

## Written Community Feedback Received Up to October 23, 2019

- It seems so important to maintain and even amplify the art deco feel of the Faneuil branch library, especially when there are so few art deco buildings in Boston.

I was recently in Miami Beach and visited dozens of art deco hotel lobbies. Almost all of them had these beautiful terrazzo floors. Is it possible that the Faneuil branch library also has terrazzo floors underneath the linoleum tiles? If so, it would be wonderful if they could be restored.

Additionally, the hotels had wonderful art deco-style furnishings. Some were probably original but I'm sure many were new but in an art deco style. It would be great if the library could get new furniture that is reminiscent of the art deco style in some way. A Google search for "miami beach art deco hotel lobbies" provides lots of inspiration!

- Please install tables with electric plugs like in the main library so we can work longer. And upgrade your WiFi so it functions well.

### *The Following is Feedback on the Programming Study*

- Garden area presents an opportunity for expansion of Library's footprint
- Art Deco style is greatly valued and should be preserved .
- Front desk location is an asset (though it can be smaller to facilitate circulation)
- Access throughout library but particularly to basement bathrooms is inadequate; building must be made thoroughly ADA compliant
- Staff spaces are inadequate .
- Public toilettes location (and maintenance) is inadequate .
- Adult computer center and shelving are inadequate (the whole space must be re-conceived) .
- Staff break room (basement) must be upgraded .
- All building systems (HVAC, electrical & data, plumbing. and fire protection) must be replaced/upgraded .
- Lighting must be improved and made more architecturally pleasant and energy efficient YET, efficiency must NOT lead to dark areas in the library.
- Dedicated space for community notices that do not interfere with architectural features must be created .
- Flooring must be replaced .
- The proposals must align with what the community perceives as the main asset of the Faneuil Library: its book collection. Nowhere in the report is this element emphasized. In fact, the report's refers to "reliev[ing] the overcrowding of collections" in the Children's Room" and "Children's collection is expansive relative to the available space" (p. 28). While the Study seems to see this as detrimental, patrons see the large collection as one of the main assets of the Faneuil Library. The community's

expectation for both the programming study and its final outcome (a renovated Faneuil Library) is that they will result in MORE BOOKS available on site, rather than fewer.

- Patrons like high shelves. The Study sees high shelves as a problem, rather than an asset. High shelves are greatly preferred by Faneuil patrons as they provide much easier access to items (one does not have to bend down or squat). High shelves allow for a larger number of items to be stored on site.

- The Study's approach to the Children's room is unclear. There is reference to the staging area (highly valued by the community) not being ADA compliant. Is the Study's proposal to do away with the stage or to make it ADA compliant? The community sees the multiple uses of the Children's room as an asset (as Children's space as well as meeting space). The stage is an important element in making the room multipurpose. It is not clear whether the Study sees the multi-use of the space as an asset. It is also unclear what is the Study's vision for a Children's room. For instance, both librarians and the community see the small chairs placed in front of collections as assets, as they make it easier for kids to enjoy collections and for adults to browse. The Study however, seems to see the chairs as clutter.

- The Study must formally acknowledge the main virtue of the service desk at Faneuil Library: it allows for the direct interaction of patrons with welcoming librarians. This feature must remain paramount when rethinking the size and function of the service desk, which should continue to allow for multiple librarians to work there while interacting with patrons.

- The community wanted the basement to be entirely renovated while the Study seems to think that it is sufficient to do so while maintaining the space's existing structure. The community proposed that the basement be considered a priority area for creation of additional space, namely the creation of a community meeting room, and that its current storage area be significantly maximized, with designing of a more modern storage area and systems.

- Eliminating large Magnolia trees. This issue was not extensively discussed by the community. The Study's proposal is consistent with the community's priority of maintaining and emphasizing the unique Art Deco features of the Faneuil Library. Yet, the trees are cherished community assets and the proposal of eliminating them may generate controversy.

- The Study suggested for remote control of building management systems. The community wants the control of these systems, particularly HVAC, to be local.

- Of the choices, if the one to expand the space in the back to make a community room that would be the most ideal for the myriad events the library holds. Additionally, if there was a small break out space (for 6-8 people to work together) near the community room it would be wonderful for ESL classes or book club.

- Preserving the historic art deco interior and exterior would be an added benefit too. I liked the option that allows more light into the building. Making the basement space more useful is good too.