Dudley Branch Library Renovations

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor
Project #7084
City of Boston Public Facilities Department

Boston Public Library
Utile, Inc. Architecture and Planning

November 16, 2016
Meeting Agenda

• Introductions
• Recap from 9/27 Meeting
• Priorities for Design
• Program Plans
The Team

- Dudley Branch Community Advisory Council
- Boston Public Library
- Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services
- City of Boston Public Facilities Department
- Other Projects: BTD & BRA
- utile
Feedback from 9/27 CAC Meeting
Site, Exterior, and Entrance

- “Need a welcoming front door.”
- “Activity outside discourages visitors.”
  “Not pleasant to come to the library and have to walk through unpleasantness at the front plaza.”
- “Public safety concerns and substance abuse discourages kids.”
- “Consider a contained outdoor space for the library accessed from the library”
- “Library outdoor space could host performances.”
Site, Exterior, and Entrance
Future Implications - BRA B2 Parcel and BTD Complete Streets

BRA – Design guidelines for redevelopment of old B2 police station site

BTD Complete Streets Redesign
Feedback from 9/27 CAC Meeting

Community Programing

- “The community room has a heart as a performing arts space. Enhance the amenities, acoustics and sound system.”
- “Ensure space for meetings for community organizations”
- “Consider flexible spaces – can the community room be partitioned into multiple spaces?”
- “Storage is important”
- “Integrate art into the building and develop opportunities to showcase local artists.”
Community Programming
Recap from 9/27 CAC Meeting

Programming and Space Needs

• “Make distinct spaces for teens, kids, and adults”

• “Provide classrooms, quiet study spaces and study carrels”

• “Dudley is considered the African American Studies branch.”

• “Cooking, yoga, crafts, computer classes, music lessons, and fashion classes are some of the variety of programs at the library.”
Goals for Reimagining the Dudley Branch Library

• “Open up” the building to better connect to the site and consider opportunities to “warm up” its exterior presence.

• Improve spatial definition to better respond to specific user groups and establish hierarchy and orientation within the library.

• Create a meaningful connection between levels.

• Incorporate space needs and consider flexibility to meet evolving programming needs.

• Improve building performance and energy efficiency of sustainable building systems.

• Strengthen digital resources.

• Enhance local history display.

• Ensure accessibility throughout the building and site.

• Improve signage and wayfinding
Program Plans

Concept Plan

- Reorients the library entry to face Dudley Square.
- Provides visibility to the Dudley Street Plaza and allows for potential programming of plaza for library uses.
- Optimize community spaces for diverse types and scales of programming.
- African-American collection considered as central figure in the heart of the library.
- Pods of program placed within library volume break up scale and help define distinct spaces.
- New open stair enhances connection between levels and streamlines circulation.
Program Plans

Alternate Scheme

- Relocates the community room to provide library programming
Community Room
Community Room

Artwork Display
Community Room
Existing Storage Room for Community Room
An open stair is an opportunity to meaningfully connect the two levels of the library.
Low walls, shelving and other elements can break up the scale of the primary volume and define distinct spaces.
Fall - Winter 2016:
Develop floor plans to understand programming and space planning options
Coordinate with MBLC for grant application
Design Schedule

Winter 2017 - Spring 2017:
Refine design
Develop options for building exterior and landscape
Submit MBLC Application
Design Schedule

Spring 2017 - Summer 2017:
- Prepare Construction Documents
- Develop interior environment
Design Schedule

**Summer 2017 – Fall 2017:**
- Study furnishings
- Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Library closes for construction
Design Schedule

**Programming and Site Discovery**
- Community Meeting 1
- 10/17: MBLC Letter of Intent
- 10/24: MBLC Workshop

**Schematic Design**
- Community Meeting 2

**Design Development**
- Community Meeting 3
- 1/26: MBLC Application
- Community Meeting 4

**Construction Documents**
- Community Meeting 5
- FF&E
- Advertise / Bidding / Contracts
- Construction
- Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Community Meeting 6