SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY
Community Meeting #1
January 8, 2023
Translations for this meeting are available live in the following languages:

Chinese (Cantonese)
Spanish (Español)
AGENDA

Community Meeting #1
January 8, 2023

1. Introductions
2. Schedule and Process
3. Branch Service Area
4. Existing Conditions & A Brief History of the Branch
5. Building Program
6. Site Observations
7. Next Steps
8. Q&A Discussion
ACCELERATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Feasibility Study
- 3 months

Design Phase
- 12 months

Construction

Move-in & Opening

Community Input

- Community Meeting #1
  - Jan 8, 2024
- Community Meeting #2
  - Feb 2024
- Community Meeting #3
  - Mar / Apr 2024
- Future Community Meeting
  - TBD in 2024
- Future Community Meeting
  - TBD in 2024
BRANCH SERVICE AREA
EXISTING CONDITIONS &
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRANCH
Ground Floor - 6,400 SF
Second Floor - 1,500 SF
Basement - 1,500 SF

Total GSF: 9,400 SF
SOUTH END BRANCH - GROUND FLOOR
SOUTH END BRANCH - SECOND FLOOR

Ground Floor - 6,400 SF
Second Floor - 1,500 SF
Basement - 1,500 SF

Total GSF: 9,400 SF
SOUTH END BRANCH - SECOND FLOOR
SOUTH END BRANCH - BASEMENT

Ground Floor - 6,400 SF
Second Floor - 1,500 SF
**Basement - 1,500 SF**

**Total GSF: 9,400 SF**
SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY HISTORY

Library created at the current site in the basement of the Mercantile Library Association Building, from a gift of 18,000 books from the Association.

**Image:** BPL Atlascope

1877

Branch moves to the English High School at Warren/Montgomery & Dartmouth (demolished, now McKinley Elementary).

**Image:** King’s Handbook of Boston, 4th ed. 1881

1879

Branch moves to The Every Day Church at 397 Shawmut Avenue (demolished, now Villa Victoria).

**Image:** Haues, Josiah Johnson, 1808–1901

1904

Branch moves again to the John J. Williams Municipal Building at Shawmut Avenue and West Brookline Street (now Blackstone Community Center and Auditorium).

**Image:** Cyrus Dahmubed/Utile

1923

Branch returns home to its first location in a new building designed by Romaldo Giurgola of Mitchell Giurgola, in part as a result of Urban Renewal-era planning and demolition.

The finished building differs significantly and is smaller than the original proposal.

**Image:** Bill McQueen
1967: An early iteration proposed a larger building on the southwest end of the parcel. Two reading rooms were to look out over a sunken garden adjacent to the children's area, with bridges and ramps connecting it to the street level.

Source: Dan Kelley Lecture to FOSEL, 3/16/2019
1970–71: The building as ultimately designed faced issues from its early days. The canopied garden wall collapsed after a short period of time due to deficient site preparation, which also caused issues in the garden.

A 1990 redesign of the Library Park added the existing wrought iron fence.

Source: Dan Kelley Lecture to FOSEL, 3/16/2019
BUILDING PROGRAM
RECENTLY RENOVATED / BUILT BRANCH COMPARISON

(Existing)
South End Branch
Total: 9,400 SF

Faneuil Branch
Total: 11,700 SF

Roslindale Branch
Total: 15,140 SF

Adams Branch
Total: 13,300 SF

Roxbury Branch
Total: 27,710 SF

JP Branch
Total: 12,500 SF
CORE BRANCH LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAM

Collections & Seating

- **Roxbury Branch - Teen Area**
- **Adams Branch - Children’s Area**

**Featured Collections / Colored Wayfinding**

**Storytime Area**

**Reading Nooks**
CORE BRANCH LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAM

COMMUNITY ROOM
100-150 SEATS

STUDY ROOMS
1 OR 2 FOUR-PERSON ROOMS

Meeting and Study Spaces

Adams Branch - Community Room
Study Nooks
Group Work / Study Areas
Meeting Room / Classroom
Study Room
CORE BRANCH LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAM

LOCAL HISTORY
TEACHING LAB / CLASSROOM
PROGRAM UNIQUE TO BRANCH

Spaces Unique to the Neighborhood

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS!

Roxbury Branch – African American Collection
Music Room
Maker Space / Craft Room
Game Room
Remote Working / Phone Rooms
Art Studio
CORE BRANCH LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAM

Outdoor Spaces

Locations for Art
SITE OBSERVATIONS
The building as ultimately designed faced issues from its early days. The canopied garden wall collapsed after a short period of time due to deficient site preparation, which also caused issues in the garden. A 1990 redesign of the Library Park added the existing wrought iron fence.

Source: Dan Kelley Lecture to FOSEL, 3/16/2019
NEXT STEPS
# COMMUNITY INPUT

**We are here**

## Jan 2024

### Feasibility Study

- **Community Meeting #1**
  - Jan 8, 2024
  - Preliminary existing conditions report
  - Present typical BPL Branch Library building program
  - Understand community needs for South End Branch

### Determine Detailed Space Requirements

- **Community Meeting #2**
  - Feb 2024
  - Update on existing conditions findings
  - Develop preliminary South End Branch building program
  - Present preliminary test-fits of program in renovation and new construction options

- **Community Meeting #3**
  - Mar / Apr 2024
  - Finalize Branch building program
  - Update test-fits in renovation and new construction options
  - Present recommendation of option for further design

### Develop floor plans, interior and exterior design

- **Future Community Meetings**
  - TBD in 2024

- **Future Community Meetings**
  - TBD in 2024
QUESTIONS & COMMENTS?
For written comments or questions:
Use the chat dialog box

To ask a question:
Raise hand and wait to be called on
1. How do you use these spaces now? What improvements can be made?
2. What unique library program or space can best support the needs of the South End community?
3. What spaces are missing from the core program?
4. How important is open space to the overall library experience?
5. How important is the Library Park to the character of the neighborhood?
QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Feedback can be issued through the project page:
https://www.bpl.org/south-end-project/

Written comments or questions can also be directed to:
Priscilla Foley
Director of Neighborhood Services
617-859-2233
pfoley@bpl.org
THANK YOU!