



Office of the City Manager

April 4, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Civic Center Vision and Implementation Plan

The City is embarking on a community process to develop a shared vision and plan for Old City Hall, the Veterans Memorial Building and Civic Center Park – critical, underutilized civic resources that would support current and future community needs while celebrating their architectural significance, central location, and history as the center of City government.

The project team, which would start in fall 2019, would aim to build civic trust, establish shared and realistic expectations of the capacities of three elements, and, ultimately, deliver preliminary design concepts of the space to City Council for review a year later in Fall 2020.

Phase 1 of the Measure T1 infrastructure bond budgets \$296,430 for the Civic Center *Vision and Implementation Plan* project.

Project Team and Scope

On March 14, 2019 the City of Berkeley released a [Request for Qualifications](#) to inform the engagement of qualified firms, teams, or individuals to provide professional consultant services to assist in the completion of this project.¹ The tasks of the consultant(s) will include:

- background research;
- assessment of the existing infrastructures of all three elements (the two buildings and the Park);
- development and implementation of a community outreach and engagement strategy, including engagement with City Commissions;
- production of design concepts; and
- researching financial tools and potential revenue strategies for facilities renovation and ongoing operation, including public investment and public-private partnerships.

The consultant team will develop up to three conceptual design concepts for the adaptive reuse of both buildings and the Park. Proposed concepts and drawings shall articulate the use program for all three elements, in relationship to one another and to the larger Civic Center. The project team will gather feedback on the design concepts via a broad set of community engagement activities, and incorporate that feedback into a preferred design concept for presentation to and adoption by City Council.

¹ City Council approved this solicitation at its regular meeting on January 22, 2019, [item 4](#).

Project Timeline

The project is anticipated to commence this summer and be completed by Fall 2020, according to this approximate timeline:

- Consultant Contract Authorization Recommendation to Council June/July 2019
- Project Commencement August 2019
- Public and Commission Engagement Begins Fall 2019
- Council Presentation (Vision and Draft Design Concepts) Winter/Spring 2020
- Concept Refinement and Continued Engagement Spring 2020
- Council Presentation (Preferred Design Concept and Plan) Fall 2020

As such, the public engagement process will include at least two tours that are open to members of the public. The tour dates will be selected and announced as part of the public engagement process.

Seismic Safety and Analysis

Old City Hall, which is formally known as the Maudelle Shirek Building, and the Veterans Memorial Building were evaluated in 2002 for seismic safety. The assessment included rough cost estimates for retrofitting the structures. These 2002 figures are currently being updated for consideration of current building code, under the direction of the City's Public Works Department. The forthcoming cost estimates and engineering solutions for addressing seismic safety in Old City Hall and the Veterans Memorial Building will be released to the public at the close of the study (anticipated in Spring 2019), and will inform the subsequent vision and implementation planning process.

For further information on this project please contact Jordan Klein, Economic Development Manager, at (510) 981-7534 or jklein@cityofberkeley.info.

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