



# CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY

*Community Meeting #3*

May 5, 2026 6:30pm - 8pm



Mayor Michelle Wu



utile



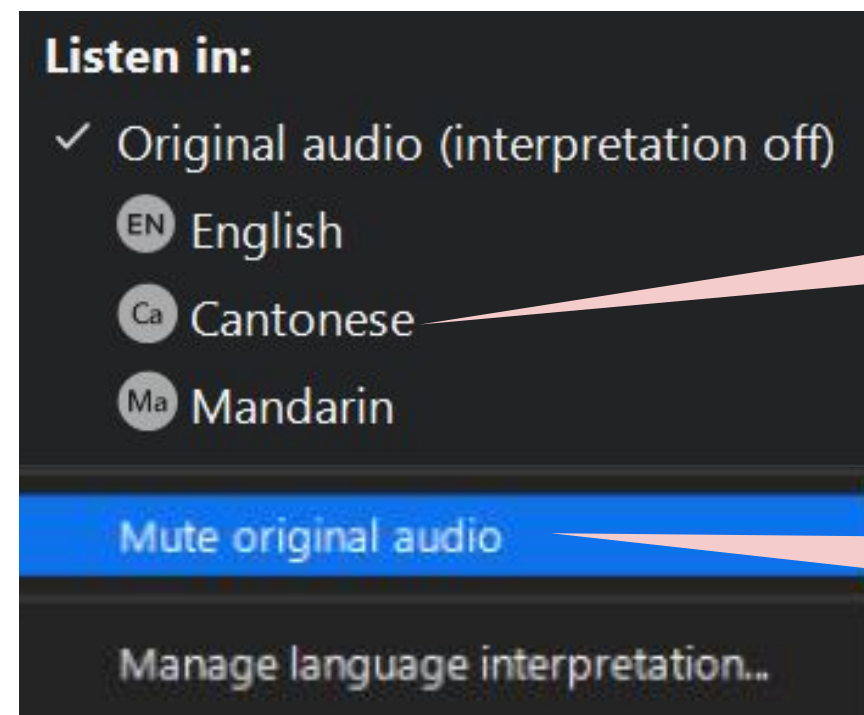
City of Boston  
Public Facilities

# TRANSLATIONS

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Translations for this meeting are available live in the following languages:

- Chinese (Cantonese)
- Chinese (Mandarin)



Select the language you would like to hear the presentation in

Select mute original audio to only hear your selected language channel

# AGENDA

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Community Meeting #3

May 5, 2026

1. Introductions
2. Project Schedule and Background
3. Library Program
4. Library Design Updates
5. “Percent for Art” Program

# PROJECT TEAM



Library “Fit Out” Project Team

City of Boston Public Facilities  
Department and Boston Public Library

Architect: Utile

Housing “Base” Building Team

Developer: Asian CDC (ACDC)

Architect: Stantec

In partnership with City of Boston  
Mayor’s Office of Housing and Planning  
Department (land owner)

# PROJECT SCHEDULE AND BACKGROUND



# HOUSING CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

2025 August - December

Phase 1

- Excavation and Foundation

2026 January - June

Phase 2

- Framing the Building

July - October

Phase 3

- Façade and Roof

2026 November - 2027 April

Phase 4

- Building Interior (plumbing, electrical, and mechanical).

May - June

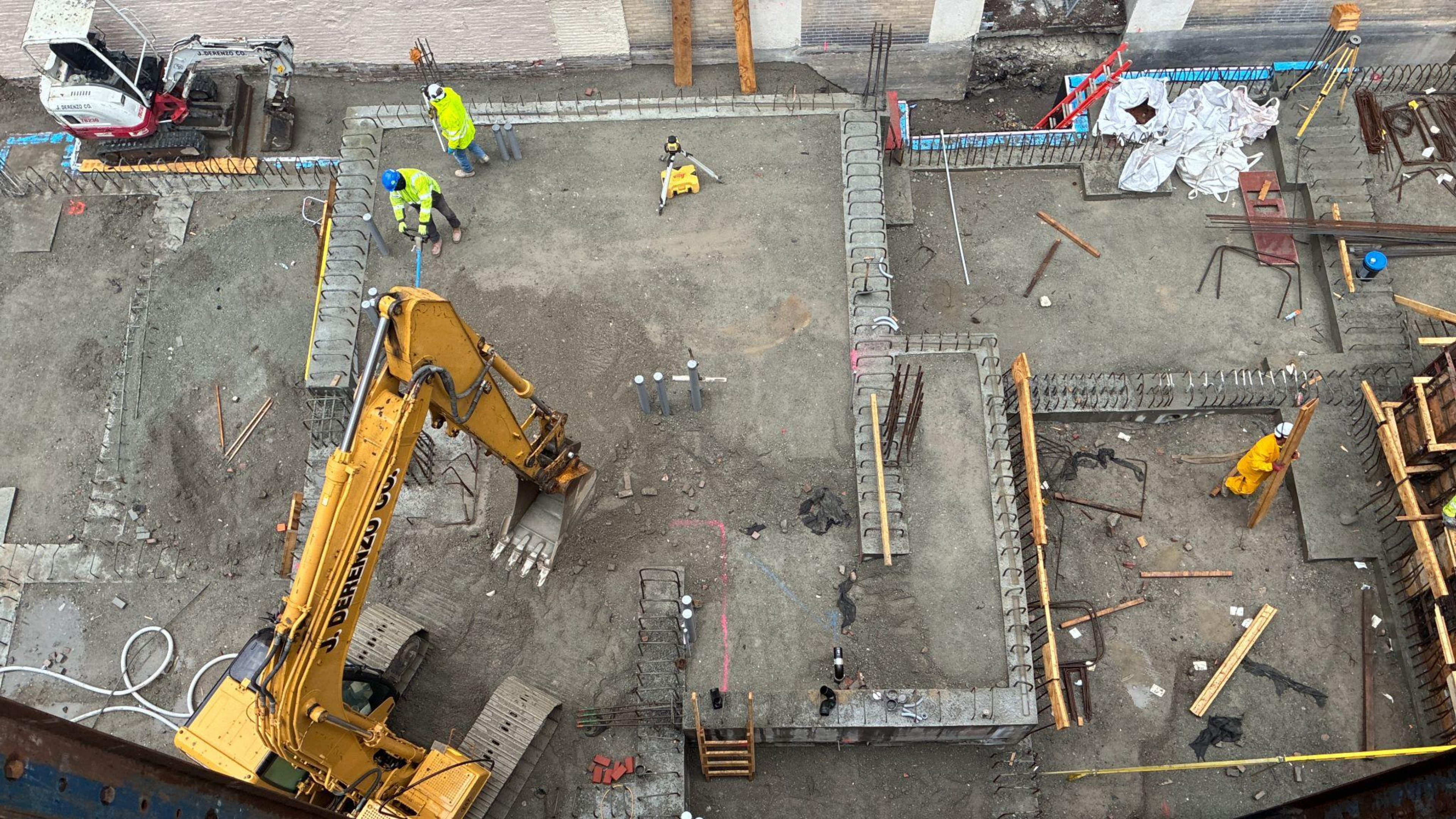
Phase 5

- Finishes (flooring, cabinets, countertops, etc)

2027 July - September

Phase 6

- Housing Completion
- BPL fit out begins at the end of Construction (Sep 2027) *estimated*



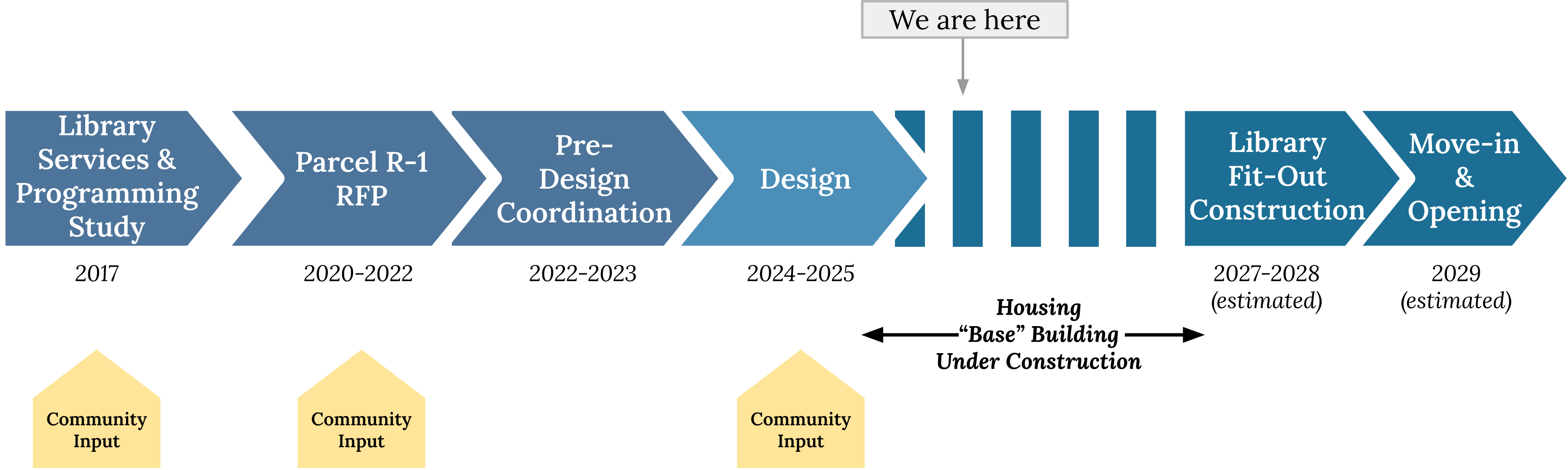


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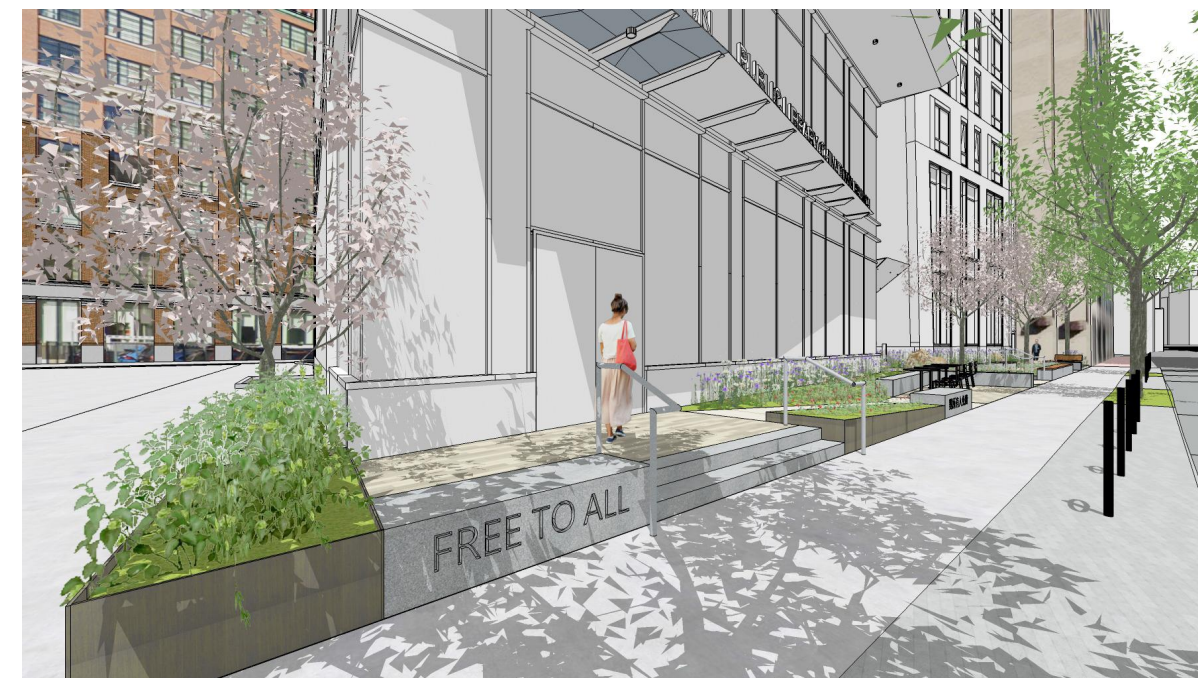
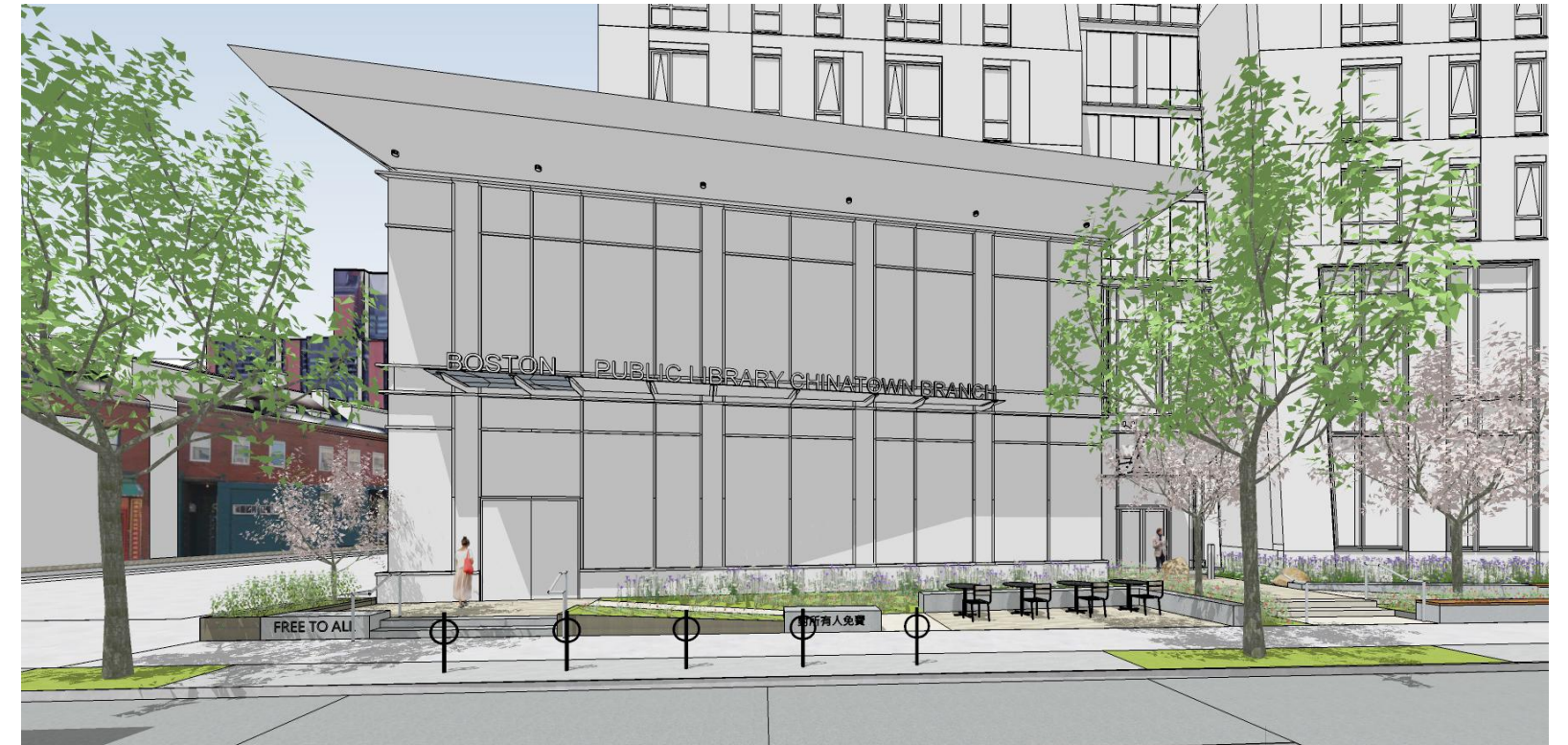
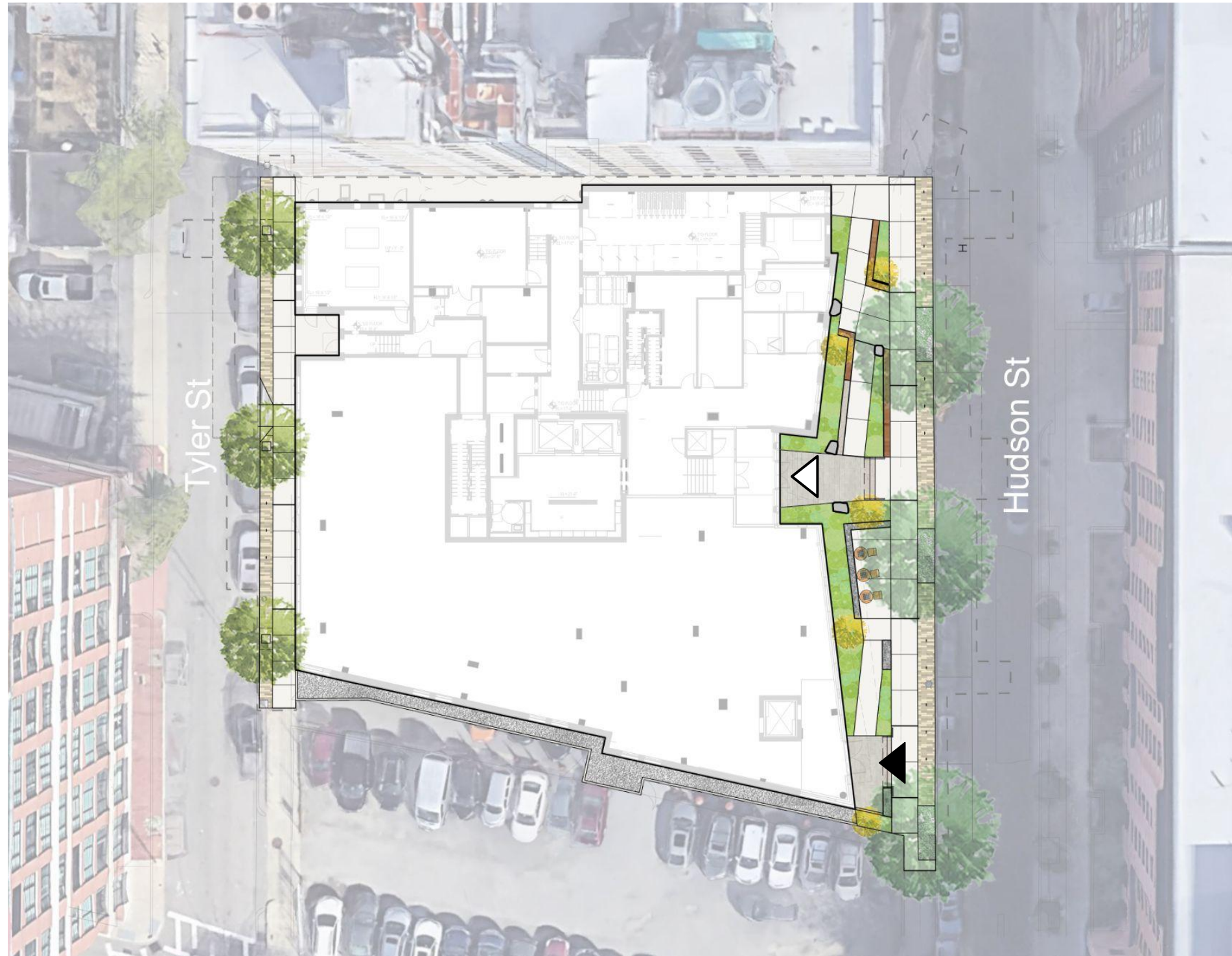
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# PROJECT PROCESS



# BRANCH LOCATION

Asian Community Development Corporation Parcel R-1 Design

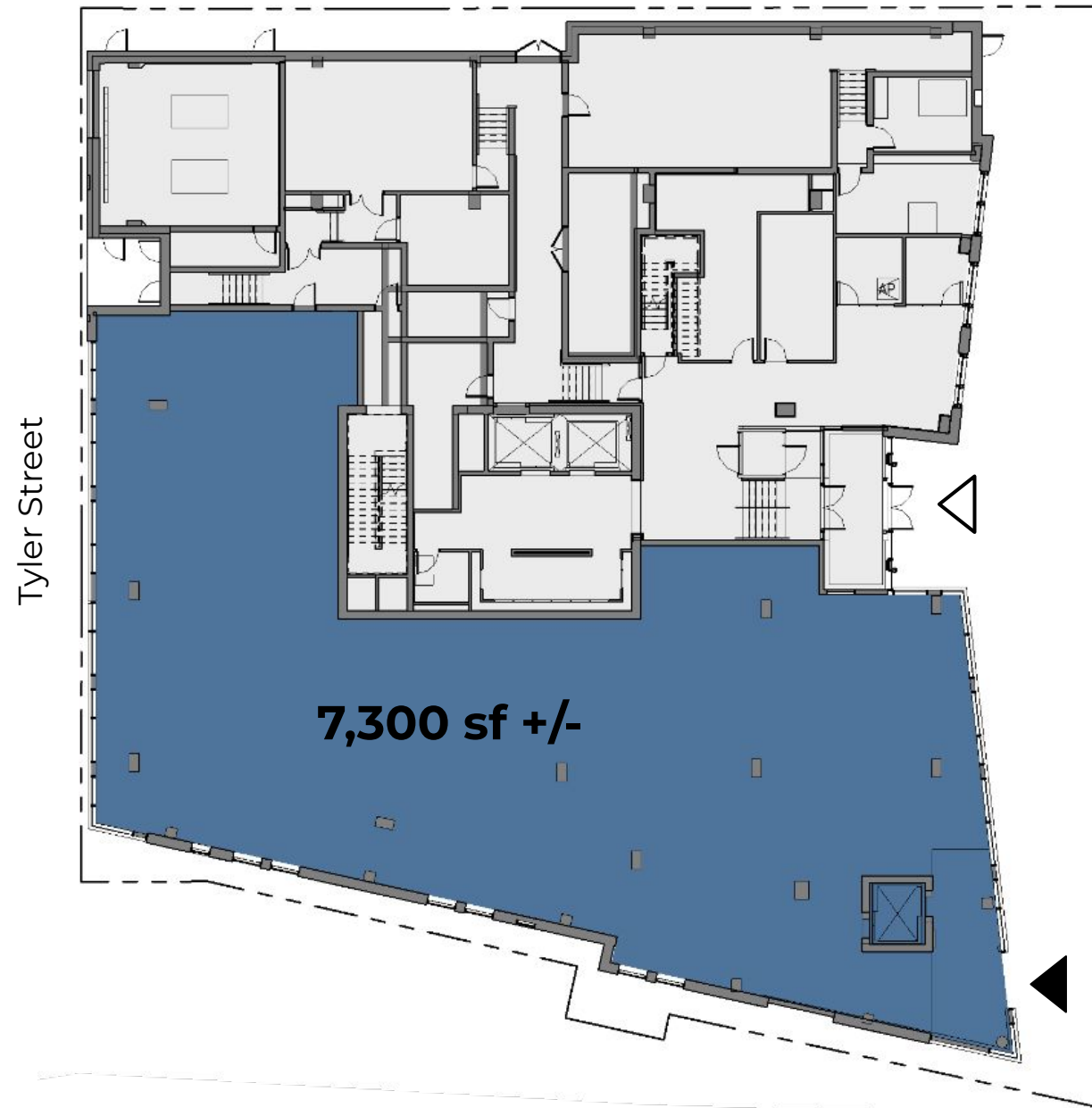


- ◁ Residential Entrance
- ◀ Library Entrance

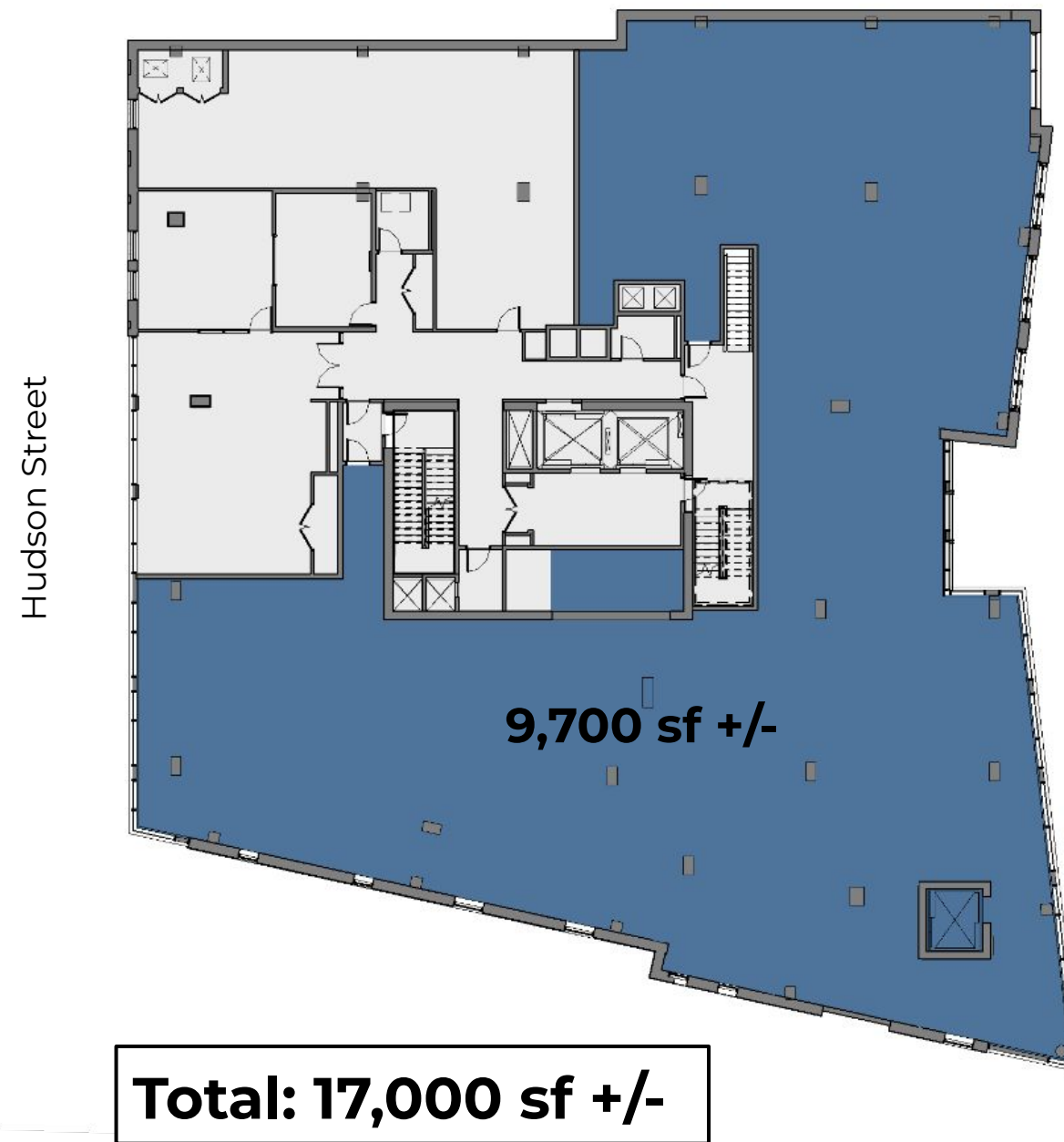
# BRANCH LOCATION

*Asian Community Development Corporation Parcel R-1 Design*

Ground Floor



Second Floor



◁ Residential Entrance

◼ Library Entrance

# LIBRARY PROGRAM



# PROPOSED CHINATOWN BRANCH BUILDING PROGRAM

17,000 SF

**Adult**  
3,350 SF

**Children**  
2,550 SF

**Teen**  
950 SF

**Meeting**  
2,100 SF

**Multi-Gen**  
1,650 SF

**Other**  
2,550 SF

**Support**  
1,750 SF

1,050 SF

650 SF

400 SF

Proposed

**Collections & Reading Areas**

**Meeting & Gathering**

**Support**

**Meeting - 2,100 SF**

- Community Meeting Room, seating capacity of +/- 100
- Classroom, seating capacity of +/- 18
- Multi-purpose meeting room, 8-10 seats
- Study room, 4-6 seats

**Adult Area - 3,350 SF**

- 12,500 - 13,000 volumes
- 44 seats (66% increase)
- 8 computer stations
- Includes Local History

**Teen Area - 950 SF**

- 3,000 volumes
- 30 seats (400% increase)
- 6 computer stations

**Children Area - 2,550 SF**

- 13,250 - 13,750 volumes
- 32 seats
- 8 AWE computer stations
- Includes tweens area, story time area and crafts

**Multi-Generational Space - 1,650 SF**

- Library Commons

**Staff - 650 SF**

- Work room, break room, staff restroom and storage
- Branch librarian's office

**Central Services - 1,050 SF**

- Borrower's desk
- Holds shelving, Friend's book sale, community bulletin board and display areas
- Restrooms

**Entry - 400 SF**

- Vestibule, lobby and book drop

**Support - 1,750 SF**

- Friend's storage
- Facilities storage
- Mechanical and electrical rooms

**Other - 2,550 SF**

- Corridors between program areas, Stairs, and HVAC shaft spaces

**TOTAL - 17,000 SF**



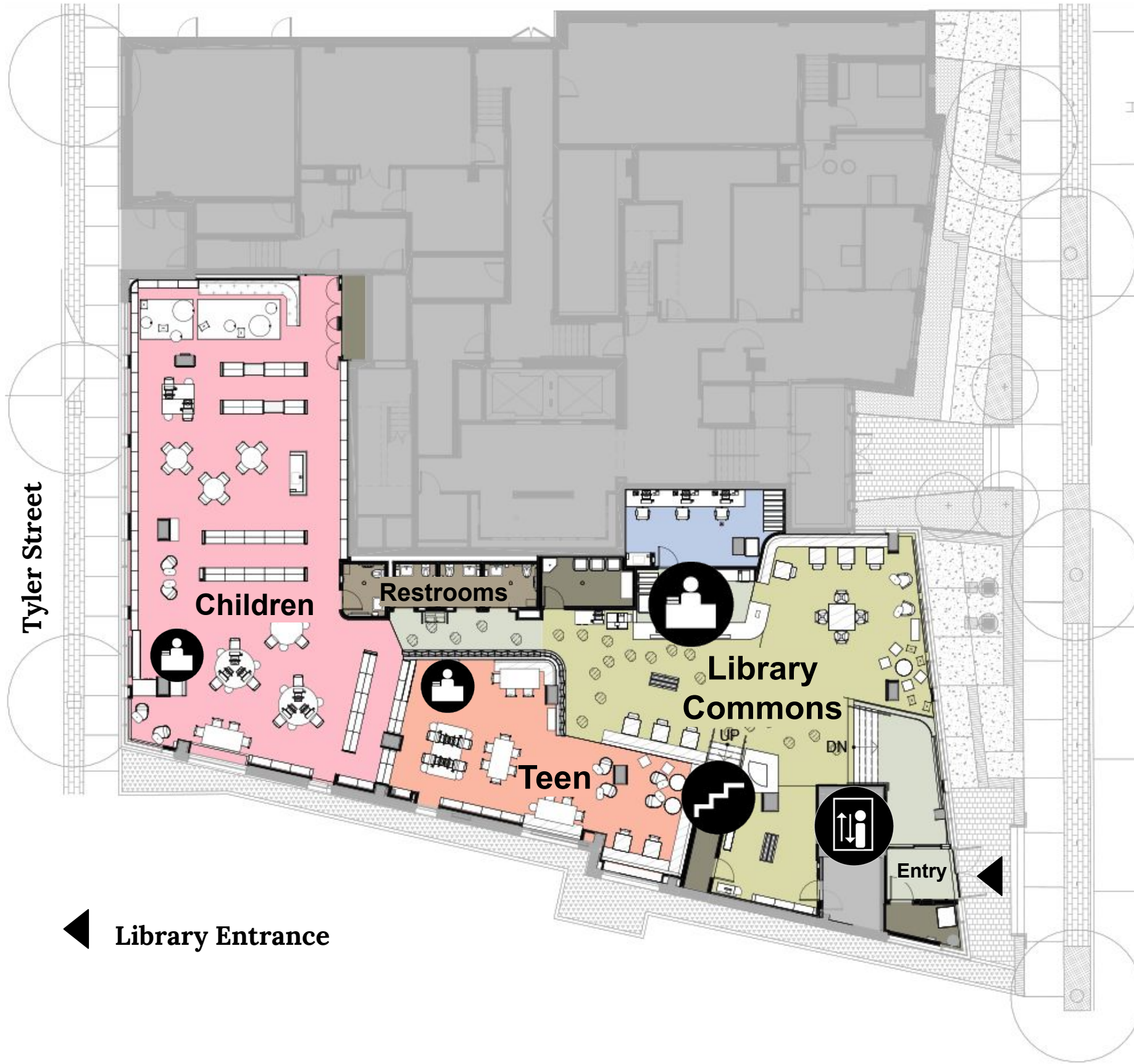
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# LIBRARY DESIGN UPDATES

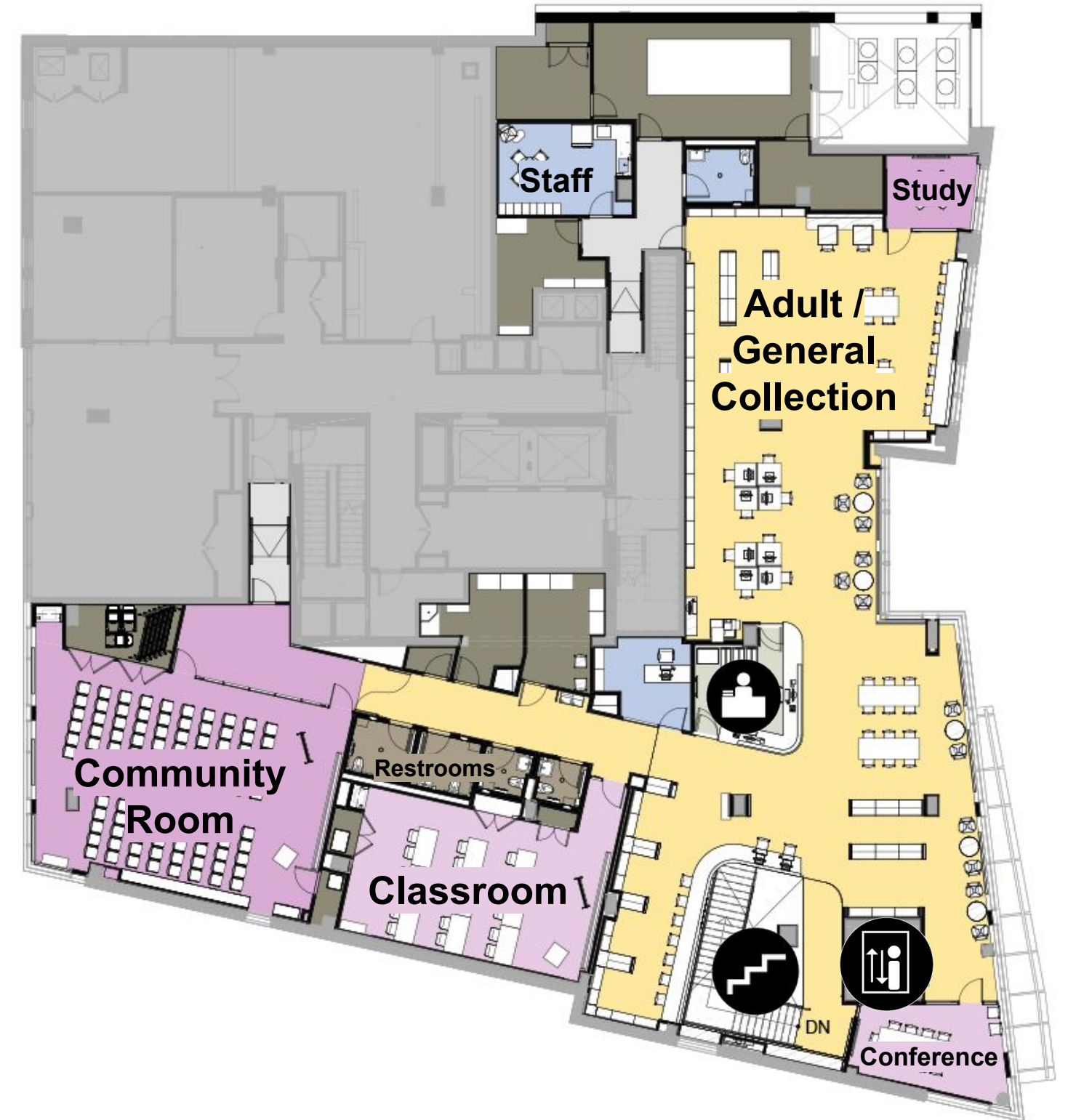


# FLOOR PLANS

## Ground Floor

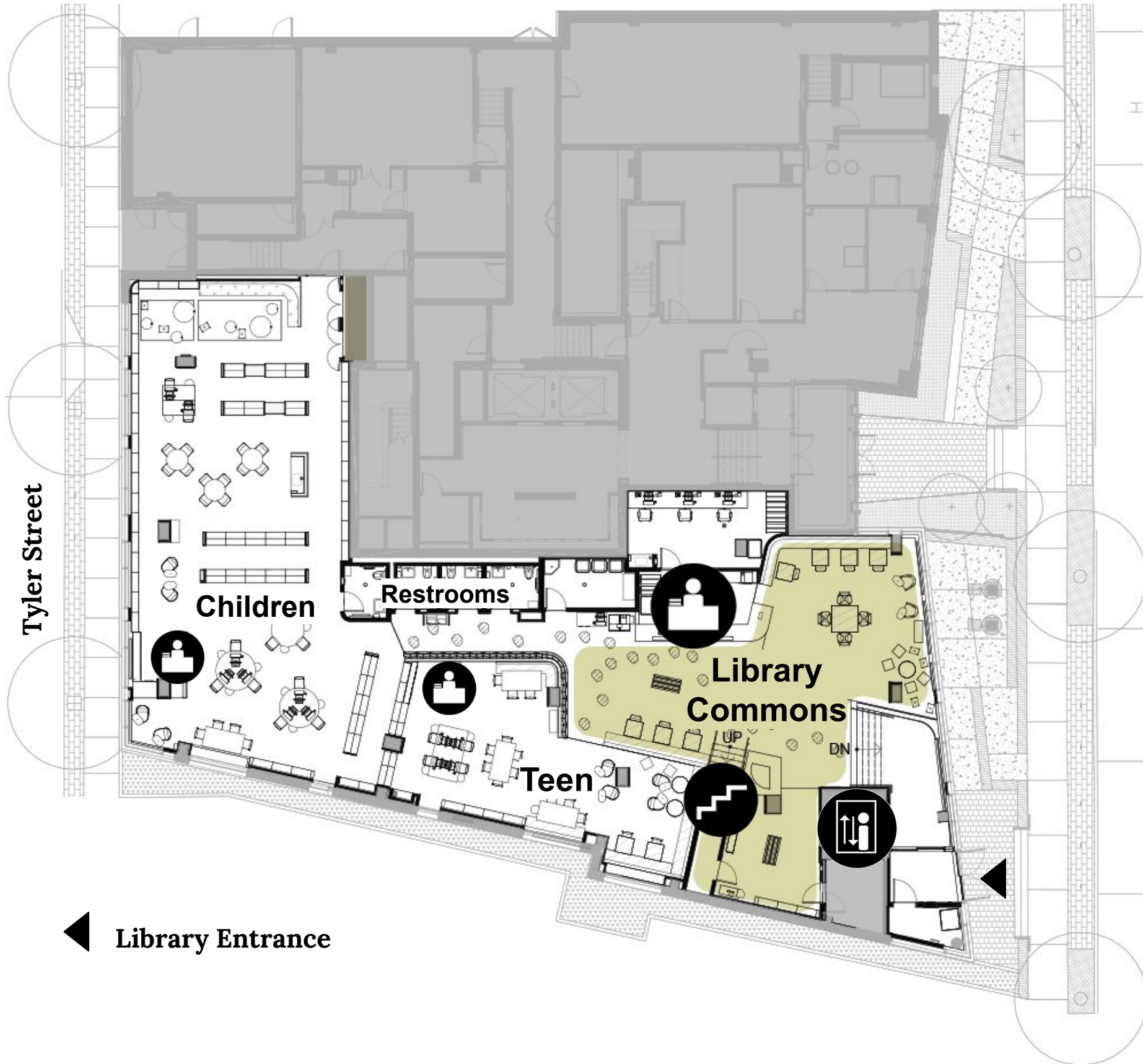


## Second Floor

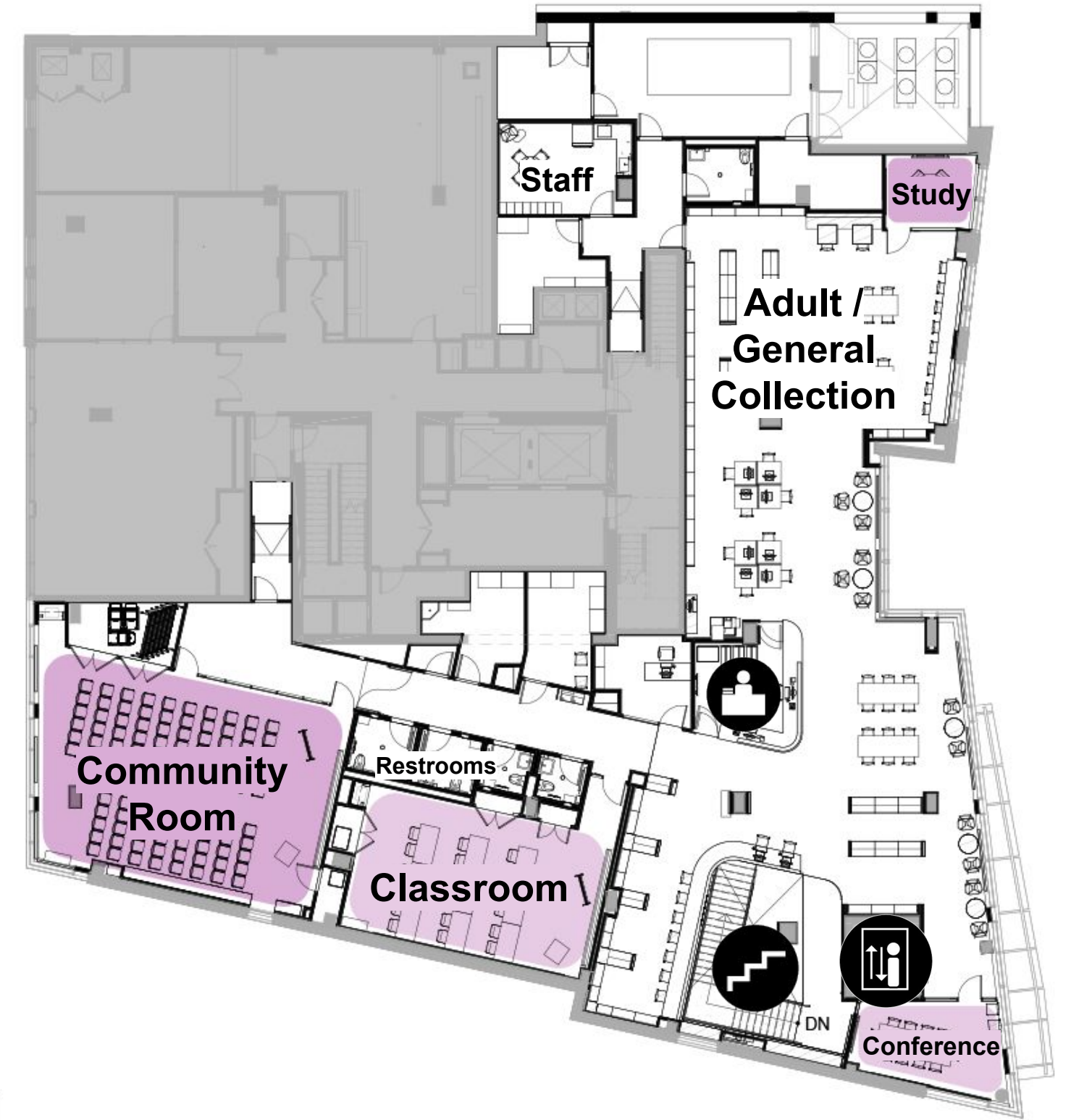


# GATHERING AND MEETING SPACES FOR ALL AGES

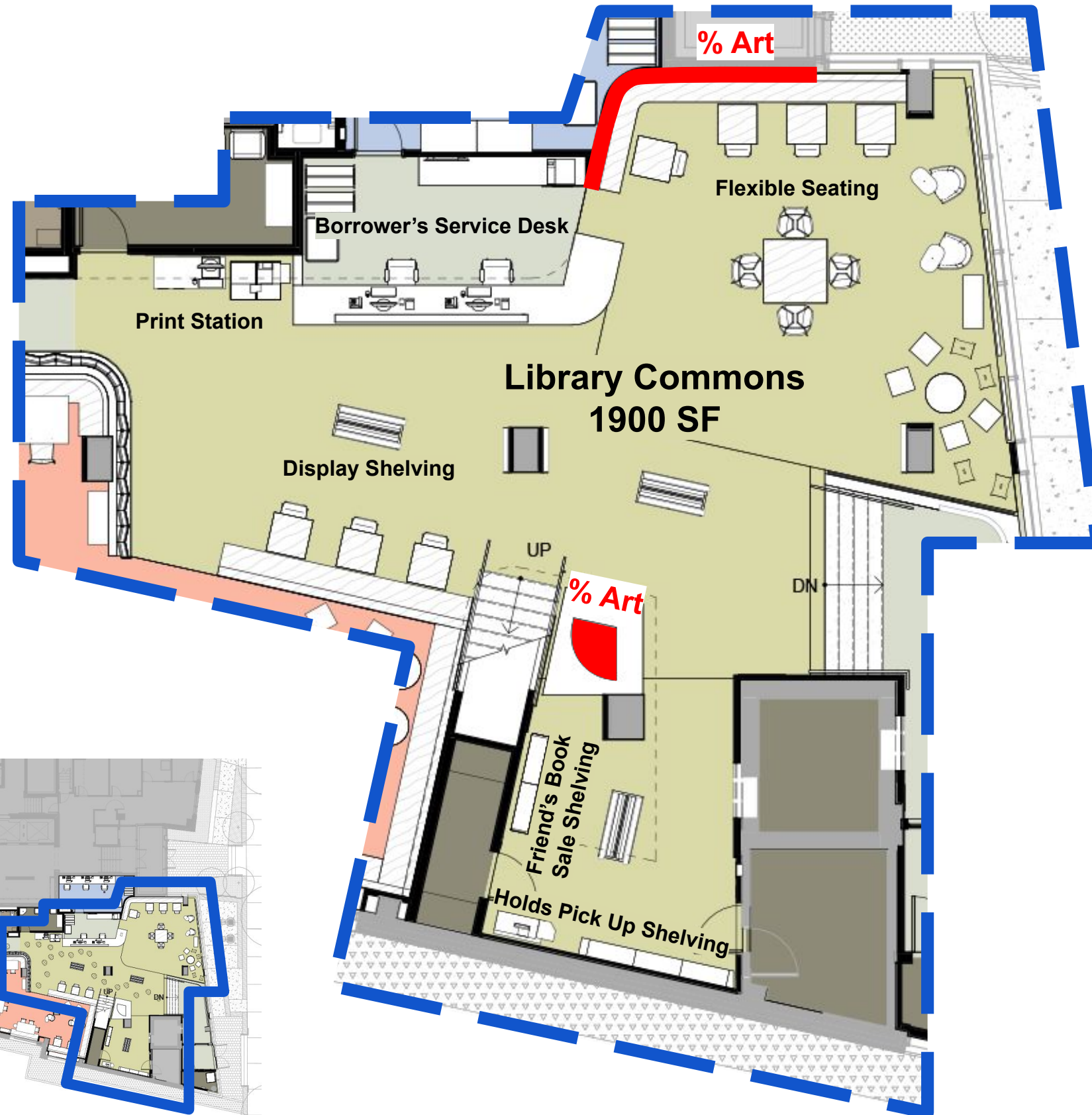
## Ground Floor



## Second Floor



# FIRST FLOOR: LIBRARY COMMONS



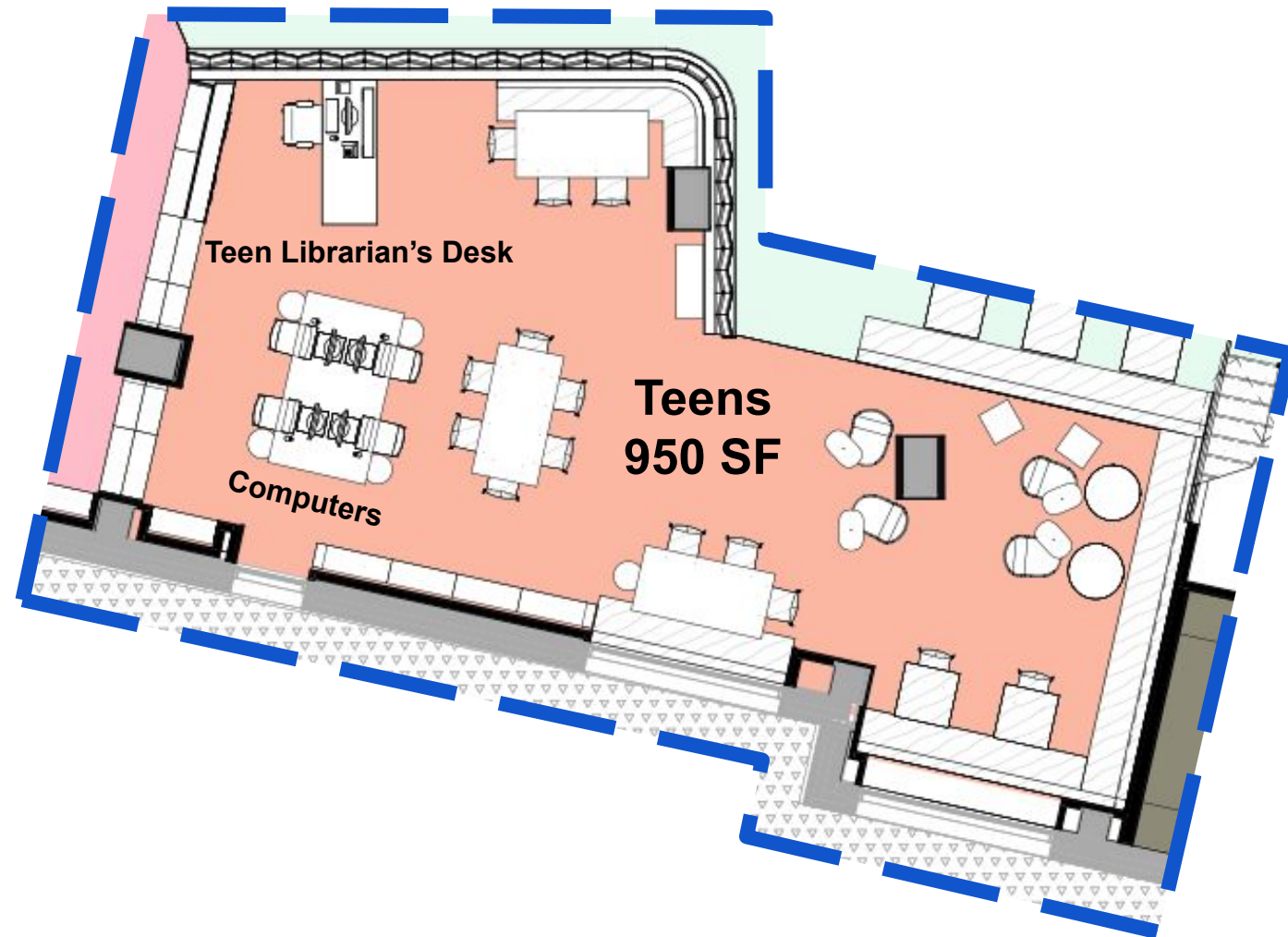
This is a space to:

- Meet up with friends and sit and chat
- Play board games
- Hold Librarian-led conversation groups
- Drop-in craft activities for all ages
- Hold smaller sessions of programs like book clubs and ESOL classes
- Work on a laptop (patrons can borrow one for in branch use) and access printer
- Speak to Library staff at the borrower's desk
- Pick up a Hold and check out a book

Collection highlights:

- Newspapers and magazines available in both Chinese and English
- Curated display spaces featuring Chinese and English titles—highlighting new arrivals, staff picks, and easy browsing

# FIRST FLOOR: TEENS



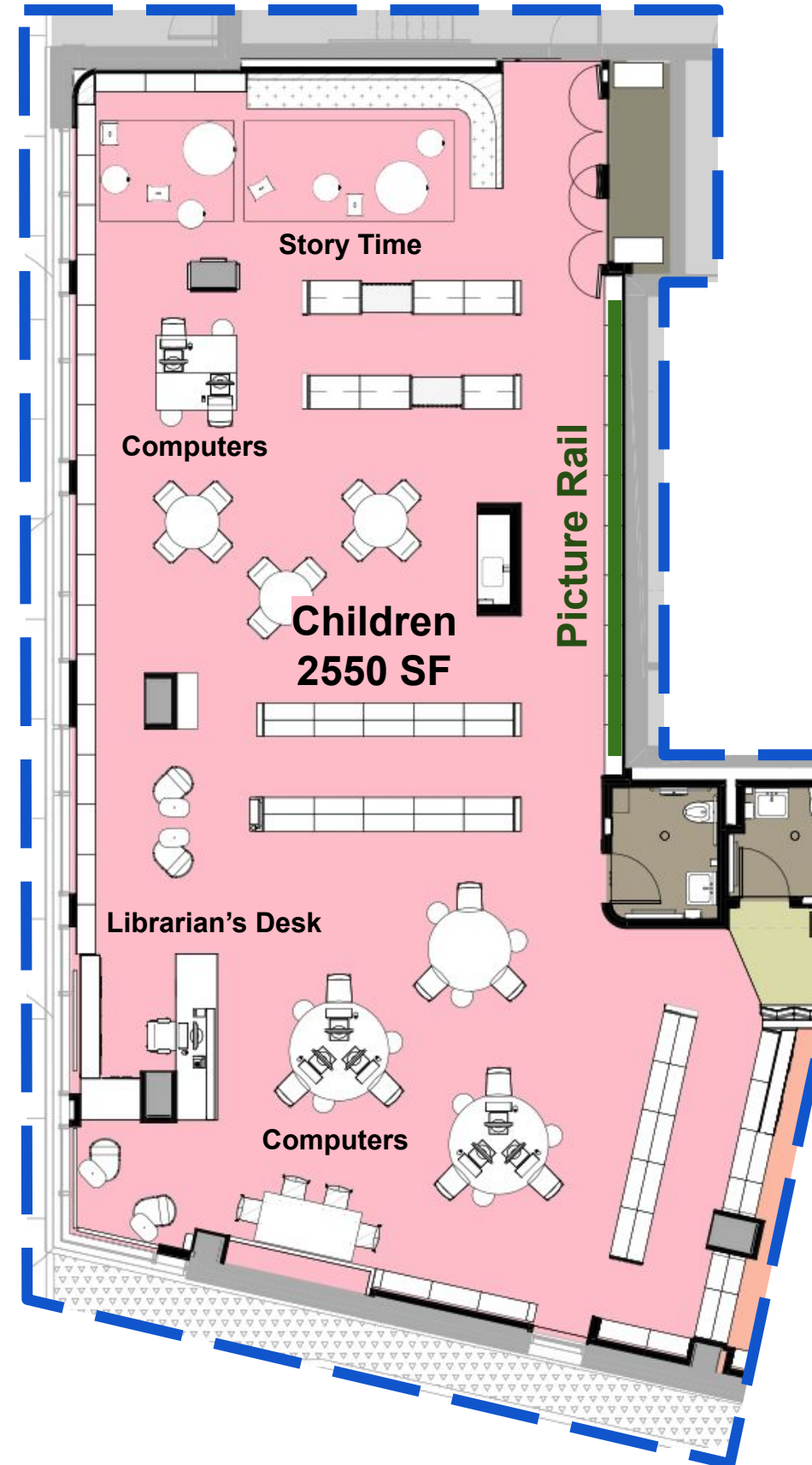
This is a space to:

- Sit and read
- Do homework and study
- Access computers and printer
- Meet up with friends and do school work together or socialize
- Find resources for things like school assignments, college prep, hobbies and interests
- Smaller sessions of homework help or Librarian-led programming like zine making and crafts

Collection highlights:

- Juvenile and teen fiction, nonfiction, and graphic novels for independent readers

# FIRST FLOOR: CHILDREN



This is a space to:

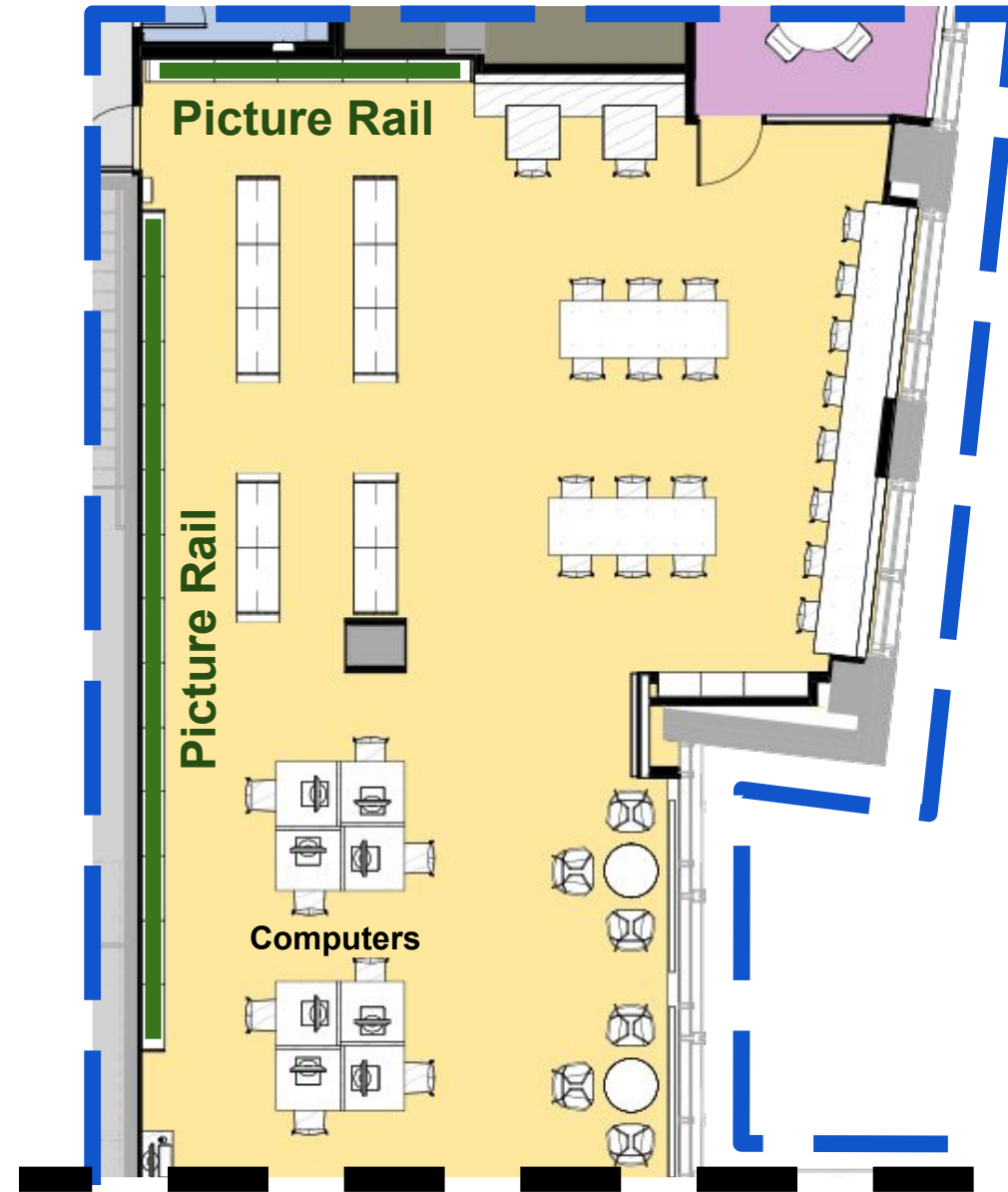
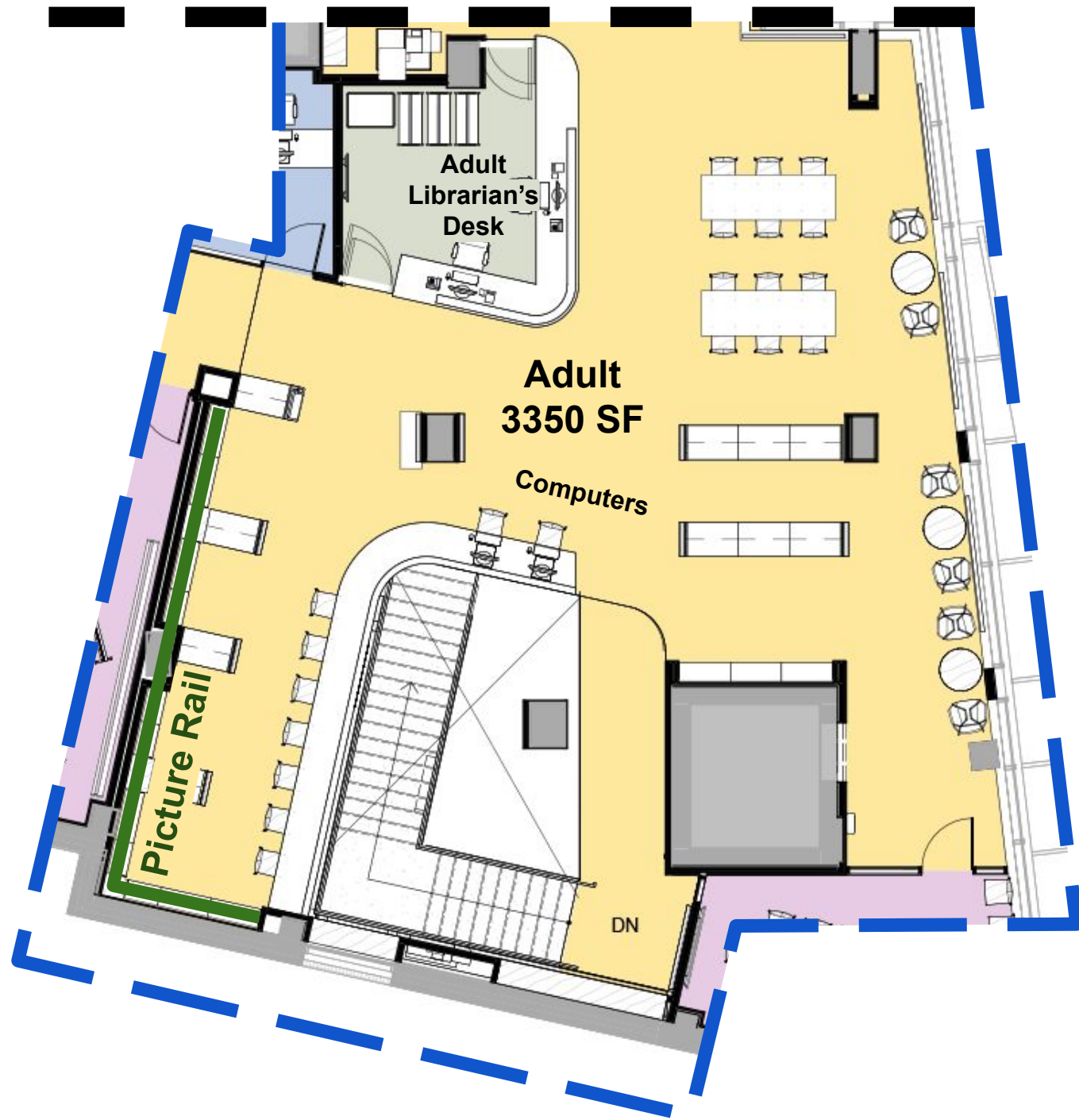
- Sit and read
- Access computers and printer
- Craft activities and games
- Story time

Collection highlights:

- Chinese, English, and bilingual picture books for young children and caregivers



# SECOND FLOOR: ADULT / GENERAL COLLECTION



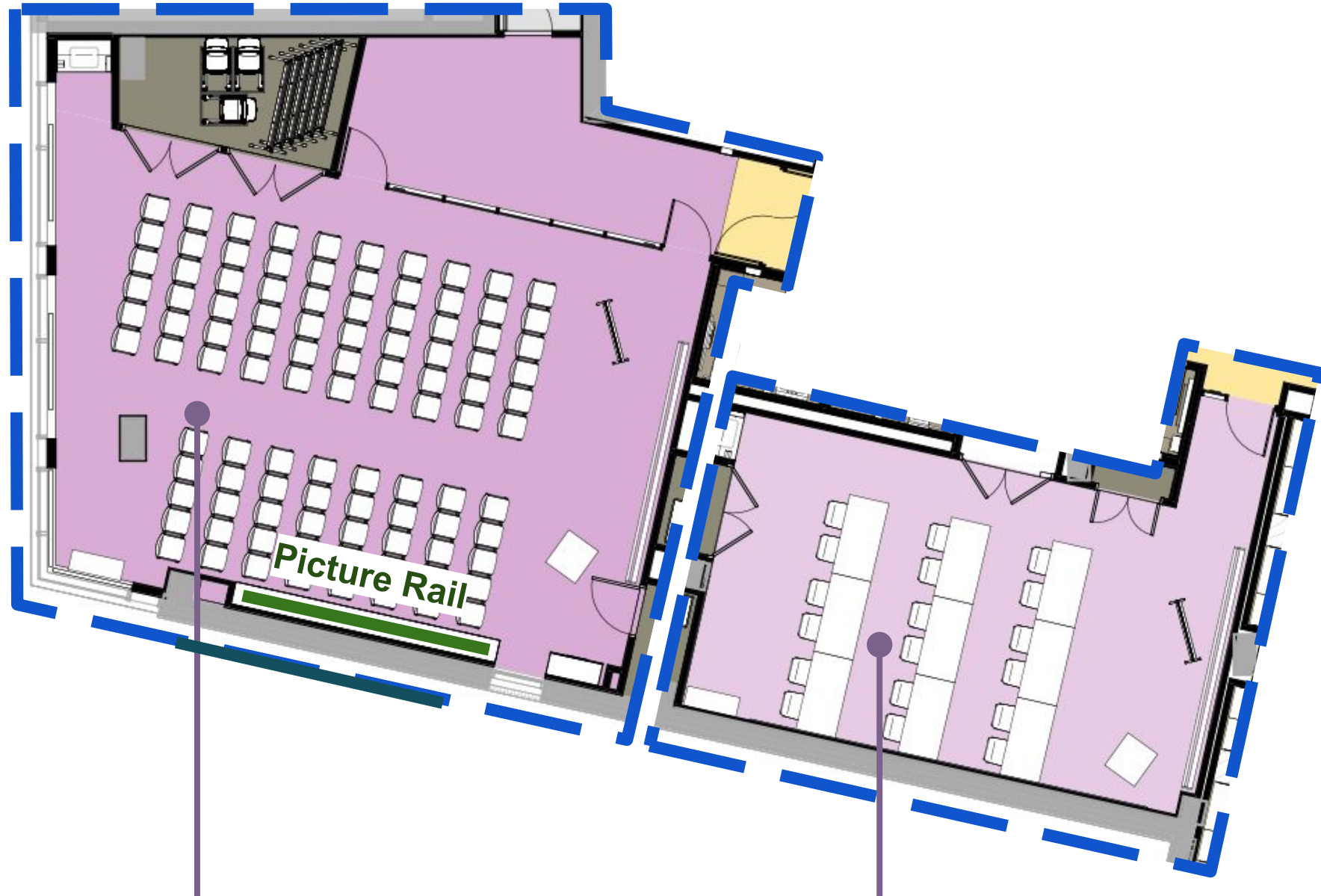
This is a space to:

- Sit and read
- Access computers and printer
- Get help from a Librarian

Collection highlights:

- Robust Chinese and English fiction and literature collections
- Chinese and English nonfiction across a wide range of subjects
- Literacy support and reference materials for learners of all levels
- Movies and DVDs, including a selection of world-language and Chinese-language films

# SECOND FLOOR: GATHERING AND MEETING SPACES

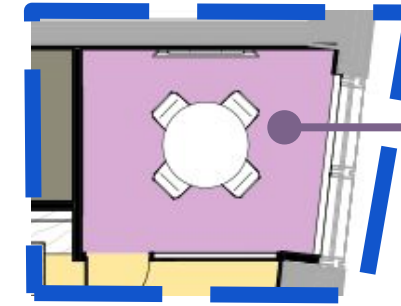


## Community Room

- 100 seats lecture / 54 seats at tables
- Sink for crafts
- Picture rail for rotating display

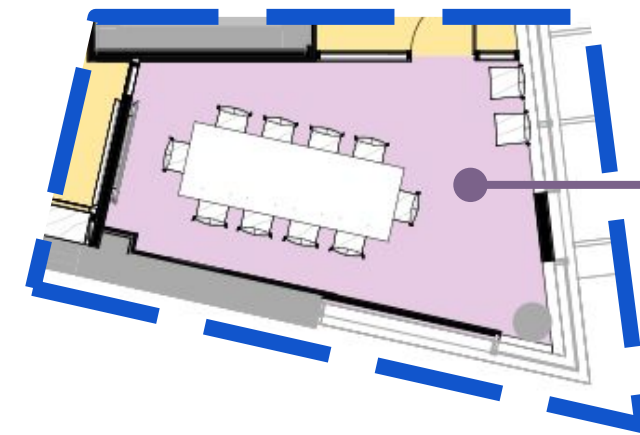
## Classroom

- 18 Seats at tables (can be reconfigured for large meetings)
- Sink for crafts



## Study Room

- 4 seats at table

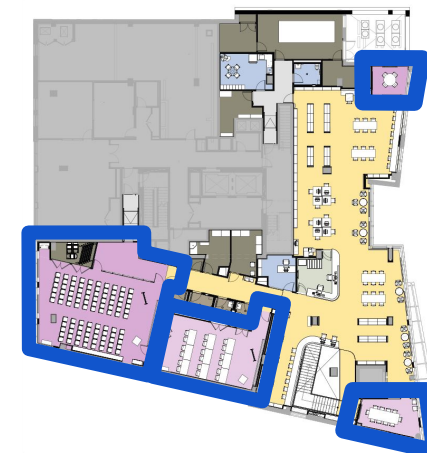


## Conference Room

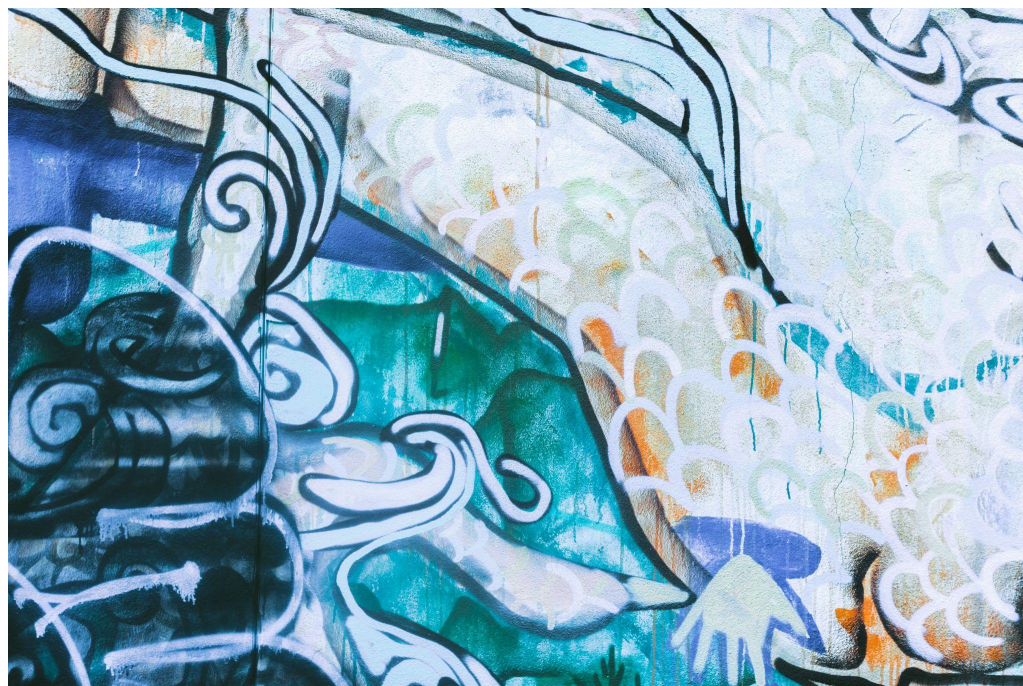
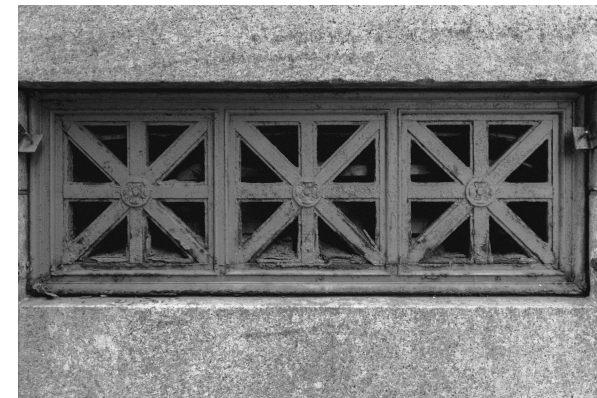
- 10 seats at table

## All Rooms

- Reservable
- Videoconferencing



# MATERIAL PALETTE INSPIRATION



# ENTRANCE



# LIBRARY COMMONS



# LIBRARY COMMONS



# TEENS



# CHILDREN



# STORY AREA



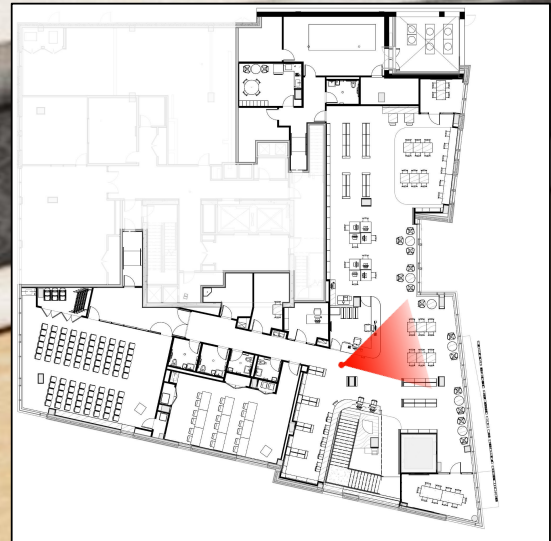
# STAIR AND ELEVATOR TO SECOND FLOOR



# ADULT READING ROOM



# ADULT READING ROOM



# GATHERING AND MEETING SPACES



Community Room



Conference Room



# “PERCENT FOR ART” PROGRAM



# MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE AND THE BOSTON ART COMMISSION

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The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture public art team manages all phases, daily operations, and duties related to public art projects sited on or proposed for City of Boston property in collaboration with community members, and colleagues at the City of Boston, and the Boston Art Commission (BAC).

The BAC is an independent board that advocates for the creation of innovative and transformative art and promotes its accessibility to enrich the lives of Boston's diverse citizens and visitors. The Art Commission advises, supports, and consults with artists and communities, City departments, and others. It commissions, approves, and conserves the City of Boston's collection of art and historical artifacts.



Artist Sabrina Dorsainvil installing the mural *Together We Care and Create* at the Beethoven Elementary School as part of the City's A Canvas of Culture program, 2025

# PERCENT FOR ART

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The Percent for Art program is an initiative of Boston Creates. The program demonstrates the City's commitment to sustainable funding for the arts by setting aside one percent of the City's annual capital borrowing budget for the commissioning of public art.

This program, alongside the Artist-in-Residence Program and Transformative Art initiatives such as the grant-funded program *Un-monument*, helps position Boston as a city that values and invests in a new generation of artists.

Beyond integrating public art in City capital projects, the Percent for Art program engages with other city agencies and municipal partners on best public art practices, and demonstrates the value of high quality public art.



*Story of an Ancient Vase*, by Bryan Beyung, 2019

# PUBLIC PROCESS FOR PUBLIC ART

Artworks proposed or commissioned for City of Boston properties, whether through Percent for Art and other processes, are reviewed and discussed at public meetings of the The Boston Art Commission (BAC). The BAC also holds contracts with artists, approves artwork on City land, and conserves the City of Boston's collection of art and historical artifacts.

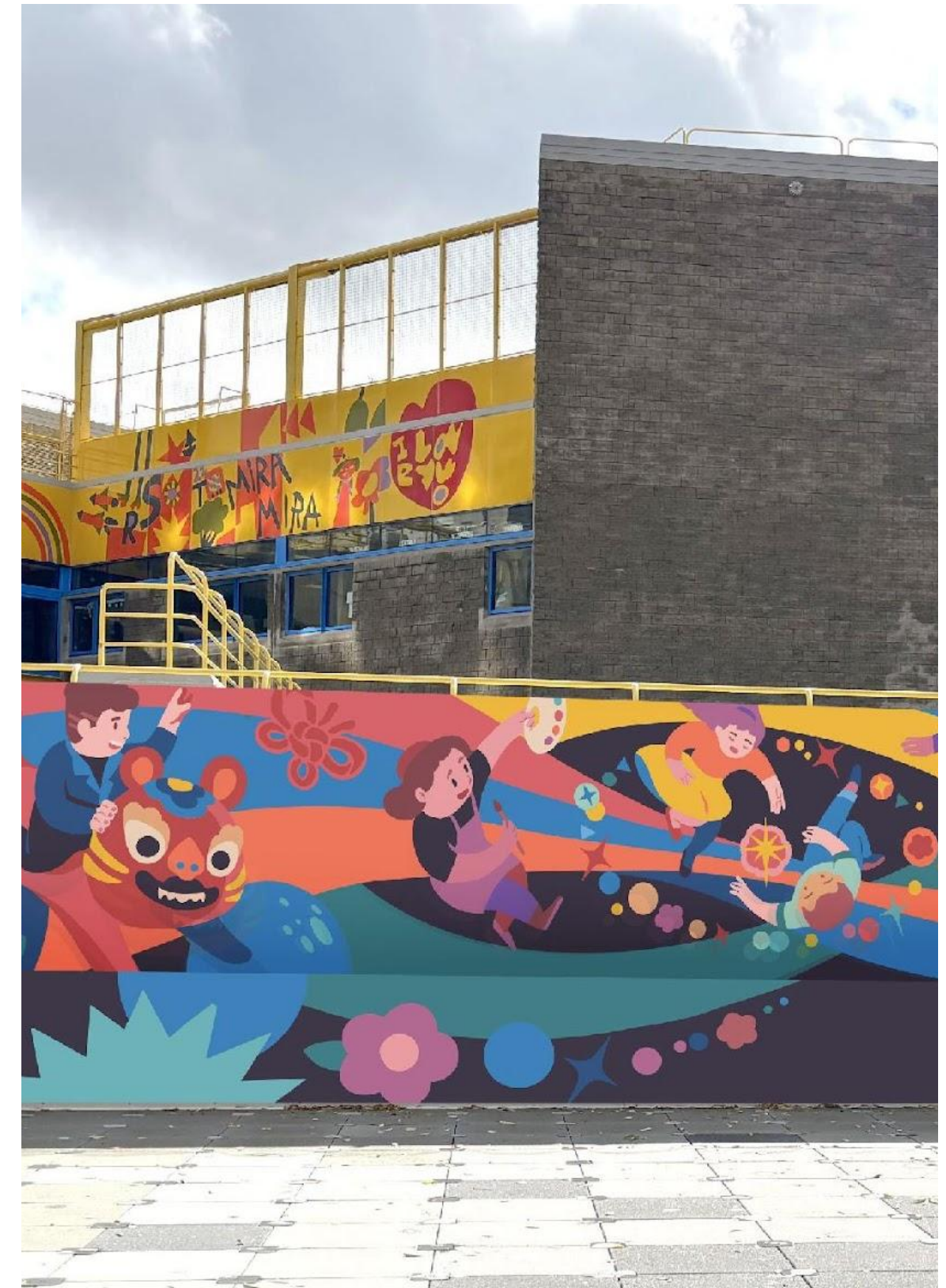
In partnership with Public Art Team, we advise, support, and consult with artists and communities, City departments, and others to ensure that proposed projects on City property meet our standards.

Join us for a BAC meeting, held on the second Tuesday of every month. Find out how to participate on the City of Boston Public Art website. For more information, please reach out to [BAC@boston.gov](mailto:BAC@boston.gov).



*Dewitt Playground at Madison Park* by Marlon Forrester and Studio Luz Architects, 2025. Image courtesy of Jane Messinger

# RECENT PUBLIC ART PROJECTS IN CHINATOWN



# BOSTON BUSING IN CHINATOWN, Daphne Xu



# WORKER STATUES IN CHINATOWN, Wen-ti Tsen



# STAR GATHERERS, Yuke Li



# PUBLIC ART AT THE CHINATOWN BPL

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Artists for public art at the Chinatown branch library will be selected through a **Request for Proposal (RFP)** which is a public **Call to Artists** to submit a specific project proposal to the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. The RFP outlines all the details of the project, including community values, vision, and site use.

We seek innovative and transformative artworks that: engage the community, enrich and enliven the urban environment, are driven by a clear artistic vision, enhance the diversity of the existing collection, respond directly to their specific environment, and whose durability is appropriate to the lifespan of the work.

# HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

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- Participate in upcoming community meetings hosted by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, where project managers will share more about the project and develop the call to artists.
- Join engagement sessions where artists, once selected, will present their past work and meet with the neighborhood to learn about what is most important to them for long-term art at the library.
- Attend a Boston Art Commission meeting online to learn more about the project as it develops and voice your opinions throughout the process, from artist selection to design development and final design.

# KEEP IN TOUCH

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Sign up for the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture newsletter or reach out to us at:

[arts@boston.gov](mailto:arts@boston.gov)

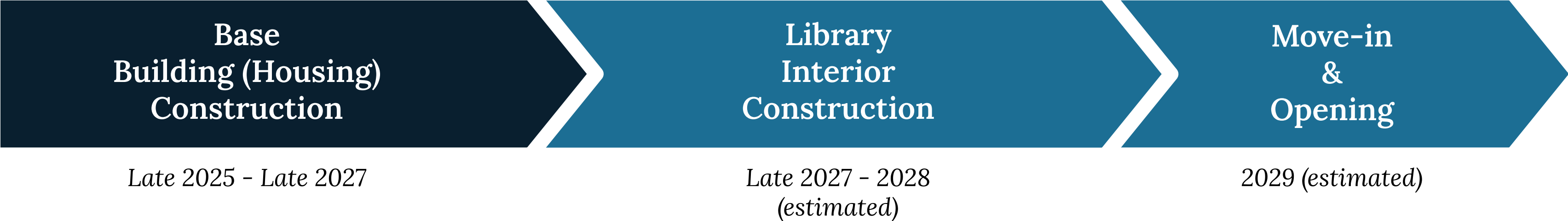
Thank you!

# NEXT STEPS



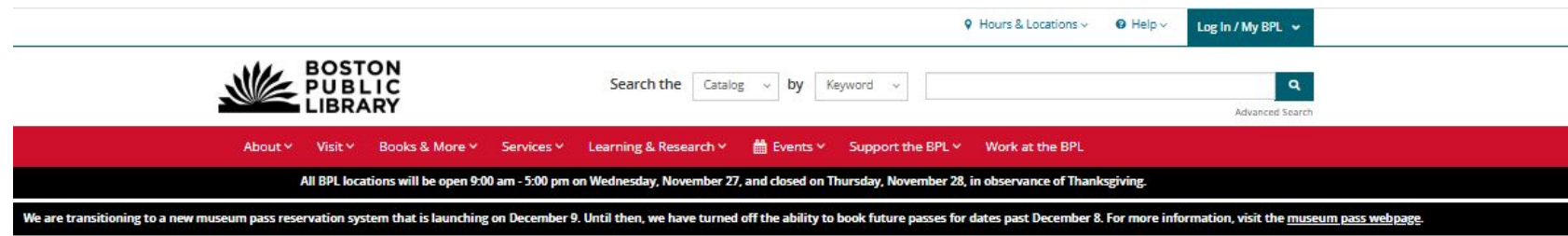
# PROJECT PROCESS

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*BPL will communicate project status updates electronically*

# QUESTIONS & COMMENTS



## Chinatown Branch Project

[Hours & Location](#) [About the Chinatown Branch](#)

In FY20 review of viable sites will continue for a permanent location for library services in Chinatown. This site review will utilize information from the 2017 Chinatown Library Services Planning Study and feedback from the temporary library space.

The temporary Chinatown Branch opened in February 2018, fulfilling a long-term community goal to restore library services to the neighborhood. The branch provides a community gathering space, a place to study and learn, and access to computers and the internet.

### Project History

- [Chinatown Library Services Final Report 12-29-17 \(PDF\)](#)
- [2017-10-24 Final Community Meeting \(PDF\)](#)
- [2017-07-18 Final \(PDF\)](#)
- [2017-04-25 1st Community Meeting Presentation \(PDF\)](#)

### Chinatown Branch Improvement Feedback.

We look forward to your feedback on our projects and will be glad to answer any questions you may have.


\* indicates required fields

Name

First  Last

Email

Feedback \*



Feedback can be issued through the project page:

<https://www.bpl.org/chinatown-project/>

Written comments or questions can also be directed to:

**Priscilla Foley**

Director of Neighborhood Services

617-859-2233

[pfoley@bpl.org](mailto:pfoley@bpl.org)



# THANK YOU!

