



Councilmember Item Follow-Up:

Co-Location of the Huntington Beach International Surf Museum at the Main Street Branch Library

December 16, 2025

Background

- On July 1, 2025, Mayor Burns, Mayor Pro Tem McKeon and Council Woman Van Der Mark brought forward a Councilmember Item directing staff to evaluate the feasibility of co-locating the Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum (HBISM) within the underutilized space at the Main Street Branch Library.
- The review of the assessment should include:
 - An assessment of available space
 - Operational compatibility
 - Potential collaboration benefits and impacts
 - Entitlement requirements, such as a Conditional Use Permit
 - Funding Roles
 - Potential Next Steps

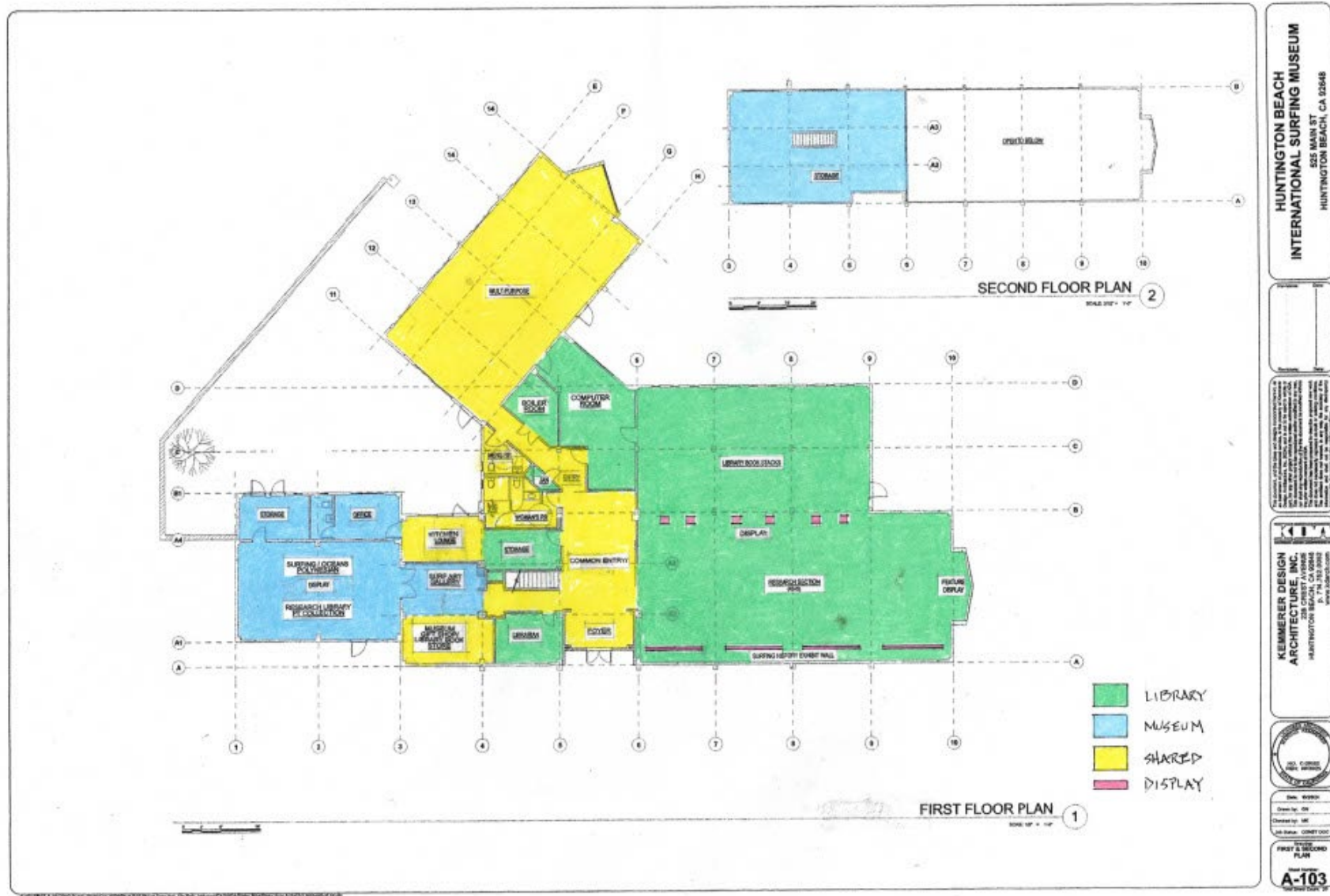


Current Conditions

- The Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum (HBISM) has been located at 411 Olive Avenue since 1990.
- The building is 2,033 sq. ft. with 1 ADA and 3 onsite parking spots.
 - Low ceilings & lack of wall space inhibit display of historical surfboards.
 - Deferred maintenance, including a leaking roof, have potential to compromise exhibitions.
- HBISM operates varied seasonal hours:
 - Fall/Winter:
 - Thursday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm, closed Monday – Wednesday.
 - Spring/Summer:
 - Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm, closed Monday



Main Street Library Floor Plan



Current: The second floor will be utilized as storage space for Library and HBISM.

Future: Proposed public use of the second floor requires ADA improvements.



Assessment of Available Space

- Main Street Library is a 9,475 sq. ft., two story building
- HBISM First Floor Dedicated Footprint (1,184 sq. ft.)

Museum Office*	8' x 12'	115 sq. ft.
Museum Storage*	8.5' x 15'	125 sq. ft.
Display Area/PT Collection Research Area*	21' x 34'	714sq. ft.
Art Gallery	10' x 18'	180 sq. ft.
Restroom	5' x 10'	50 sq. ft.
Research Section Walls	<i>N/A floor square footage is included in book stacks information on next line.</i>	<i>74 lin. ft. (w) x 20 lin. ft. (h) For wall static surfboard display</i>

**Currently vacant space*



Assessment of Available Space

- Library First Floor Dedicated Footprint (3,807 sq. ft.)

Office	10' x 13'	130 sq. ft.
Library Storage	15' x 9'	142 sq. ft.
Book Stacks & Research Section*	55' x 64'	3,235 sq. ft.
Computer Lab	15' x 20'	300 sq. ft.

**Walls in the Research Section will feature HBISM static history of surfboards display and portable exhibition kiosks (pictured). The Research Section ceiling height of ~20' compliments the longer surfboards that cannot be displayed in the current HBISM.*



Assessment of Available Space

- Shared Space (3,608 sq. ft.)

Reception Area	10' x 40'	400 sq. ft.
Museum Gift Shop/Friends Book Store	10' x 19'	190 sq. ft.
Kitchen/Lounge	10' x 14'	143 sq. ft.
Restrooms		225 sq. ft.
Blue Room	26' x 48'	1,300 sq. ft.
Second Floor Storage	31' x 49'	1,350 sq. ft.

Remaining ~875 sq. ft. is allocated to storage and mechanical rooms



Proposed Improvements & Relocation Costs

Clean-up and moving	\$18,000
Repair restroom & kitchen/lounge	\$10,000
Prep office & storage area	\$7,500
Patch & paint	\$12,000
Check electrical system	\$1,500
Enhance sales area	\$3,500
Temporary signage	\$500
Create museum displays for reading section of library	\$10,000
Architectural/Engineering/Consultants	\$12,000
Total	\$75,000*

**All costs covered by HBISM in partnership with Visit HB*



Main Street Library Photos



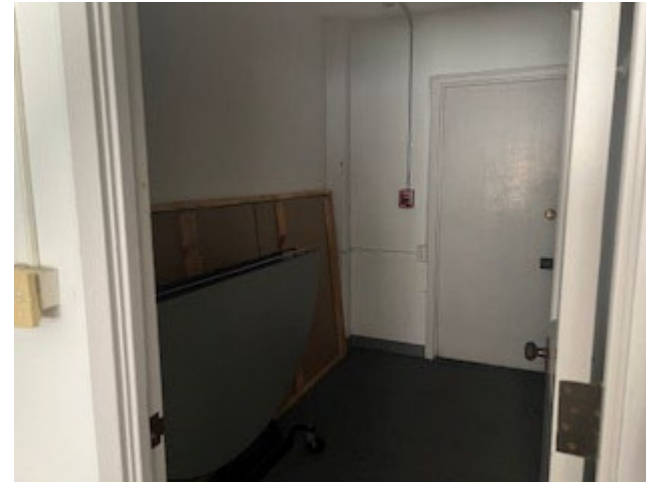
Friend's Bookstore and HBISM Gift Shop



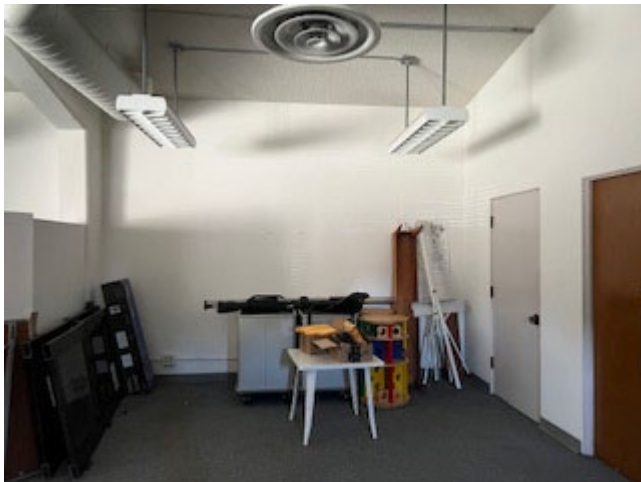
*Surf Art Gallery and Entrance to
Research Library/PT Collection*



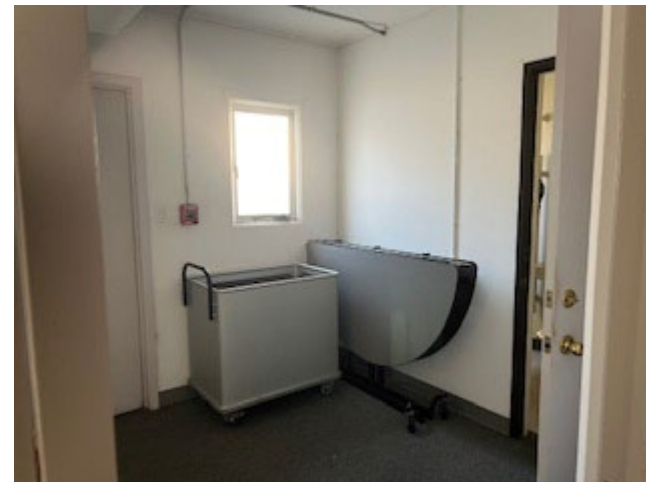
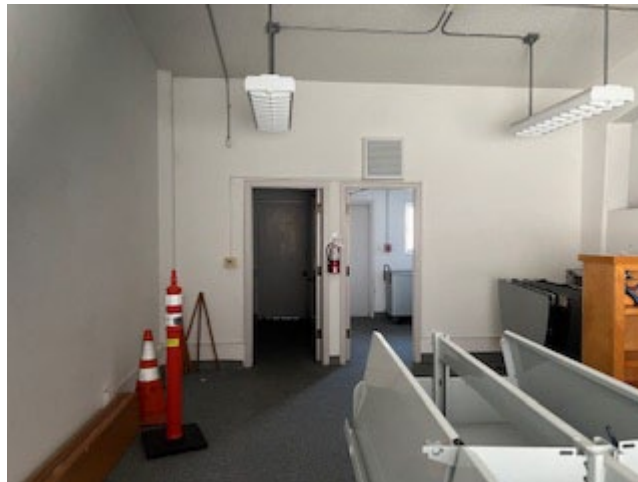
Main Street Library Photos



Storage



PT Collection/Research Library



Office



Operational Compatibility

- Benefits:
 - Operational hours will be the same for both organizations.
 - New foot traffic for both organizations from visitors.
 - Opportunities for educational collaboration.
 - Donation of "PT Collection" as a non-circulating collection and enhancement of a unique research collection that is currently stored in an offsite, inaccessible location.
 - Expanded access to surfing history.
 - Collaboration on events such as author talks, surf guitar and ukelele lessons and arts and culture classes.
 - Opportunity to provide an "anchor" and cultural hub to Main Street, drawing more patronage up through the 5th block.
 - Strengthening the city's branding as "Surf City USA."
 - No entitlements would be required - Surf Museum would be integrated into existing library use.



Operational Compatibility

- Impacts:
 - Exhibition viewing and patron library use may conflict based on desired noise levels and foot traffic for each use.
 - May need to adjust or expand facility hours in peak season to accommodate weekend visitation.
 - Triangle Park has limited parking. Increased visitation could strain existing parking, especially during peak hours and events.
 - Increased foot traffic and use of Main Street Library may generate additional maintenance needs.
 - Any proposed building enhancements will need to comply with historical regulations.



Funding Roles

- VHB is partnering with HBISM for relocation and improvement funding.
- HBISM will continue to fund their staffing, events and exhibitions.
- A MOU will be drafted, establishing further funding responsibilities.
- Future collaboration on grants may be possible.



Next Steps

- Develop a MOU and bring back to City Council for consideration.
- If the MOU is approved:
 - Develop a timeline for improvements, relocation and opening.
 - Determine logistics for cataloging and access to the "PT Collection."
 - Collaborate on an event calendar and use of shared spaces.



Questions?

