Community Meeting
Whitney Grant.  HDR
Kent Freed.  HDR
Community Meeting Agenda

• COMMUNITY & STAFF ENGAGEMENT RESULTS
• GUIDING PRINCIPLES
• SITE DESIGN
• BUILDING DESIGN
Program & Analysis

Site Challenges

A. Ped/Car Conflict
B. Book Drop Conflict
C. Pavement Settlement
D. Under-Used Plaza
E. Non-ADA Exit
F. Poor Connection to Adjacent Park
Program & Analysis

Existing Building Zones
1. Inclusive; Serves all ages, abilities, races, incomes, etc.
   Patrons want to have a sense that the library is for everyone—not too fancy or modern to deter people, not too high-tech to be confusing. Many physical and income-related ability conversations arose and accommodating these cannot be forgotten.

2. Promotes lifelong learning & teaching, discovery & creativity
   The library should be a place where you can learn about new things you didn’t even know you were curious about and further your understanding of the things you love. Creativity is important, but turning the library into a maker-space isn’t what people have in mind. Interesting classes or sessions to practice crafts and hand skills were discussed.

3. Family and Kid Friendly
   Many people come with their children to take advantage of programs and want to feel safe and worry free. Good lines of sight, designated areas that are consistent, and things for parents to do in the meantime were all discussions that arose.

4. Cutting-edge, high-tech, innovative
   Patrons recognize that everyone is connected these days. They use the computer labs frequently and would not want to see those go away or turn into tablet-only machines (due to elderly fingers and not wanting to completely learn something new). Good WiFi connectivity, latest books/programs/DVDs offered, printing/scanning services with a help desk, and other smart features like more automated book return options or check-out options were desired.

5. Comfortable, Welcoming
   Patrons do not want to see the library get too sterile feeling: all white, lacking personality, stark fluorescent lighting, too sharp and clean, like a operating room. They talked at length about natural lighting, views to the outdoors, warm woods and other finishes/colors that would reflect the landscape.

6. Flexible, adaptable
   The realization that the library will change over time, as well as the patrons that visit it, was noted. Allowing for things to change, whether it be the services and programs offered, or the furniture arrangement, or how each space/zone is used were mentioned as things to consider when ideating further design ideas.
Community Engagement

Guiding Principles

Safety and Security
Safety and security was a main priority for the meeting participants. Survey participants, and staff. Certain areas in the current space are not working well and are a cause for alarm for the community. The parking lot is a tense space and currently does not allow for cars and pedestrians to coexist, the tall shelves heights and organizations block sightlines for staff. Plan points like these create a negative domino effect on the other spaces and priorities of the library and the Belmar community.

Inclusive
The library should cater to all patrons regardless of age, income level, nationality, etc. The participants envisioned a library shaped by the community. Their request for more bilingual materials, the importance they place on accessibility, and the broad range of ages Belmar hosts all inform the library’s design.

Connection to Adjacent Park and Outdoors
One of the most unique traits of the Belmar library is its adjacent park and lake just outside. The community brought attention to a child’s need to play outdoors and take a break from the quiet environment. The staff mentioned a designated outdoor space for programs and rest. All of these pieces contribute to an effort to make the outdoors an extension of the library and to bring the outside in.

Promote Lifelong Learning
Through interviews and comments, the priority of the project became very clear. The patrons reminded us of the role of the library within the community. This building should be a center of knowledge focusing on books and media. It should also provide space for innovative programming beyond the print. The library is a place for lifelong learning.

Convenience Factor
One of the more attractive features of a library should be its convenience. Patrons shouldn’t feel burdened by a long visit or view a book return as a chore. Staff access, space adjacencies, and dispersed access points all contribute to an experience tailored to the patrons needs.

Sustainability and Resilience
Belmar’s community has a deep appreciation for the beautiful park they have right in their backyard. And with that, they recognize the responsibility they have to keep it nice. The community expressed their interest in sustainability and green materials as a part of the library’s renovation, and the addition of signs to explain to visitors their contribution to the earth and their values.

“Social, financial, environmental.”
“More environmental. Mental awareness and Sustainability.”

Enhanced Way-finding and Organization
As an initiative to enhance the experience of the patrons, and ease some load off the staff, priority was placed on way-finding and organization. Each iteration of the program was looked at from the stance of the users. A parent totting kids and a bag of books, a patron making a speedy checkout, or a manager overseeing the spaces from their desk.

“Organized well in a manner that is not just books on a shelf.”
“Efficient Flow.”
“Open spaces and organization is key for a great library.”

Welcoming Atmosphere
One of the top responses to how a library should feel was welcoming. The participants described an entrance that said “Welcome to Belmar.” Words like “cooks” and “corners” were used to describe comfortable reading spaces. Natural lighting and seating were discussed as ways to invite patrons to stay. The residents spoke about spaces that felt separate, though not divided.

“Welcoming and comfortable – a place where visitors feel at home.”
“Soothing colors. Lots of little nooks, window seats, and desks for places to work, study and read.”

“I think a library represents a freedom to pursue all types of knowledge and explore books that I wouldn’t want to buy necessarily, but I still want to read.”

“I like that my kids have a safe clean area that is well-staffed.”

“Everyone is on the same level. De celebrate diversity.”


“It available to all. It brings a wide age-range and diverse people together.”

“When it’s raining and I can’t go outside.”

“I also value a simple layout with easy to locate sections and signage that makes finding the right section convenient.”

“I think making better use of the park view would be great.”

“We use to come there and spend afternoons sitting in the chairs facing the park.”
Planning Concept

Proposed Site & Building Zones – Guiding Principles

OUTDOOR LEARNING

SUPPORTS:
- INCLUSIVE
- CONNECTION TO OUTDOORS
- WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE

ACTIVITY BASED SPACE RECONFIGURATION

SUPPORTS:
- WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE
- INCLUSIVE
- PROMOTES LIFELONG LEARNING
- CONVENIENCE FACTOR

NEW ENTRANCE

SUPPORTS:
- ENHANCED WAY-FINDING
- ORGANIZATION
- SAFETY + SECURITY
- CONNECTION TO OUTDOORS
- CONVENIENCE FACTOR
- WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE

CROSS-AXIAL CIRCULATION

SUPPORTS:
- WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE
- ENHANCED WAY-FINDING
- SAFETY + SECURITY
- CONVENIENCE FACTOR

PICNIC AREA

SUPPORTS:
- CONNECTION TO OUTDOORS
- CONVENIENCE FACTOR
- WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE

ACTIVE

QUIET

WELCOME

STAFF

UTILITY
A. Traffic Calming
B. Reading Deck
C. Staff Area
D. Walkways
E. Canopy
F. Bike Racks
G. Enhanced Planting Area
H. ADA Parking
I. Entry Plaza
J. Drop-off Zone
A. Traffic Calming
B. Reading Deck
C. Planting
D. Canopy
E. Bike Racks
F. Entry Plaza
G. Drop-off Zone
H. Benches
I. Swivel Seat
## SQFT COMPARISON

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<td>Childrens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathways</td>
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**Building Design**

Existing & Schematic Design Program Comparison
A. Relocate entry on a main central axis with direct views from main service point

B. New book drop location

C. Children's to be located adjacent to entry with dedicated story time and family place areas

D. Meeting rooms to be located off of main pathway and flexible in meeting size

E. Reading room expanded and design for "living room" feel

F. Adult and teen stacks to create "grand hall" w/ lines of sight

G. Daylighting to be enhanced and natural, mindful materials selected

H. Variety of seating types and experiences

I. A D A upgrades and universal design throughout

J. Teen area to be distinctive and age appropriate

K. Study rooms increased in # & varied in size.

L. Staff consolidated w/ new A M H

M. M E P Systems updated & acoustics enhanced
Thank you – Q & A
BELMAR LIBRARY
CONCEPT DESIGN - PREFERRED SCHEME
RENOVATION SCHEME R-S
2018-11-16
Community Engagement

Guiding Principles

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"I like that my kids have a safe clean area that is well-staffed."

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"I think a library represents a freedom to pursue all types of knowledge and explore books that I wouldn’t want to buy necessarily, but I still want to read."

"Kid areas should be fun, cheerful and a place kids can remember for a lifetime how awesome or awe inspiring they were."

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"Social, financial, environmental."

"Futuristic. Built for the future, meets future needs. Sustainability. Change for the better."

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"The outside needs so much TLC."

"I think making better use of the park view would be great."

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