Maplewood Community Library

Community Outreach Meeting 3
November 2, 2023

“Building Vibrant Communities by Empowering Creativity & Partnerships”
“Building Vibrant Communities by Empowering Creativity & Partnerships”
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
MEETING #1

Data Gathering from the community on, “What would you like to see in the new library?”

- More space for gathering (meeting rooms and learning spaces)
- Improved Children’s and Teens area that allows for continued development and learning, spaces that allow for new opportunities for learning and discovery.
- Create spaces for Adults to enjoy and improvements that further meet the community’s diverse needs

CHILDREN’S ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Asking Children “What do you want in your Library”

- Outdoor area for activities
- Area/spaces where children can be vocal and active at the same time dedicated quite spaces.
- Bright colors, energetic and exciting

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING #2

What should the building look like

- Provide natural light into the building.
- The building should be refreshed in context to the existing building and updated and interesting.
- Bright spaces and warm materials on the inside
The renovation to the library will expand the building and improve the site.

The new parking lot will better accommodate patrons by making it easier to navigate and more accessible.

Low maintenance landscaping will improve the staff's ability to keep the area clean and well kept.

New site lighting will allow the building to be well lit at night and create a welcoming environment.
Creating a dedicated Children’s Area was a primary focus for the renovation. Bright and vibrant colors and a variety of textures in this space will create excitement and wonderment — allowing children to learn and at the same time be children. However, because “being children” equals NOISE, locating the Children’s Area here allows it to be separated from the Adult Area, and the openess allows the oversight that is required.

HIGHLIGHTS:
• Bright and Energetic space
• Computers for Childrens use
• Gathering space for reading and other activities
• Close to dedicated Children’s Outdoor Space
Having a place for children to run…. The fenced outdoor space outside of the Children's Area provides a safe and secure play environment. Installation of a hard surface will allow the space to be utilized year-round for play and other outdoor activities (…and no longer needing the parking lot for these types of activities).

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Dedicated outdoor play and activity area
- Safe, secure, and easily monitored area.
- FourSquare and programmed
Based on the Community's input, the Adult Area design goal was to provide space/areas for services beyond the book stacks alone. Creating a dedicated classroom space for educational/New American services would mean greater availability of these resources. Dedicated computers for adults will create better accessibility and separate them from the teens. Furthermore, creating warm and comforting gathering/reading spaces would allow community residents to gather, meet, and enjoy the library.

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Dedicated Classroom space
- Adult gathering spaces for reading and meeting
The addition to the library will expand the spaces and uses the Maplewood Community needs. Providing a larger Community Meeting Room will in turn allow for larger events and educational opportunities.

Dedicated Tutoring Rooms just off the Meeting Room will allow for one-on-one guidance on schoolwork or meeting spaces. Lastly, a Craft/ Exploration Room would provide children, teens, and adults with a space that can get messy and louder without disrupting the library patrons.

HIGHLIGHTS:
- Large Community Meeting space
- Smaller one-on-one learning and meeting spaces
- Dedicated craft / exploration space
The Teen Area expansion will occupy the location of the former meeting room and part of the previous adult area of the library. By removing the existing fireplace and walls, the design created an opportunity to reclaim a significant area of the library and provide a truly dedicated space for teens.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Dedicated Computer Space
- Private Study Desks
- Teen “Hang Out” Seating
Through the use of a warm and natural color palette, the library will be transformed into a bright and airy space.

The coordination of the wall colors with the floor selections will create a unity to the space and keep a warm and inviting “flow” throughout.

Providing accent wall colors and coverings will allow differentiation of each space while still creating an overall harmony.

Lastly, utilizing acoustical screens and baffles will help control the noise levels throughout all the spaces.
The coordination of the materials will allow for spaces to flow seamlessly into each other. At the same time the uses/purposes of each space will emerge.

The use of Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) in the main areas of the library will connect the spaces, as well as create a floor that will look fresh for many years to come.

Utilizing carpet in select areas like the Community Meeting Room will provide the correct acoustics for the space.

Lastly, rubber and epoxy flooring will be used in the spaces where easy cleanup is a must.
The Teens and Children will be engaged by open and interactive spaces that not only allow for quiet study and reading, and also energetic areas for play and discovery.

The adult area will allow for the expansion of meeting/classrooms, as well as increased space for reading, learning, and engagement.

The Interior Design concept will focus on creating a welcoming and warm atmosphere with natural light and a fresh, timeless, modern aesthetic. The design will include the use of mixed materials, color and textures to embrace the sense of community and belonging.
The project will create a new accessible front entrance by enclosing the area that the current stairs occupy. This will create a new focal point for the library on Dewey Ave., as well as provide the ADA accessibility and enhanced entrance the community desired.

Utilizing material such as “3Form” polycarbonate panels that include whimsical textures in the glass will bring architectural details to the building.
Providing an improved parking-lot entrance will create convenience for library patrons and also allow for additional natural light to enter into the building. The use of glass and polycarbonate at the entrance and new addition will allow natural light to flow into the existing library sections.
Providing a safe and secure space for children to play and run was a critical item on the community “wish list” for the library.

The new outdoor area can be utilized for a number of children's activities, ranging from quiet outdoor reading spaces to the competition on the “foursquare” court. The proposed, hard surface throughout the area will additionally allow for play year round without getting muddy.
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Thank You For Your Time

Questions?