

COMPARISON:

Existing Library vs. Expanded and Transformed Library



Irvin L. Young
Memorial Library

Early learners (Toddlers-Kindergarten)

Existing Library

- Storytime and other Early Literacy activities compete with other programs and groups for the existing Community Room—which is not soundproof.
- The current play area only has room for one family to fit comfortably.

Expanded and Transformed Library

- We will have a room dedicated to Early Literacy activities, especially storytime.
- There will be an expanded play area where many families can fit comfortably, allowing parents and children to engage with each other.
- There will be a restroom in the Early Learning wing and a dedicated place for nursing mothers.

School age children/Elementary age children

Existing Library

- There are no separate gathering spaces or study spaces for elementary age children.

Expanded and Transformed Library

- There will be expanded seating for this age group separate from both teens and small children.
- There will be study spaces for children and teens, including small meeting rooms for group projects.
- There will be an information desk specifically for children and teens.

Teens

Existing Library

- The Teen Space is not clearly demarcated, and it is hard for teens to claim ownership of the space.
- It is too close to quiet and adult areas.
- There is very little seating with only one table, and no room for passive or self-directed projects.

Expanded and Transformed Library

- It will be a clearly defined space that is more inviting for teens and farther away from quieter areas.
- There will be more seating, tables, and areas to hang out.
- There will be room to set up passive or self-directed projects to keep teens occupied and engaged, and room for dynamic displays to promote materials, programs, and services.
- It will be close to things that teens care about – the Makerspace, social reading area, and study rooms.

Makerspace (a place where people with common interests gather to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge)

Existing Library

- There is very limited workspace, with only 10 sq. ft of open workspace in a small 13' x 17' foot room.
- Only 4-5 people can work comfortably at one time, and there is no room for bigger projects or larger groups.

- Existing carpet is hard to keep clean, a different flooring is more suitable for messy materials.
- There is very limited storage, and many tools/supplies are stored elsewhere and not accessible—especially for those who use wheelchairs or walkers.
- It is too close to periodicals/adult reading area.

Expanded and Transformed Library

- There will be a bigger working area, plus the ability to open up for a larger audience to engage with Makerspace activities. In addition, we'll have more space to increase our equipment and supplies.
- There will be a sink, which will allow us to use paint and other fun, messy materials.
- The flooring we will have can be easily cleaned.
- There will be expanded storage, allowing for better organization and easier access of items for people to use.
- The shelves and storage will be designed and organized with accessibility in mind, ADA compliant.
- It will be farther away from quieter areas, inspiring more discussion, collaboration, learning, and engagement.
- It will be located in a more visible location in the library, inviting more people to know about and use the space.

Spaces for adults to gather

Existing Library

- There is only one large meeting room, which can be divided into two, but with very poor soundproofing (especially if there are children's activities in the other part of the meeting room).
- The large meeting room was used by community groups 84 times in 2022. The library had 172 programs and 25 meetings in 2022.
- Our small meeting room was used 92 times in 2022
- Our current seating and work options are very close together and make it difficult for groups to work together.
- There is no space for exhibits.

Expanded and Transformed Library

- There will be two expandable meeting rooms, which can open to each other, to the atrium, and to the outside.
- With expansion of the large meeting room to the atrium, there will be space for community exhibits, which will draw more people to the library.
- There likely be three small group meeting rooms.
- There will be more areas around the library for people to sit, read, and work.

Additionally, in the Expanded and Transformed Library

- There will be improved and expanded technology connectivity throughout the library.
- There will be additional power sources for individuals needing to charge their devices.
- There will be smart screens and virtual meeting devices for in-person, hybrid, or virtual meetings.
- There will be an outdoor space with lighting and Wi-Fi for events and individual use.

For additional information, contact:

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