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Dear Ms. Fender and Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the Over-the-Rhine Community Council we are writing to express our concern about the library board's plan to close and likely sell the north building of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's downtown branch.

Only twenty years ago, the taxpayers invested tens of millions of dollars to build this building. It is public and belongs to all of us. Thus, the public should be consulted concerning the future of this space. We were surprised to read that the board had contemplated the closure of the north building since October of 2016 without engaging the public on this issue. We call on you to establish a more transparent process for deliberating about the future of this building. Please make a much stronger effort to involve the public in the deliberations about the building's future.

Finally, while we are open to imagining alternative uses of the north building, we urge that you maintain public ownership of the building and that you ensure it continues to serve as a public space for the benefit of the public.

Please keep our city's excellent public library a public space that benefits all.

Thank You,

Maurice Wagoner,  
Over-the-Rhine Community Council president