Dudley Branch Library Renovations

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

Boston Public Library

Utile, Inc. Architecture and Planning

September 27, 2016
Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Goals
- Program and Updates
- Schedule
- Discussion
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
Goals
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.

• **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

• Modernize furnishings and equipment
Programming Study for the Dudley Branch, September 2013

• Yearlong process with eight public meetings.
• PFD, BPL and a Community Advisory Committee were primary stakeholders in the process.
• **Phase 1** – Existing conditions analysis including comprehensive review of building systems.
• **Phase 2** – Programming study to optimize sizes and adjacencies for all library functions.
• **Phase 3** – Development of guiding principles for design and project budget.
Areas of Concern

Architectural Aesthetics

Disconnected Entries
Areas of Concern

Library Volume

- Central space has great bones but can be better configured.
- Spatial definition
- Acoustic separation
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Furnishings at the end of useful life
Front Plaza is a public safety area of concern identified by BPD.

Alleyway is difficult to monitor.

Library Staff cannot monitor plaza.
Future Implications - BRA B2 Parcel and BTD Complete Streets

- BRA – Design guidelines for redevelopment of old B2 police station site
- BTD Complete Streets Redesign
Program Zones

- Area changes reflect the evolving demands on the use of the library.
- **Entrance** – Will include new program including display shelving and prominently feature artwork.
- **Adult Reading** – Will increase to provide a variety of comfortable seating options.
- **Young Adult** – Establish dedicated, well defined space with lounge areas and digital resources.
- **Children's Area** – Consider proximity to supporting program spaces like children’s bathrooms.
- Compliance with accessibility guidelines may cause some areas to increase. In particular, bathrooms and kitchen areas will be affected.
Program, Recent Updates

- The Literacy Center as previously understood, has been successfully integrated within all library branches.

- That space can meet needs of the expanding role of library – s fabrication, nutritional literacy. As a hands-on space focused on skill building, this and will strive to attract young adults in particular to library

- An African American Collection will be incorporated. This will house 1,500 books, seating and feature art.
Now:
Listen to the concerns of CAC for this design effort
Review conclusions of Study for collections, seating and space planning.
Consider new opportunities resulting from program modifications
Coordinate with the BTD and BRA on adjacent efforts for a comprehensive effort.
Design Schedule

**Fall - Winter 2016:**
Develop floor plans to understand programming and space planning options
Coordinate with MBLC for grant application
Winter 2017 - Spring 2017:
Refine design
Develop options for building exterior and landscape
Submit MBLC Application
Spring 2017 - Summer 2017:
Prepare Construction Documents
Develop interior environment
Design Schedule

**Summer 2017 – Fall 2017:**
Study furnishings
Groundbreaking Ceremony
Library closes for construction
Thank You!