

NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - PUBLIC FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

GENERAL COLLECTION

- Consider organizing books by subject instead of by Dewey
- Greatly expanded shelving space throughout entire building

GENEALOGY

- All research materials should be located together
- Should be near a copy machine
- Should not be near the Children's Area
- Most people are unaware of this resource / collection due to location
- More space to spread out at computer stations

LARGE PRINT

- Would like to have shorter stacks with nothing on the bottom shelves in this area for easier accessibility to seniors
- This area should be easy to locate and access

YOUNG ADULT

- Should have their own defined and attractive area
- Locate adjacent to Adult areas rather than Children's area
- Offer a secure place for property - maybe lockers
- Gaming space and equipment
- Should have separate YA computers
- Facilitate social networking / digital citizenship
- Listening station
- Comfortable seating / lounge chairs / bar tables / couches / fun teen appropriate seating
- Would like an art area where they can paint, stamp, draw, just be creative
- Write a story station
- TV and movie showing / music playing
- Murals, bright, colorful
- Quiet homework area

MAGAZINES

- Smaller magazine area / fewer items

REFERENCE

- Reduced amount of Reference shelf space

MEDIA COLLECTIONS

- Would like an area for Audiobooks

CHILDREN'S AREA

- Would like more staff storage for supplies, puppets, etc.
- Develop a space specifically for older children / middle school aged kids / Tweens
- More space for toy area
- Zone the Children's area by age groups

NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - PUBLIC FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

TECHNOLOGY

- Consider oversight within a monitored Computer Lab set up for public computers instead of clusters on the floor
- Self check machines in Circulation area
- Consider laptops or mini net books for check-out / use by patrons
- Consider Kindle devices for check-out / use by patrons
- Computer stations need more work area for patrons to spread out
- Powered tables for laptop use
- Flexibility to accommodate changing technology in the future
- Security system needs to be real time / instant for Police monitoring and response
- Locate some computers near stack areas for accessing the card catalog

COMMUNITY MEETING SPACES

- Provide more Meeting Room options / multiple rooms of varying sizes
- Large multipurpose room that can be subdivided into a 100-seat side and a 50-seat side
- Board room / conference room for 15-20 people
- Study rooms for 4-6 people and 6-8 people
- After-hours Access for Meeting Rooms to increase availability
- Small kitchen in this area, easy to maintain
- AV equipment / state of the art digital systems / full multi-media rich presentation environment
- Gallery space to display artwork of local artists
- Coat room

CAFÉ

- Consider locating deeper into the library instead of near the main entry
- Full service café to support meeting room use
- Consider a café cart
- Convenient to an outside to reading garden / patio area
- Work with Friends of the Library
- Local stores to help out with food items (Prairie Harvest, Karen's Kitchen)
- Consider vending machines in a specific area but not visible

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

- Should have a permanent store / gift shop
- Consider locating bookstore near main entry / Circulation Desk for monitoring when not staffed
- Friends storage / sorting room with space for supplies

SEATING

- More tables either round or square
- Would like to see soft seating throughout the building
- There should be quiet areas for patrons who want to work / read / study
- Consider a Quiet Reading room

DISPLAY

- Flexible, moveable, display

NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - PUBLIC FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

- Lit marquee sign listing programs / events / hours of operation
- Displays integrated into bookstacks

SITE

- Main building entry should be convenient to the parking lot
- Would like to have drive-up services
- Consider underground / tuck-under parking to maximize park area
- Patron drop-off / place for parents to drop their kids off
- Green space around the library is very important / should not be surrounded by concrete
- Outdoor reading area / concert space / conference space / program area with power
- Should have views to the park from inside the building

WHAT SHOULD YOU SEE FIRST UPON ENTERING THE BUILDING?

- Building Directory / maps
- Displays describing programs, events, and activities
- Circulation Desk / Information Desk
- Book displays
- Display case with changing collections
- Comfortable seating
- Artwork (changeable displays) / many local artists
- Atrium / rotunda
- Wow factor
- Café / coffee shop
- Friendly face / staff nearby
- Bigger sweeping views, less clutter, open space

WHAT SHOULD THE LIBRARY LOOK LIKE FROM THE OUTSIDE?

- Lots of windows providing natural light and views of the park
- An element of the unexpected / breathtaking / refreshing
- Green design
- A nod to the Carnegie library and the Downtown historic district
- Combination of traditional and contemporary
- Inviting / exciting
- Use of multiple materials - consider stone / limestone / not just brick
- Should not be entirely rectilinear, consider curved walls

WHAT SHOULD THE LIBRARY LOOK LIKE FROM THE INSIDE?

- Not all fluorescent lighting
- Inviting
- Open layout
- Skylights, natural lighting incorporated into the design
- Warm / cozy / homey
- Blue Sky Theme - local artists
- Old time train station theme - railroad town
- More stimulating colors / more brightness
- Higher ceilings

NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY - PUBLIC FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

WHAT DOES THE LIBRARY NEED TO DO TO INCREASE USAGE?

- Barnes & Noble atmosphere / more brows-able stack areas
- Inviting Lions Club / other groups to hold meetings at NPL (need kitchen for safe food handling)
- More visual / movie night programs / gaming events / exercise class / expand current services
- More evening programs for people to attend / more programs in general
- Audiobooks and treadmills; wellness at the library / use Wii fitness for patrons who cannot afford to join fitness centers

WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN IN OTHER LIBRARIES THAT YOU LIKED?

- Moveable displays
- A water feature
- Gas fireplace inside for coziness
- Gift shop area displaying seasonal items / reading devices / aides, etc.
- Move towards LEED certification / sustainable design

OTHER COMMENTS

- Library should be language friendly / bilingual
- Security is a very important element both inside and outside of the building
- An area devoted to seniors
- Need to connect with neighboring activities: schools, downtown, architecture, and programming with HCC

LIST OF REFERENCES

- Tattered Cover bookstore in Denver, Colorado
- Denver Public Library, Colorado
- Beatrice, Nebraska
- Sterling College Library has wow factor when you enter the building
- Topeka Shawnee County Public Library: reception area they liked
- West side YMCA near Maize has a senior center area with large print books, and a quiet seating area