

The image shows the Ramsdell Public Library, a classical-style building with a prominent portico supported by four columns. The pediment above the columns features a decorative relief. The text 'THE RAMSDELL PUBLIC LIBRARY' is inscribed on the wall above the columns. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and bushes. A paved walkway leads to the entrance. A signpost is visible on the right side of the lawn.

town of great barrington, massachusetts
ramsdeell library feasibility study

February 05, 2024

designLAB architects



ben youtz aia
principal-in-charge



andrew brookes
community
engagement lead



mary ann upton aia
library
planning lead



Audrey scanlon
project manager

introduction & experience

libraries of the future

process & approach

discussion

designLAB architects
a women-owned firm

Just.

Organization Name: DesignLAB Architects
Organization Type: Architecture
Headquarters: Boston, Massachusetts
Number of Employees: 16

Social Justice Indicators:

Diversity & Inclusion

- Gender Diversity
- Ethnic Diversity
- Inclusion
- Engagement

Employee Benefits

- Health Care
- Retirement Provision
- Family/Medical Leave
- Training/Education

Equity

- Full-Time Employment
- Pay-Scale Equity
- Freedom of Association
- Living Wage
- Gender Pay Equity

Stewardship

- Local Communities
- Volunteering
- Animal Welfare
- Charitable Giving
- Positive Products

Employee Health

- Physical Health
- Well-Being

Purchasing & Supply Chain

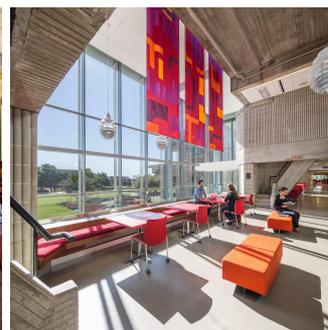
- Equitable Purchasing
- Supply Chain

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE LABEL 2.0

DLB-001

EXP. 05/__/2023





library projects

library of virginia master plan

town of stow randall public library

boston public library mckim building master plan

university of connecticut homer babbidge library

city of somerville west branch library

brandeis college goldfarb library study

providence public library main building renovation

providence public library empire st transformation

umass dartmouth claire t. carney library

university of baltimore langsdale library study

vanderbilt university libraries master plan





Great Barrington Libraries

architecture & community engagement

designLAB architects WBE

Ben Youtz AIA, LEED AP
Principal-in-Charge

Audrey Scanlon
Project Manager

Mary Ann Upton AIA
Library Planning Lead

Andrew Brookes RA
Community Engagement Lead

essential subconsultants

MEP/FP & CIVIL ENGINEERING

EDM Engineering

Jeromy Richardson, PE
Principal in Charge, Code Consultant

Robert J Sherman, PE
Project Manager, Mechanical Engineer

Jeremy Barnes, PE
Electrical Engineer

optional subconsultants

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING

EDM Engineering

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

G2 Collaborative WBE

ENVELOPE CONSULTANT

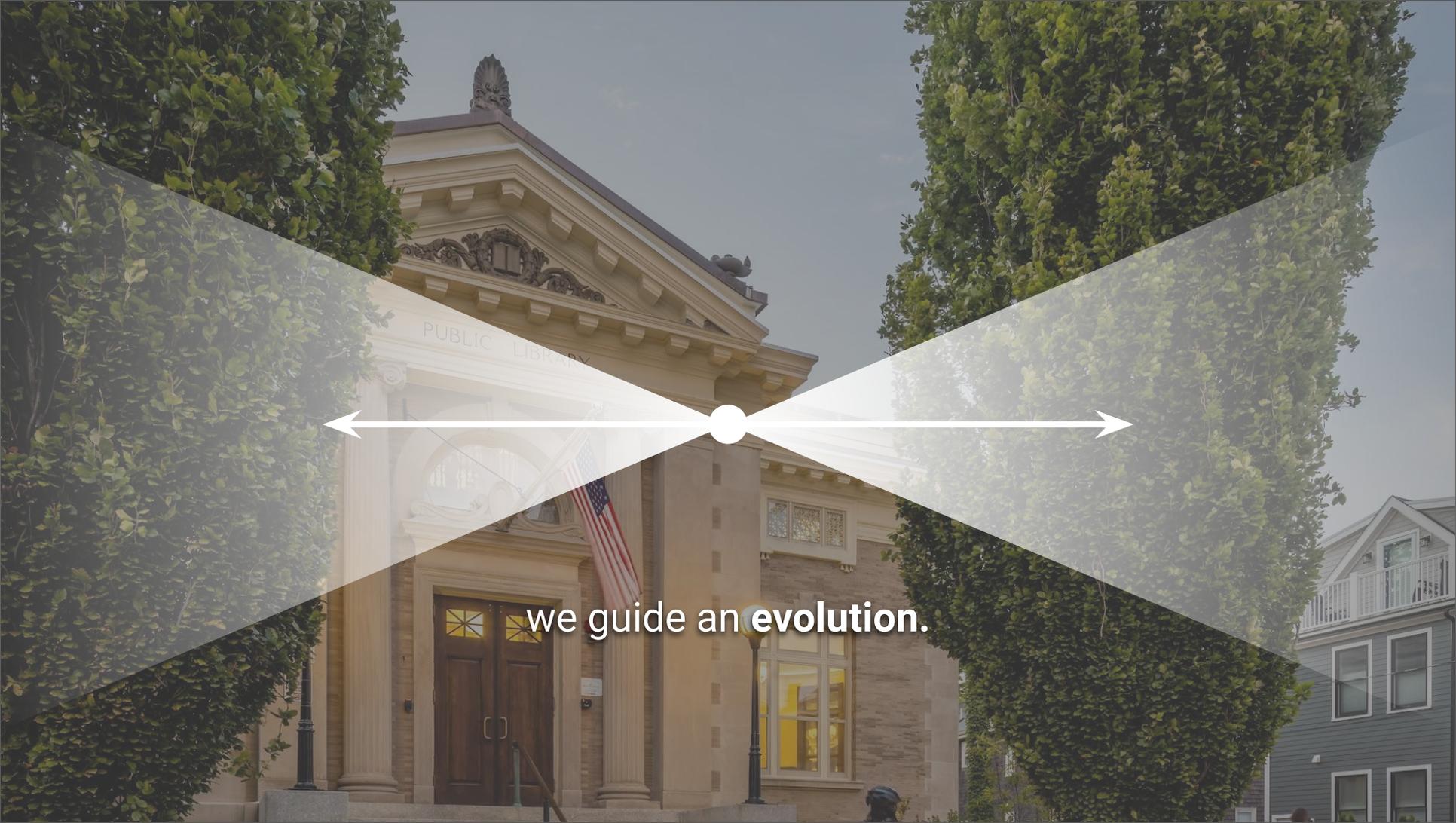
BEA





critical stewardship

is an approach to design that is based on a universal responsibility to history and the environment as valued through the lens of community.



PUBLIC LIBRARY



we guide an **evolution.**

critical stewardship | introduction



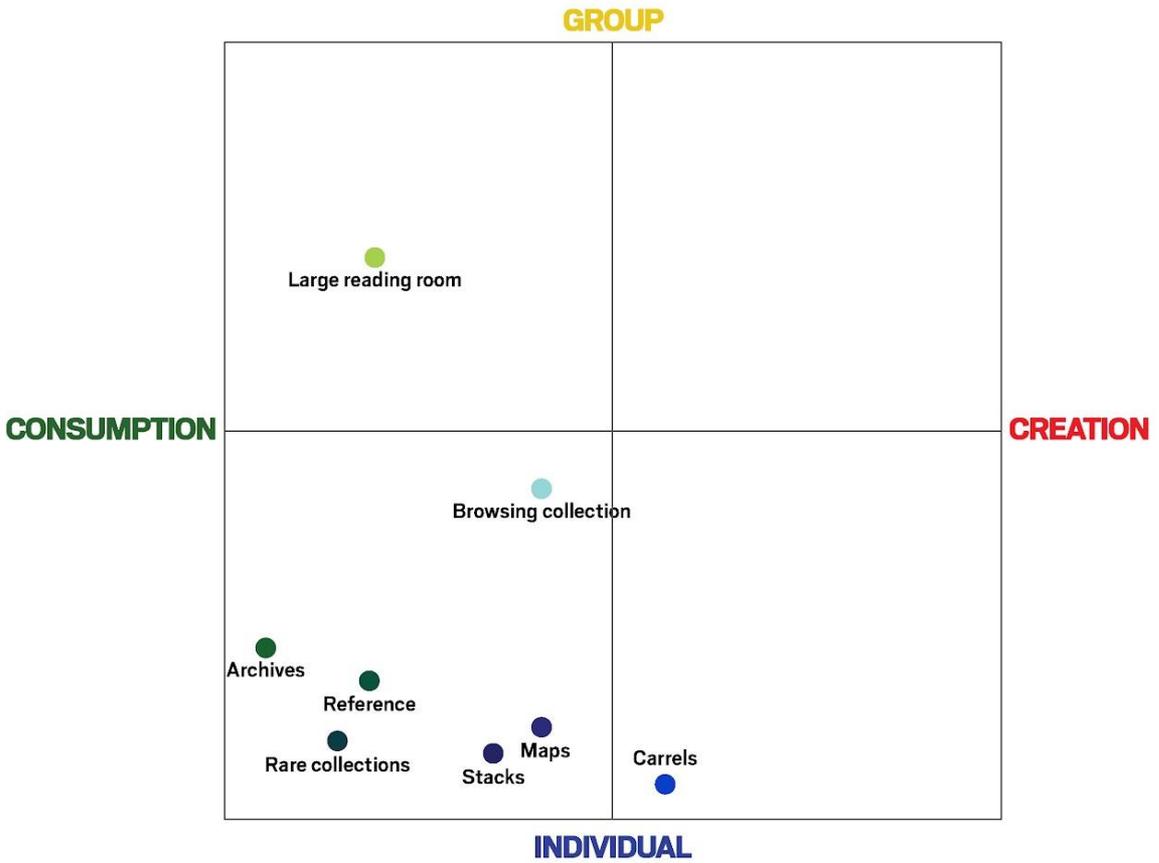


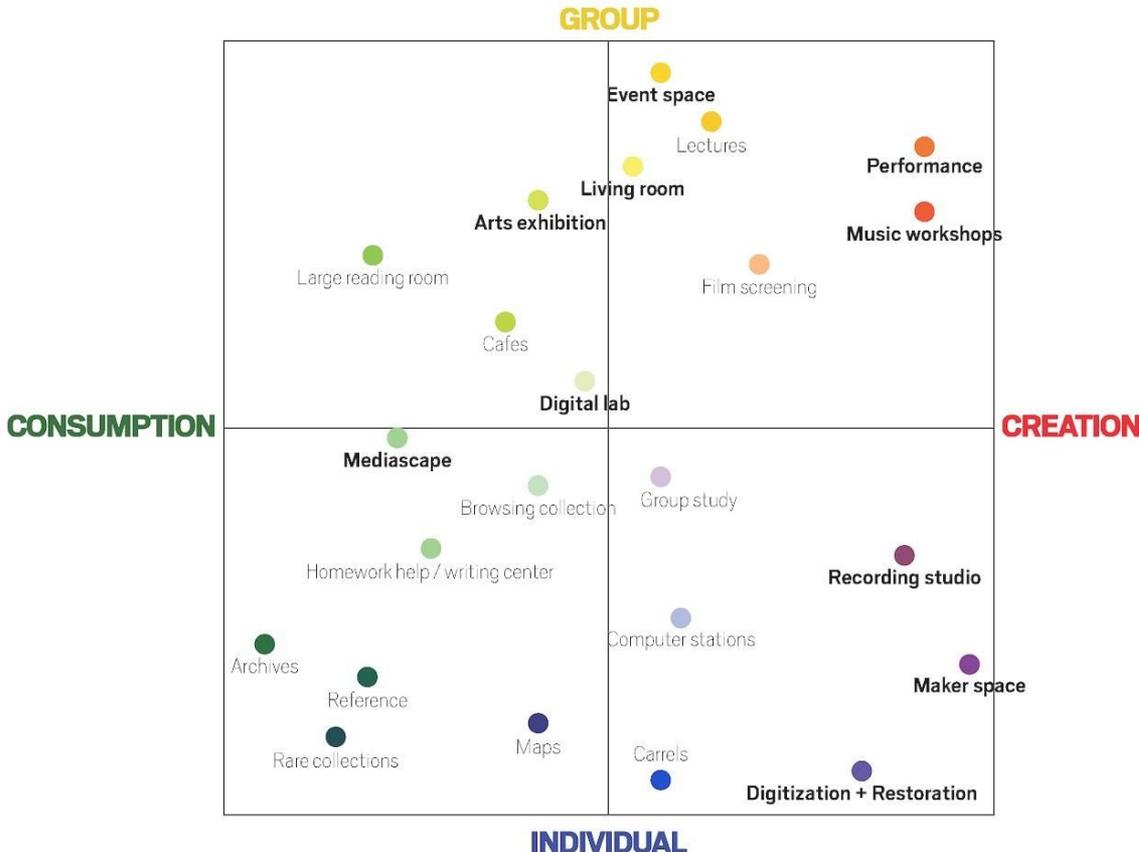
introduction & experience

libraries of the future

process & approach

discussion





GROCERY



KITCHEN



THE MONK

Looking for a quiet, isolated niche to do heads-down, focused work



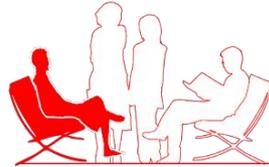
THE EMULATOR

Looking for a quiet, shared space to work and see others working for positive peer pressure



THE COMMUNICATOR

Looking for an informal study space to work and connect with peers



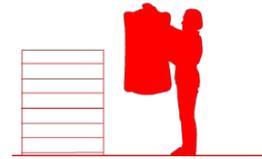
THE EXPLORER

Looking to discover treasures deep in the collections as part of targeted research



THE SPECIALIST

Looking to access and work with specific collections – ie maps or GIS collections



THE WANDERER

Looking to browse collections for inspiration, without a specific book or document in mind



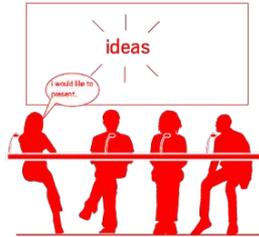
THE CREATORS

Looking for access to technology to help them create new knowledge



THE CONFERENCERS

Looking for space to present and have dialogue on emerging research



THE COLLABORATORS

Looking for space to work on a group project or meet as a study group

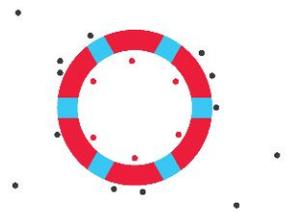


THE ACTIVIST

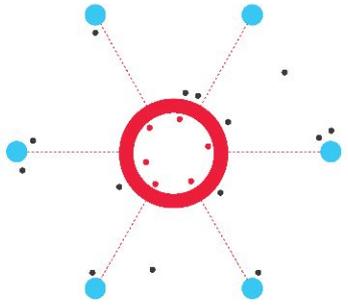
Looking to visit the library from the local community for specific events or research



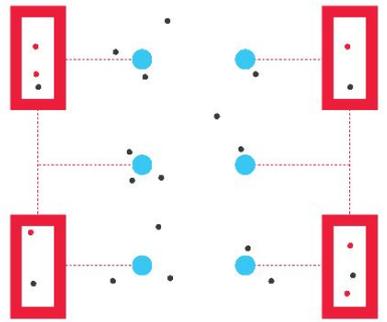
evolving library | service models



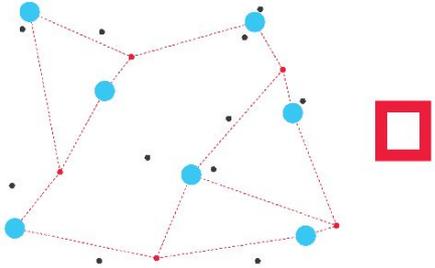
CENTRALIZED



HUB & SPOKE



DISTRIBUTED



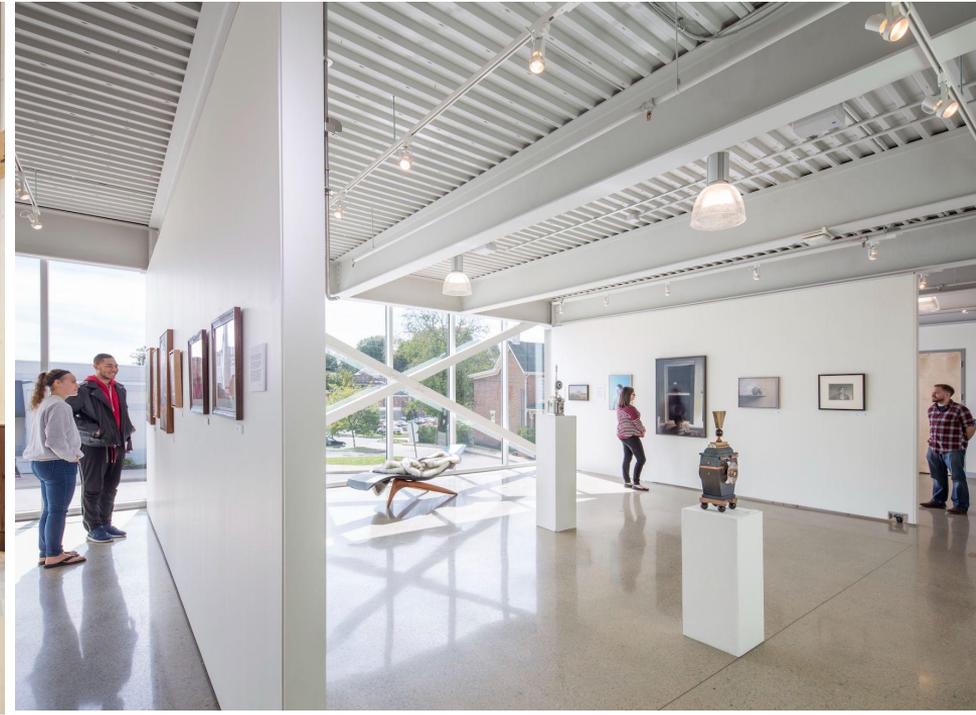
FREEFORM



opportunities | community living room



opportunities | cafe + community gallery



opportunities | diversity of meeting spaces







opportunities | children's library & teens area







opportunities | landscape program spaces





Flow CONSIDER ONE DIRECTIONAL FLOW



Pick Up INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PICK UP SERVICE MODEL



Flex FLEXIBLE FURNISHINGS (SMALLER MODULES) FOR EASE OF REARRANGEMENT & SPACING OUT



Fresh Air OUTDOOR PROGRAM SPACES & OPEN UP TO OUTDOORS



Hybrid INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ONLINE & HYBRID PROGRAMS



introduction & experience
libraries of the future
process & approach
discussion



The Ramsdell Library Program and Facility Vision



Prepared by
Kimberly Bolan and Associates, LLC
June 2018 – Version 4.0



Kimberly Bolan and Associates, LLC
www.rethinkinglibraries.org

GREAT BARRINGTON LIBRARIES
Strategic Plan 2024-2029

GREAT BARRINGTON LIBRARIES -
RAMSDELL LIBRARY
BUILDING PROGRAM

June 2020 Great Barrington Libraries – Ramsdell Library

THE FINALE: THE FINAL PRIORITIES

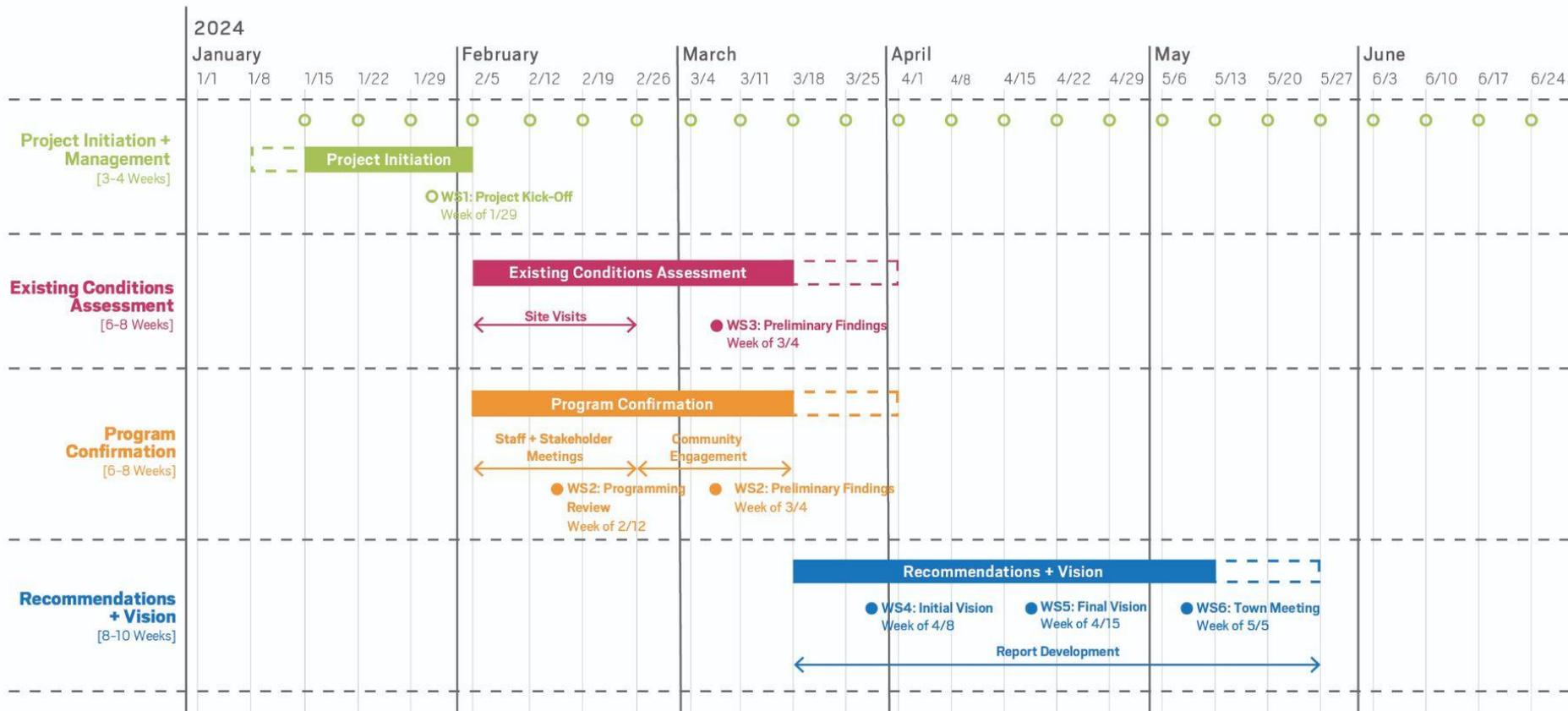


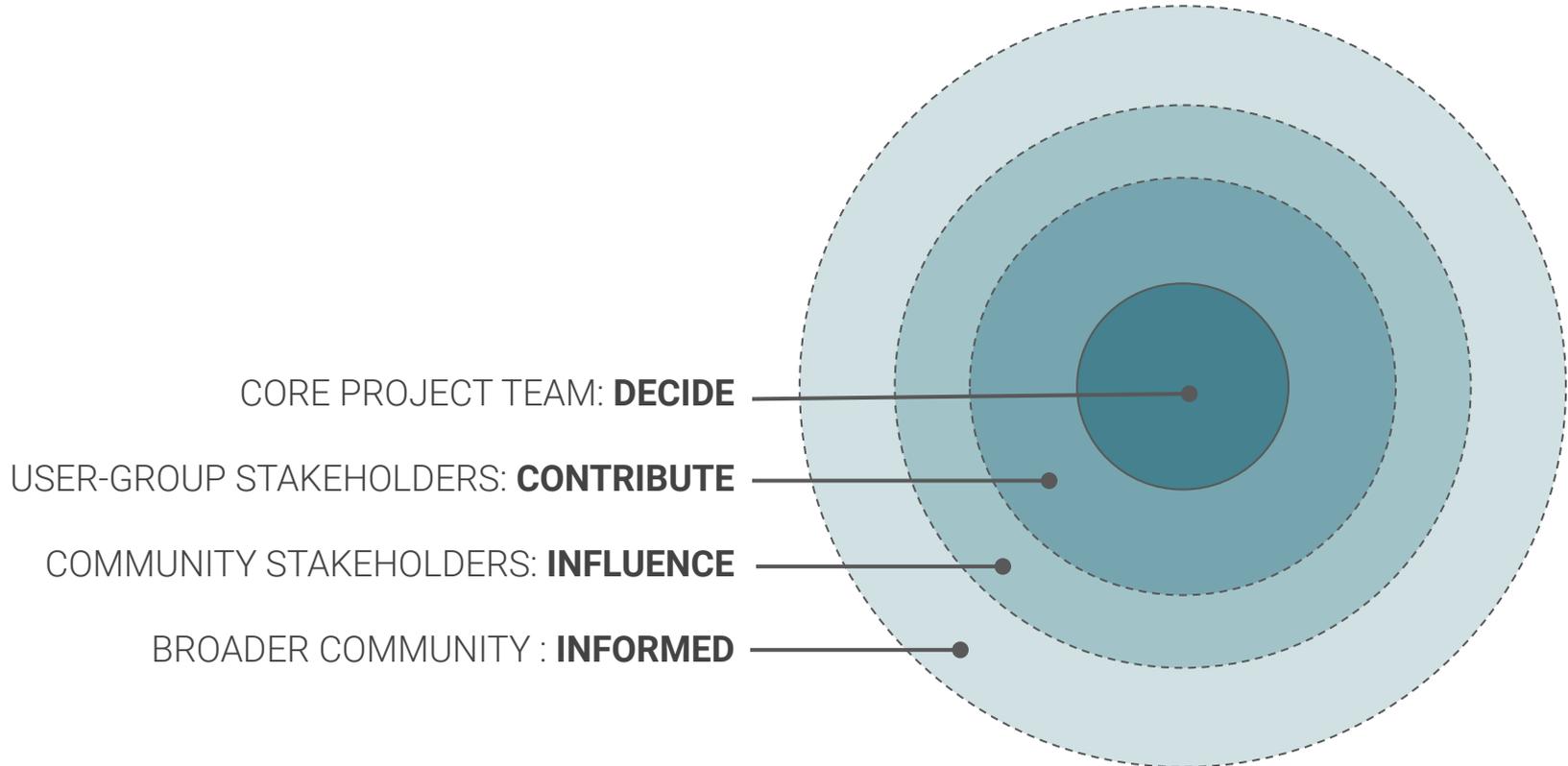
Eclipse at Mason Library

When given the opportunity, our community members stated these are the initiative/services on which the library should focus during the next five years. Our strategic plan will emphasize and be responsive to these priorities.

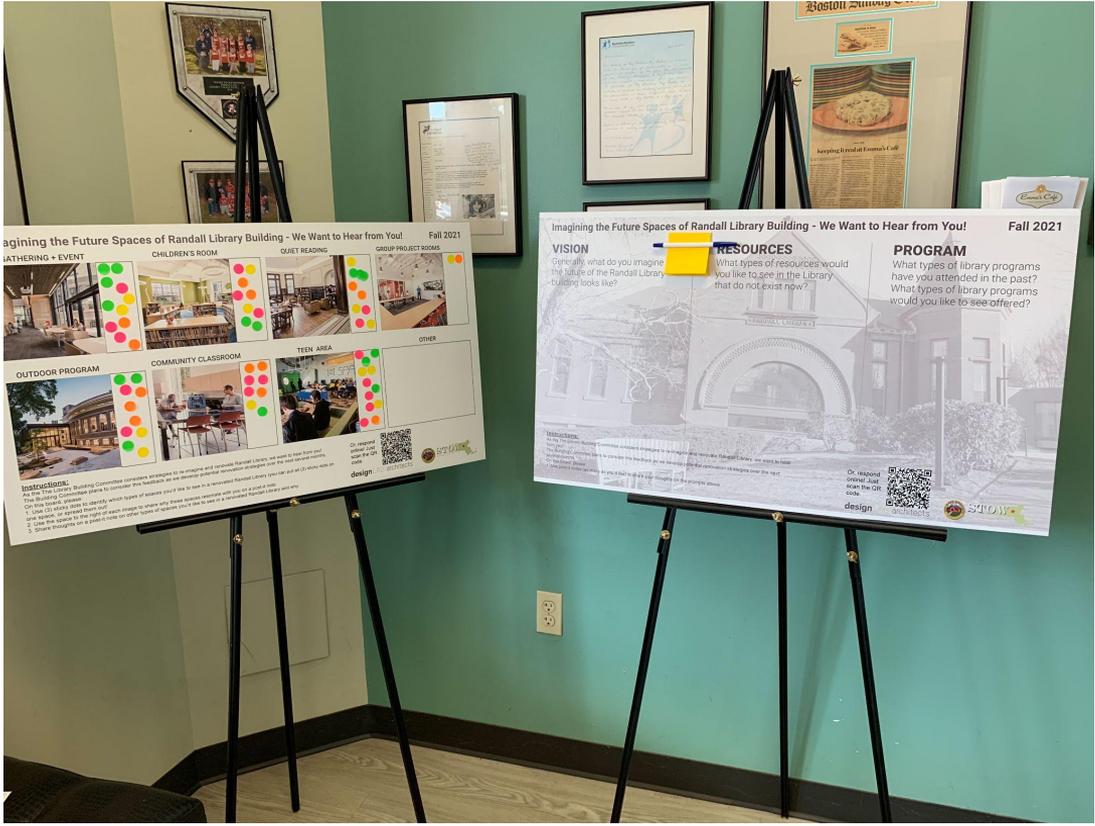
- **Re-imagining our libraries as welcoming, healthy and sustainable buildings**
- **Increasing community gathering spaces**
- **Developing robust programs for all ages and interests supported by increased communication and outreach within the community**
- **Providing cutting edge technology and support for our communities.**
- **Creating spaces that emphasize creativity and innovation.**
- **Increasing quiet and work spaces.**

process | preliminary project work plan









background | User frame

Topic #1 Community Engagement

1 How could the Dartmouth Street Plaza better foster Library programs and create stronger connections to the activity in Copley Square or the greater community?

- Signage - welcoming and encouraging people into the building (not electronic), let people know what programming is happening.
- Programming would also discourage skateboarding.
- Better communication about the activities and programs within the building.
- Stairs can be a stage or reading - can the stairs be better connected to the park?
- Events (formal or informal) can be held outside.
- Can tie to other things that happening in the city - shows, etc.
- More programmed activity on the steps.
- No street trees on McKim plaza - stark contrast to copley plaza.

2 What would you like to see happen in the Dartmouth Street Plaza?
Try to answer the question by finishing this sentence:
"The plaza should be a place for/to..."

- The farmers market that is there occasionally is a great use.
- Integrate the materials of Copley with the material of the Plaza. (Wood, metal and granite).
- Outdoor programming could be introductory to interior programming.
- Music on the steps - integrated performance and seating.
- Support specific style performances. More sympathetic to non-traditional setting (background music, etc.)
- Smaller pockets of space or zones would allow smaller groups or gatherings to feel more comfortable.
- Plantings - to see seasons
- Small performances - potential to promote shows elsewhere in the city.
- There is a strong residential component to the neighborhood
- Use of light - the light show on the facade changed the whole dynamic of the space. Emerged without disturbing.
- Outdoor movie night.
- Could the food component be connected to the plaza - especially if Dartmouth St. is closed or easier to cross
- Demonstration space for farmers market (or others). Cooks, demos, etc.

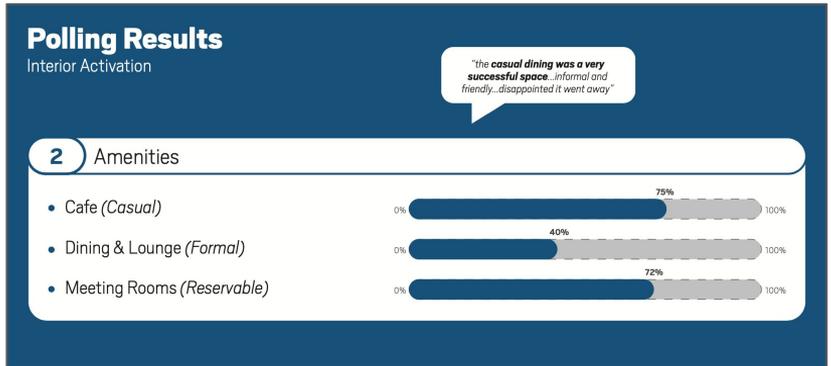


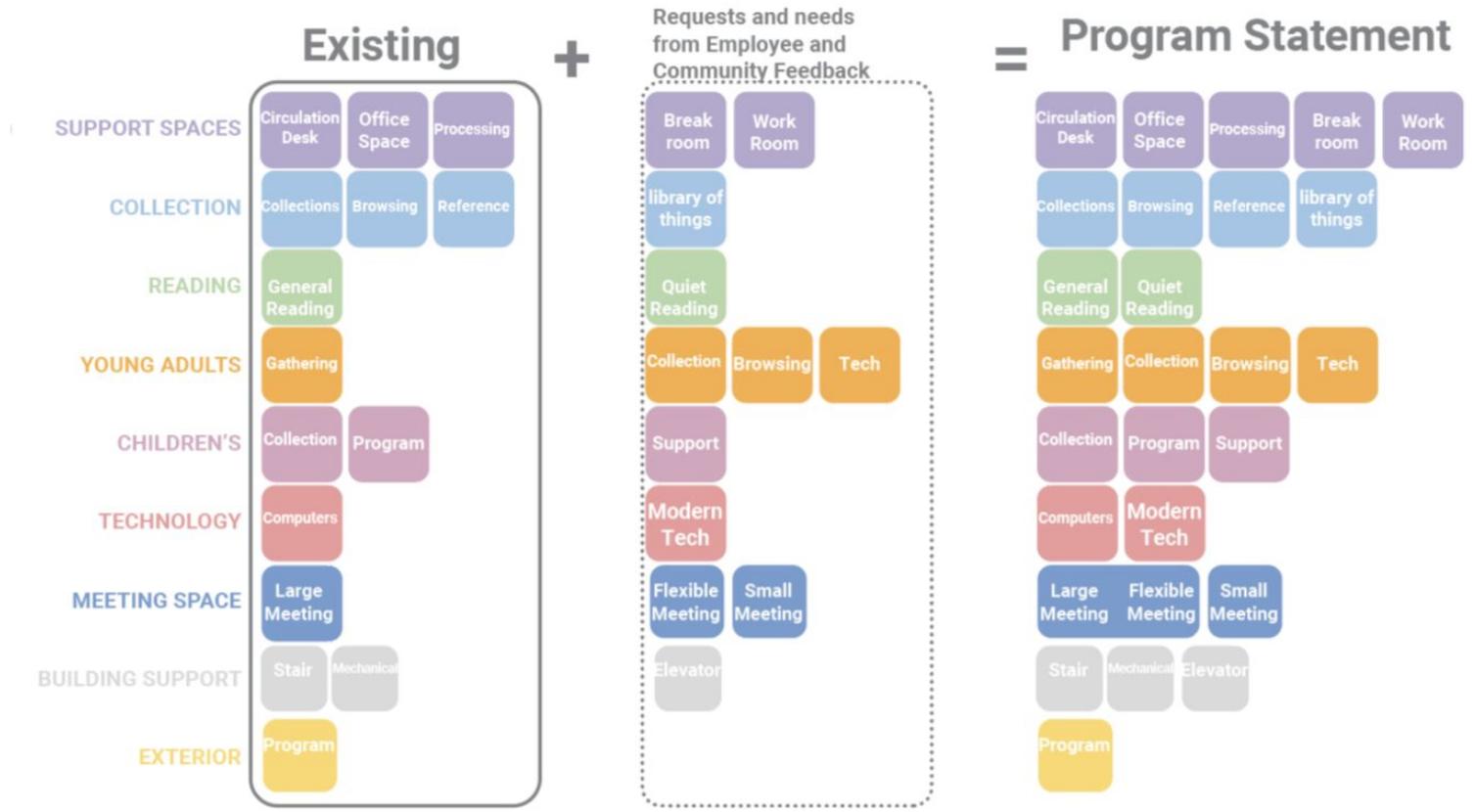

Emily Masterson

Cat Flynn

Jennifer Varney

Mara Hermano





STOW RANDALL LIBRARY PROGRAM STATEMENT			
DESIGN AS ARCHITECTS			
06/16/2021			
LIBRARY SUPPORT SPACES	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
Circulation Desk - Upper Level	Decrease	246 SF	80 SF
Circulation Desk - Lower Level	New	n/a	85 SF
Work Room	Decrease	163 SF	163 SF
Director's Office	Existing	95 SF	104 SF
Break Room	New	n/a	103 SF
Processing Space	New	n/a	103 SF
Sub-TOTAL			524 SF
COLLECTION	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
General Collection	Increase	1597 SF	1572 SF
Library of Things - Lower Level	New	n/a	190 SF
Library of Things - Upper Level	New	n/a	10 SF
Browsing Collection	Additional	n/a	200 SF
Reference	Existing	80 SF	80 SF
Sub-TOTAL			2952 SF
READING	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
General Reading	Increase	669 SF	+ TBD increase
Quiet Reading	New	n/a	180 SF
Sub-TOTAL			669 SF
YOUNG ADULT	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
Collection	Increase	330 SF	234 SF
Browsing	New	n/a	180 SF
Gathering	New	n/a	180 SF
Technology	New	n/a	180 SF
Sub-TOTAL			574 SF
CHILDREN	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
Collection	Increase	755 SF	1050 SF
Program Room	Increase	330 SF	300 SF
Support Space	New	n/a	90 SF
Sub-TOTAL			1440 SF
TECHNOLOGY	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
Computer Space	Increase	200 SF	375 SF
Sub-TOTAL			375 SF
MEETING SPACE	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
Entry Hall/Meeting Room	Existing	180 SF	n/a
Hour Meeting Room	Existing	30 SF	n/a
West Meeting Room	Existing	480 SF	n/a
Small meeting rooms	New	n/a	30 SF
Flexible Meeting space	New	n/a	310 SF
Flexible Meeting Storage	New	n/a	47 SF
Sub-TOTAL			1047 SF
BUILDING SUPPORT	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
Entrances	Increase	130 SF	102 SF
Janitor Closets	Increase	n/a	34 SF
Mechanical	Increase	200 SF	212 SF
Electrical Room	New	n/a	70 SF
Elevator	New	n/a	48 SF
Sub-TOTAL			456 SF
LANDSCAPE	Existing Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)
Parking			760
Accessible Entry			760
Program Space			760
TOTAL			8604 SF

GENERAL COLLECTION

Notes

Function Performed	public storage of roughly 30k volumes	
Square Footage	Quantity	Type
	1512	Gross (GSF)
Occupancy	Quantity	Type
		public
Finishes	Floors	carpet 2 colors
	Walls	ptd gyp
		storefront glass
	Ceiling	gyp
Lights	Quantity	Type
	10	2-1/2" wide recessed linear fixture. Type RLA Typical.
	4	2-1/2" wide x 3-3/4" tall direct/indirect linear pendant. Type LPA Typical.
Millwork	Quantity	Type
	1	L-shaped wood bench with under cubbies in seating area near stair
	2	shelves built in above short side of bench
	1	wood wall panels in seating area
Furnishings	Quantity	Type
	9	3' x 1' x 3 shelf –metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves
	27	3' x 1' x 4 shelf –metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves
	3	3' x 1' x 5 shelf –metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves
	29	3' x 1' x 6 shelf –metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves
	1	10' x 1' x 6 shelf –metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves
	32	3' x 1' x 7 shelf –metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves
	1	table for digital catalog browsing
	1	side chair
	2-3	Soft Seating
Fixtures & Equipment	Quantity	Type
	4	electrical outlets with cat6
	2	electrical switch
	1	wifi access point in ceiling
	1	computer for browsing collection catalog
Adjacent Program Spaces	2 small meeting rooms	storage
	teen lounge	mechanical
	janitorial closet	stairs, ramp, elevator
Doors	Quantity	Type
	1	to exterior
	N/A	to interior, see adjacent program spaces
Door Hardware	lock opened by masterkey, rubbed bronze	Narrow stile(3" wide plate), rubbed bronze
		S/T keyfob reader
Features		
Additional Notes		



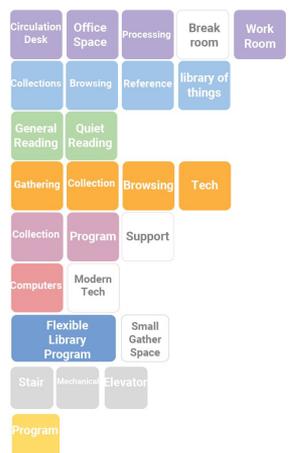
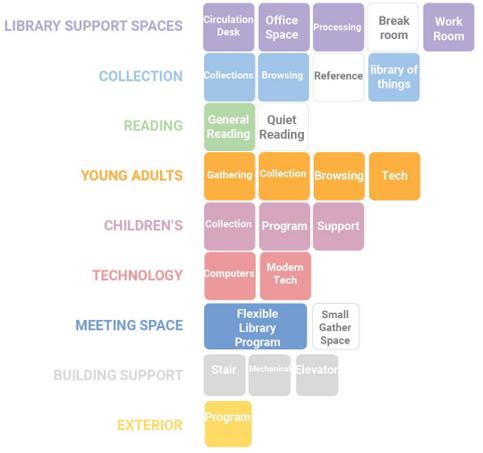
Option A: Reuse



Option B: Add-On



Option C: Re-build



Option A: Reuse

Pros

- Least invasive
- A new sprinkler system not required
- Lowest investment

Cons

- **Realizes fewest program goals**
- Buildings do not fundamentally change
- Entry sequence from street is improved though fundamentally does not change
- Renovation results in a **'patchwork'** building systems
- **Existing septic system** reused

Option B: Add-on

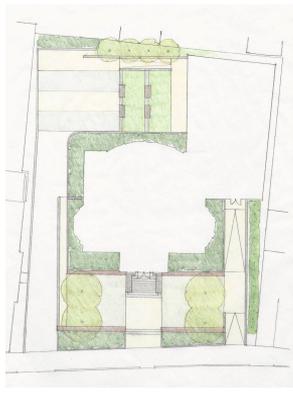
- New sprinkler system and new septic system

- Realizes the majority of program goals, though **not all**
- **Hard to 'right-size' spaces**
- **Complex structural modifications**
- Renovation results in a **'patchwork'** building systems
- **Low floor-to-ceiling height** in lower level of 1975 addition
- Higher Investment than Option A: Reuse

Option C: Re-build

- Achieves **all program goals** and spaces.
- Most opportunity for big impact and 'experiential change'
- **Most efficiency** in space use
- Most **adaptable** and **flexible** for future needs
- **Most impactful landscape**
- New construction **easier to maintain** (building systems and envelope)
- **New sprinkler system** and **new septic system**
- **Higher Ceilings**

- Higher Investment than Option A: Reuse





Quinnipiac University Health & Wellness Center

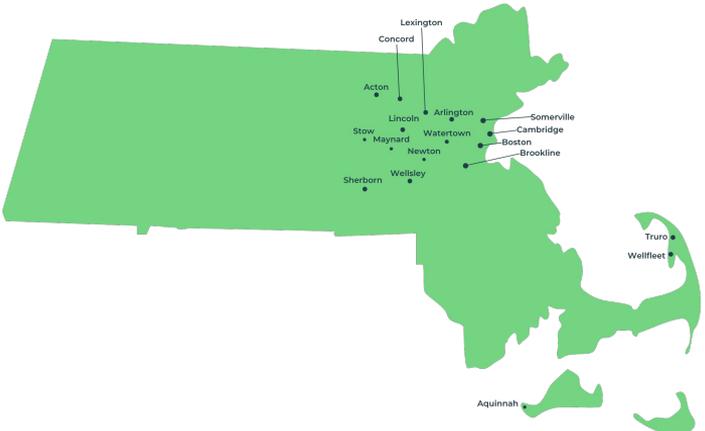


Hitchcock Center for the Environment



International Fund for Animal Welfare

List of Communities Who Have Opted-In to the Specialized Stretch Code (updated 8/8/23)



Base Code (IECC 2021)

- New construction in towns & cities not a green community
- 52 communities

Expected from BBRs: July 2023

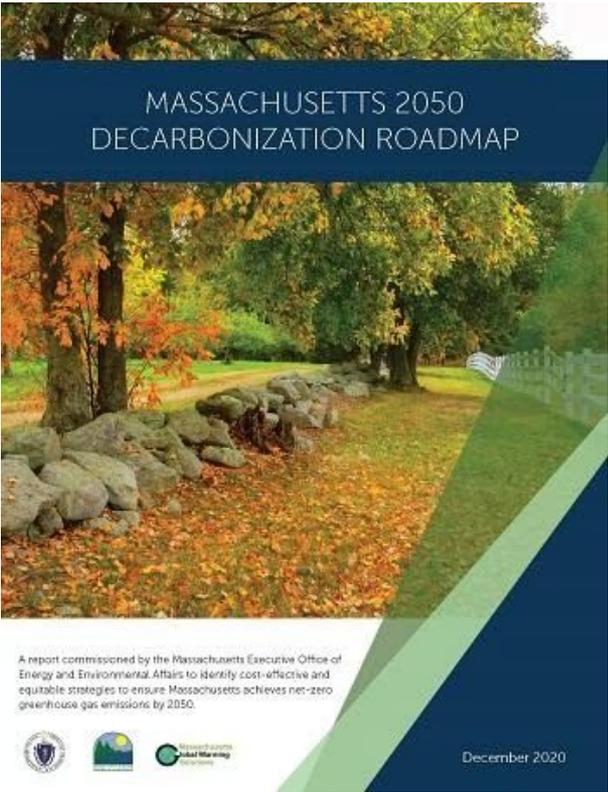
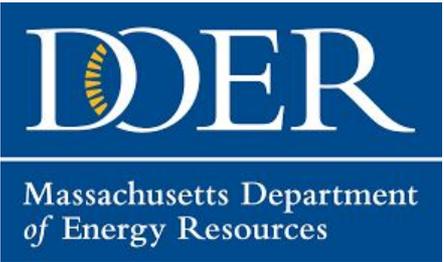
Stretch Code (2023 update)

- New construction in towns & cities that are a green or stretch community
- 299 communities

Residential: Jan 2023
Commercial: July 2023

Specialized Code ("Net-Zero")

- New Construction in towns & cities that vote to opt-in to this code
- **Effective date:** Typically 6-11 months after Town/City vote



process managing priorities + budget

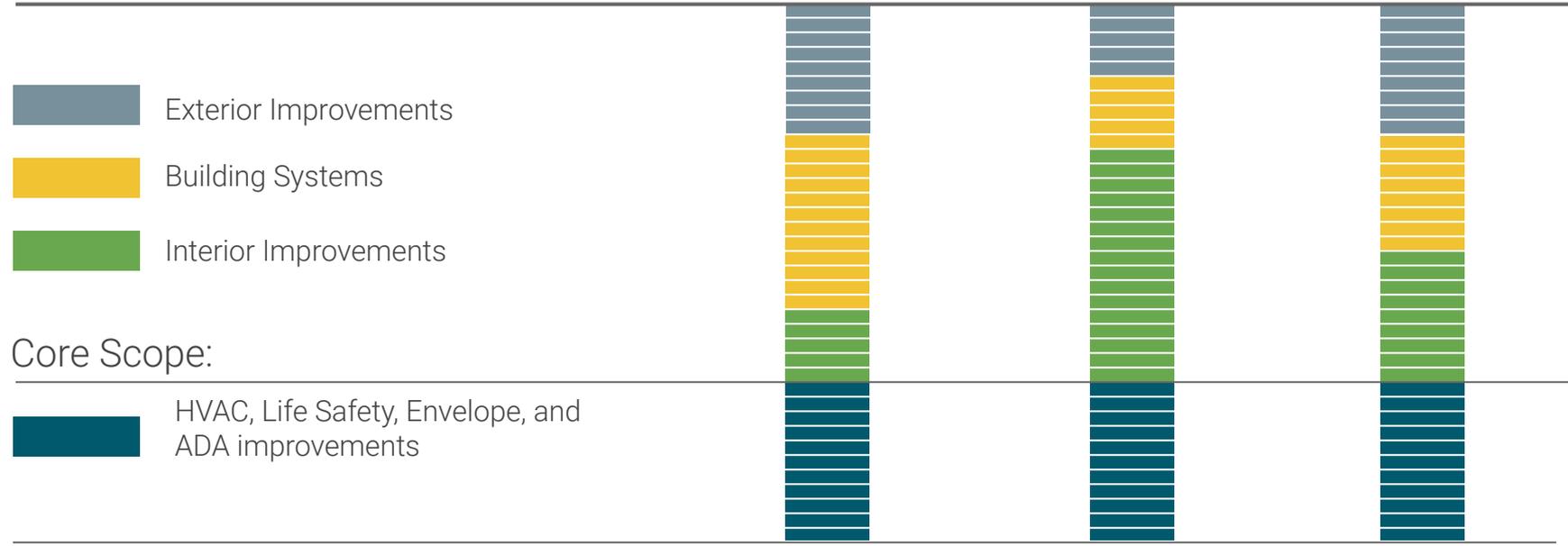
Option Analysis

Project Base Budget:

\$

\$

\$



Core Scope:

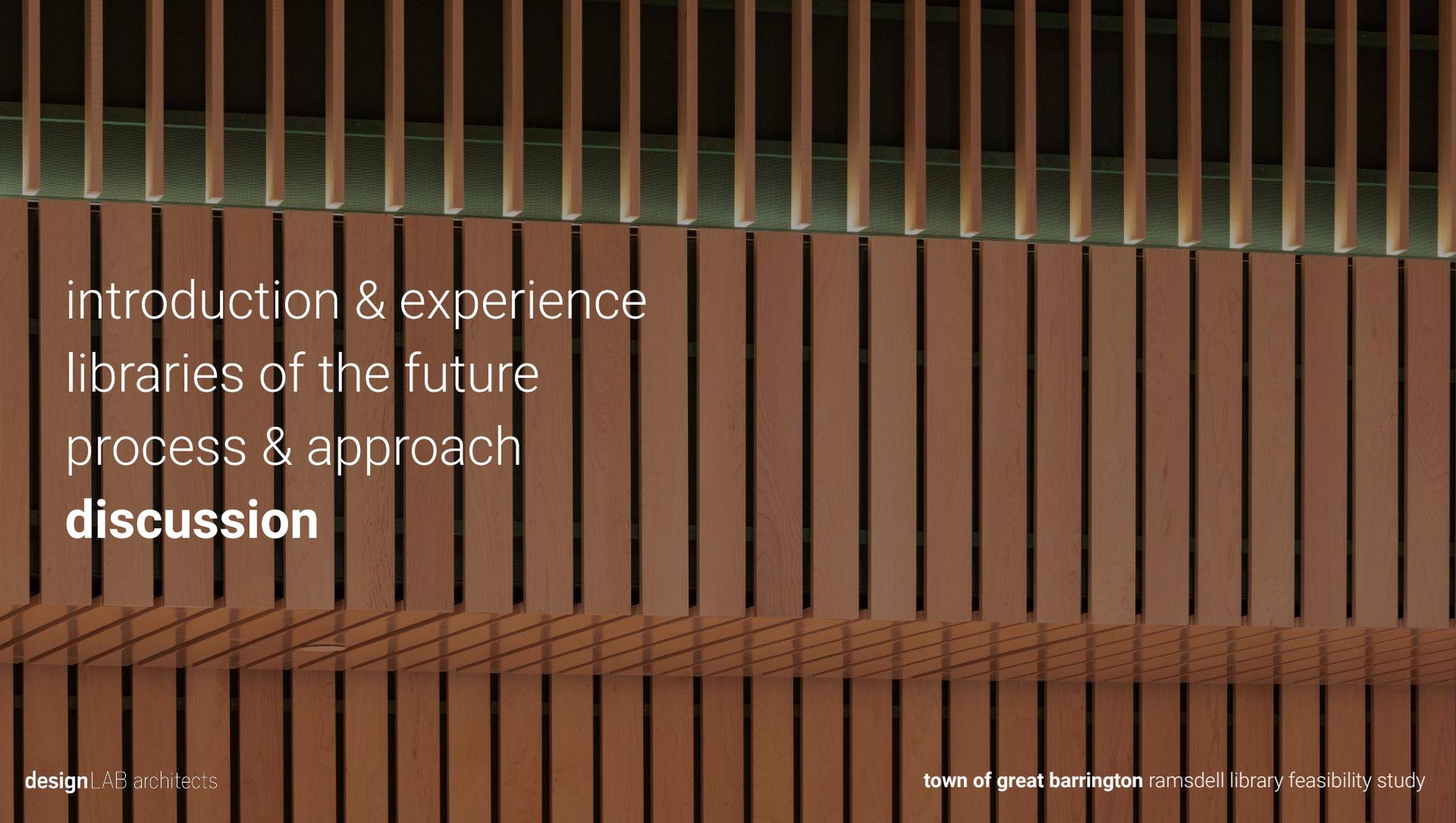
HVAC, Life Safety, Envelope, and ADA improvements

Option A

Option B

Option C





introduction & experience
libraries of the future
process & approach
discussion

A photograph of the Ramsdell Public Library building in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The building is a two-story structure with a prominent portico supported by four white columns. The pediment above the columns features a decorative relief. The text 'THE RAMSDELL PUBLIC LIBRARY' is inscribed on the wall above the columns. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and bushes. A paved walkway leads to the entrance. A signpost is visible on the right side of the image.

town of great barrington, massachusetts
ramsdeell library feasibility study

February 05, 2024

designLAB architects