

Question	Answer(s)
We need more space in the community room. Also, what kind of acoustics will be available in the community room since we often have presenters, readers such as the 57 Readers, actors, musicians....	We are trying to fit as many seats in the community room as possible, our goal in branch community rooms is to fit 100 people but due to constraints of working with existing buildings we cannot always hit that high of a number. The room is equipped with an AV system and acoustically treated surfaces to support a full range of activities.
Thank you for leaving character pieces and adding more light. My question is whether or not there will be a ramp (in case of a power outage)	Should there be a power outage or the elevator is out of service staff will be able to allow patrons to use the emergency door around the back of the building. We have made sure the path to this door is accessible in case the elevator is unavailable.
where are the handicap entrance? Will the bathrooms have a handicap as well	The accessible entrance will be the new front door that is part of the addition. All restrooms will be accessible.
With the proximity of the Presentation School Community Rooms, is the Community room in the library essential?	A community room is an essential space in all BPL branches. The space allows BPL to run many programs like author talks, toddler singalongs, crafts, book clubs, ESL classes, Lego robotics and many others
I know lower shelves create better sight lines, but lower shelves are very hard on the back and knees of patrons. Could we get some shelves that a person can stand in front of to browse? Also higher shelves will allow for a bigger collection.	In new renovations BPL requires adult collection shelves to have kick plates a few inches off the ground so people do not have to bend down to the ground to get to the lower shelves.
The proposed post and rope fence seems too small and lacks character. Is there any way to give that a little more flair?	Our design intent with the fence is to define the property line and not impede views of the building from Oak Square.
I like that we will have access to the main stairway. Can we keep part of the beautiful existing door? Can we also have plantings in front (at the top of the stairs)?	We have replaced the front door with glass to provide more natural light into in the main reading room. The Art Deco bars on the door will be recreated on the window. We can look at having potted plants on the stairs.
Nyssa is a great tree choice....will the new landscape include water/ irrigation and is there a landscape maintenance line item in the budget?	There will be an irrigation system to water the new landscaping.
The new entrance doesn't seem to relate visually to the original library structure or the firehouse. Have you thought about alternative designs?	Alternative materials, signage and other details have been considered throughout the design process leading up to the proposed design. The proposed entrance pavilion balances the desire for a highly visible and clearly identifiable public entrance with the need to be responsive and deferential to the existing library and fire station. The entrance pavilion takes this context into consideration in terms of it's position and scale: the front wall of the entrance pavilion facing Faneuil Street is aligned with the corner of the fire station building and the roofline is held down from the roof of the existing library and aligns with an existing limestone band above the original library windows on Faneuil Street. The entrance's contemporary appearance follows historical preservation guidelines that recommend additions be differentiated from the original building rather than mimicking or repeating the historic form.
Is the community room the only space for meetings and classes?	The community room is the only enclosed space to be used for meetings and classes. There are areas within the Children's area and the general reading room that can be used for gatherings.
is there an entrance between community room and children's room?	Yes, there is a door between the children's area and the community room.
When discussing the Art Deco elements you didn't mention the clock. Will that be incorporated into the new space?	Yes, the existing clock will be incorporated.
What's the difference in green space between the original and new design?	The proposed green space and landscape design is depicted in the site plan and renderings shared with the community on June 22nd. The amount of green space behind the existing library is reduced in order to accommodate a new children's room. Landscape improvements are envisioned along Faneuil Street and Bigelow Street including new planting beds and ornamental trees.
Will the benches on either side of the original entrance remain?	The existing benches will be removed and a new bench added next to the new library entrance.

Why does the new entrance jut out from the original facade? (It grabs attention and looks incongruous.)	The new entrance is pulled slightly forward from the original building and aligned with the corner of the adjacent fire station. The location is motivated by two considerations: first, the need to be highly visible and clearly identifiable as the new public entrance to the building, and second, to be a transitional element between the corner of the existing library and corner of the fire station. The entrance's contemporary appearance follows historical preservation guidelines that recommend additions be differentiated from the original building rather than mimicking or repeating the historic form.
Why use hardscape in front of the new entrance instead of a green scape with a walkway or stepping stone?	The paving between the sidewalk and new entrance was chosen to create a durable, level and accessible point of entry as well as a space for gathering. The hardscape also incorporates seating and bicycle racks for patrons.
Why do we need digital signage? It decreases interaction and presents a cold first impression.	We use digital signage at all our branches to inform patrons of all programs we are offering without having to print flyers.
Will projectors and updated speakers/audio be provided with the community room for presentations or speaking engagements? In the past that space is used for our live auction. I love the overall design, and the use of natural light, and a lot better use of space the space.	The community room will have all new AV equipment: projector, drop down screen, speakers and lighting scenes.
Could the spot where the hightops are be one of the existing round tables to honor the feel of the existing space?	We are looking at all the furniture that remains that is original to the building to see what can be used in the renovated building.
Is there any option for the community to have some involvement in the outdoor plantings? We have lots of gardeners in our community.	The renovation project will provide hardy plantings around the building. The community can work with staff to provide additional plantings once construction is complete.
Could the black pavilion become another warmer color stone?!	A darker color was chosen for the pavilion facade to contrast the warm limestone color of the original façade and help distinguish the new library entrance. The proposed material is dark granite with light veining to complement the natural stone facade of the existing building.
Will the facade of the library be cleaned?	Yes.
Just want to add, "Free to all" is over entrance of the main branch. It bears mentioning. Quite a brand!	Free to All will be incorporated into the exterior of the new addition.