

Attachment A: Project Background

Project Name: Library North Plaza Renovation

Project Type: Site Development / Civil / Landscape Renovation

Project Location: Michigan State University – 366 West Circle Drive

Project Budget: \$10M – \$11M

Anticipated Construction Start: May 2027 (Tentative)

Target Completion: TBD (Based on final schedule)

Project Size: Site-based project (plaza and landscape improvements)

1. Executive Summary / Project Vision

Michigan State University (MSU) seeks to redesign and revitalize the North Plaza of the Main Library into a vibrant, accessible, and highly engaging outdoor space. Positioned at a key crossroads of campus, the plaza serves as a central hub providing a setting for outdoor engagement and collaboration between the Libraries, Beal Botanical Garden, the MSU Museum, and the College of Music. , and enhance the user experience including

The North Plaza is positioned at the heart of the MSU Arts Initiative, which seeks to find ways to elevate the arts across campus. The project will transform the plaza into a dynamic destination that supports outdoor programming from diverse units and student organizations, classroom engagement, student events, and campus tours for prospective students.

The redesigned plaza will also resolve existing accessibility challenges at the Main Library's north entrance and address ongoing maintenance concerns associated with current site features.

2. Scope of Work

The project will include:

- Comprehensive redesign of the North Plaza landscape and hardscape.
- Creation of outdoor engagement spaces, including:
 - A primary gathering area with a stage and capacity for up to 100 people.
 - Smaller, flexible gathering areas for groups of 5–20 individuals.
 - Shaded areas to support year-round use.
- Integration of Beal Botanical Garden elements into the plaza through curated plantings and informal seating areas.
- Development of meandering pathways to enhance pedestrian experience and interaction with landscape features.
- Removal of existing water fountains that present maintenance challenges.
- Installation of wayfinding elements, which may include a campus map.
- Relocation of bike racks to improve pedestrian flow and safety.
- Protection and preservation of existing heritage trees.

3. Program Requirements

- Flexible outdoor spaces to support:
 - Programming from diverse units and student organizations.
 - Classroom use.
 - Campus tours for prospective students.
 - Collaborative programming between Libraries, Beal Garden, MSU Museum and College of Music.
- Infrastructure to support events (power, lighting, staging capability).
- Universal accessibility, including a new accessible entrance to the Main Library including snow melt system.
- Durable, low-maintenance site elements to reduce long-term operational burden.
- Integration of landscape and seating areas to support both active use and passive reflection.

4. Site, Adjacency & Reuse Considerations

- **Location:** North of the Main Library at a campus crossroads with high pedestrian traffic.
- **Adjacency Goals:**
 - Strengthen connections between the Main Library, Beal Botanical Garden, MSU Museum, and College of Music.
 - Reinforce the plaza as a central hub for diverse programming and in support of the Arts Initiative.
- **User Experience:**
 - Enhance campus tours and first impressions for prospective students and visitors.
 - Provide a welcoming and inclusive space that fosters belonging.
- **Existing Conditions:**
 - Address accessibility barriers at the current north entrance.
 - Improve circulation and reduce conflicts between pedestrians and bike traffic.

5. Team Qualification Requirements

MSU is seeking a design team with demonstrated expertise in:

- Campus landscape architecture and high-visibility public spaces.
- Integration of diverse programming into outdoor environments.
- Universal accessibility and inclusive design.
- Sustainable landscape strategies and long-term maintainability.
- Collaborative, stakeholder-driven design processes.
- MSU's Site Design Guidelines and Construction Standards.
- Civil engineering design including site grading and drainage, stormwater management systems, utility infrastructure coordination, and integration with campus systems.

A feasibility study, including cost estimating, and community engagement, was completed in 2024 by SmithGroup and will help inform the design process.

6. Budget & Schedule

Budget Range: Estimated \$10M – \$11M

Milestone (tentative) Schedule:

MSU Board of Trustees (BOT) Authorization to Plan (Step 1)	October 31, 2025
<i>A/E RFP Issued</i>	<i>April 28, 2026</i>
<i>Site Visit (1 pm) 366 West Circle Drive</i>	<i>May 7, 2026</i>
<i>Proposals Due to IPF</i>	<i>May 19, 2026</i>
<i>Distributed to Voting & Advisory Members</i>	<i>May 20, 2026</i>
<i>Selection Committee Review & Voting Meeting (In Person – IPF @ 1 pm)</i>	<i>May 28, 2026 *</i>
<i>A/E Team Notification (if a clear winner)</i>	<i>May 29, 2026</i>
<i>A/E Team Follow-Up Interviews – Virtual @ 1 pm (TBD at end of voting)</i>	<i>May 29, 2026</i>
<i>Final A/E Team Notifications</i>	<i>June 1, 2026</i>
<i>A/E Team Kickoff Meeting – Library @ 1 pm</i>	<i>June 16, 2026</i>
<i>Program Verification Begins</i>	<i>Mid-July 2026</i>
<i>CM RFP Issued</i>	<i>August, 2026</i>
<i>CM Team/Project Team Kick Off</i>	<i>October 2026</i>
<i>Construction Document Phase Begins</i>	<i>September 2026</i>
<i>MSU BOT Authorization to Proceed (Step 2) (Tentative)</i>	<i>February 2027</i>
<i>Construction Begins</i>	<i>Spring 2027</i>
<i>Substantial Completion</i>	<i>Fall 2027</i>

* If a clear top-ranked firm does not emerge from the initial review and voting meeting, the committee will notify the top two to three firms and invite them to participate in a virtual interview meeting the following day.

At the conclusion of the selection committee’s review meeting, the group will develop a set of targeted questions and clarification requests, which will be shared with the shortlisted firms in advance to allow for preparation.

Each interview will be scheduled for 30-45 minutes, with a 15-minute break between sessions. Following the completion of all interviews, the committee will reconvene (virtually) to discuss responses and conduct final deliberations and voting.

Selection Committee Attendees:

- Kristi Cruz – IPF Contract Officer

Tentative Voting members:

- Andrew Linebaugh – IPF Project Manager
- Brandon List – IPF Campus Planner
- Holly Mester – IPF Capital Project Delivery Manager
- Dave Wilber – IPF Landscape Architect
- Barb Kranz – ISPM - Assistant Provost
- Neil Romanosky - Dean of Libraries
- Terri Miller – Associate Dean of Libraries
- Kaitlin Dial – Director of Development for Libraries

Potential Non-Voting Attendees:

- Kelly Burks – IPF Landscape Architect
- Yun Cao – IPF Landscape Services
- Brian Mullen – IPF Capital Project Delivery Manager
- Maura Donnelly – IPF Principal Architect & Planner

End of Attachment A