McKim Master Plan Update

Community Meeting

Planning Themes

June 3, 2020

Boston Public Library
David Leonard, President

City of Boston
Kim Janey, Mayor
Dion Irish, Chief of Operations
Kerrie Griffin, Director of Public Facilities

designLAB architects
General Information

Meeting Logistics

- Have a question during the meeting?
  Click on the chat button at the bottom of your Zoom window and someone from the project team will respond

- Have a friend that was unable to attend, or did you miss something?
  No Problem! A recording of the meeting will be posted online to the project page, along with a follow-up survey

- This meeting is being recorded
  A paper survey will also be available at the BPL-to-Go set up at the Central Library

- Visit the project page on bpl.org for updates!
  www.bpl.org/mckimmasterplan/
Agenda

Large Group Session
- McKim Building Master Plan Overview
- Community Meetings Recap
- McKim Today: Key Planning Themes
  - Dartmouth Street Plaza
  - New McKim Program Opportunities
  - Improving Accessibility, Wayfinding, and Movement
- Courtyard Changes

Breakout Session
McKIM MASTER PLAN
OVERVIEW
Project Team
McKim Master Plan Update

- STOSS
- Consultants
- designLAB
- Shepley Bulfinch
- City of Boston Public Facilities Department
- Boston Landmarks Commission
- Mass Historic Commission

Community Input
Project Schedule

Proposed Community Meeting Dates

Visioning & Program Phase

1. Listening & Idea Generating
2. Common Themes & Priorities

Concept Design Phase

3. Planning Themes
4. Final Recommendations

- August 2020
- October
- December
- June
- Summer/Fall 2021
Project Focus

McKim Building & Dartmouth Street Plaza

Aerial View

McKim Building
Dartmouth Street
Copley Square

McKim Entrance

Johnson Building
Boylston Street
Dartmouth Street Plaza

View towards Copley Square
Currently the only publicly accessible space on the 3rd floor.
COMMUNITY MEETINGS RECAP
Project Goals
McKim Master Plan

Enhance the visitor experience of:

- Building
- Collections
- Services
Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Addressing Accessibility
Improve Wayfinding
Stewardship & Scholarship
McKIM PLANNING THEMES

Free to All
• Broadly Connected
• Home to New Contemporary Library Spaces
• Accessible and Legible

Proposed Strategies:
• Connect to Dartmouth Street Plaza + Copley Square
• Restore and renovate to improve the public experience
• Improve accessibility and way-finding inside and outside
• Enclose Courtyard to enhance use all-year long
BROADLY CONNECTED
Connect to Dartmouth Street Plaza + Copley Square
Renewed collection of public experiences
Dartmouth Plaza

Existing Conditions

Plinth and Sculptures
Temporary Accessible Ramps
Stairs at Entry
Seat Wall
Boylston Street

**Existing Conditions - Dartmouth Corner**

- Dartmouth/Boylston corner
- Bus shelter and stop
- T stop entrance and elevator
Proposed Sloped Paths at Entry - Plan
Dartmouth Plaza

Proposed Sloped Paths at Entry
Dartmouth Plaza

Draft Site Plan

- Dartmouth Plaza
- Draft Site Plan

[Diagram of Dartmouth Plaza with annotations: Extended Entry Platform, Sloped Paths for Improved Accessibility at Both Sides of Plaza, Benches to Activate Plaza, Grove to Frame Entry and Provide Shade.]
Dartmouth Plaza

Proposed Sloped Paths at Entry with Planting
Dartmouth Plaza

Experiences and Activities

**Farmer’s Market Expansion**

**Music + Performances**

**Bringing Services Outdoors**

**Outdoor Reading Room**

**Seating**
Dartmouth Street Plaza

Connections to Copley Square/Multiple Sight-lines

Image used with permission from BPRD and Sasaki
Dartmouth Plaza

View from Copley

View from corner of Dartmouth and Blagden

View crossing Boylston
HOME TO CONTEMPORARY LIBRARY SPACES

Restore and renovate to improve the public experience
Third Floor // Current Spaces

JORDAN ROOM

FINE ARTS / MUSIC ROOM

CUSHMAN ROOM

CHEVERUS ROOM

WIGGIN GALLERY
Third Floor // Proposed Uses

COLLABORATION ROOMS (CR)

TOILET ROOMS

STAFF TOILETS

OPEN PATRON SEATING

PARTIAL-HEIGHT WALL

CR CR CRCRCRCR

CR

CR

CR

CR

LOCKERS

SEATING + COLLABORATION ZONE

COLLABORATION ROOMS

PATRON SEATING

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CLASSROOM

CLASSROOM + DEMONSTRATION/LAB

INTERIOR ACTIVATION

Youth & Families
• Tours for young audiences
• Children’s Exhibits
• Flexible Learning Space: (Demo & Activity Room)
• Hands-On Classroom
• Replicas/Recreations - “Petting Zoo”
• Story/History Nook
Second Floor // Current Spaces

WASHINGTON ROOM

ELLIOTT ROOM

BOYLSTON ROOM
Second Floor // Proposed Uses

WASHINGTON ROOM
MULTI-USE

ELLIOTT ROOM
CLASSROOM

BOYLSTON ROOM
PATRON SEATING
ACCESSIBLE AND LEGIBLE

Improve accessibility and way-finding inside and outside
Existing Barriers to Movement in McKim

**Vertical Movement**
Discontinuous
Lack of Clear Pathways

**Horizontal Pathways**
Floor level differences

**Courtyard Plan**
Interconnected rooms
Pinchpoints at corners
Vertical Movement // Existing Elevator, Stairs, and Ramps

[Diagram showing levels 1, 2, and 3 with symbols for Stairs, Elevators, and Ramps]
Horizontal Pathways // Existing Barriers to Movement

Level 1
- Multiple changes in floor level
  - Reduce number of level changes
  - Improve equitable access

Level 2
- Changes in floor level between Dartmouth and Johnson sides.
  - Improve equitable access

Level 3
- Change in floor level at Chevrus Room
  - Improve equitable access
Visitors have to use the exterior courtyard to move between McKim and Johnson Buildings. This limits movement between buildings during inclement weather.

Visitors must pass through connected spaces to move between McKim and Johnson Buildings. This limits functions of these spaces.

Level 3 currently closed to visitors except Sargent Gallery.
Accessible and Legible

**Improved Ramps and Lifts on First Floor**

**New Public Elevator**

**Simple and open connection between McKim and Johnson**
Accessible and Legible

**Improved Ramps, Accessible Entrance, New Elevators**

Central location
Along route from McKim to Johnson
Connects all public levels
Makes Cheverus Room accessible

**LIFTS REPLACED WITH ELEVATORS**

**NEW PUBLIC ELEVATOR**

**NEW RAMP**

**ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE WITH NEW SLOPED WALKS ON DARTMOUTH PLAZA**

Elevators  Ramps
Accessible and Legible

**Fluid connection from McKim Lobby to Johnson Lobby**

- **NEW WIDENED LOBBY SPACE**
  - Improved wayfinding + views
  - Connection to new elevator

**Proposed Improvements and/or interventions:**
- Remove TCA Showroom (originally women’s lavatory, more recently a gift shop)
- Relocate columns similar to arrangement in the Northwest Corridor
- Relocate or replicate Pompeian frescoes to west and south walls

**Existing Circulation**

**Proposed Circulation**

- Fluid connection from McKim Lobby to Johnson Lobby

- Walls removed to open up pathways
COURTYARD
Enclose Courtyard to enhance use all-year long
Courtyard Enclosure // Vibrant and Connected all-year long

- New opportunities to expand library programs
- Improves accessibility
- Preservation of architectural components
- Skylight enclosure
- Maintain gardens and fountain year-round
Courtyard Enclosure // References

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
Boston, MA

Museum of Fine Arts
Boston, MA

Smithsonian American Art Museum
Washington, DC
Library Program Opportunities

Courtyard Enclosure

Library Program Benefits

June - August
[13 weeks]
40 Events

2019 Statistics
Courtyard Enclosure

Indoor connection between Johnson and McKim on the first floor

Level 1 Improvement:
- Pathway becomes continuous indoor space
- Maintain landscape design and plantings
Courtyard Enclosure

Continuous indoor pathway to public areas on the 2nd floor

Existing Circulation

Proposed Circulation

Level 2 Improvement:
- New accessible indoor pathway allows Washington and Elliott to be used for program functions
Courtyard Enclosure

**Building Conservation Benefits**

Protect the historic McKim Building from further weathering and deterioration

Stabilize interior environments in courtyard facing rooms housing special collections

Simplify restoration of courtyard facing windows
YOUR QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK:

Proposed Strategies:
- Connect to Dartmouth Street Plaza + Copley Square
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- Improve accessibility and way-finding inside and outside
- Enclose Courtyard to enhance use all-year long
1. What resonates with you?

2. What do you feel is missing?

3. How can we make the physical spaces of the library a better representation of Boston’s diversity?

4. What programs would you like to see activate the new McKim Building spaces?
General Information
Join the Conversation

To mute or unmute yourself:

Click on the microphone in the lower left of your Zoom window

or

If you are calling in from your phone, press *6

If you are unable to stay for the discussion:

Be sure to visit the project page for the recording of this meeting, an online survey, and other project related updates

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Thank you for joining us!

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