

Pre-Planning Assessment



**THE EXCITEMENT IS
BUILDING**

*Become a part of the excitement by supporting
Riverside Public Library*



BACKGROUND: How Did We Get Here?

- Space Concerns/Issues
 - Meeting room "shortage" makes it difficult to balance library and community needs
 - Staff workspaces designed for different time and function. Noise, desk and storage concerns
 - Elevator is not easy to access
 - Patron Services work area is too accessible to patrons
- Changing Face of Libraries
 - Libraries are now creative spaces and meeting areas, as well as a place to check out books, movies, etc.
 - Emerging technologies (e-books, tablets, computers, HOOPLA, etc.) added to traditional services
- Children and Youth Services
 - Piecemeal and unfinished appearance of department and entire lower level
 - Too many age groups served in the same area; greater separation needed
 - Noise travels upstairs with current configuration
- Shelving/Furniture Condition
 - Shelving units in Adult section are deteriorating (New shelving installed 12/2016)
 - Media storage units in disrepair and inappropriate for media type (New media storage installed 12/2016)
 - Many units are not ADA accessible (First floor is now ADA compliant)
- Infrastructure Concerns
 - Heating and cooling system reaching end of life (New HVAC installed 5/2017)
 - Lighting is inefficient and not ideal for tasks performed in each area
 - Sunlight and leaks from skylights can cause computer problems (Skylights were re-caulked to prevent leaking; sunlight remains a problem)

CURRENT STATE: Where Are We Now?

We are the provider of library services for the Village of Riverside.

- We have more than 4,000 card holders (6,533 in 12/2016)
- Library is highly regarded in the community based on feedback at the library and to board members
- Our programs are well-attended by both adults and children
- Staff functions well in their current space as best as possible
- Resident and group requests for meeting room use is accommodated as often as possible, but often requests are denied due to lack of space



Original April 4, 2014
Updated October 3, 2017

- Heating and cooling is currently working but aging
- Lighting needs frequent bulb changing
- Shelving layout prevents ideal sight lines
- Staff is creative and continually trying new programs and ideas
- Emerging technologies are investigated and frequently added (HOOPLA, Portable Hot Spots, Laptops for checkout and ROKU players have been added to the collection)

COSTS: What's Not Working and How Will It Affect the Future if Nothing is Done?

Infrastructure

- HVAC will need to be replaced in the near future (Replaced 05/2017)
- The cost of paying electrician or handy man to change the bulbs and ballasts may increase our building maintenance budget

Shelving/Furniture

- Without repairs or replacement of many of the shelving units, we could be putting our patrons at risk. They are not sturdy and could fall over. (Installed 12/2016)
- Many chairs and tables in the Library are breaking or weakening and can be a safety risk.
- Staff work areas will continue to be useable but are not fully functional.

Space Concerns

- The elevator, while in working order, does not lend itself to easy access for patrons. Access to the elevator is hard to get to for some strollers, wheelchairs, etc. Likewise, the Patron Services Department is open to frequent stops by patrons who do not realize it is a work area. (Opening Doors – Friends of the Library 2017 campaign will address this issue.)
- Meeting Rooms: We anticipate continued high demand for our meeting space as currently configured.
We lack small meeting areas for group study, which encourages use by teens and young adults.
- The Lower Level of Children and Youth Services Departments will remain in conflict with groups finding a space of their own. Noise will continue to be a problem as the youngest patrons are located directly by the atrium opening.
- Due to lack of space, we may need to curtail new programs or new services as we have no room to grow with the current arrangement.
- Children and Adults often share program space but the Public Meeting Room is not necessarily child-friendly and lacks storage for program supplies.
- The lower level still looks like an unfinished basement.



FUTURE STATE: WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE IF WE IMPROVE?

- Studio GC has presented us with a plan for our future that reorganizes our lower level to suit the needs of our young patrons, their families and many community groups who use our meeting room.

BENEFITS: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MAKING SUCH A CHANGE?

Infrastructure

- We can provide a more energy efficient solution to our heating and cooling needs. A new system can help us regulate the entire building better providing a better atmosphere for staff and patrons. (Installed 5/2017)
- Improvement/changing to the current lighting would again provide an energy efficient solution and hopefully a longer bulb and ballast life to our lighting fixtures. We would also be able to solve some of the lighting/view issues to specific areas in the building.

Space/Layout

- With the suggested changes, the number of meeting and study areas would be increased allowing us more flexibility with programming and accommodating community requests for space.
- Access to the elevator would be improved for all those who need to use it to as a way of access to both levels of the Library. Improving access to the elevator would also allow for Patron Services to regain a more contained area for working and would not have to worry about patrons entering the work area. (Opening Doors – Friends of the Library 2017 campaign will address this issue.)
- Staff would have a better working environment.

Children and Youth Services

- Perhaps the greatest benefit of a renovation project would be to create a better area for the youth and parents of the youth of Riverside! Renovating the entire lower level into the area that serves our younger patrons would be a great show of support for the future of the Library, the Village and beyond. We can provide better learning and growing experiences to babies and toddlers and then follow them through their educational years. By being able to focus on each phase of childhood with the appropriate Library atmosphere, it is an investment in the present and future of our Library.
- The aesthetic change would also improve the total atmosphere of the Library.

Shelving and Furniture

- More accessible shelving and furniture is in itself a positive thing. (Upper Level completed)
- Improved shelving and necessary furniture changes will enhance the building as a whole. (Upper Level completed)
- Safety is a very important component to the Library.



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Evolving Nature of Libraries

A commitment to change now provides the Library with the flexibility to continue to adjust as trends and community needs change. While today we may need more computer tables, shelving units and the like, the layout we will have with a renovation will make future readjustments/additions easier to incorporate.

IMPACT: WHO OR WHAT ARE IMPACTED BY THE CHANGE

- Patrons of the Library (all ages)
- Staff
- Community Groups and Organizations
- Future residents (it can be a positive selling point for Realtors and the Village of Riverside!)