

A photograph of the Ramsdell Public Library in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The building is a two-story structure with a classical facade, featuring a central portico with four white columns and a pediment. The pediment contains a decorative relief of an open book. Above the columns, the words "THE RAMSDELL PUBLIC LIBRARY" are inscribed. The building has a green roof and is surrounded by lush green trees and bushes. A paved walkway leads to the entrance.

town of great barrington, massachusetts ramsdeall 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

Equity

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

Employee Health

☐ ☐ ☐ Physical Health
☒ ☐ Well-Being

Employee Benefits

☒ ☐ ☐ Health Care
☒ ☒ Retirement Provision
☐ ☐ ☐ Family/Medical Leave
☒ ☐ Training/Education

Stewardship

☒ ☐ ☐ Local Communities
☒ ☒ Volunteering
☐ ☐ ☐ Animal Welfare
☒ ☐ Charitable Giving
☒ ☐ Positive Products

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

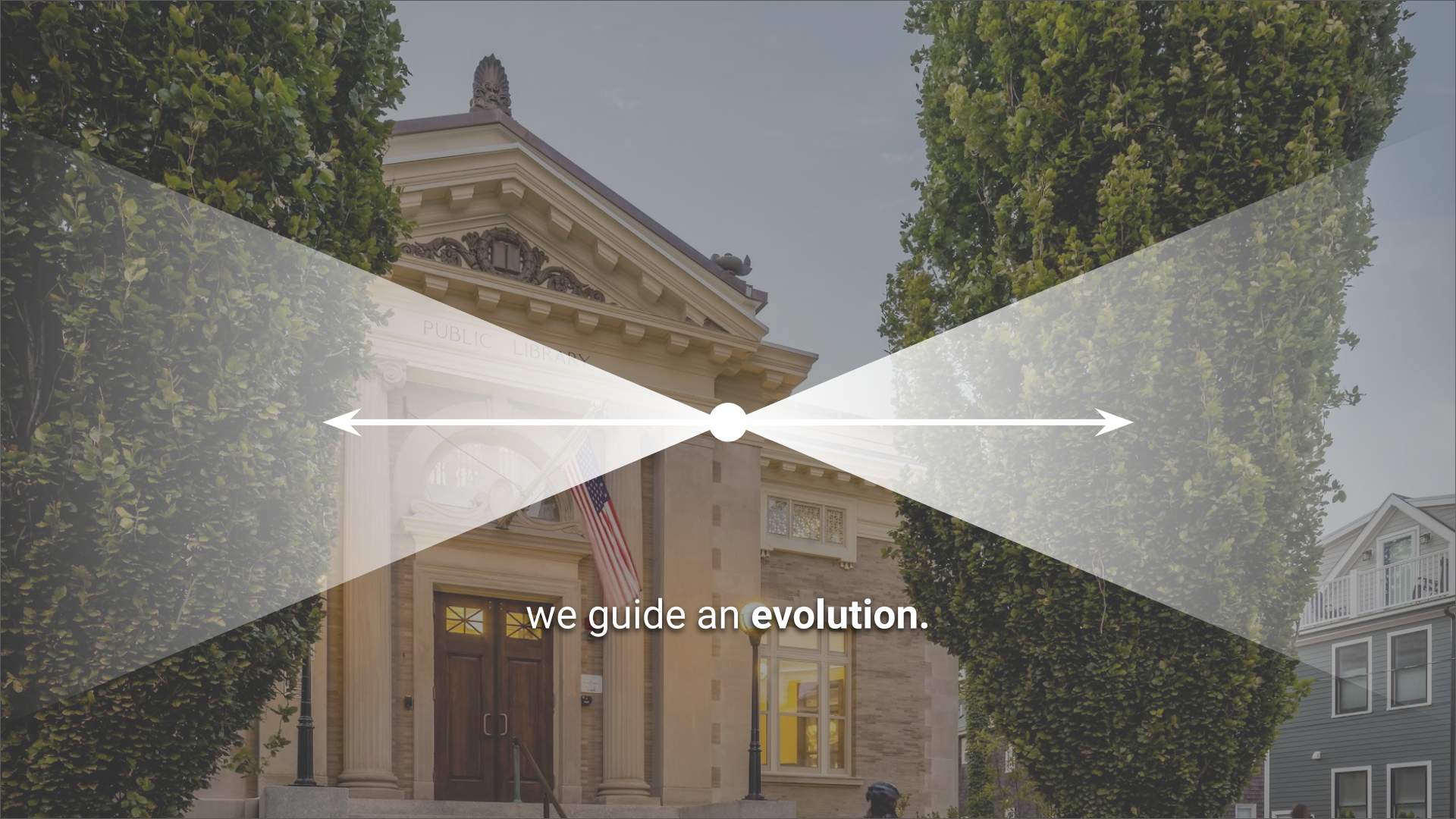
BEA



A photograph of the Ramsdell Library in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The building is a two-story classical structure with a prominent portico supported by columns. The pediment above the entrance is inscribed with "PUBLIC LIBRARY". An American flag is mounted on the wall to the left of the entrance. The building is flanked by large, mature green trees. A street lamp is visible in the foreground. The text "critical stewardship" is overlaid in large white letters, followed by a definition in smaller white letters.

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



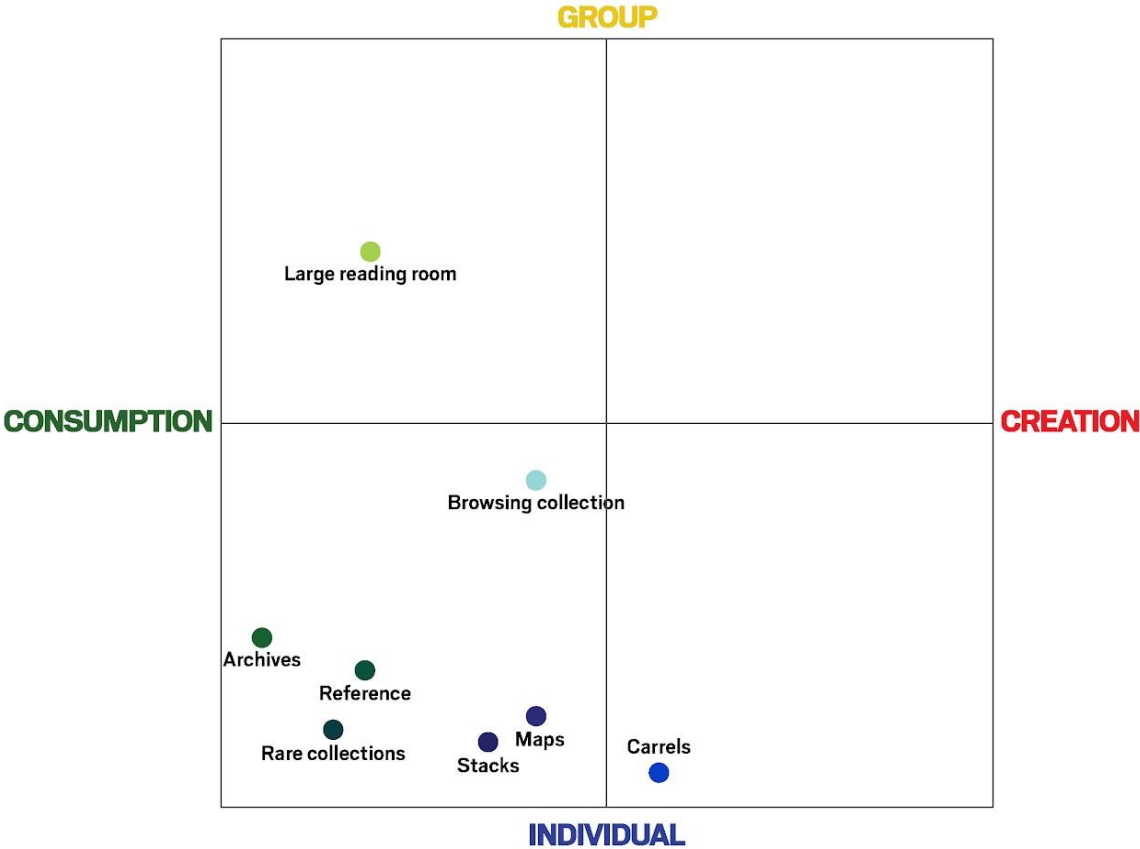


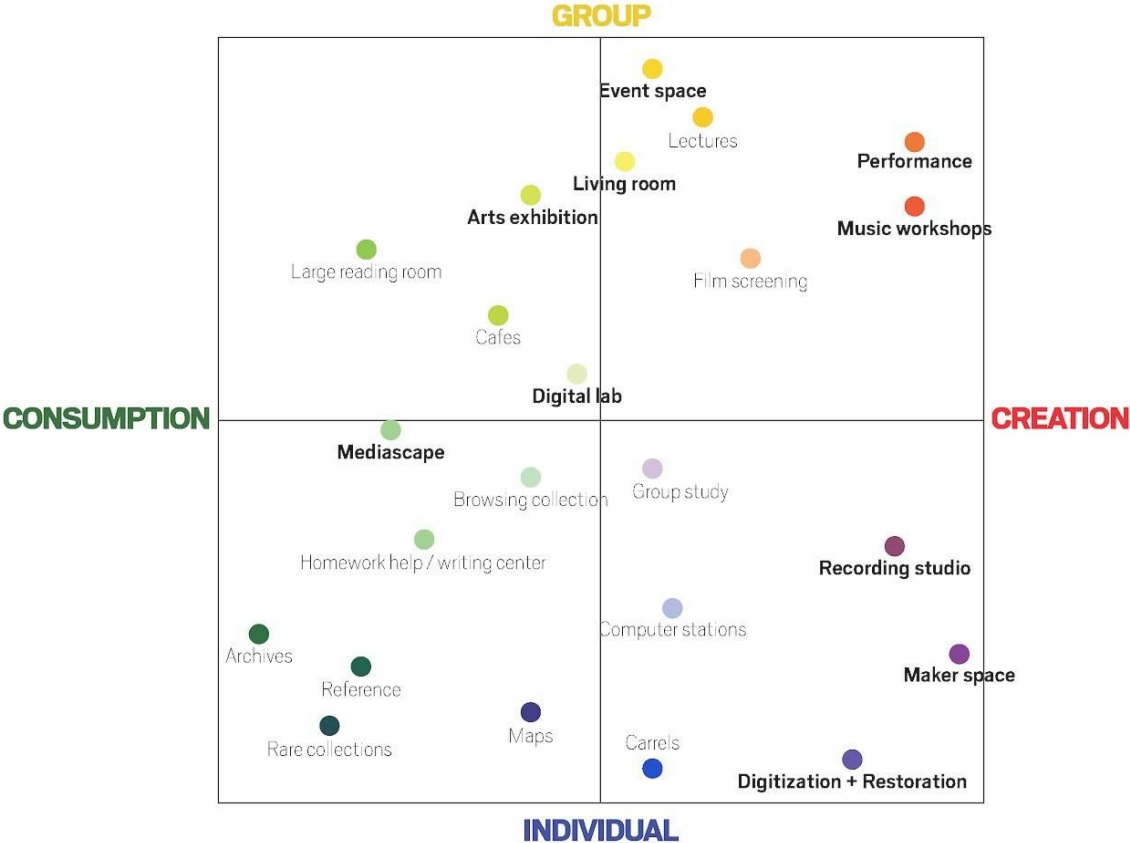
introduction & experience

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GROCERY → KITCHEN



evolving library | diverse appeal

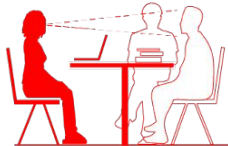
THE MONK

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



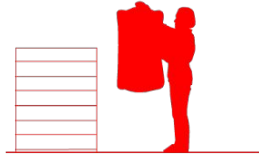
THE EXPLORER

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



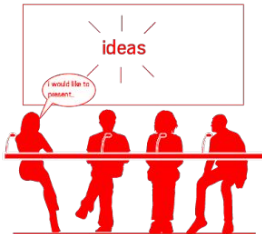
THE CREATORS

Looking for access to technology to help them create new knowledge



THE CONFERENCERS

Looking for space to present and have dialogue on emerging research



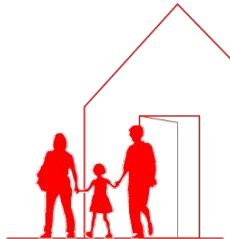
THE COLLABORATORS

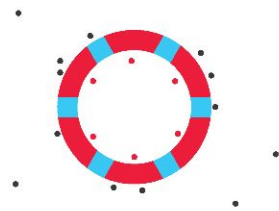
Looking for space to work on a group project or meet as a study group



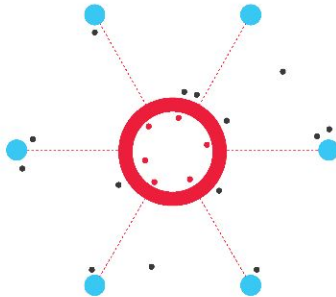
THE ACTIVIST

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

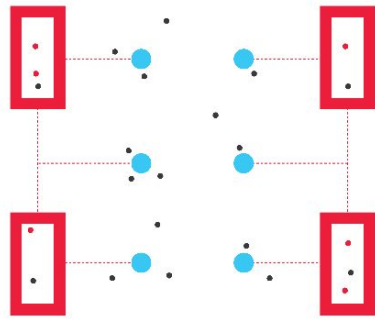




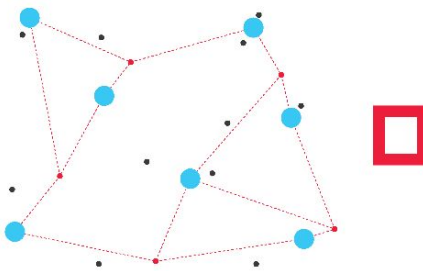
CENTRALIZED



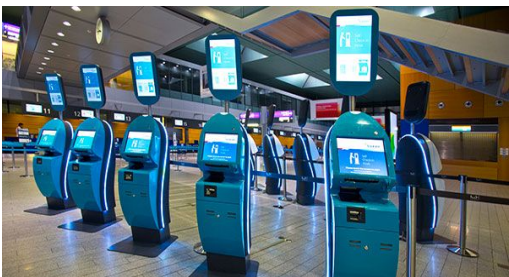
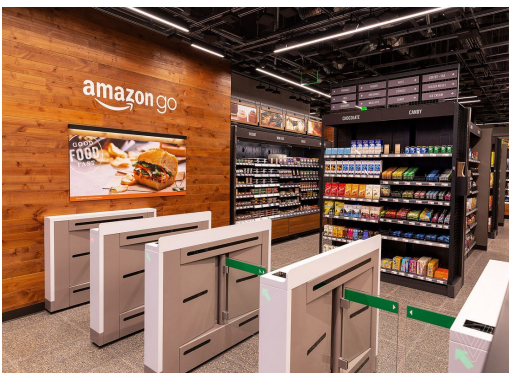
HUB & SPOKE



DISTRIBUTED



FREEFORM



opportunities | community living room





opportunities | diversity of meeting spaces







opportunities | children's library & teens area











Flow CONSIDER ONE DIRECTIONAL FLOW



Pick Up INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PICK UP SERVICE MODEL



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



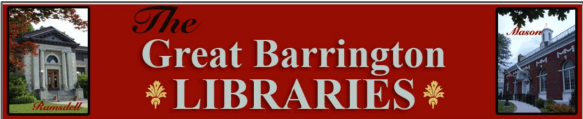
Fresh Air OUTDOOR PROGRAM SPACES & OPEN UP TO OUTDOORS



Hybrid INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ONLINE & HYBRID PROGRAMS



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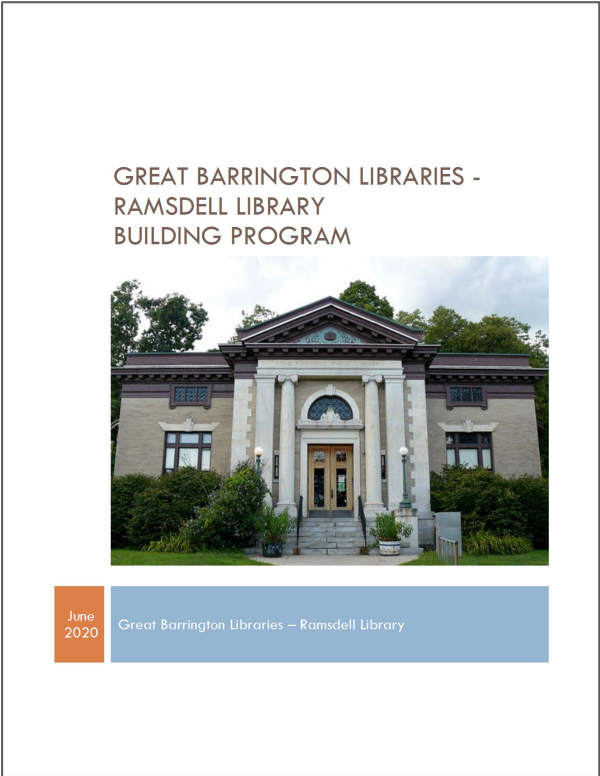
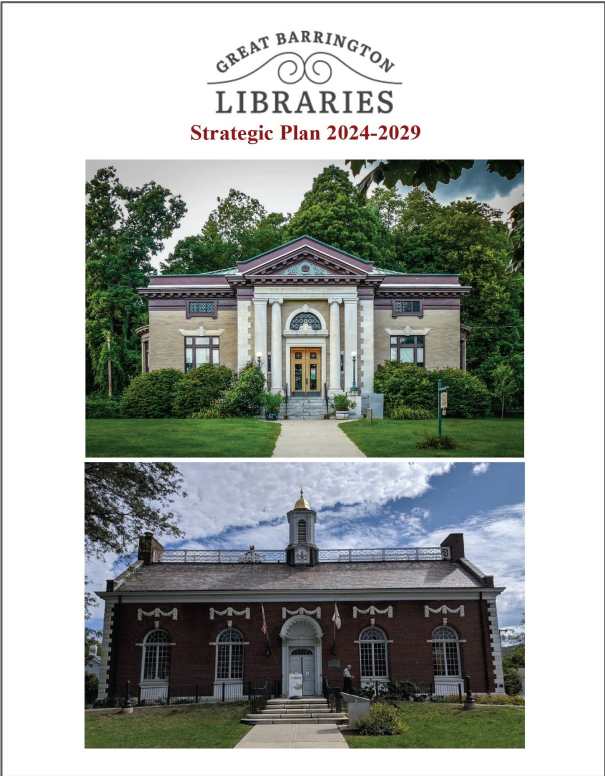
The Ramsdell Library
Program and Facility Vision



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



Kimberly Bolan and Associates, LLC
www.rethinkinglibraries.org



THE FINALE: THE FINAL PRIORITIES

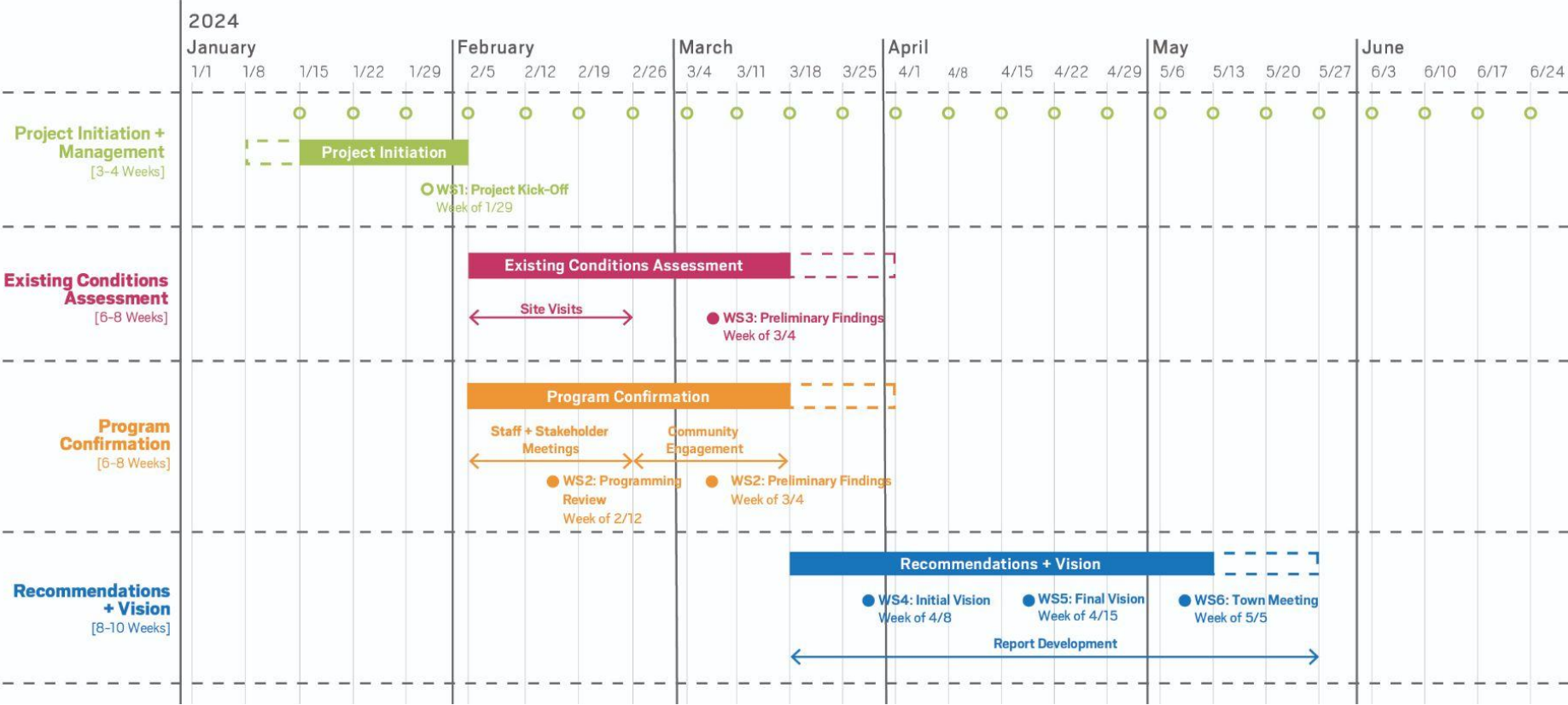


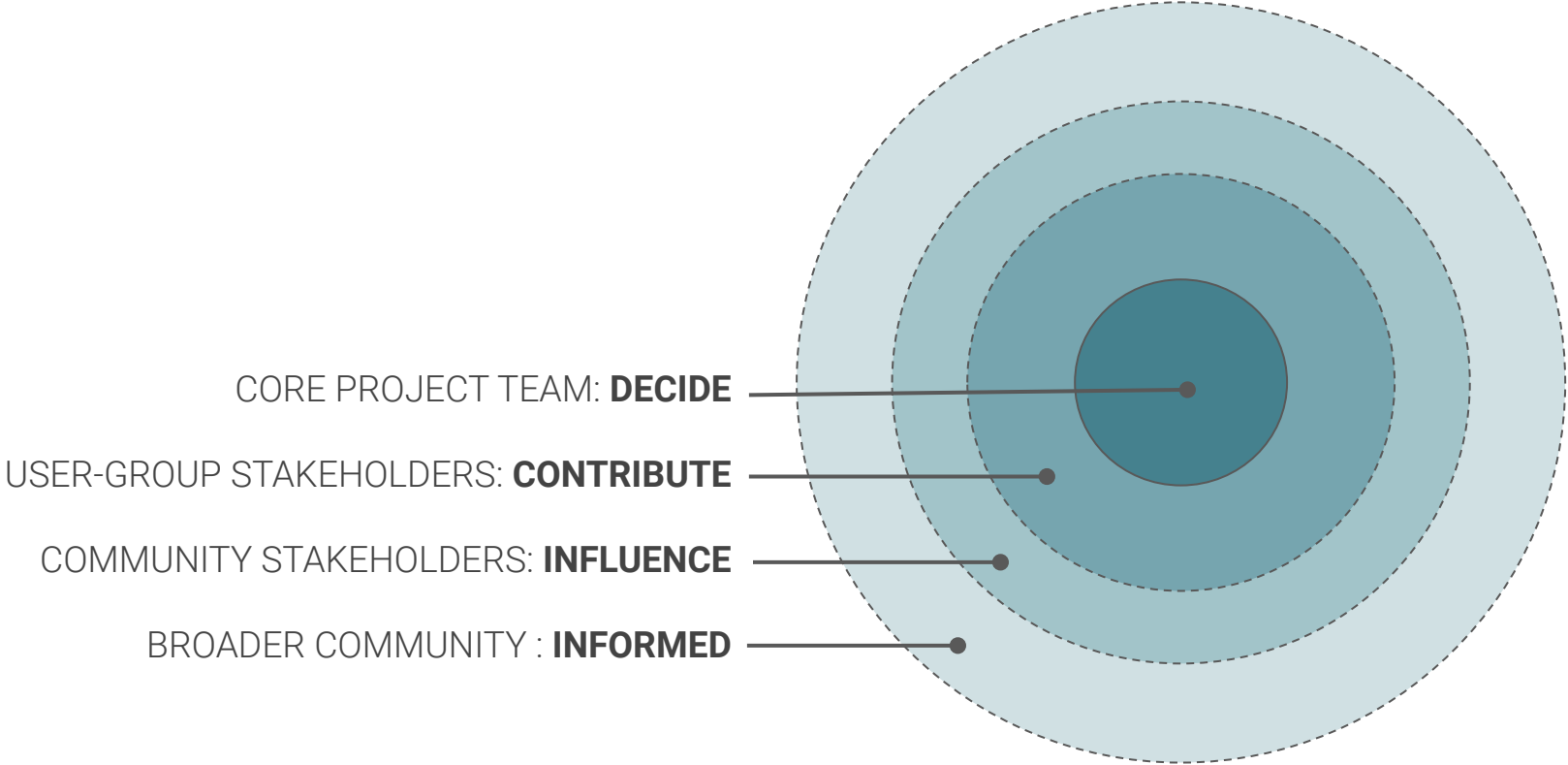
Eclipse at Mason Library

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.

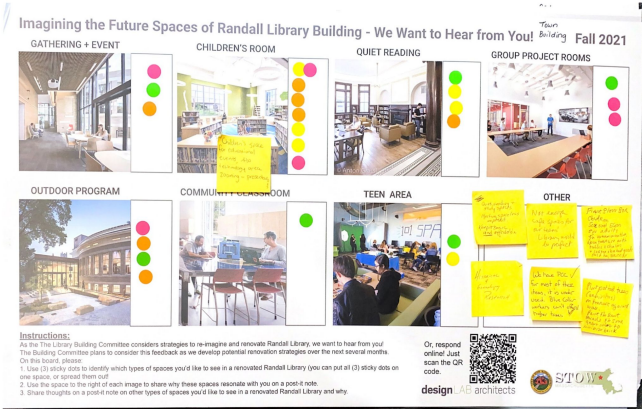
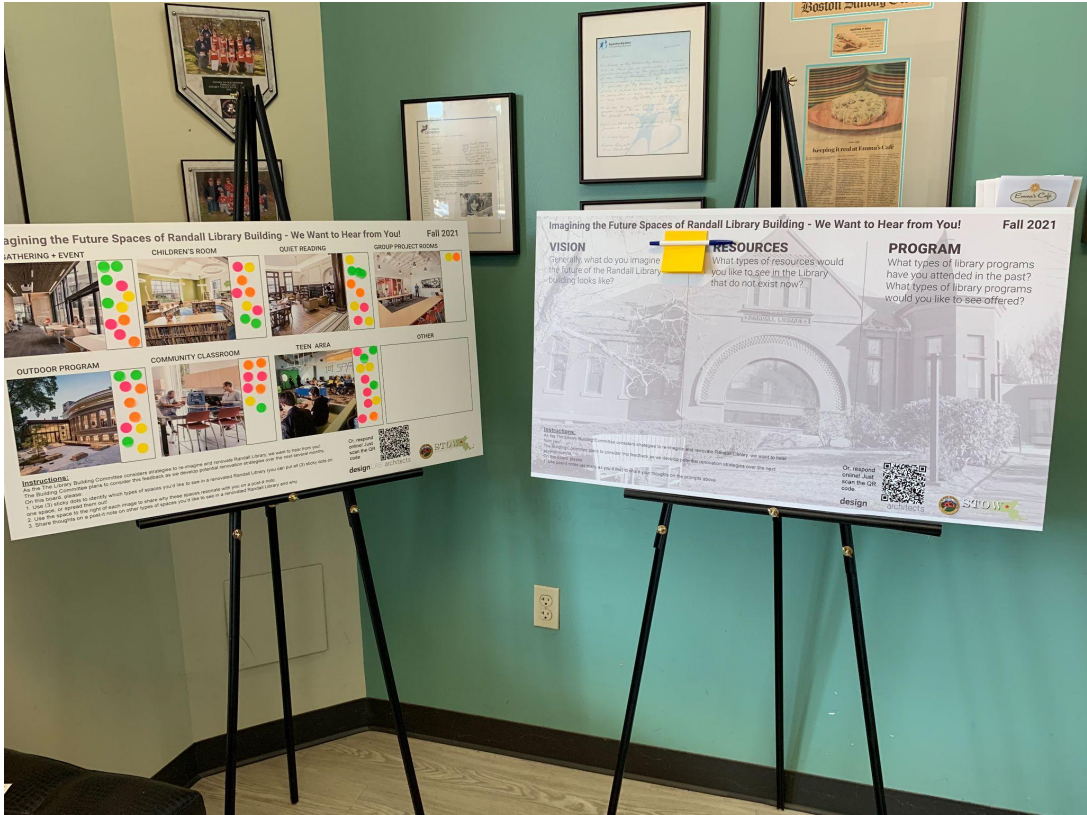
- **Re-imagining our libraries as welcoming, healthy and sustainable buildings**
- **Increasing community gathering spaces**
- **Developing robust programs for all ages and interests supported by increased communication and outreach within the community**
- **Providing cutting edge technology and support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

process | preliminary project work plan









background

clear 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 seating - 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 copper with the material of the steps, 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 acting (Bachground 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. Cooking demos, etc.

Emily Masterson

Cat Flynn

Jennifer Varney

Mara Hermans

Polling Results

Interior Activation

2

Amenities

Cafe (*Casual*)

Dining & Lounge (*Formal*)

Meeting Rooms (*Reservable*)

"the casual dining was a very successful space. informal and friendly...disappointed it went away"

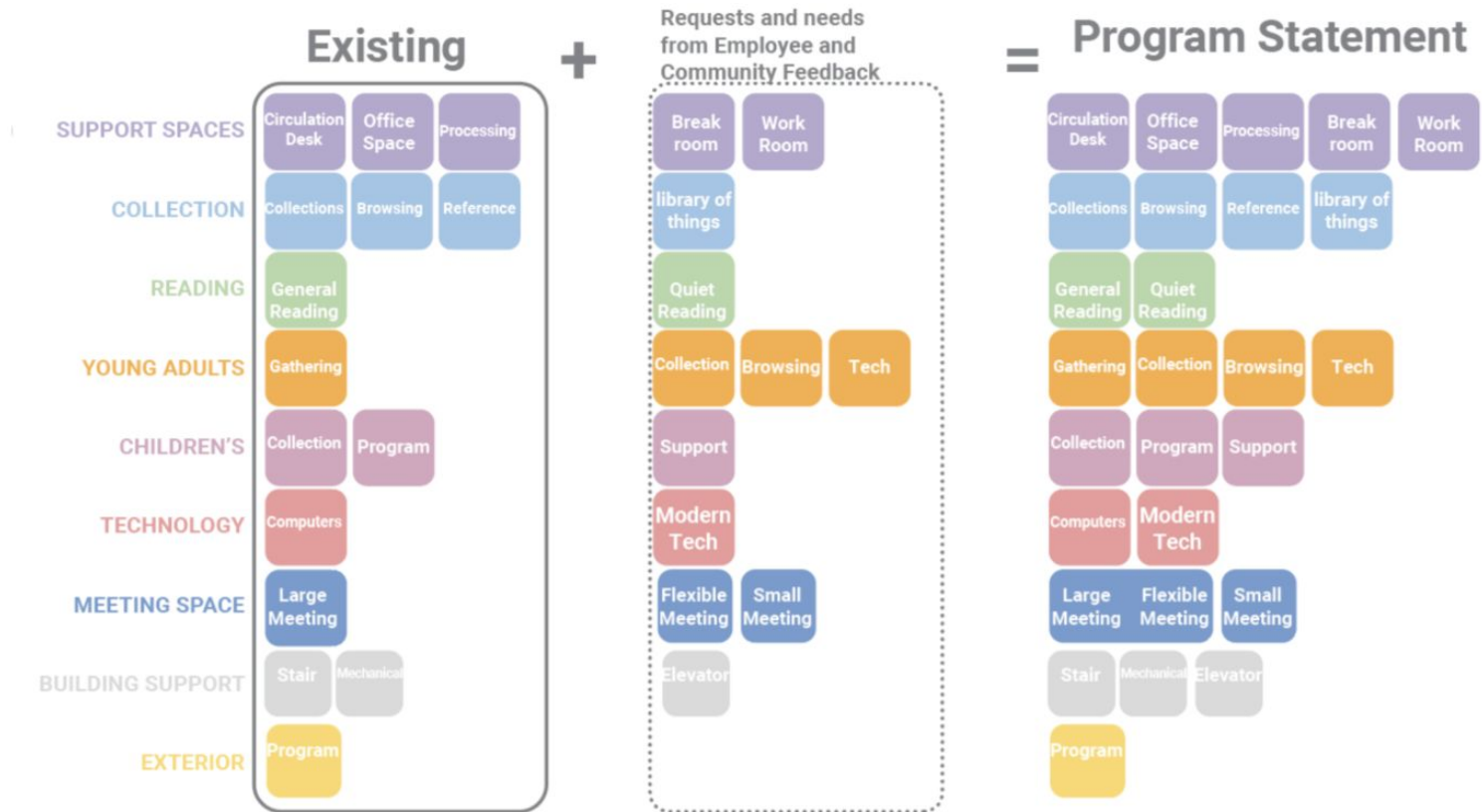
75%

40%

72%

designLAB architects

town of great barrington ramsdell library feasibility study



STOW RANDALL LIBRARY PROGRAM STATEMENT				
DESIGNLAB ARCHITECTS				
06/16/2021				
LIBRARY SUPPORT SPACES	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	Circulation Desk - Lower Level	Decrease	244 SF	80 SF
	Circulation Desk - Upper Level	New	N/A	85 SF
	Work Room	Decrease	163 SF	163 SF
	Director's Office	Existing	91 SF	104 SF
Processing Space	Break Room	New	N/A	163 SF
	Processing Space	New	N/A	163 SF
	Sub-TOTAL		524 SF	619 SF
COLLECTION	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	General Collection	Increase	1577 SF	1577 SF
	Library of Things - Lower Level	New	N/A	180 SF
	Library of Things - Upper Level	New	N/A	180 SF
	Browsing Collection	Additional	N/A	200 SF
Reference	Reference	Existing	867 SF	867 SF
	Sub-TOTAL		1577 SF	2497 SF
READING	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	General Reading	Increase	649 SF	+ TBD increase
	Quiet Reading	New	N/A	180 SF
	Sub-TOTAL		649 SF	180 SF
YOUNG ADULT	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	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		330 SF	394 SF
CHILDREN	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	Collection	Increase	735 SF	1201 SF
	Program Room	Increase	330 SF	300 SF
	Support Space	New	N/A	90 SF
	Sub-TOTAL		1065 SF	1591 SF
TECHNOLOGY	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	Computer Space	Increase	200 SF	200 SF
	Sub-TOTAL		200 SF	200 SF
MEETING SPACE	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	Entry Hall Meeting Room	Existing	160 SF	N/A
	Meet Meeting Room	Existing	301 SF	N/A
	Meet Meeting Room	Existing	488 SF	N/A
	Small meeting rooms	New	N/A	30 SF
	Flexible Meeting space	New	N/A	110 SF
	Flexible Meeting Storage	New	N/A	47 SF
	Sub-TOTAL		1099 SF	1441 SF
BUILDING SUPPORT	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	Restrooms	Increase	130 SF	130 SF
	Janitor Closets	Increase	N/A	34 SF
	Mechanical	New	200 SF	212 SF
	Electrical Room	New	N/A	70 SF
	Devlop	New	N/A	40 SF
	Sub-TOTAL		410 SF	586 SF
LANDSCAPE	Existing, Increase or New Program Space	Existing Net Assignable Square Footage (NSF)	Proposed Gross Square Feet (GSF)	Notes
	Parking			180
	Accessible Entry			180
	Program Space			180
TOTAL			5604 SF	1061 M

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	top of short side of bench serves as shelving
	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	all against wall
	27	3' x 1' x 4 shelf --metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves	1 against wall, 26 in center
	3	3' x 1' x 5 shelf --metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves	all against wall
	29	3' x 1' x 6 shelf --metal library specialties shelving. BOD spacesaver cantilever shelves	18 against wall, 11 in center
	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	14 against wall, 18 in center
	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	Door Hardware
	1	to exterior	lock opened by masterkey, rubbed bronze Narrow stile(3" wide plate), rubbed bronze S/T keyfob reader
	N/A	to interior, see adjacent program spaces	
Features			
Additional Notes			



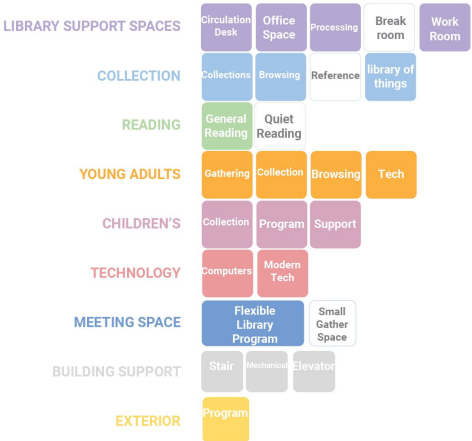
Option A: Reuse



Option B: Add-On



Option C: Re-build



Option A: Reuse

Option B: Add-on

Option C: Re-build

Pros

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

- New sprinkler system and new septic system

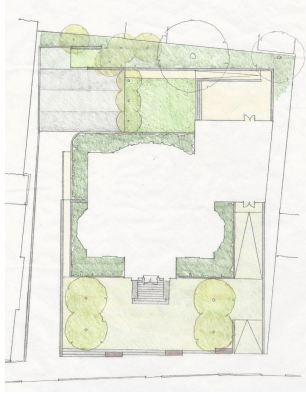
- Achieves **all program goals** and spaces.
- Most opportunity for big impact and 'experiential change'
- **Most efficiency** in space use
- Most **adaptable** and **flexible** for future needs
- **Most impactful landscape**
- New construction **easier to maintain** (building systems and envelope)
-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

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**

- 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

- Higher Investment than Option A: Reuse





Quinnipiac University Health & Wellness Center

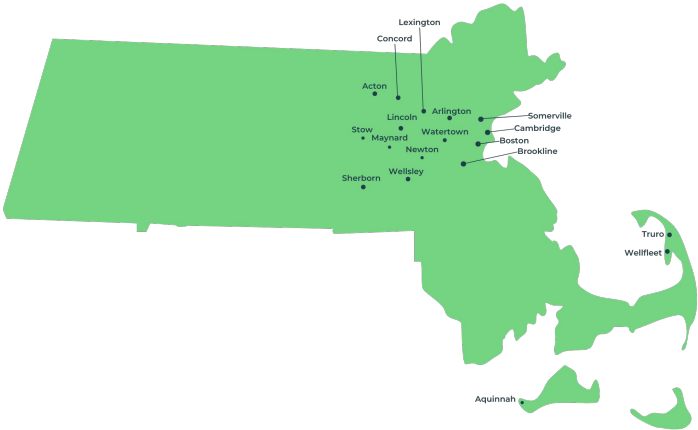


Hitchcock Center for the Environment



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

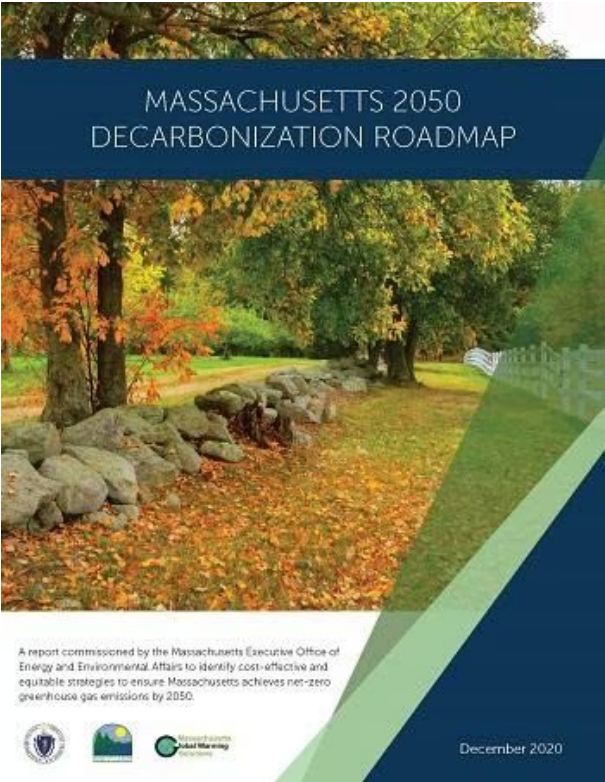
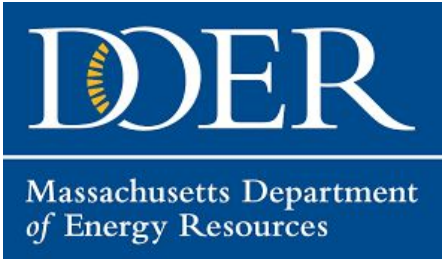
**Stretch Code
(2023 update)**

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

Residential : Jan 2023
Commercial: July 2023

**Specialized Code
("Net-Zero")**

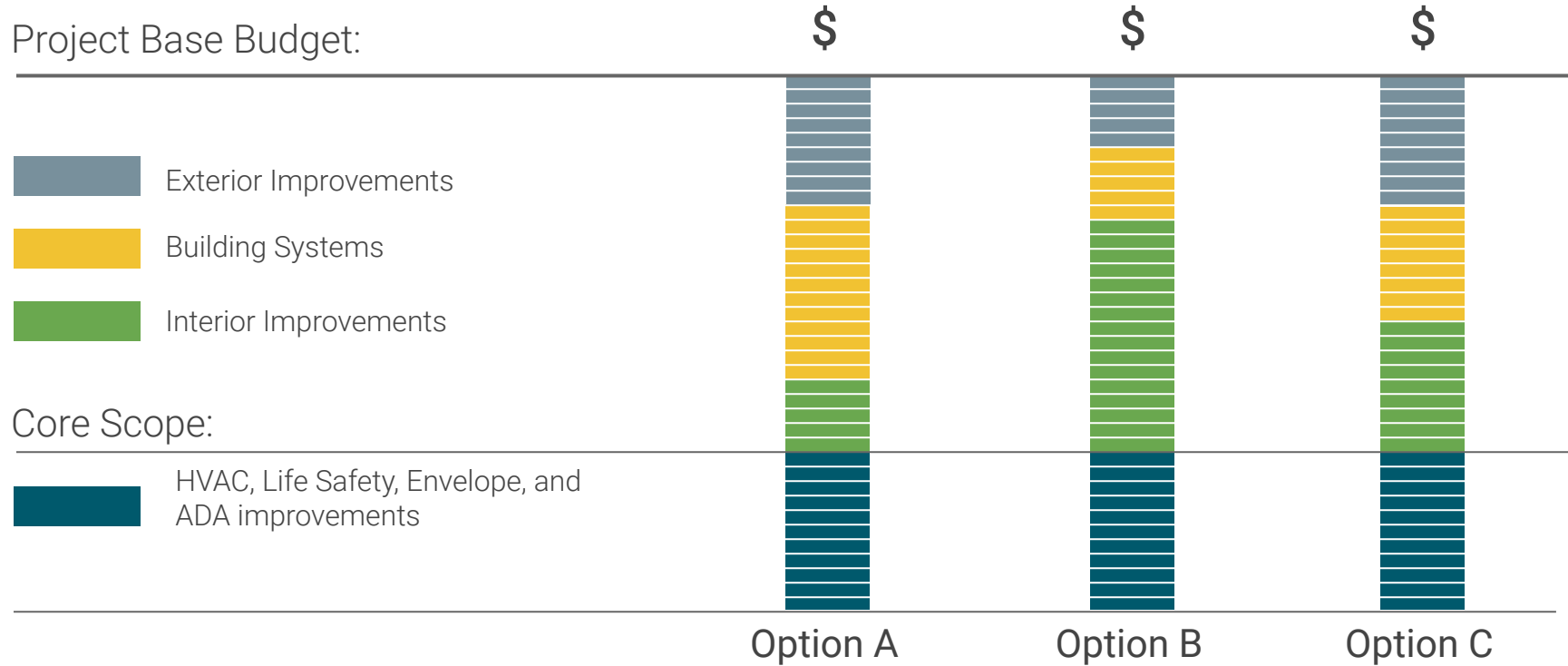
- New Construction in towns & cities that vote to opt-in to this code
- **Effective date:**
Typically 6-11 months after Town/City vote



process managing priorities + budget

Option Analysis

Project Base Budget:





The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a wall or ceiling made of vertical wooden slats. A horizontal band of green light is visible behind the slats in the upper portion of the image.

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A photograph of the Ramsdell Public Library in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The building is a two-story classical structure with a light-colored stone or brick facade and a dark green mansard roof. The central entrance is framed by four tall, white columns and topped by a pediment containing a decorative carved element. Above the columns, the words "THE RAMSDELL PUBLIC LIBRARY" are inscribed. The entrance features a set of stone steps leading to a pair of wooden double doors with glass inserts. Large windows with decorative grilles are visible on either side of the entrance. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and manicured bushes. A paved walkway leads to the entrance, and a small signpost is visible on the right side of the lawn.

town of great barrington, massachusetts ramsdeell library feasibility study

February 05, 2024

designLAB architects