the library and the community.

The selected design gives the library, which has one of the largest genealogy collections in the nation, an image that reflects its prominent role in the community and enhances the urban context. It will make a significant portion of the collection "browse-able" by expanding open stacks.

There are two public entrances to the expanded facility. The existing re-imaged Webster Street entrance maintains the current easy pedestrian access from downtown and incorporates a Café and Bookshop to permit a synergy of uses. The new Ewing Street wrap-around entrance integrates the connection to the new below-grade parking and includes a major glass component that affords attractive views to neighborhood churches and the historic district.

The east and west entrances are interconnected by a linear lobby-atrium, which provides clear visual orientation and access to all library departmental facilities and seamlessly integrates the existing renovated spaces and the new construction. The curved roof of the lobby-atrium contains a large north-facing skylight and a shaded south-facing clerestory window, bringing daylight into the center of the enlarged building.

1 View of east façade with Webster Street entrance

2 West elevation, left  
East elevation, right

Community use facilities are organized along the southern side of the first floor, between the lobby-atrium and Washington Blvd. These spaces include flexible Meeting Rooms, Access Fort Wayne Television, Community Computing and Public Computer Training, an Exhibition Gallery, the Café, and the Library Friend's Store. The service and staff entrances are also off of Washington Boulevard.

The new Auditorium is located in a lower level and is accessed from this main lobby-atrium.

The lobby-atrium can be separated from the library spaces, so that community functions can extend past library hours if needed, without compromising library security.

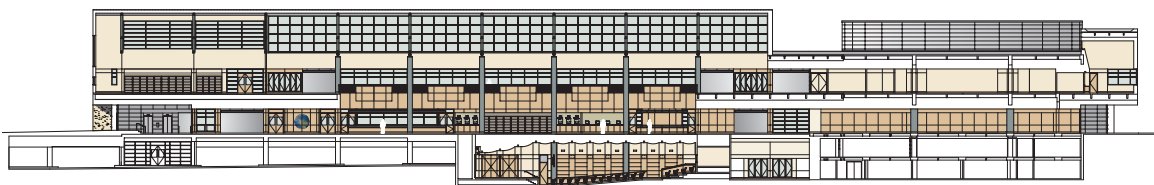
The central lobby atrium also houses the Circulation Desk, Central Reference Desk, self-check stations, electronic catalog stations, and informational components, as well as stairs and elevators to the Library's second level, the Auditorium, and the Garage below grade.



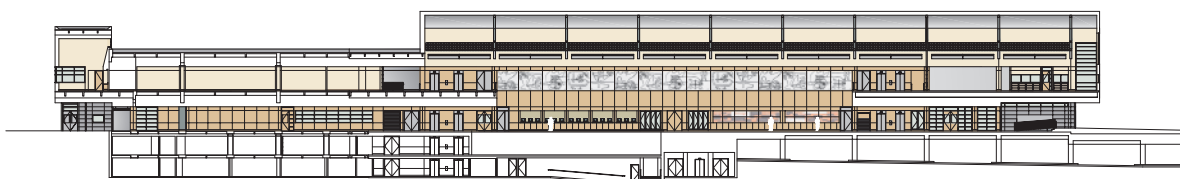
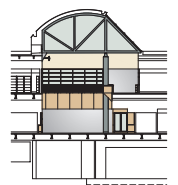
*West entrance facing Ewing Street with Children's Services serpentine wall beyond*



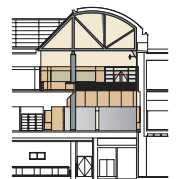
*Children's Services serpentine wall*



*Great Hall section looking North*



*Great Hall section looking South*



**Allen County Public Library/Main Library**  
Addition and Renovation



*The Great Hall looking east*



*Checkout Desk in Great Hall*



*Service Desk*

**Allen County Public Library/Main Library**  
Addition and Renovation



*Business, Science & Technology reading room with Great Hall beyond*



*Children's Services area*



*Reading Room*



Great Hall



Gallery

**Allen County Public Library/Main Library**  
Addition and Renovation



*Theatre*



*Theatre*

## Allen County Public Library/Main Library

Addition and Renovation

### Key Project Information

- centerpiece building for downtown Fort Wayne
- the largest public library genealogy collection in the United States
- large parts of the collection "browse-able" from open stacks
- 250-seat auditorium and stage
- cafe
- book store
- exhibition gallery
- community computer training facilities
- below grade and surface visitor parking
- administrative offices
- basement level closed stacks, storage, and support spaces
- 4000 sf flexible public meeting rooms
- public access television studio
- children's department and young adults services
- art, music and audio visual departments
- rare books (collections and exhibitions)
- general readers fiction and non-fiction
- business, science and technology department
- total 845,000 volumes on open shelving, expandable to 1,000,000 volumes on open shelving

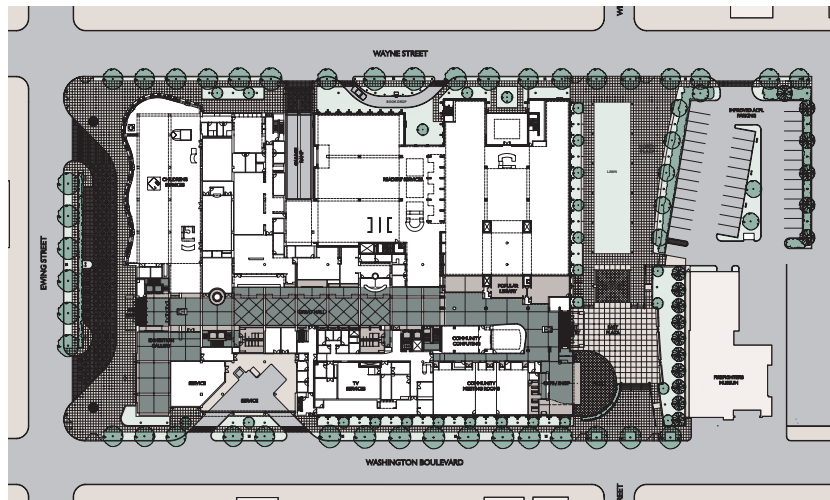
- completion 2007
- gsf 425,000

### Design Architect

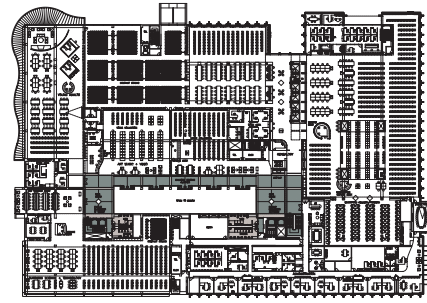
Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects

### Architect of Record

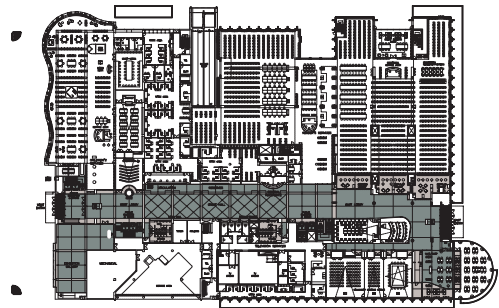
MSKTD & Associates



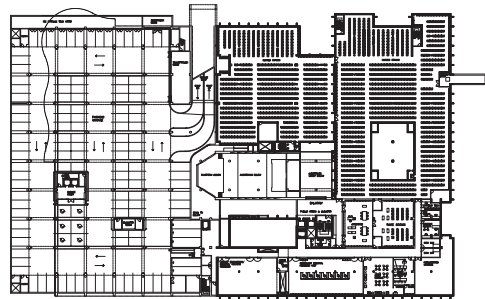
Site plan



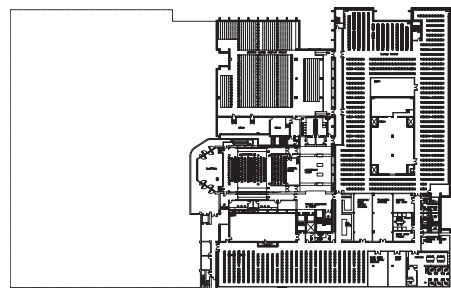
Second level plan



First level plan



Basement and parking level plan



Sub basement level plan