



Omaha Public Library
System

Citywide Library
Facilities Plan

2023 - 2043

City of Omaha

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Acknowledgments

Omaha Public Library thanks the over 5,000 community members who contributed to the Citywide Library Facilities Plan. These individuals have ensured that this plan is informed by community needs, opportunities, and aligned outcome goals.

Additional thanks to the committed Omaha Public Library staff members who engaged in workshop sessions to incorporate their deep knowledge of their communities, Omaha's neighborhoods, and the rich array of daily programs they facilitate for their patrons.

The Library Facilities Plan acknowledges Omaha Public Library's Board of Trustees and its Advisory Committee's enlightened advancement of Omaha Public Library's mission to serve the residents of Omaha through connection to people, ideas, and innovative services. With a continuous focus on the vibrant communities that enjoy Omaha Public Library's services, this process was stewarded by the Library Facilities Plan Working Group to ensure that Omaha Public Library's network of places will evolve with a values-driven, community-centric lens for decades to come.

A special thanks to Michael Helgerson and Josh Corrigan, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, and David Drozd, Community Health Development Partners, for their support in providing map and data analytics to help inform the plan's data-driven approach.

For a full list of Community Contributors and Participating Organizations, please see the Appendix.

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Letter from the Mayor

Public libraries are tremendous community assets, welcoming public spaces that open new doors for young readers and life-long learners, creative thinkers, and makers.

Libraries offer connections, access to ideas and emerging technology, and a safe physical space. Libraries can also offer much more.

Omaha is a city of strong neighborhoods, each with unique characteristics and needs. The recommendations in this community-based plan anticipate future opportunities and partnerships for our neighborhood branches to facilitate connections and offer resources and services important to you and your family.

One of my priorities is to improve the taxpayer experience. We do that by listening to you. These recommendations are based on suggestions from 5,000 responses to a community survey, small group discussions, and conversations with hundreds of community leaders and partner organizations to design and enhance the experiences possible at each neighborhood branch over the next two decades.

Good plans are equal parts practical and aspirational. This plan is both. The recommendations also align with our other key priorities: improving public safety, creating job growth and economic development, and managing the city budget.

Together with our Omaha Public Library staff and the Board of Trustees, the recommendations will be evaluated for affordability, urgency, and equity throughout our library system.

Thank you to our partners: Heritage Omaha, Community Information Trust, Omaha Public Library Foundation, the Omaha Public Library



Jean Stothert
Mayor, City of Omaha

Board of Trustees, Margaret Sullivan Studio, and Advancing with Purpose. Omaha has a successful record of public-private partnerships. Building great partnerships with our business, development, and philanthropic communities and our nonprofit sector is the way we get things done.

And, thank you to everyone who has participated in the extensive community engagement process.

I hope you are excited about the future of the Omaha Public Library system!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Stothert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jean Stothert
Mayor, City of Omaha

Letter from the Executive Director

Providing our communities with libraries that reflect their wants, needs, and neighborhoods is vital to the work of Omaha Public Library (OPL). In 2017, we received an update to the 2010 Library Facilities Plan that made recommendations for the library system based on how well current library facilities were meeting community needs, as well as what facilities would be needed in the next 20 years to continue to do so. OPL shared plan priorities with our community and gathered feedback about the level of support for each one. We were thrilled to discover a high level of enthusiasm for the growth of the library system. A financial commitment from the City toward a new downtown branch and a branch in southwest Omaha further set the stage for implementing the facilities plan.

While momentum was on our side, a global pandemic was not. Plans for new facilities paused as OPL shifted to providing library services as safely as possible. As our community began to emerge from the pandemic, facilities plan recommendations were reactivated with the closure of W. Dale Clark Main Library in favor of a modern, resized Downtown Branch.

The proposal for a new central public library at the intersection of 72nd & Dodge introduced another important opportunity, along with the idea of utilizing an Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS). This technology allows for flexibility in reimagining of spaces while still maintaining and growing the collections available across OPL.

In order to create a vision for each neighborhood branch, OPL, the Omaha Public Library Foundation, the City of Omaha, Heritage Omaha and Do Space, with the help of Margaret Sullivan Studio, launched a citywide library facilities plan. Its development included engagement from city and community leaders, OPL and Do Space patrons, and individuals who do not currently use libraries.



Laura Marlane
Executive Director,
Omaha Public Library

Their incredible feedback provided the foundation for a dynamic plan that allows us to evolve over time with our communities, maximize resources, and continue to provide access to the books, services, programs, and spaces that Omaha and Douglas County residents deserve, while moving forward with the integration of Do Space's technology services.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this plan with their time, ideas, and support. We are excited to bring this vision to life!

Sincerely,

Laura Marlane
Executive Director, Omaha Public Library

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The result of an ambitious, nine-month facilities planning process, the 2023 Citywide Library Facilities Plan is an aspirational vision for growth and investment in the Omaha Public Library system over the next 20 years. Margaret Sullivan Studio (MSS) led the process in partnership with the Library Facilities Plan Working Group, OPL staff, partners, and the Omaha community. This plan provides many options for implementation with each option designed to maximize the social impact and utilization of OPL's facility portfolio. The partners present this plan to the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees for its consideration.



Virtual reality at Do Space.

This Library Facilities Plan builds on OPL's previous facilities plans and is designed to harmonize with and harness momentum from Omaha's historic investment in a new world-class central public library, OPL's new state-of-the-art Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS), and the integration of Do Space's nationally-acclaimed technology programming. This moment provides an exceptional opportunity for OPL to leverage these investments and their resulting efficiencies for all of its branch locations over the next 20 years.

The 2023 plan will enable OPL's facilities to more effectively foster culturally-relevant social, learning, and storytelling experiences for all within the community. OPL can utilize the plan's findings and knowledge of local community conditions, histories, and assets to deliver place-based programs and services that result in shared outcome goals, with a focus on literacy, digital inclusion, workforce and entrepreneurship, community health and safety, neighborhood development, and connection to resources.



An Enchanted Dia Celebration at Willa Cather Branch.

Backed by a dynamic, robust set of qualitative and quantitative data, the plan not only proves that library services are essential, but it also demonstrates that community needs, partner opportunities, and city alignments best inform an effective library growth plan.

The plan is mindful of delivering the best investment value for all funders, including the City of Omaha, Douglas County, the state, and philanthropic supporters. With a variety of investment strategies



Community members at the Neighborhood Steering Committee orientation.

beyond what is already included for facility maintenance in the capital improvement program, the plan delivers recommendations for a world-class library system for the residents of Omaha to realize their hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

This 20-year vision for OPL’s systemwide growth focuses on serving the library’s communities, optimizing OPL’s assets systemwide, leveraging synergistic goals with the City of Omaha, and catalyzing equitable community economic development. Highlights of the 2023 plan include:

An Aspirational 20-Year Vision:

Elevates OPL’s Civic Infrastructure Role

Foundational to the 2023 plan is a vision that actuates OPL as the essential connective tissue for a healthy civic infrastructure. The plan positions the library facilities as active anchor institutions that catalyze neighborhood community economic development and foster an inclusive, vibrant, and safe Omaha. It achieves this by connecting OPL’s facilities and programs to amplify and leverage some of Omaha’s greatest assets: community-based organizations and leaders, the philanthropic community, and a collaborative city government.

Amplifies Citywide Development Goals

This plan positions the role and purpose of library facilities to foster shared outcome goals derived

from alignments with OPL’s vision and mission, Do Space’s strengths, and the City of Omaha’s quality-of-life priorities. This plan also enables the City of Omaha to integrate current development projects, including Vision Zero, the Economic Equity and Inclusion Program (EEIP), the City Inclusive Entrepreneurship Network (CIE), the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP), and racial equity initiatives in order to amplify their impact.

A Revolutionary Community-Driven Approach

Omaha’s 2023 plan took on one of the most ambitious community engagement processes in the country for a library facilities plan, with inputs from a broad range of community members — including over 5,000 unique inputs generated from surveys, community conversations, and creative visioning exercises.

A Pioneering Data-Rich Methodology

In addition to the community inputs, MSS’ comprehensive methodology used quantitative and qualitative inputs, including socio-economic and demographic research as well as best-practice applications, that shifted the conventional methodology of library facilities planning from a more abstract reliance on national public library standards, metrics, and benchmarks to one informed by a complex assessment of the conditions, challenges, and opportunities facing Omaha and Douglas County.



Community members at the South Omaha Community Open House at the Simple Foundation.

Investing Strategically to Achieve Quality-of-Life Goals

By expanding reach with an equity lens, prioritizing investment with a data-driven Library Socio-Economic Needs Index tool, and applying a model that allows for projects with small, medium, and large impacts, the plan enables OPL and the City of Omaha to effectively allocate resources for facilities expansion, investment, and strategic outcomes that increase equitable access to quality-of-life services across the city.

Integrating Do Space

This plan delivers an approach to integrate and scale Do Space, one of the first community technology libraries in the U.S., by catalyzing OPL and Do Space place-based innovative collaborations with Do Space programming strengths. Recommendations incorporate the place-based conditions Do Space programs need to foster experiential learning, entrepreneurship, and digital equity/literacy. It also accelerates the vision for OPL facilities developed by OPL staff in 2019 to foster storytelling in all its vibrant forms.

Increases Staff Impact

The recommendations deliver concept plans for the library facilities that enable staff to do their best work and for the buildings to work hard for the community. The concept plans provide a variety of flexible and adaptable spaces that can



Community members at a Community Partner Breakfast.



3-D printing at Do Space.

evolve with the programs, partners, collections, and technologies of each location. With designs that respond to ever-changing communities' interests, libraries are poised to provide customized experiences well into the future.

Partner Activations

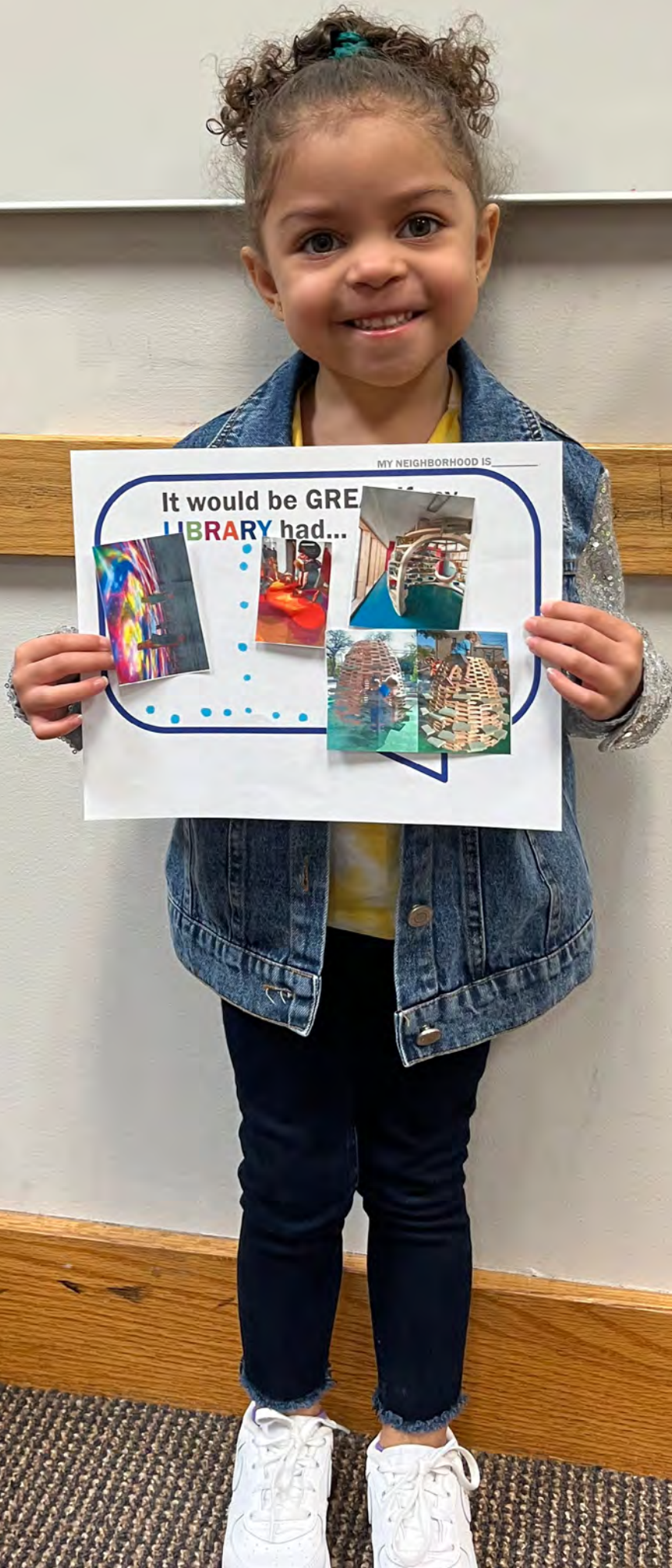
The plan provides a flexible approach to partnering that activates and optimizes the facilities for greater connection to the city's vast network of community-based organizations and nonprofits. Recommendations for partner-ready facilities include providing dynamic meeting and community spaces.

A Model for Ongoing Success

The 2023 plan is designed to promote ongoing best outcomes for Omaha's diverse communities and the library's ability to catalyze economic development. OPL not only achieves this through its continued work in literacy and access to information and technology, but also by leveraging the city's network of community-based organizations and establishing an ongoing communications structure with the Neighborhood Steering Committees and community partners. The plan's data-driven tools enable an approach to decision-making for capital projects that engages OPL and the City of Omaha for more intentional social impact outcomes.

An Aspirational 20-Year Vision

- 1 Elevates OPL's Civic Infrastructure Role
- 2 Amplifies Citywide Development Goals
- 3 Utilizes a Revolutionary Community-Driven Approach
- 4 Pioneers a Data-Rich Methodology
- 5 Invests Strategically to Achieve Quality-of-Life Goals
- 6 Integrates Do Space Meaningfully
- 7 Increases Staff Impact
- 8 Activates Partnerships
- 9 Exemplifies A Model for Ongoing Success



OPL Vision

Omaha is a vital and vibrant city, with Omaha Public Library as an essential catalyst, collaborator and connector.

OPL Mission

**Omaha Public Library
strengthens our
communities by
connecting people with
ideas, information,
and innovative services.**

Background & Opportunities

Background & Opportunities

Building on the Momentum

This Citywide Library Facilities Plan builds on the recommendations of recent facilities plans and current investments already underway. Since the completion of the [2017 Facilities Plan Update](#), OPL has seen significant changes. These include:

1. Relocation of the Downtown Branch and of library administration and genealogical collections to a temporary Library Administrative Building (LAB).
2. Evolution of OPL towards a 21st century public library service model that prioritizes active spaces across the system for community programs and activities.
3. OPL's increased strategic alignment with community partners to inform facilities' future sizes, needs, and potential colocations.
4. Increased public and philanthropic funding opportunities.

Recent investments in OPL provide an especially opportune moment for an ambitious Library Facilities Plan. Thanks to a robust partnership with the Omaha



ASRS system at the Macquarie University Library in Sydney, Australia.

Public Library Foundation, the City of Omaha, Do Space, and Heritage Omaha, OPL is on track to open a new central public library at 72nd and Dodge streets by 2026. The innovative new building will include a state-of-the-art Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS) known as the Collections Hub, and with the planned systemwide integration of Do Space's technology-driven services, Omaha's branch libraries will be able to provide more equitable access to collections and technologies and have new opportunities for activating public space.



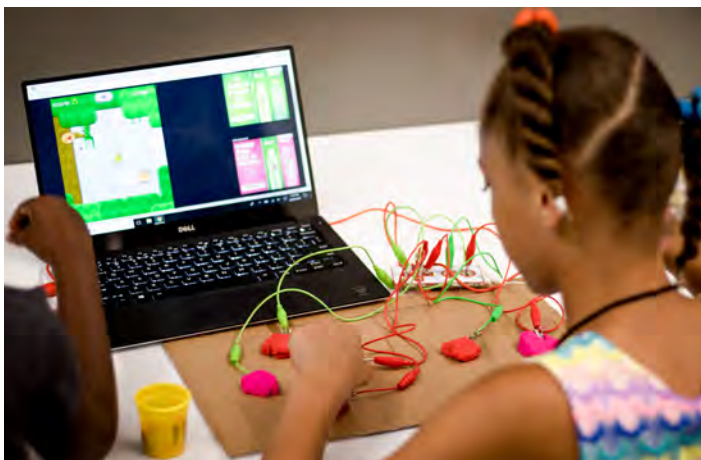
Rendering of new Omaha Central Public Library.

The first in the nation for a public library, OPL's ASRS will nearly double the library's collection capacity in a 4,000-square-foot footprint. This innovative approach increases materials collection capacity and curation for the entire system, and it provides effective distribution of books, technologies, and other collections for every OPL branch. Additionally, the system creates new opportunities for reimagining and activating spaces for people and activities. Each location will continue to have an ample collection of books and other materials interspersed with cozy reading nooks and technology workstations.

OPL's new partnership with Omaha's Do Space, one of the first community technology libraries in the U.S., is integrating innovative technology services with traditional library services systemwide. Expanding the Do Space experience across OPL locations will enable the library to deliver flexible, targeted activities and programs that augment OPL's existing offerings. Programming will include technology-focused classes and creative workshops for all ages and skill levels, innovative technology access, technology assistance, STEM-focused educational programs, mentorship programs, workforce development support, video conferencing capabilities, and more. This will enhance OPL's ability to support digital equity, entrepreneurship, makerspaces, intergenerational learning, and partnership opportunities.

Current Portfolio: Challenges

By 2026, Omaha Public Library will have thirteen public library locations in its real estate portfolio distributed throughout Omaha. Ranging in size from 6,500 square feet (A.V. Sorensen) to 96,000 square feet (Omaha Central Public Library), OPL's approximate 300,000 total square feet of public space will serve a 2024 population of about 585,000 Douglas County residents. With Omaha growing rapidly, and with exponential expansion occurring in the western part of Douglas County, in 20 years the Omaha Public Library system is anticipated to serve approximately 660,000 people. Omaha's rapid growth will stretch OPL's facilities and staff capacities to serve the socio-economic challenges of the county as a whole.



Innovative Do Space programming.



Refreshed teen space at South Omaha Library Branch.

Challenges facing OPL's branch locations include their building size to community served ratio limitations, inefficient interior layouts, and needed updates to fully support evolving community needs and aspirations. The process in creating this plan confirmed that OPL's facilities are well-maintained by the City of Omaha, and all locations have the potential to more effectively impact their communities positively with an intentional approach to space utilization. This plan maximizes facilities optimization to meet community needs by increasing staff's ability to deliver the innovative programs they provide daily. To expand OPL's capacity and impact while optimizing facility utilization, this facilities plan takes a strategic approach both to serving Omaha's growing population and to synergistically collaborating with the City and community partners for shared goals.

Refresh Investments

Public facilities require continued public investment for basic maintenance and operations. Facilities that are as highly utilized as Omaha Public Library's branches continually need to renovate and replace those well-loved furniture pieces and well-worn carpet areas, refresh walls with paint, and upgrade lighting for increased sustainability standards.

Over the past few years, OPL has implemented investments in the branches that have had great impacts. OPL replaced almost all of the shelving at A.V. Sorensen Branch, refreshed end panels to showcase collections, added children's interactive

playsets, and replaced most of the furniture. At South Omaha Library, family and teen spaces were reconfigured to better fit the spaces to the community’s usage needs. OPL reorganized the layout at Charles B. Washington Branch to relocate computers and allocate more space for children and families with updated flooring and new furniture. These small-scale annual renovation projects bring pride to community residents and serve diverse learning needs as each branch expresses the unique character of the community it serves.

The City of Omaha has been an excellent steward of its library facilities. Even with a high level of commitment to maintenance and operations, all public buildings should be evaluated for larger infrastructure investments at their 30-year mark. Currently, all of OPL’s branch locations will hit this building age within 20 years of this report.

Aligning Maintenance and Vision Investments

To better understand expected maintenance and investment costs, the 2023 plan applied

the Facilities Condition Index (FCI) to OPL’s facilities portfolio. The FCI is a benchmark in the facility industry to objectively assess the current and projected condition of building assets and anticipate future infrastructure investments in relation to maintaining the buildings for health and safety. FCI is calculated by the total cost of the existing maintenance of a facility divided by its current replacement value.¹

In the 2023 plan, the FCI illustrates that even without implementing a community-driven vision, OPL’s facilities will require an investment due to routine public facilities maintenance over the next 20 years. This investment maintains the facilities at their current standards by providing basic building safety and functionality.

Anticipating future facilities needs, it is both responsible and prudent for the City of Omaha and OPL to align maintenance investments with the 2023 visionary plan. Thus, OPL has the potential to increase impact for all residents of Omaha with a greater return than the cost of investment.

Branch	Total SF: Library	Year Opened	Year Renovated	30 Year System Upgrades
Florence	7,412	1976	2010	2040
Washington	16,675	1972	2006	2036
Benson	20,300	1946	1998	2028
Central	96,000	2026	-	2056
A.V. Sorensen	6,495	1976	2009	2039
Downtown	30,000	2023	-	2053
Willa Cather	11,477	1956	-	1986
South Omaha	21,050	2008	-	2038
Millard	31,360	1981	1999	2029
Swanson	24,495	1966	2010	2040
Elkhorn	7,893	1996	-	2026
Saddlebrook	14,155	2009	-	2039
Abrahams	7,893	1988	2011	2041
Southwest	-	-	-	-

This diagram illustrates the current Omaha Public Library buildings, their size, age, and recommended dates for major infrastructure upgrade investment.

¹CIOB, BSRIA, IHBC, CIAT, ECA and APM. (2022, August). Facility Condition Index FCI. Designing Buildings - The Construction Wiki. https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Facility_condition_index_FCI#Defining_the_facility_condition_index

Methodology

Methodology

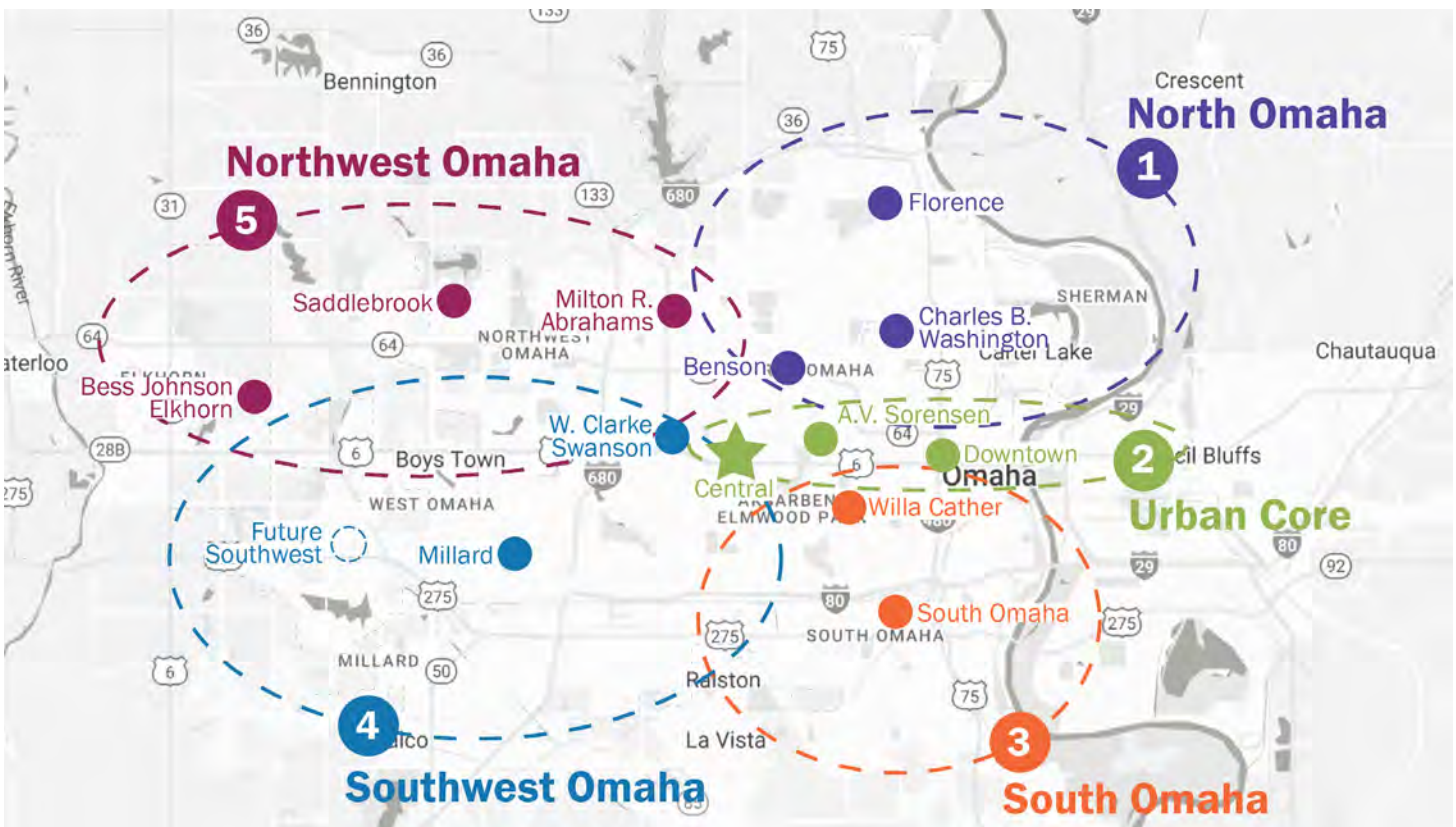
Over a nine-month period, the 2023 Library Facilities Plan employed a complex and comprehensive discovery, engagement, and planning process, utilizing a methodology focused on community co-creation and collective impact to drive development of a plan for current and future capital projects.

Robust Community Engagement and Collaborative Citywide Leadership

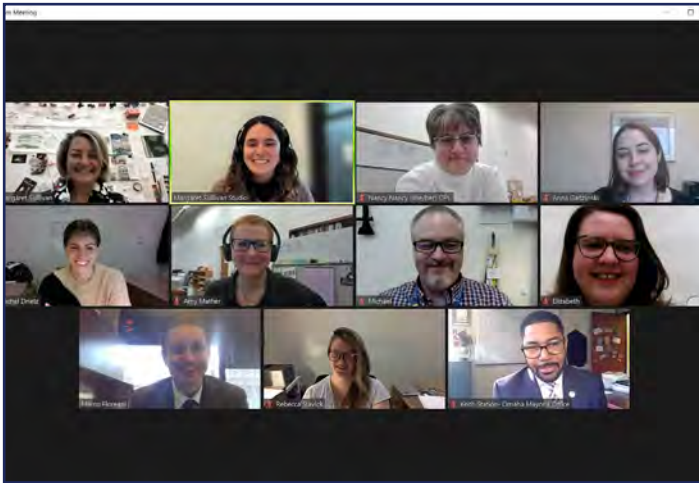
Margaret Sullivan Studio facilitated this iterative engagement and planning process led by the Library Facilities Plan Working Group, which was composed of staff representatives from OPL, Do Space, the City of Omaha, and Heritage Omaha. The process involved input from and engagement with over 5,000 community members, 200 partner

organizations, and five Neighborhood Steering Committees (NSC), composed of OPL branch managers; elected representatives; and local educational, nonprofit, and community leaders. The NSC structure was organized around five regions: the Urban Core, North Omaha, South Omaha, Northwest Omaha, and Southwest Omaha.

The Working Group used a combination of strategies for community engagement and input including six community open houses, five NSC workshops, four leadership workshops, two community partner breakfasts, and a citywide community survey. The Leadership Team met regularly, including bi-weekly calls to assess inputs and learnings, and to refine strategies for engagement.



Map representing the five regions of Omaha used to organize the Neighborhood Steering Committees.



The Library Facilities Plan Working Group on a virtual bi-weekly call.

Guiding Principles for Facilities Transformation

The Working Group was critical in upholding guiding principles across the entire research, community engagement, assessment, and planning process. These principles derive from the vision, mission, and values foundational to OPL and Do Space, the Healthy Community framework, and the City of Omaha’s priorities for quality-of-life, equity, and economic opportunity for all:

- **Center the community experience:** Design places that celebrate diversity, reinforce community pride and identities, welcome all users, and facilitate socio-economic mixing.
- **Meet the community’s learning needs:** Provide learning and growth experiences and environments to accommodate all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels.
- **Equitably distribute 21st century service models:** This includes access to technology, programming, and Do Space offerings to provide superior services across the system.
- **Catalyze the City of Omaha’s quality-of-life and equity development objectives:** As an elemental part of the City’s social infrastructure, provide the places and relationships to augment the City’s goals.
- **Amplify community social impact:** Collaborate with community partners by providing access to spaces and knowledgeable, connected staff.

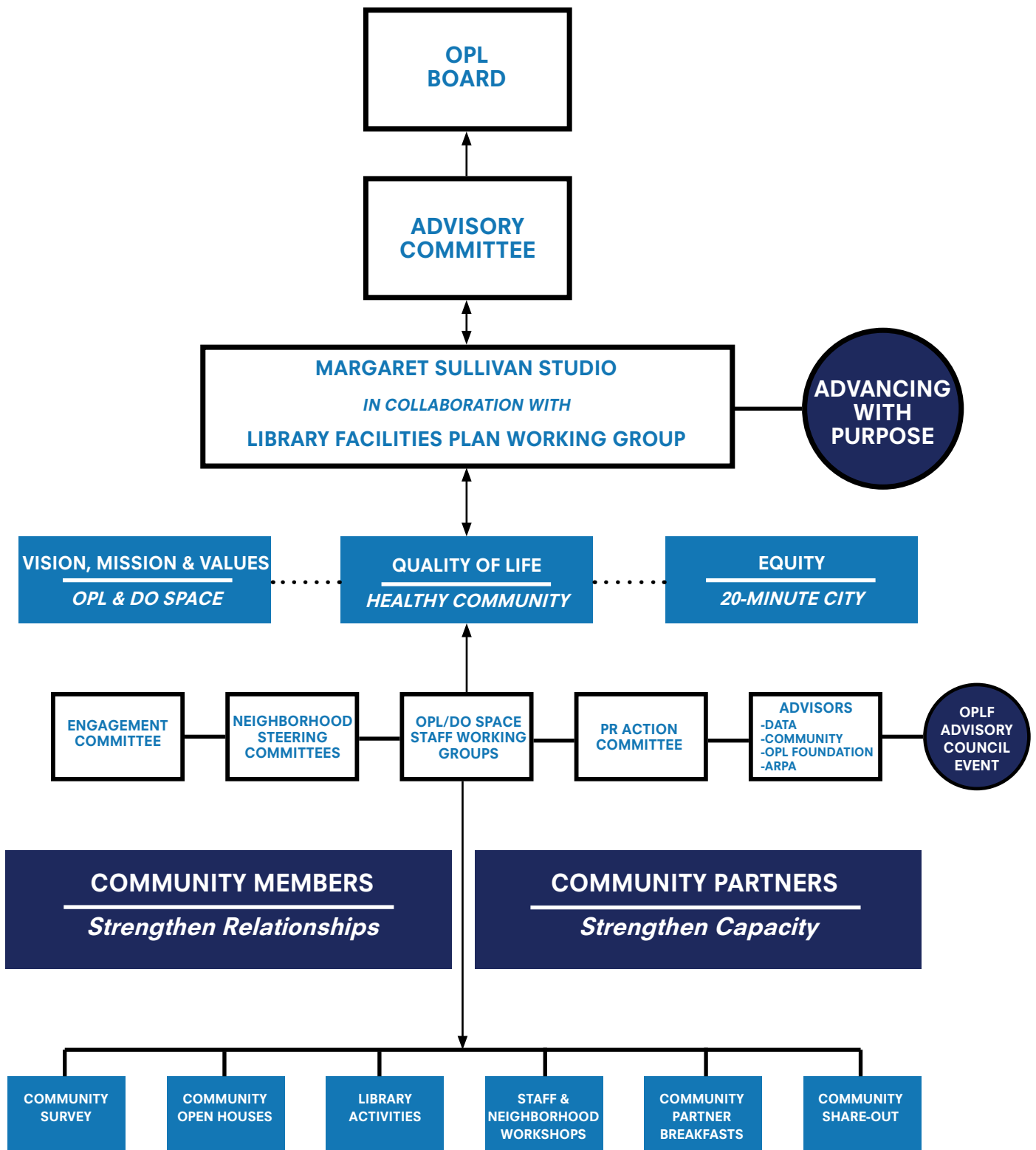
- **Elevate OPL staff to do their best work:** Provide flexible environments that enable staff to be creative, collaborative, innovative and adaptable to the community’s needs.
- **Maximize OPL’s strategic goals:** Serve community members daily, and expand reach and impact throughout Omaha to ensure its facilities continue to serve as essential anchor institutions for the next century.
- **Incorporate urban planning best practices:** Consider transit needs and 20-Minute City principles to enable branch locations to deliver maximum economic development impact.
- **Advance the Healthy Community framework:** This is composed of goals for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion; civic health, economic health, cultural identity, educational health, and personal health.
- **Activate OPL’s public assets to best serve the public good:** Optimize OPL’s buildings for community impact and partner activation.

New Critical Inputs

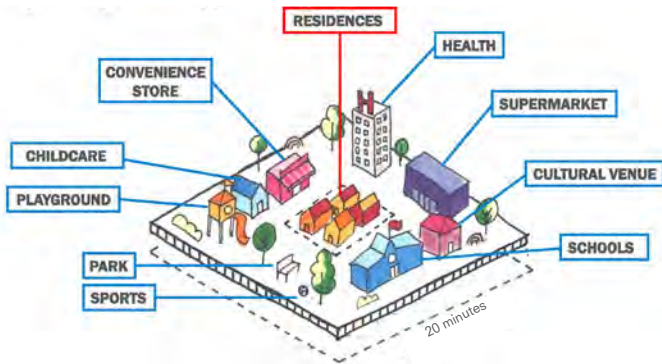
Building on the criteria for growth and expansion established in the 2017 Facilities Plan, the methodology for the 2023 plan incorporated a wide range of research, input, and data. This approach was designed to address the dynamic changes facing Omaha, to integrate industry best practices, and to create a flexible, future-focused plan.



Healthy Community Framework



Organization chart of the Library Facilities Plan process.



Example of 20-Minute City principles.

Data-Driven Research

The 2023 plan is distinctive as a facilities plan in its application of a robust set of qualitative and quantitative data encompassing a broad array of contextual inputs about life in Omaha and Douglas County, from housing and transportation to socio-economic conditions, high school education rates, and partnership opportunities.

This data-driven approach incorporated current data from over a dozen resources, such as Community Health Development Partners and Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), to generate a dynamic and customized tool, the **Library Socio-Economic Needs Index**, to assess and prioritize facilities initiatives and investments.

Best Practices

The plan included research on national library models and case studies to support best practices for colocations, innovative development models, and scaled investments. This work examined a flexible distribution of services based on industry trends, including mobile services, pop-ups, kiosks, partnerships, leased spaces, and colocations as strategic facilities growth opportunities. With the space efficiencies realized through the Collections Hub, spaces allocated to vibrant programming and activation can be increased to meet best practices for public space allocation.

Expansive Engagement for Input

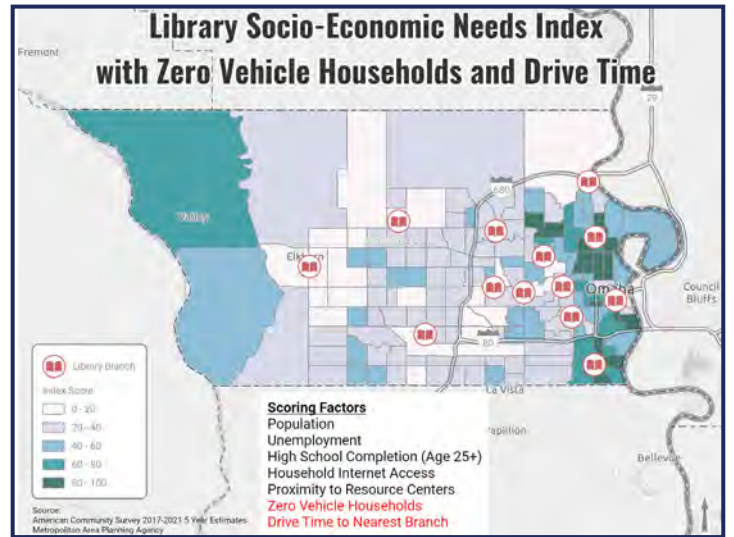
The 2023 Library Facilities Plan sought diverse perspectives across a broad range of community members on the programs, activities, collections, tools, and technologies that support their needs and aspirations. This included:

- Engaging community leaders through the Neighborhood Steering Committees in sustained dialogue and community co-creation to envision future programs and services.
- Engaging City and Library leaders in a prototyping workshop session to model an innovative collective impact approach to capital investment.
- Engaging community partners to envision innovative future programs, services, and places that would advance community development.
- Assessing utilization of Do Space's 90,000+ membership roster to equitably redistribute services throughout OPL's system.

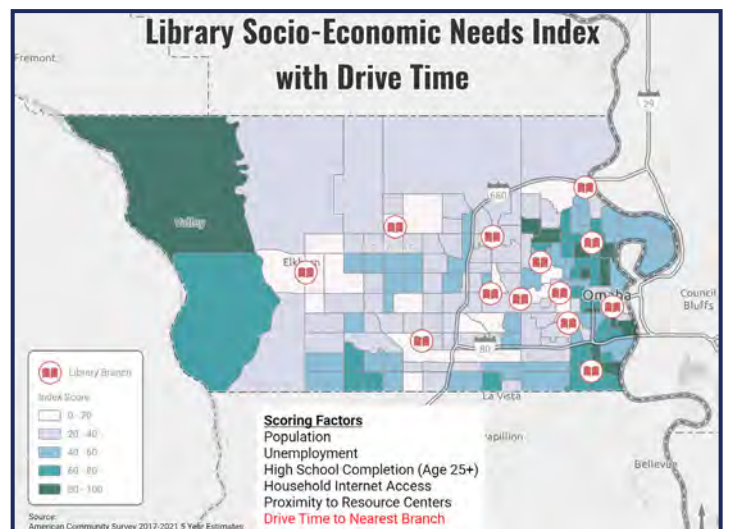
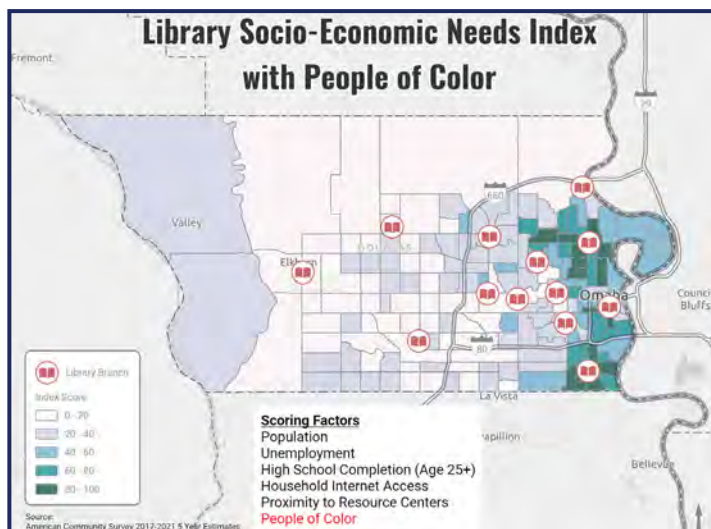
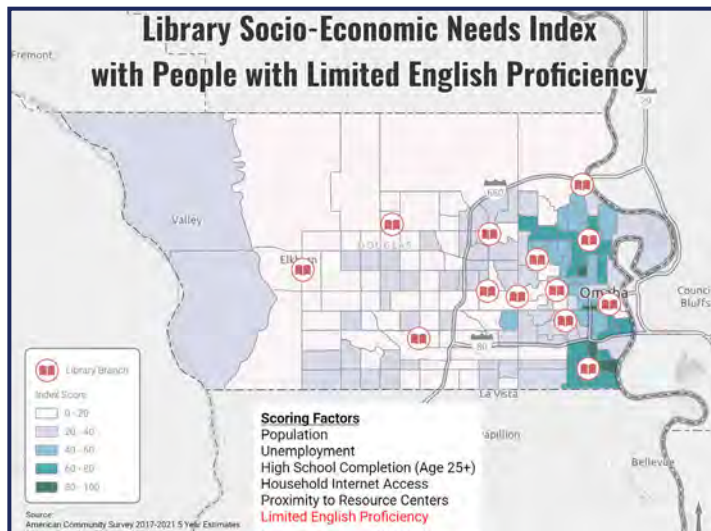
Informed Analyses

This foundation of data-rich inputs and broad engagement enabled an informed analysis of OPL's existing facilities and library utilization to identify ideal distribution of services for optimal impact.

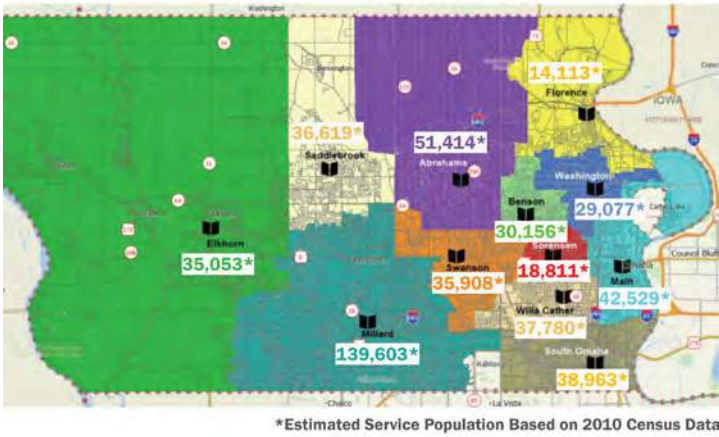
Central to this approach is the plan's Library Socio-Economic Needs Index, a data-driven prioritization system. The index is based on socio-economic measurements with a weighted set of variables, including a spectrum of social, economic, and equity factors: population density; library locations distances factoring in drive times, public transportation routes, and multi-modal access; high school completion rate; household internet access; proximity to job centers, recreation centers, and community centers; vehicle availability; English proficiency; race/ethnicity; and disability status.



Library Socio-Economic Needs Index: the map on the left shows the highest needs based on basic scoring factors of population density, unemployment rate, high school completion rate, households with internet access, and proximity to resource centers like an employment center or community center. The map to the right shows how the areas with highest needs changes when we add households with zero vehicle access and the time it takes to drive to the nearest library branch.

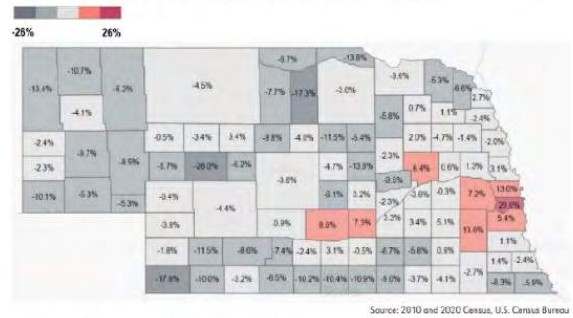


Omaha Public Library INCLUSIVE Branch Service Areas 2017



OPL Branch Service Areas (2017) & Population Served (2010)

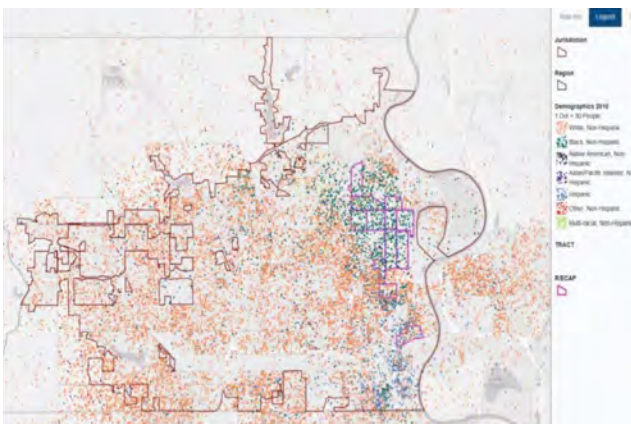
Figure 1: Since 2010, Nebraska's population has increased 7.4% but 69 counties have lost population
Percent change in population 2010 - 2020 | 2020 total population - 1,961,504



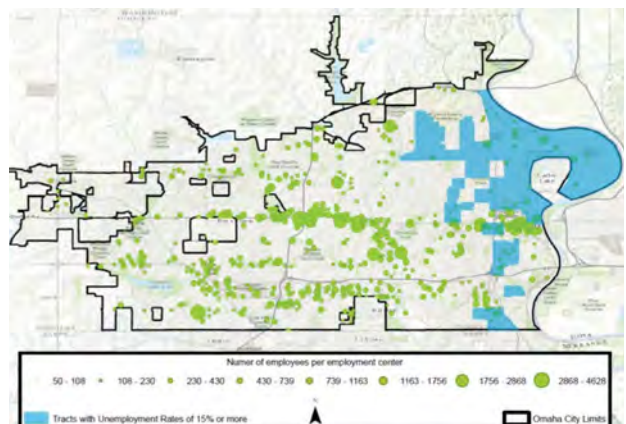
DOUGLAS COUNTY POPULATION:

Year	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Population	416,444	463,585	517,110	584,526	615,383	643,724	660,606

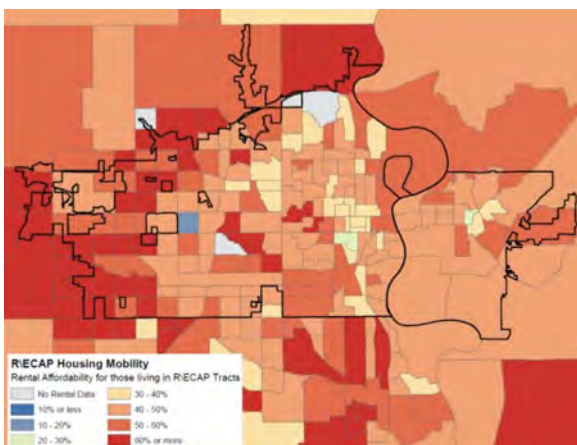
Population Increase of Douglas County



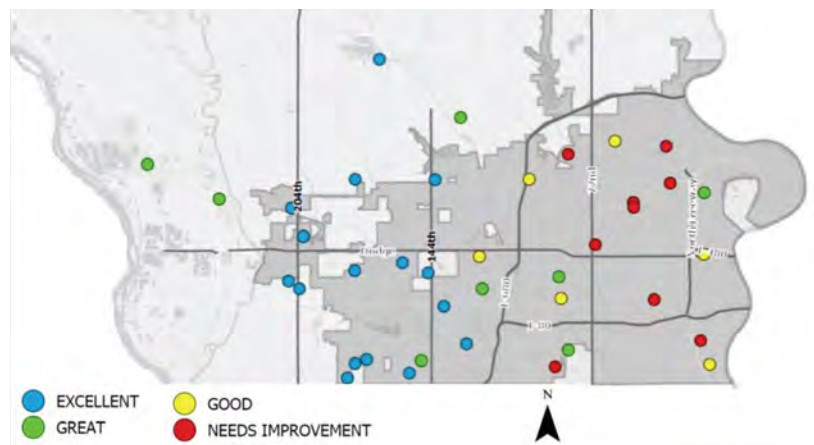
HUD Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Map



Employment Centers & High Unemployment



Housing Mobility



AQuESTT Public School Performance Ratings
(High Schools & Middle Schools in Douglas County)

Utilizing Local Knowledge & Resources to Align Outcome Goals

1. Heartland 2050 Action Plan (2014), Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
2. Heartland 2050 Vision (2014), Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
3. Core Customer Intelligence, Public Library Reach, Relevance, and Resilience (2016), Marc Futterman and Danielle Patrick Milam
4. Landscape Listening Report (2020), Omaha Community Foundation
5. Covid-19 Snapshot (June 2020), Voices for Children Nebraska
6. Population Projections for Nebraska Counties 2020 to 2050, University of Nebraska Center for Public Affairs Research
7. Kids Count in Nebraska Report (2021), Voices for Children Nebraska
8. Greater Omaha 2040 Remix (2021), Greater Omaha Chamber, United Way of the Midlands, Latino Center of the Midlands, Urban League of Nebraska
9. OPL Annual Report (2021), Omaha Public Library
10. Do Space Investor's Report (2021), Do Space
11. Urban Core Housing Data Book (2022), Prepared for the Greater Omaha Chamber
12. Transportation Improvement Plan (2022-2027), Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
13. Annual Report (2022), United Way of the Midlands
14. North and South Omaha Economic Recovery Coordination Plan: Public Engagement Summary (2022), Olsson, Lamp Rynearson, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, Iconic Consulting, B2Lab, Inc., Canyon Research Southwest
15. Urban Core Strategic Plan (2022), Greater Omaha Chamber, Urban Core Committee, HDR





Library of the
FUTURE
Vision
Board

MY NEIGHBORHOOD IS _____

Mary

First, write down three words that you want the library of the future to feel like when you walk in. Then, use magazines to create a vision board that expresses your ideas.



MY FAVORITE PART OF
THE LIBRARY IS
TAKING MY
BACK AND
READING

In the future, community members would like the Omaha Public Library to provide...

- **Community Gathering** •
Outdoor Activities • Quiet Spaces
- **New Technology Courses** •
Adult Social Activities • Cooking Academies • **Arts & Crafts** •
Movie Nights • Performance Spaces • **Language Labs** •
Recording Spaces • Game Rooms
- **Tool Libraries** • Laser Tag •
Homework Studios • Virtual Reality
- **Special Events** • Basketball Courts • Audio Libraries •

Findings & Alignments

Findings & Alignments

The following outlines the 2023 plan’s key findings regarding opportunities for alignment with City of Omaha objectives, community aspirations for their branches, how library investments can address demographic and equity issues, and how an investment and growth plan can optimize resources for maximum impact.

Aligning with the City of Omaha

Aligned with the objectives and developments of the City of Omaha, this plan’s core strategy is to enable the City and OPL to collaborate through a strengthened and coordinated effort. The City’s quality-of-life and equity values are an integral part of the guiding principles that directed every aspect of this plan’s development, including neighborhood safety and inclusive economic development. Data on Douglas County’s demographic growth and population shifts, as well as transit access issues, are all factored in to ensure OPL’s facilities team can look ahead to how they can generate positive change for their communities. The plan embraces the City’s and OPL’s enormous opportunity to work

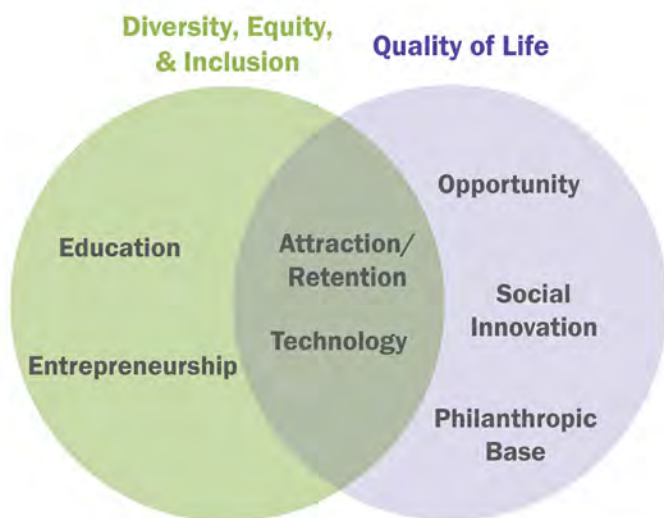


Diagram illustrating the value in both a central library and a neighborhood library experience.

together to usher resources for shared outcome goals. It offers a pathway for strategically using facilities investments to activate neighborhoods and smart growth with a focus on literacy, digital inclusion, workforce and entrepreneurship, community health and safety, neighborhood development, and connection to resources.

A System of Vibrant Neighborhood Hubs Activated by Strategic Partners

During the Library Facility Plan’s workshops and community open houses, residents indicated they like the idea of having a central destination library and still very much want and love their neighborhood branches. They see the new Omaha Central Public Library as a vital gathering spot as well as a resource for OPL’s comprehensive services and partnerships. At the same time, the branch locations are valued as unique, vibrant neighborhood hubs. The community survey shows residents desire a combination of traditional and innovative services — they want access to books, and they also want outdoor spaces, community gardens, community kitchens, early childhood play spaces, reading nooks, zones for food trucks, and amenities. This community engagement process also reinforced the understanding that technology access is essential to users and that innovative technology is integral to the 21st century public library.



Community members and leaders’ areas of focus for change from the Greater Omaha 2040 Remix Vision and Plan.

OPL's community partners have indicated they are excited about the opportunity to reimagine collaborations with a more effective framework, enabling all to build new strategic partnerships that expand reach, audiences, innovations, and impact.

Redefining Facilities Standards

When the new Omaha Central Public Library opens, OPL's real estate footprint will be .52 square feet per person. National best practice benchmarks range from .5 to 1.0 square feet per population served. National benchmarks are based on single-use spaces, do not factor in the many local and demographic differences and programming needs that should guide facility design, and do not necessarily prioritize public space for active community use. As OPL grows, it will strive towards meeting these national benchmarks as well as expanding reach with pop-ups, bookmobile services, and partnerships.

This plan focuses on the understanding that library space must be flexible and multi-use, and that each branch location's facility and programming should be a reflection of the profoundly individual nature of each community. This plan's growth and investment strategy is informed by a deep investigation of complex community conditions, with the goal of strengthening strategic partnerships and taking advantage of citywide development opportunities. It also incorporates investments already underway, such as Do Space's integration into the OPL system, which will drive realignment of spaces for future programming for the benefit of all community members.



Community members at a Community Partner Breakfast.



Community members at the Neighborhood Steering Committee orientation.

Therefore, in assessing OPL's facility portfolio, this plan specifically stepped out of the typical library standards mindset and used the community engagement process and contextual data to gather input not just about a specific location's facility issues, but also about the relevant needs of the surrounding community. This approach enables the assessments to be grounded in the communities' perspectives and needs, as well as allows a more innovative exploration of future space use, programming, and partnerships.

Creating Agile Spaces

OPL is creating a new service model that activates the staff to further engage with patrons, de-emphasizes the service desk, and focuses on developing collections, programs, and resources to meet community needs. Facilities must support OPL's focus on a customized recipe of collections and technologies, expanded collections for families and youth, and realigned public space. This means library facilities must also be adaptable and flexible to ensure social, educational, and learning needs are met. Facilities will need to provide a variety of agile spaces that can be modified and activated by programs, partners, and equipment. Using the recommendations illustrated in the Facilities Framework and in the Branch Profiles concept plans, OPL staff and partners will have the tools to activate spaces for the public most effectively.



North Omaha NSC members at a NSC small-group workshop.

The integration of Do Space into OPL's system also incorporates learnings on how to create conditions for experiential hands-on learning, entrepreneurialism, and digital inclusion within an informal learning environment.

Equitable Expansion and Investment Based on Data, Need, Usage and Capacity

The 2023 plan reconfirmed the primary recommendation of the 2017 Facilities Plan Update that Southwest Omaha is underserved with a lack of library presence, and the Millard and Elkhorn branches are experiencing high demand from demographic growth.

Realignment

The 2023 plan not only recommends facilities expansions based on the conventional demographic growth metrics, but also recommends investments throughout the city and at neighborhood branch locations based on the application of the Library Socio-Economic Needs Index, which factors in the socio-economic challenges and opportunities of a community.

Around 70% of the nearly 100,000-square-foot increase of the library portfolio recommended for the next 20 years is allocated to locations in Northwest and Southwest Omaha due to their rapid demographic growth.

To align with citywide quality-of-life objectives, growth and investment recommendations are also based on socio-economic needs and the evolving usage of library branches even when demographic growth is not the driver. Therefore, the Library Facilities Plan also calls for strategic investments throughout the library system for re-imagined library spaces that equitably support specific place-based initiatives over the next 20 years.

Using qualitative and quantitative data and tools for prioritizing investments according to weighted variables, this plan is able to focus expansion recommendations on where there is proven need. The plans range of frameworks and investment tools allow OPL to approach its operational growth through responsible investment decisions that yield the greatest impact.



Community members at the Northwest Omaha Community Open House.

Increased Library Funding Potential to Meet Community Needs

The Library Facilities Plan process proved that OPL could realize its visionary goals given its responsible approach to growth and investment. Space efficiencies generated by the new Collections Hub and other strategic approaches enable OPL to recapture interior public space for multiple uses and expanded programming while still offering ample browsable collections for readers. This plan calls for an increase of up to 100,000 square feet of library real estate.

Alignment with community partners also optimizes library capacity, extending the function of spaces for multiple uses. This plan enables partners, in addition to staff, to easily activate spaces, which reduces the capital needs for partners and generates savings for the whole citywide community ecosystem.

In addition, this plan is designed to maximize funding opportunities by employing a variety of conventional and non-conventional strategies on an ongoing basis that can be realized by leveraging strategic program partners, as well as by engaging city leaders and citywide departments in annual capital planning.

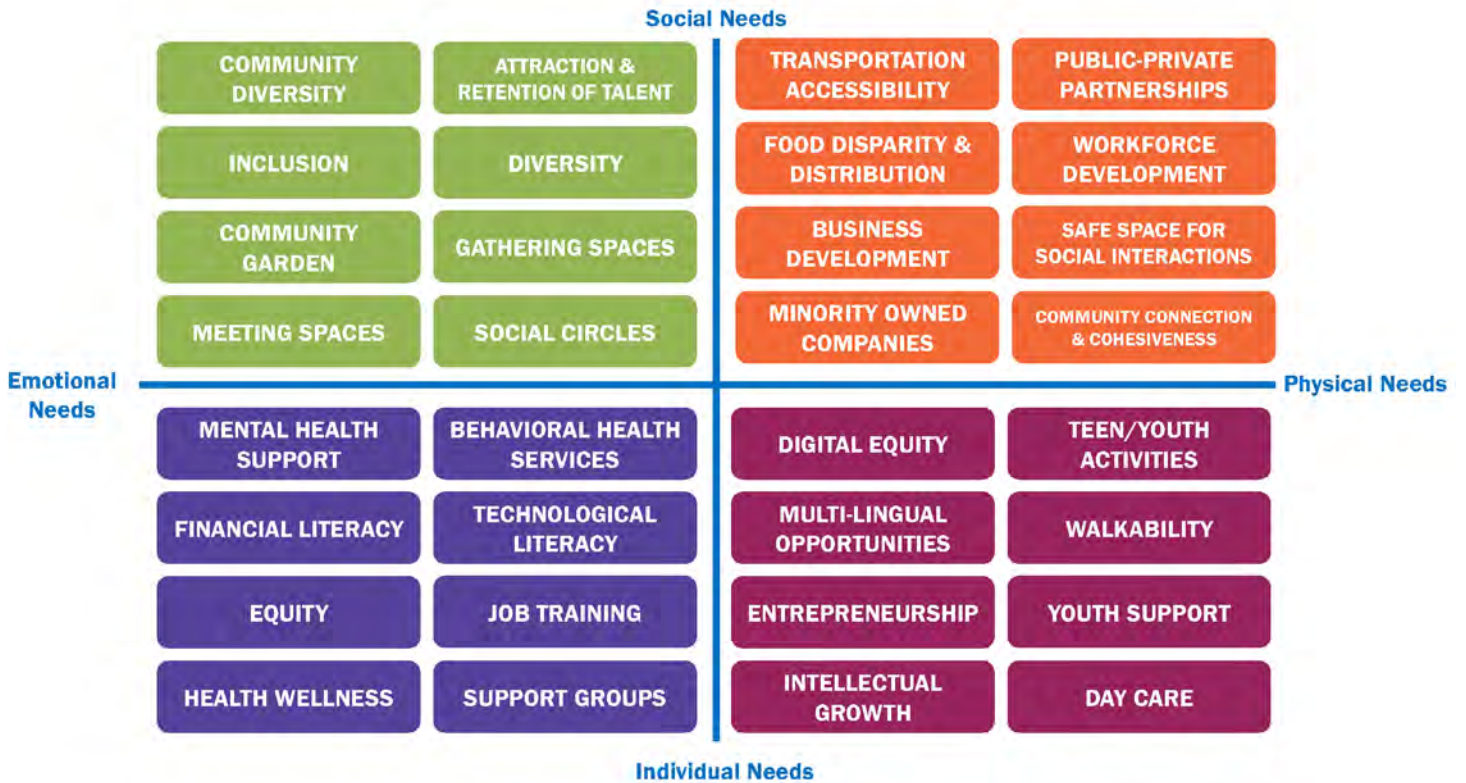
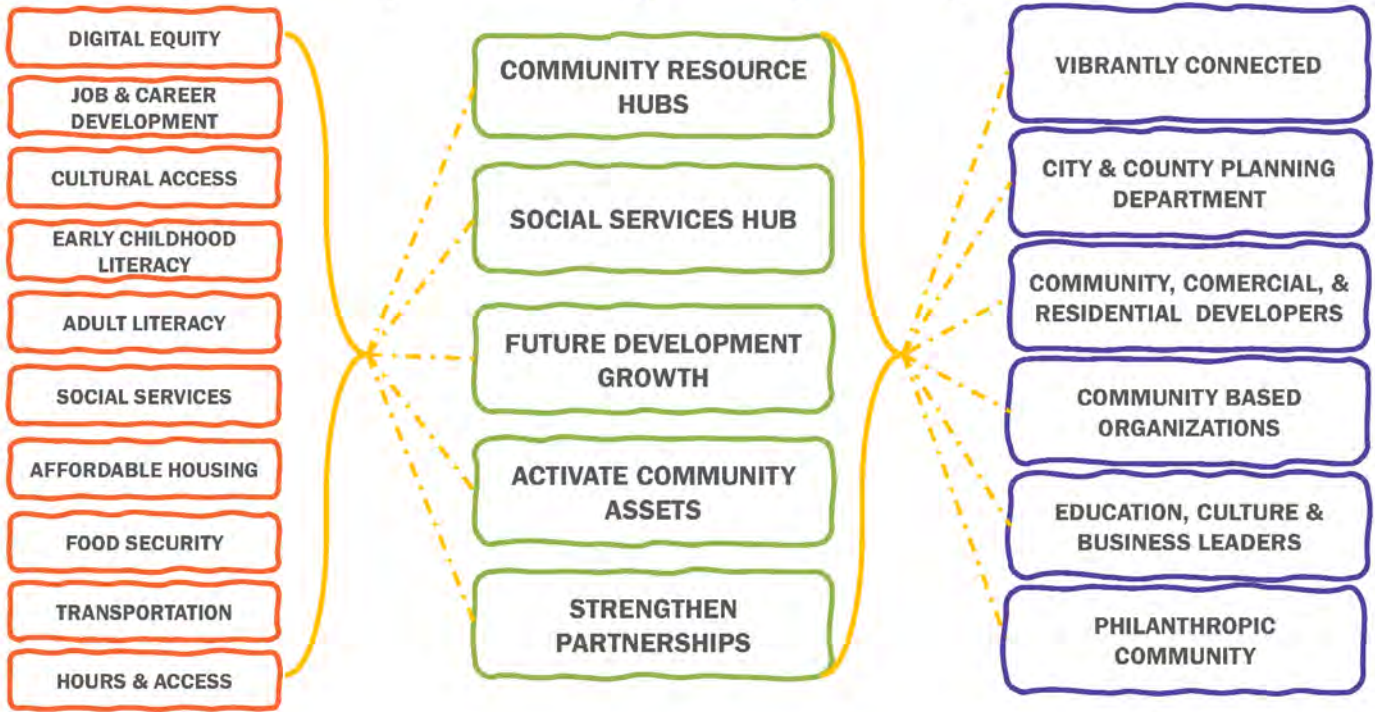
Identifying Alignments

To derive the greatest value for OPL’s facilities investment and growth, the 2023 Library Facilities Plan identifies aligned values, programs, and objectives across the Library system and among community groups and city agencies for greater synergy and impact. The plan:

- Generated community alignments through a study of inputs from partner organizations, the Engagement Committee meetings, the Neighborhood Steering Committees’ workshops, and the leadership and staff workshops.
- Studied the learning objectives, experiences, environments, programs, services, collections and technologies of OPL and Do Space to identify shared place-based opportunities and recommended place-based integrations, and enhancements.
- Identified opportunities for investment and growth based on community strengths, partnership opportunities, and a variety of local funding sources.
- Guides ideal locations of services by considering multi-modal transportation options based on drive times, pedestrian and bicycle access, convenience, and the community’s expectations and lifestyles.
- Guides future locations of facilities and services based on community inputs, guiding principles for inclusive economic development, and citywide development opportunities.



Leadership working together in new ways.



**THE PROCESS
APPLIED THE
NATIONAL HEALTHY
COMMUNITY
FRAMEWORK**

**THE COMMUNITY
IDENTIFIED
PRIORITIES FOR
SOCIAL IMPACT**

**TO GENERATE
AN ACTIVATION
STRATEGY FOR THE
FACILITIES**

**DIVERSITY,
EQUITY &
INCLUSION**

- Accessibility
- Acknowledgment of Indigenous Histories/Peoples
- Affordable Housing
- Anti-Racism
- Awareness of Services
- Childcare
- Civic Engagement
- Community/Coalition Building
- Community Health
- Community Vitality
- Cultural Diversity & Resilience
- Digital Equity
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Ecological Diversity & Resilience
- Educational Attainment
- Entrepreneurial Support
- Environmental Sustainability
- Equal Opportunity
- Gang Reduction

- Good Governance
- Hands-On Learning
- Home Ownership
- Immigrant & Refugee Support
- Intentionality with Purpose/Time
- Joy & Happiness
- Literacy
- Living Standards/Quality of Life
- Mentorship
- Passion-Based Programming
- Passive Programming
- Pockets of Poverty
- Public Transportation
- Resource Sharing
- Restorative Justice
- Safety
- Violence Reduction
- Voices Heard
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

LITERACY

**WORKFORCE &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**DIGITAL EQUITY
& INCLUSION**

**COMMUNITY
HEALTH & SAFETY**

**NEIGHBORHOOD
DEVELOPMENT**

**CONNECTION TO
RESOURCES**

**CIVIC
HEALTH**

**ECONOMIC
HEALTH**

**CULTURAL
IDENTITY**

**EDUCATIONAL
HEALTH**

**PERSONAL
HEALTH**



Juneteenth Camp at Charles B. Washington Branch.

Individual Branch Assessments

Through observations, interviews, and discussions over the course of the discovery and engagement processes, the plan developed assessments for each branch location. These examine current strengths and challenges, what communities especially need from their branches, relevant demographic trends or shifts, and opportunities there might be for aligning resources to enhance services for community impact.

Neighborhood locations are valued as vibrant neighborhood hubs, and provide an infrastructure across the City and County to address equity issues such as digital access, technological proficiencies, and quality-of-life amenities. In many cases, library users want better access to the branches themselves, raising issues about limited public transportation or long drive times, which opens up consideration of mobile alternatives and other innovative solutions to improve access.

The following outlines opportunities identified in response to how the community already uses the facilities, inputs from community surveys, and the deep knowledge OPL and Do Space staff have about the communities they serve. The branches are organized around the Neighborhood Steering Committees structure.

North Omaha

Benson Branch is adequately sized but needs a realignment of the interior to best cater to the ethnically and socioeconomically diverse community, which has a significant need for social services support and basic technology literacy support. Benson Branch is similar to Charles B. Washington Branch in that it has relationships with community partners who are ready to help provide critically needed social, educational, creative, technological, and workforce services that can bolster Benson Branch as the go-to resource for the community.

Charles B. Washington Branch is undersized for its community needs and current usage of the building. The interior layout creates inefficiencies for staff and limits their ability to create ideal conditions for innovative programs that the community needs and enjoys. With increased space and a realigned interior, combined with the nearby North Omaha Transit Center and the supportive network of community-based organizations, Washington Branch has potential to be an even more vital resource for the North Omaha community.

With a new vision, Washington Branch could provide an array of critically needed social, educational, creative, technological, and workforce services for the neighborhood, such as an intergenerational space that combines early literacy and imaginative play space with workforce development tools; environments for small business start-up success; innovative technology tools and collections; a family maker hub; a community greenhouse; and ESL classes.



Storytime at A.V. Sorensen Branch.

Florence Branch and **A.V. Sorensen Branch**

both have opportunities to synergize their existing colocated Omaha Parks and Recreation facilities. For example, the libraries and their community centers currently have different operating hours. Florence Branch is the right size for its usage, but there is a need for more tailored programming for its community, mostly seniors and young families. Realigning the interior of Florence Branch could allow for more innovative technology programming and more youth programs while continuing to provide the print materials the community enjoys.

Urban Core

A.V. Sorensen Branch is challenged by its limited space and location on the second floor of the building. Even though the square footage is limited, circulation numbers are comparable to surrounding neighborhood branches with more space. Sorensen Branch's greatest needs include more private and shared meeting spaces to gather, work, and study, increased access to internet and technology, and improved access to and awareness of this second-floor library.

Downtown Branch, the most recently constructed building, is demonstrating a new service model with its exciting new children's play space and family-centric programming. The branch will continue to serve its current community as well as welcome new community connections.



Día Celebration at South Omaha Library.



Make a sock puppet at Willa Cather Branch.

South Omaha

South Omaha Library needs to be analyzed further to examine its relationship to its community and assess how to align more effectively with the neighborhood. Its shared location with the South Omaha Metropolitan Community College campus on the north side of Q Street creates the perception that it is only a library for college students, which may contribute to its underuse. The community is linguistically and culturally diverse with critical needs that the library could better address. In addition to a strong Latino and Hispanic community from a number of Central American countries, the community is composed of a significant population of people of Irish, Italian and Eastern European descent and includes young families and homeschool children.

South Omaha Library can support community needs with tools for technology literacy, multicultural materials, job assistance, social service support, and bilingual programming and staff. Beyond this, the branch has the opportunity to drive greater community engagement with responsive, creative programming such as bilingual services, an urban gardening program, cultural heritage support, and robust technology programming. A distributed service model with pop-ups may help the branch overcome the perception that some view the facility as removed from the neighborhood.



Storytime at W. Clarke Swanson Branch.

Willa Cather Branch has outgrown its building size and needs expanded parking. However, the limited size of the site may prohibit rebuilding and expanding at its current location. A potential new site would need to be as close as possible to the current branch location on Center Street, which provides a much-needed community hub for the neighborhood and critical access for those who utilize the nearby U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

With diverse users, OPL staff creatively devise places for community members to have private interactions, such as phone calls, case worker visits, and family visitations. A new building could better accommodate these needs, as well as provide study rooms, an intergenerational meeting space, more parking, and flexible spaces to support adult programs and an adult learning lab.

Southwest Omaha

Millard Branch's building is adequate in size, but since the location covers a large service area and situated on that area's border, usage of the branch is overwhelming. A potential solution is a new branch in Southwest Omaha to offset the volume of users. This would enable a redesign of the Millard Branch interior space to increase the number and types of meeting areas that are already in high demand. With limited public transportation in the southwest part of the city, most users drive to the location.

The community's needs include a variety of spaces for private meetings, work, and study; technology such as video conferencing capabilities in meeting rooms; computers and printers; and spaces to gather for a variety of activities. Specific strategies to respond to community needs could include expanded family programming, enhanced gardening programs and collections with a seed library and greenhouse, providing stronger Wi-Fi, and creating a spectrum of loud and quiet spaces.

W. Clarke Swanson Branch's size is well-suited to its usage, but a realigned interior could better provide services for its loyal patrons. Its patrons are from the surrounding neighborhoods but many also come from outside the service area, especially from the north and west regions as they stop by in the course of their travels. The community is socioeconomically diverse, comprising both homeowners and renters, and their needs include services for affordable housing, child care, social connection, study rooms, and equitable transit/walkability.

Swanson Branch has the opportunity to strengthen digital resources such as newspaper archives, historical maps and images, and genealogy databases as well as further curate its collections with fiction, mysteries, historical fiction, children/teen/adult collections, games and puzzles to honor what the community already enjoys. Programming for storytelling and writing about Omaha and family history, with a specialized hub for genealogy and local history, could help promote social cohesion.



Penelope Rex Storytime at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch.

Northwest Omaha

Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch is the second busiest library in Omaha's system yet its building is OPL's third smallest in square footage. The branch could benefit from being rebuilt and expanded, which the current site would allow.

In addition to a demand for increased space, Elkhorn Branch's programs are over-capacity and library services could expand to meet existing and growing needs, particularly places for people to meet, socialize, work, study, and tutor.

Elkhorn Branch has the opportunity to become a true hub for community gathering. In response to its creative community, the branch could provide a DIY maker space, arts studio, and performance space. Providing more parking could improve access to the library, and collaboration with Omaha Parks and Recreation could increase activities using outdoor space.

Milton R. Abrahams Branch's building size is well-suited to its community, though the library interior needs to be realigned to better serve its patrons. Its community is composed of working-class members from diverse backgrounds, job seekers, families, people needing technology help, those experiencing homelessness, and clients and caregivers from the nearby Developmental Disability Center of Nebraska.



Music Evoking Stories at Milton R. Abrahams Branch.

The community especially needs basic technology access and literacy support, innovative creation space, programs related to healthy aging and food insecurity, as well as social and governmental services help. The addition of Do Space at this location will activate and engage all ages in community co-creating. Additional changes might include a playground for technologies and new ideas, family and adult programming, an expanded seed library, innovative community co-creation spaces, career preparation and outdoor space for community.



Music and Movement at Saddlebrook Branch.

Saddlebrook Branch's partnership with Omaha Public Schools and Parks and Recreation brings both challenges and benefits. The branch is not able to expand on its site due to its partnerships, even though its high circulation and program attendance would suggest doing so. Public transportation and access to the building is poor, and utilization outside of the Saddlebrook neighborhood users needs to continue to be evaluated. Saddlebrook Branch's community includes young families, including new immigrant families, many from India and Southeast Asia. The Library could better provide places for the community to gather and host events, for senior socializing, and for positive experiences for teens/tweens.

WELCOME TO THE THIRD SPACE!

HOME

Have you checked out something that is **OUT OF THIS WORLD?**

Ask at the front desk to make your star recommendation!

SEARCH THE CATALOG BY SUBJECT

DOG

PRINCE STARR

DOG

SEARCH THE CATALOG BY SUBJECT

HOW TO



Family Computer

Family Computer

DINOSAURS ARE LOOSE IN THE CHILDREN'S AREA!

SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ALL 9 DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS TO DISCOVER WHICH DINOSAUR MADE EACH ONE!

(ASK AT THE DESK FOR A SCRAPBOOK HUNT SHEET!)

DOG STORY Your Own!

Do Space Integration

Do Space Integration

Do Space is the first of its kind in the nation: a free community technology library, digital workshop, and innovation playground designed to foster digital equity and literacy, catalyze innovation and entrepreneurship, and provide exposure to technology. Opened in 2015, Do Space has worked to address some of Omaha's most urgent challenges surrounding digital equity from its easily accessible location at 72nd and Dodge streets.

Do Space's more than 90,000 members enjoy access to resources, technologies, programs, classes, and events. They have free access to powerful fiber Wi-Fi internet, high-end computer stations and software, 3D printers, laser printers, and additional state-of-the-art technologies. Programs, classes, and events appeal to all ages and are focused on project-based experiential learning, such as Little Lab, Kid Coders, Make.Hack.Build., #MakersGonnaMake, Cyber Seniors, Hello Code, Excel-erate, Summer Passport Program, mentorship programs, and the Tech Pack program.



Tech Playground with Omaha Public Schools at Do Space.

Do Space's impact in Omaha has been tremendous. With a primary focus on serving under-connected, low-income individuals, Do Space has provided access to hardware, software, Wi-Fi, and technology classes to ensure the tens of thousands of those in the Omaha area without access to adequate technology have opportunities for education and resources needed to stay competitive in the job market, fully participate in school, and connect with others through technology.

With a secondary focus on fostering innovation, ingenuity, and progress, Do Space supports entrepreneurs, inventors, and creators - providing opportunities for individuals to fully participate in and contribute to Omaha's creative economy. For these members, Do Space provides coworking and networking events, spaces for client meetings, and a venue for passion projects, prototyping, and design thinking.

This impact has garnered national accolades for Do Space, including an award in innovation for racial and social equity from the Urban Libraries Council, and features on NPR's All Things Considered and in American Libraries Design Showcase.



Tech Playground with Omaha Public Schools at Do Space.

The Library Facilities Plan takes the success of Do Space and creates a pathway for rapid expansion to OPL's network of anchor institutions to reach all Douglas County residents. The Do Space integration will provide unparalleled access and exposure to technology for all styles of learners and it will also play a key part in enhancing storytelling in all its vibrant forms. Do Space's planned integration throughout the OPL system will enhance and complement the programming and trusted relationships OPL has enjoyed with its community for over 150 years.

Do Space's success also informs and confirms the placemaking recommendations of this plan: provide the conditions for experiential learning; create spaces that continually evolve in response to developing technologies and community demands; and design physical spaces that foster creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical inquiry.

Activating Do Space at OPL

To envision a distribution of the Do Space experience throughout the OPL system, the plan studied both of the institutions' programs and activities and aligned them with general space types. The analysis shows overlap and gaps that can be filled where programs can be integrated or added to optimize and support the OPL mission. Six exemplary programs of OPL and Do Space are described to show cross pollination.

Exemplary OPL Programs

Storytime

OPL offers various storytimes for youth across the system. There is a storytime program that uses music and movement to promote literacy through song, dance, and play. OPL also does Out and About storytimes in different non-library locations throughout the Omaha metro area. South Omaha Library offers a weekly storytime for Spanish-speakers.

Arts & Crafts Makerspace

OPL offers various opportunities for children and teens to make different craft projects for a hands-on learning experience.

Spark Your Story

Charles B. Washington Branch hosts community members such as artists, activists, and business leaders to share their stories, providing examples for teens to explore storytelling and feel empowered to explore new ways to express themselves.

Common Soil Seed Library

This program shares open-pollinated seeds to spread awareness and information about gardening and seed saving. In addition to the seeds, OPL offers related books, DVDs, and online and in-person classes to supplement learning around gardening.

Book Club Bags

Book club bags are available to all ages and contain seven to twelve copies of a specific book, a notebook for discussion questions, author information, and other materials. Some kits may also contain a spoken CD and a large-print copy.

Partnership Passes

Patron's OPL cards give them access to Omaha-area educational, entertainment and cultural destinations, such as Fontenelle Forest, Heartland Bike Share, Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha's Children Museum, the Durham Museum, and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.



Tech Playground with Omaha Public Schools at Do Space.



Exemplary Do Space Programs

Little's Lab

Do Space offers children two to five years old the opportunity to tinker with projects that engage fine motor skills and a planning-revision process.

Kid Coders

This program fosters coding and computer science interest by focusing on different coding-related and hands-on projects. It is best for elementary-aged children.

Mentor Programs

Do Space offers one-on-one sessions with a mentor to help strengthen basic to advanced technology skills and improve hardware and software understanding.

Cyber Seniors

One of the most popular programs at Do Space, which offers one-on-one help for seniors looking to improve their technology skills.




Tech Kits

Tech Kits are checked out for in-building or at-home use to learn and explore technology on your own. Kits include tech toys, robots, mini programmable computers and simple how-to instructions. These are offered to all age groups.

Lunch and Learns

Do Space hosts various types of sessions to aid technology literacy and workforce development.

There are infinite ways for OPL and Do Space programs to flourish together. The Common Soil Seed Library can provide Little's Lab with a sustainability-focused project. Spark Your Story and Lunch and Learns can become creative networking events. Book club bags can be adapted to include Tech Kits that community members can try in the library or at home. Integrations like these steward OPL's vision to be an essential catalyst, connector, and collaborator for the community.

SMALL [\$]	MEDIUM [\$\$]	LARGE [\$\$\$]
 <p>DO SPACE POP-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary installation or event offering Do Space programs and services 	 <p>DO SPACE PROGRAMMING AND/OR REFRESHED, MODERN TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activating spaces with program or new technology 	 <p>DEDICATED DO SPACE LOCATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within library space with specialty equipment and experimental technology

This matrix illustrates scenarios for successful integration of the Do Space experience into the OPL system through small, medium, and large projects that all create high impact.

OPL EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS

DO SPACE EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS

STORYTIME



LITTLES LAB

ARTS & CRAFTS MAKERSPACE



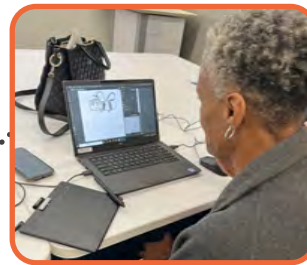
TECH KITS

SPARK YOUR STORY



KID CODERS

COMMON SOIL SEED LIBRARY



CYBER SENIORS

BOOK CLUB BAGS



LUNCH & LEARNS

PARTNERSHIP PASSES



MENTOR PROGRAMS

Community Inputs

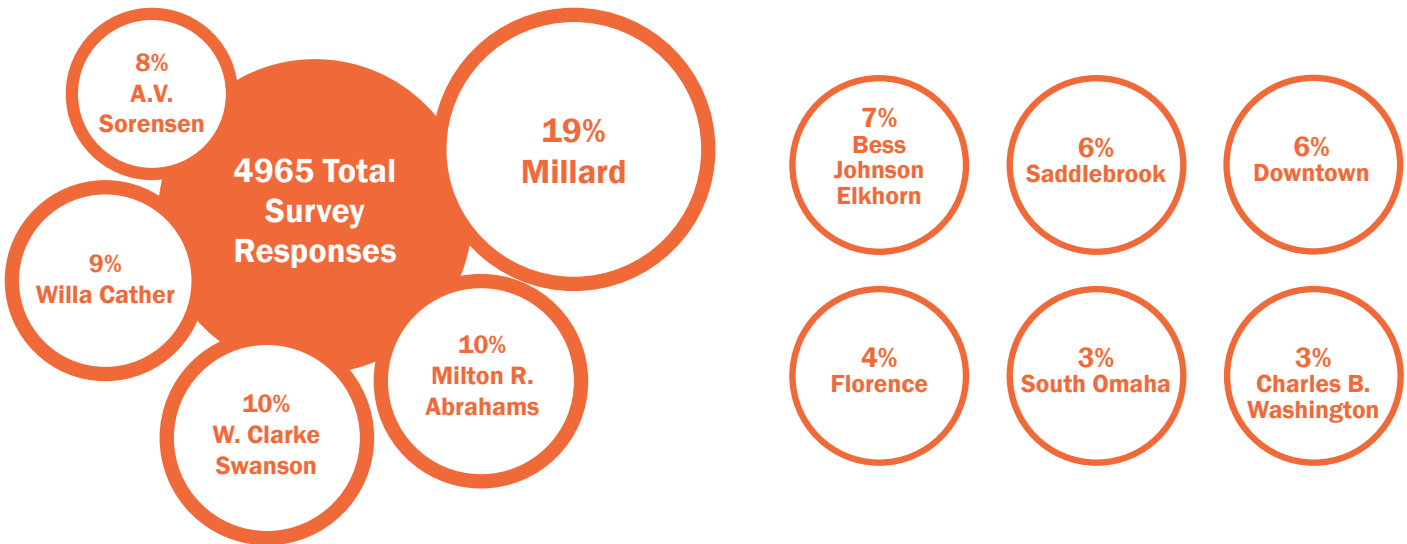
Community Inputs

The ambitious Library Facilities Plan community engagement process produced a tremendous amount of inputs and insights that will help inform OPL and the City of Omaha in prioritizing Library decisions and creating a mechanism for the City

to apply these learnings when considering future citywide library investments. The following pages represent systemwide results of the community survey. The Branch Profiles provide localized details and differentiators for each community.

Citywide Library Survey (February 15th - May 1st)

Survey Response Rate by OPL Branch



A Citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate
Curious
Innovative
Equitable and Inclusive
Accessible

...Omaha!

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Community Member (Meeting Space)

Family or Individual Professional
 Caregiver Reader Maker or Creative
 Volunteer Researcher or Family History Enthusiast
 Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)
 Gardener

1. **Reader** looking to borrow books, attend author readings and book clubs, and / or receive reading recommendations.
2. **Family or Individual** looking for free educational / cultural activities through OPL's Partnership Pass.
3. **Caregiver** looking for books, programs, and technologies, for those in my care.
4. **Gardener** looking for resources or access to OPL's Common Soil Seed Library.
5. **Maker or Creative** looking for access to crafting, laser cutting, 3D Lab tools, software, or studio space.
6. **Professional** looking for a place to network and/or work remotely.
7. **Community Member** looking for meeting space.
8. **Researcher or Family History Enthusiast** looking to access OPL's extensive archive or genealogical collections.
9. **Community Member** looking for internet and/or computer access.
10. **Volunteer** looking for opportunities with OPL, Do Space, and/or other community organizations.

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your library?



1
Community Garden



2
Vibrant Cafe



3
Outdoor Reading Garden



4
Outdoor Community Space



5
Art Gallery



6
Quiet Room



7
Tool Library



8
Reading Nooks

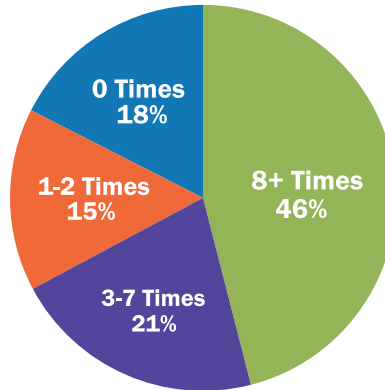


9
Food Truck Zone



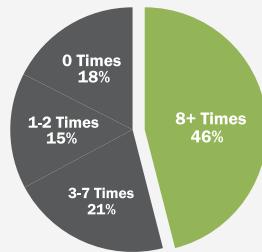
10
Early Childhood Play Space

How frequently have you visited OPL in the last 12 Months?



VISITS TO OPL

MOST FREQUENT VISITORS TO OPL:



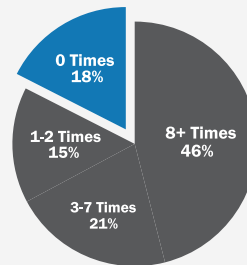
How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL?

Gardener **Researcher or Family History Enthusiast**
Maker or Creative **Technology Learner**
Caregiver **Reader** **Family or Individual**
Community Member (Internet/Computer access)
Professional **Community Member (Meeting Space)**

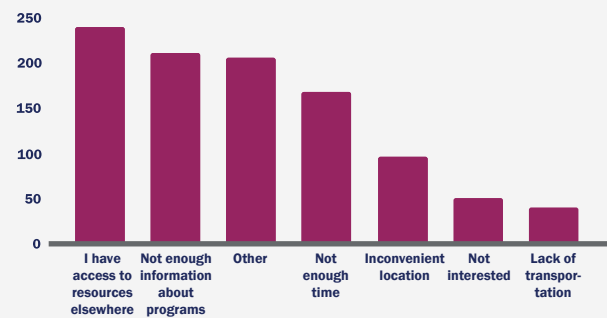
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your library?



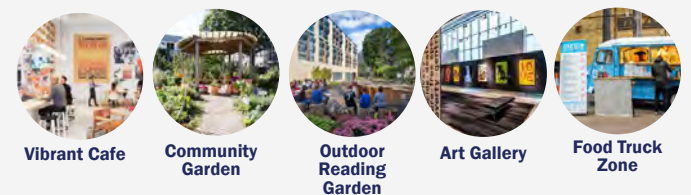
LEAST FREQUENT VISITORS TO OPL:



What, if anything, currently discourages you from visiting OPL?



What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your library?



A Living Document for Citywide Development & Impact

The Citywide Library Facilities Plan is designed as a living document that will deliver investment strategies for realignment and a roadmap for development opportunities and facilities expansion for the next 20 years. Instead of a set of prescriptive recommendations, the plan provides a flexible framework with a dynamic set of tools, models, and funding strategies to position OPL to proactively plan, make informed decisions, understand a spectrum of options and levels of investment, and implement changes over time. These mechanisms are designed to advance overarching service goals for OPL, as well as ways the library's neighborhood locations can better serve their communities.

The plan's flexible frameworks are designed to anticipate and support micro and macro issues across the facilities planning process and to grow and adapt to evolving conditions throughout the city over time.

1

Omaha Public Library's Citywide Development Typologies is a structured guide to citywide service growth and development that takes advantage of a variety of operating and funding strategies.

2

Omaha Public Library's Branch Profiles incorporate a flexible set of placemaking components and culturally-responsive designs for each location's neighborhood.

3

An Investment to Impact Strategy based on small, medium, large projects all designed to achieve high impact, with a recipe of funding strategies.

4

Decision-Making Framework for the City of Omaha, community partners, and library leaders to work collectively to identify and recommend capital investments annually.



Recommendations

Recommendations

This plan calls for a citywide expansion and investment strategy for the next 20 years that is inherently flexible and responsive. It provides facility investment options, decision-making and implementation frameworks, tools for achieving equitable growth and partnership activation, and branch-specific recommendations.

Facilities Strategies

The investment strategies support capital projects that could transform each library location over the next 20 years. These **Facility Strategies** are based on opportunities to realign services, respond imaginatively to community and partner growth and measure success through utilization and positive community experiences. Each location is assessed against seven levels of growth based on readiness and opportunities. In some cases, locations receive a combination of recommendations.

New Build: A new library location building.

Rebuild: Facilities that cannot be renovated to meet the needs of the community yet need to be replaced at the same location.

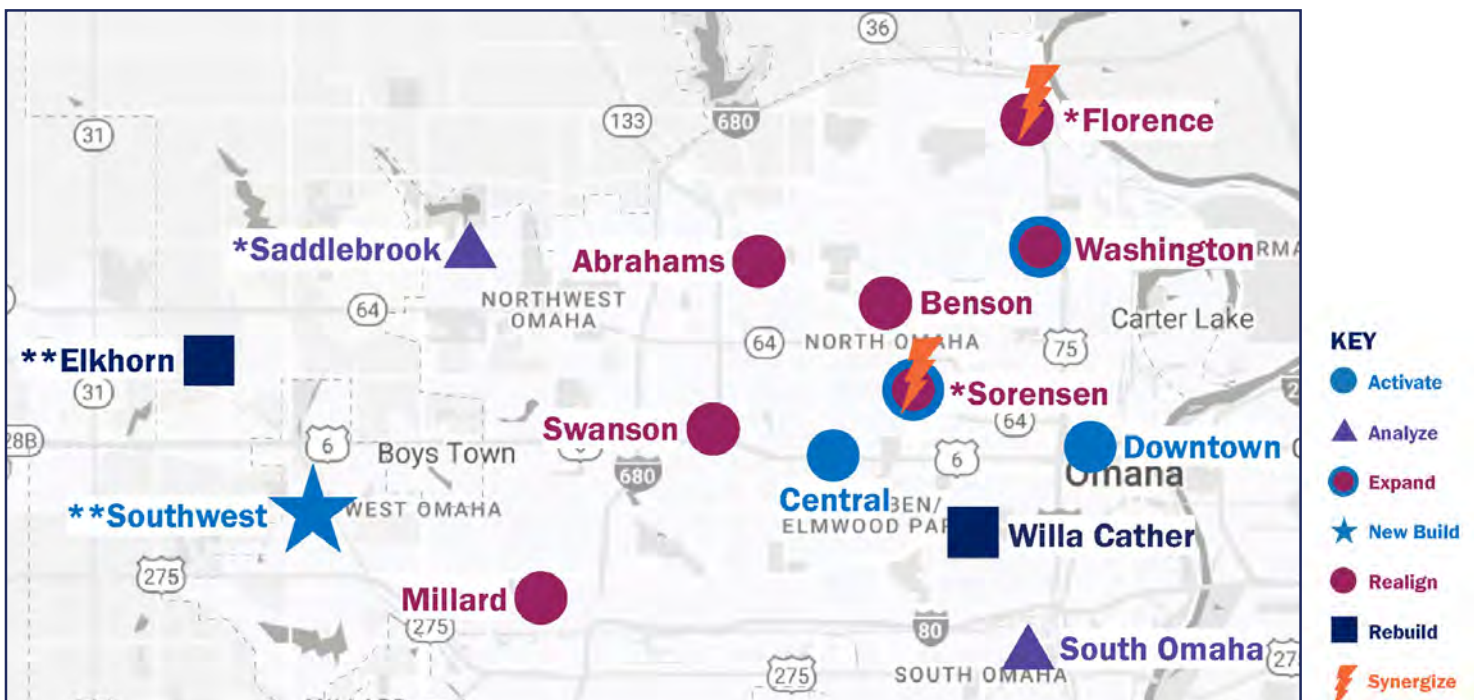
Realign: The renovation of existing facilities to create ideal conditions for successful services with a culturally relevant aesthetic.

Expand: Existing facilities that could be expanded to serve the growth and demand of the community.

Activate: Locations that already provide OPL’s 21st century service model yet need tools and further development to fully realize their potential.

Synergize: Colocated facilities that can expand on family-centered experiences by capitalizing on shared spaces and operational partnerships.

Analyze: Facilities that will continue to be evaluated to confirm the long-term plan in support of future services and programs.



Colocation with Parks and Recreation (Saddlebrook is collocated with Parks and Recreation and Omaha Public Schools)

*Current

**Potential

Development Typologies

Omaha Public Library's Citywide Development Typologies

To help OPL and the City of Omaha plan for place-based programming in growing and transforming neighborhoods, the plan outlines facility types and development concepts, or **Development Typologies**, for pursuing creative growth opportunities across the OPL system.

The Omaha Central Public Library will serve as a destination and a demonstration of the comprehensive services and partnerships OPL offers all residents. This is where OPL will showcase systemwide services in a world-class design, and community members can enjoy a library experience that complements their neighborhood libraries.

Neighborhood Anchor Locations provide customized services based on community needs. Reflecting the character of each community, neighborhood locations anchor programs and partnerships to activate experiences for community members to enjoy both at the library and in the community.

Colocation / Campus are neighborhood library locations that function as joint-use facilities with other organizations to deliver a family-centered experience of learning, recreation, arts and culture, social services, career and workforce, and health and wellness. In the future, these models will be synergistic and may even include cross-training staff to holistically integrate experiences in service of families and community members.

Mixed-Use Development is a neighborhood library located in a mixed-use development that blends multiple uses, such as residential, commercial, and cultural into one location. In recent years, public libraries have employed mixed-use development to secure innovative funding sources.

Retail/Storefront are leased locations that allow a public library to provide services in a location for a limited amount of time, serving as a means to cultivate new audiences, strengthen strategic partnerships, and quickly embed services in a community. They allow public libraries to increase service reach before a significant capital investment is required.

Mobile Units provide library services to community members where they live, work, and play. Mobile library units are evolving to offer collections offerings, Wi-Fi access and creative programming. OPL will launch a mobile unit in summer 2023 for outreach to community members throughout Douglas County.

Pop-up Programming enables small-scale, movable outreach, and provides one or two programs to the community at a time. Pop-ups could be library pickup lockers or program kiosks in partner locations where a library building or a colocation isn't a good fit, but where the area still needs library services.

Pop-ups can be stationed in any neighborhood for a short period of time or can be regularly moved throughout Omaha at community events and festivals, enabling OPL to meet community members where they are, take advantage of citywide events, and prototype future partnerships.

Partner & Outreach Programming is place-based experiences that OPL delivers at partner and outreach locations.



An Equitable Approach

An Equitable Approach to Citywide Library Facilities Growth

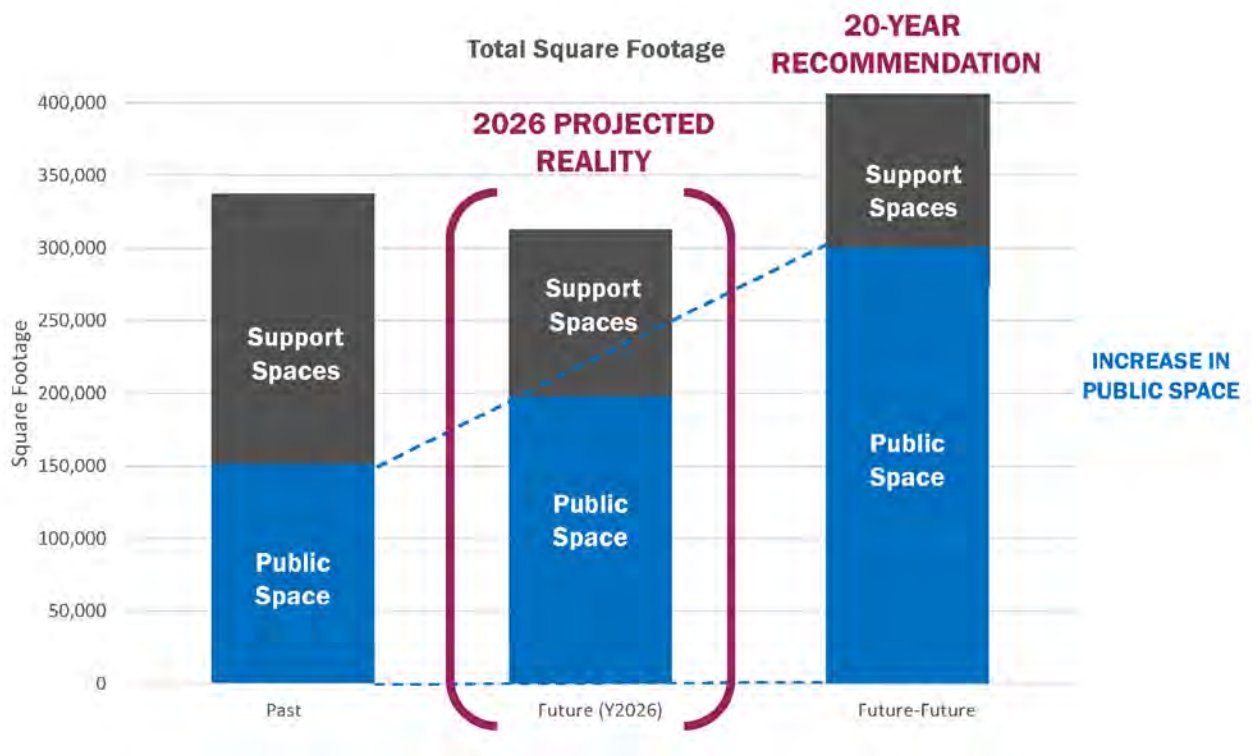
This plan provides the following systemwide expansion recommendations for the next 20 years. The plan looks at each library location’s transformation from the perspective of the Facilities Strategies as well as the Branch Profiles and their individualized recipes of programs and placemaking components derived from community inputs. Note that where expansion is recommended, this plan calls for a range, and expansion plans should be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis to respond to community needs, OPL organizational capacities, and funding sources.

The plan recommends an overall increase in the library’s real estate portfolio of a range of 80,000 –

100,000 additional square feet over 20 years, with the majority of this additional footprint intended for Southwest and Northwest Omaha, where demographic growth is the highest.

Additionally, as a result of the efficiencies realized with the Collections Hub and the related realignment of space throughout the system, OPL will be able to realign up to an additional 50,000 square feet of public space.

This realignment of public space throughout the system will catalyze equitable neighborhood development where all communities benefit from an aspirational vision for growth and impact as summarized below and elaborated upon in the **Branch Profiles**.



Realignment of public space.



Branch by Branch Strategies

Branch by Branch Future Investment Strategies

This plan recommends that **Benson Branch** be realigned to incorporate the spaces and programs to better serve their communities such as dedicated creative and event spaces as well as a social services space.

The recommendation for **Charles B. Washington Branch** is a renovation and expansion on the current site to meet the community aspirations and needs. The zoning can be evaluated to understand where best to carve out space for expansion. The realigned spaces can be retrofitted with technology and creative equipment to support this community's entrepreneurial spirit.

For **Florence Branch**, the plan recommends a renovation with a call to synergize the library services and spaces more intentionally with the recreation center. Both entities can mutually benefit from shared indoor and outdoor spaces and a vibrant shared entry to support more dedicated programming and activities. The renovated spaces would allow for loud and quiet zones where the community can best express themselves.

Similarly the recommendation for **A.V. Sorensen Branch** is to realign its spaces and, by synergizing with the recreation center downstairs, the entities can mutually benefit from traditional library services and more active, engaged activities that require dedicated space. If feasible, A.V. Sorensen Branch can be expanded on-site to better accommodate its neighborhood usage and offer more needed meeting space.

The new **Central Public Library** and **Downtown Branch** will be activated with their already designed 21st century service model.



Rainbow Fish visit at Milton R. Abrahams Branch.

South Omaha Library will be further analyzed to better understand its relationship to the surrounding neighborhood regarding its physical footprint and its partnership within a shared facility.

The plan suggests that **Willa Cather Branch** will need to be rebuilt and expanded, preferably onsite. If the current lot cannot accommodate a large footprint and added parking, the building should be rebuilt as close as possible to its current location. Its current location provides a community hub in the neighborhood that lacks an intimate main street feel and its proximity to the Veterans Affairs campus is crucial.

A new southwest location in the future would alleviate pressure on **Millard Branch** and give it the room to explore new programming that the community wants. As a result, Millard Branch's interior can be realigned with more meeting spaces and dedicated children and family spaces to best serve its community aspirations and needs.

A new **Southwest Branch** location continues to be a priority to meet the demands of the population growth in that area. The program vision, "Storytelling in all its Vibrant Forms" developed in 2019, remains the guide for this development. A colocation with Parks and Recreation should be explored.

This plan calls for **W. Clarke Swanson Branch** to be realigned on the main floor to provide dedicated spaces for community meeting, a quiet reading room, and dedicated family play space. On the lower level, the space can be designed to be a merchandising area for the Friends of Omaha Public Library.

This plan recommends that **Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch** be rebuilt onsite with expanded parking. The larger building would allow the location to expand its programming and allow for more dedicated spaces for creativity, as well as communal spaces for the community’s expressed need for social gathering. This plan recommends a colocation with Parks and Recreation.

Milton R. Abrahams Branch is currently being realigned to create a model for how the Do Space integration can be dispersed throughout the Library system. Learning of this prototype will inform the future investment and interior renovations.

Saddlebrook Branch will be analyzed to determine the benefits and trade-offs of its location embedded in a subdevelopment and within a shared facility.

BRANCH	YEAR BUILT	LAST RENO	RECOMENDATION	CURRENT SF	NEW SF	TOTAL SF
BENSON	1946	1998	Realign	20,300		20,300
WASHINGTON	1972	2006	Realign/Expand	16,675	8-12,000	24-28,000
FLORENCE	1976	2010	Realign/Synergize	7,412		7,412 *
SORENSEN	1976	2009	Realign/Expand/Synergize	6,495	4-6,000	10-12,000 *
CENTRAL	2026	-	Activate	96,000		96,000
DOWNTOWN	2023	-	Activate	30,000		30,000
SOUTH OMAHA	2008	-	Analyze	21,050	4-10,000	25-30,000
WILLA CATHER	1956	-	Rebuild	11,477	7-13,000	18-24,000
MILLARD	1981	1999	Realign	31,360		31,360
SOUTHWEST	-	-	New Build	-	28-40,000	28-40,000 **
SWANSON	1966	2010	Realign	24,495		24,495
ELKHORN	1996	-	Rebuild	7,893	16-22,000	24-30,000 **
ABRAHAMS	1988	2011	Realign	20,450		20,450
SADDLEBROOK	2009	-	Analyze	14,155	2-8,000	16-24,000 *
TOTAL				307,762	69-111,000	375-418,017

Colocation with Parks and Recreation (Saddlebrook is collocated with Parks and Recreation and Omaha Public Schools)

*Current

** Potential

Partner Activation Strategy

This Library Facilities Plan is designed to exponentially increase the impact of Omaha’s robust community-based network of services. By strategically connecting with existing community resources, place-based social-impact programming, and the talented workforce of community partners, OPL can optimize facilities utilization and grow organizational capacity.

The plan promotes facilities investments that support strategic partnerships with neighborhood-based organizations and activate public library spaces for shared outcome goals. It recommends partner-ready facility designs that provide flexible, adaptable meeting and community spaces.

To help OPL tap into resources more synergistically, this plan provides models for three levels of partner engagement: program partners, place-based partners, and long-term strategic partners.

To encourage proactive partner opportunities, the plan also furnishes OPL locations with a “partner recipe” based on community assets, needs, and existing partner relationships. Branch locations have a partner readiness score based on the following criteria:

1. Can facility utilization be increased?
2. How well organized is the community of partners?
3. Does OPL already enjoy synergistic relationships with community partners?
4. Are there opportunities to increase OPL capacity and staff skills and talents in response to community needs and requests?
5. Are there opportunities to increase diversity and representation in OPL’s workforce to reflect the community’s diversity?
6. Are there opportunities to catalyze the workforce development pipeline for the library profession and Omaha’s inclusive economic development goals?

PARTNER ACTIVATION ASSESSMENT (HIGHEST POTENTIAL TO WORK WITH PARTNERSHIPS IN NEW WAYS)



**Partner activation assessment for the following locations will be reevaluated in later phases: Central, Downtown, Elkhorn, Millard, Saddlebrook, and Southwest. Program Partnerships will continue to flourish in all locations.*

IMPACT STATEMENT

We are developing a **ESL course** for tech learners to help ESL students of all ages learn english in the tech world using a **tech space for learning** to support **DEI and Educational Health**.



PARTNERS



LIBRARY JOURNEY



IMPACT STATEMENT

We are developing a **playful learning space** to help create opportunities for parent-child interaction to enhance early literacies and lifelong success using **learning embedded playspaces, play dates with families** to support the concept that **parents and caring adults** are the most important aspect of a child's life and learning and success.



PARTNERS



LIBRARY JOURNEY



At the February 2023 Community Partner Breakfasts, community partners generated about fifty impact statements that they could imagine accomplishing with the library. The diagrams above are two examples of partner impact statements illustrated by a possible journey through the library and the spaces and places that would support the impact.

Branch Profiles

Branch Profiles are customized descriptions of each location’s strengths, assets, and future opportunities with corresponding recommendations for how they can better connect community members and partners and optimize their facilities for community impact. They recommend a selection of placemaking strategies, interior renovations, and neighborhood development opportunities to help specific branch locations better activate programs and partnerships. Each Branch Profile consists of:

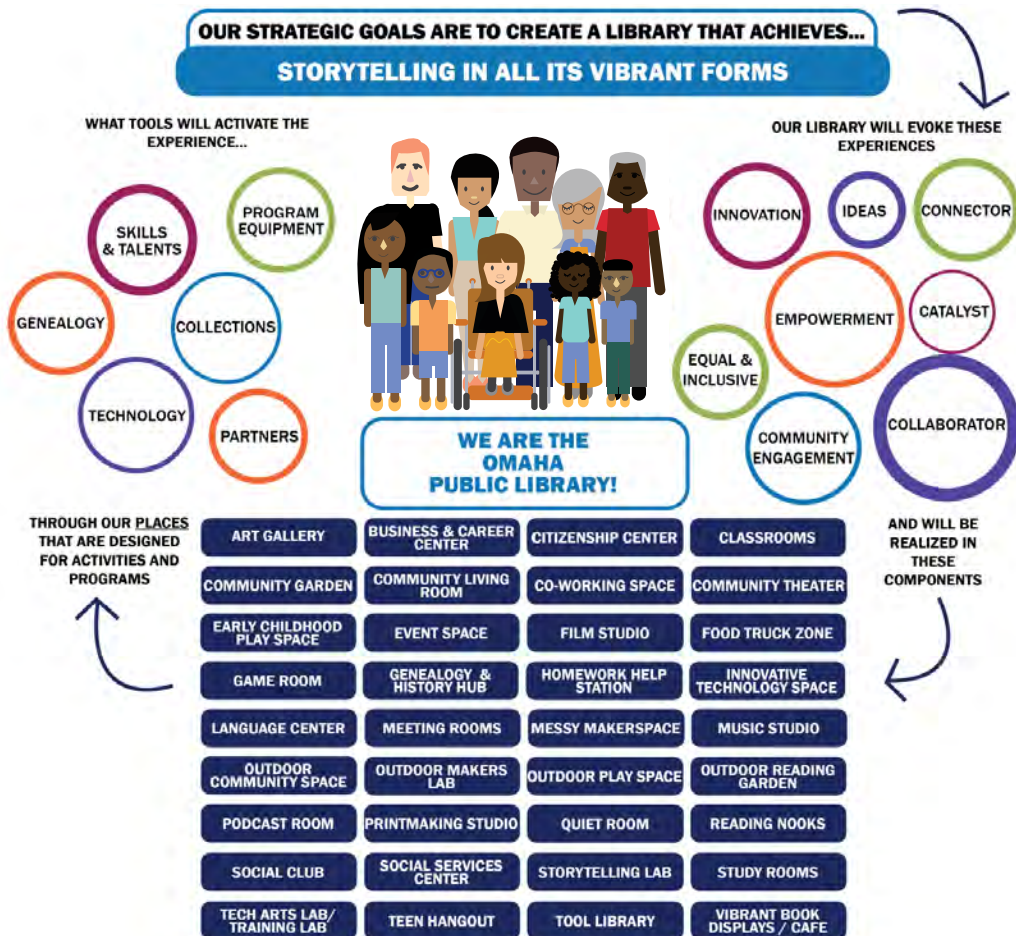
1. **Community Served:** a description of the branch location’s current character and community served derived from community and staff inputs.
2. **Facilities Utilization:** identification of the branch’s current usage.
3. **Community Inputs:** community data from community surveys, open houses, and NSC conversations.
4. **Concept Plan:** a proposed concept plan derived from community-driven placemaking components.
5. **Exemplary Programs:** examples of community-driven programming to activate the spaces.
6. **OPL, Do Space, and Outreach Integration:** experiences for concept plan activations.
7. **Prioritization Matrix:** a recommendation of small, medium, and large projects aligned with community inputs.
8. **Feels like...:** a page of reference and case study imagery.



Placemaking Components

Each Branch Profile’s concept plans are derived from a flexible set of placemaking components designed to engage communities and provide culturally-responsive designs that are customizable for each location. These placemaking components, defined as both spaces and programs, are requests derived directly from the community inputs. For each community, they translate into programs, services, spaces, and resources depending on the library’s size, community demand, and partnership activation strategies.

In the concept plans, all library locations are composed of a mix of open spaces that include vibrant book displays, an intergenerational living room, an art gallery, a digital learning zone, a messy maker space, a youth and family zone, and community gardens. This is augmented by a variety of flexible meeting spaces that can be modified for specialty programs and partnerships. All locations also have a variety of customized specialty spaces derived from community inputs. Examples include a citizenship center at locations with larger immigrant communities, an early childhood play space for neighborhoods with many families, and co-working spaces for those seeking opportunities to work together.



Implementation Framework

Implementation Framework

Funding and Budgeting

Historically, funding for OPL facilities has come from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The majority of this funding has been from a CIP fund that is allocated by the City of Omaha on an annual basis to priority projects. Douglas County contributes annually and the OPL Foundation also funds small projects and facility refreshes.

This plan recommends incorporating these conventions with a comprehensive approach to leveraging partnerships with Omaha's philanthropic community, exploring innovative community economic development funding sources, and incorporating strategic partner opportunities. Douglas County residents and the OPL system will benefit from this strategy and variety of programming and capital monies, optimizing facilities utilization.

This recipe of funding strategies is illustrated on the following page.

At the time of this plan's publication, the City of Omaha has demonstrated a significant investment in Library facilities in the past two years, with a commitment to the new Central Public Library, the new Downtown Branch, and the Library Administration Building (LAB). Additionally, the large philanthropic investment in the new Central Public Library shows the commitment Omaha residents have to OPL.

At the time of this plan's publication, the City of Omaha's current CIP has funding earmarked for a new southwest location. Although this plan does not represent a specific request for funding or implementation, it does advise that these monies be allocated to a new southwest location, as intended.



Grand opening of the Downtown Branch.

Funding and Investment Models

Capital funding for public library projects in Omaha has historically been paid for through the following sources:

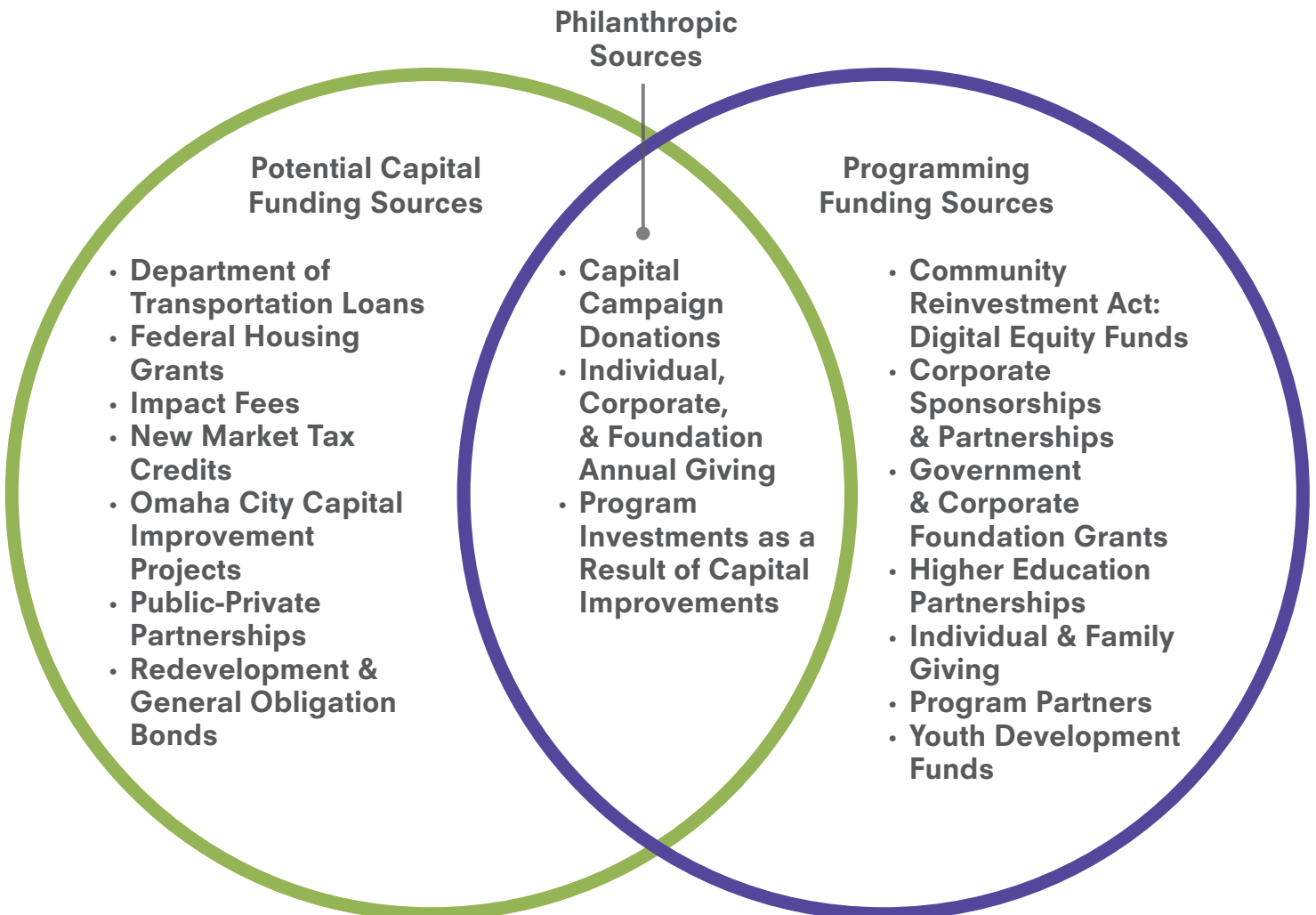
- Competitive Federal Grants
- Philanthropic Donations
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Redevelopment and General Obligation Bonds
- State and Federal Grant Funds (Formula-Based)

In addition, nationally and locally, innovative and non-traditional funding opportunities for capital projects are being applied successfully. This plan will enable a synergistic approach to leveraging a variety of funding sources for capital and

programmatic funding by leveraging the variety of sources to create a sustainable model of increased funding opportunities, as illustrated in the diagram below.

Innovative Partnership and Development Opportunities

- Economic Development in the Neighborhood
- Federally Funded Improvement Subsidies
- Incubator Start-Up Models
- Innovative Public-Private Partnership Opportunities
- Mixed-Use Housing Development
- Mixed-Used Commercial Development
- Purpose Built Communities
- Sales Tax for Park Improvements





Investment to Impact Strategy

To give OPL a spectrum of budgetary options for systemwide growth, the plan’s evaluation of each branch location includes small, medium, and large project investment scenarios, providing a framework for implementation that takes advantage of investment opportunities for the greatest impact.

This revolutionary approach provides a set of impactful, innovative prototype projects to align with attractive philanthropic investments, and it enables an equitable systemwide approach to facilities projects rooted in community needs, partner activations, and OPL organizational capacity. The approach is also a resource for future funding opportunities that the City of Omaha may incorporate at the economic development level. The purpose of these target budgets is not intended to be a mandated recommendation, but rather to be used as a reference for the 20-year facilities investment strategy.

Each Branch Profile provides a snapshot of what kinds of interventions can be achieved at each

level. Small projects for large impact represent an investment of \$2 million or less and are intended to activate a location and generate systemwide applications. A small scenario might include a renovation for a new space, such as the addition of a vibrant book display and intergenerational living room for social connections, a new state-of-the-art podcast studio for content creation, a community garden to build on the success of the Common Soil Seed Library, or the addition of a Tech Arts Lab to integrate Do Space programs.

Medium projects with large impact would include a comprehensive interior renovation to better activate programs and partners of the existing facilities and an investment in specialty program spaces, such as a culinary kitchen, which comes at a higher price tag than most small project interventions. Project budgets range from \$2 million - \$12 million.

Large projects for large impact are the 20-year recommendations for capital improvements as recommended in this plan.

SMALL [\$]	MEDIUM [\$\$]	LARGE [\$\$\$]
<div data-bbox="121 1360 276 1516"></div> <div data-bbox="121 1528 219 1583">Podcast Room</div> <div data-bbox="305 1360 459 1516"></div> <div data-bbox="305 1528 475 1610">Co-Working Space (Family Career Studio)</div> <div data-bbox="121 1612 276 1789"></div> <div data-bbox="121 1801 293 1915">Innovative Tech Space with Do Space Technology</div> <div data-bbox="305 1638 459 1789"></div> <div data-bbox="305 1801 443 1856">Community Garden</div>	<div data-bbox="609 1360 901 1558">*Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</div> <div data-bbox="613 1638 768 1789"></div> <div data-bbox="613 1801 751 1856">Community Kitchen</div> <div data-bbox="800 1638 954 1789"></div> <div data-bbox="800 1801 922 1856">Do Space Lab</div>	<div data-bbox="1084 1360 1239 1516"></div> <div data-bbox="1084 1528 1214 1583">Expansion To Foster...</div> <ul data-bbox="1104 1596 1445 1864" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Equity and Literacy • Youth and Family Support • Mentorship Development • Small Businesses • Social Connections • Partnership Impact • Cultural Celebrations

Example from the Charles B. Washington neighborhood profile of small, medium, and large projects that all create high impact.

BRANCH	SMALL	MEDIUM \$400/SF	LARGE \$600/SF & \$800/SF
BENSON	\$2M	\$8M-\$10M	\$12M
WASHINGTON	\$2M	\$6M-\$8M	\$16M-\$19M
FLORENCE	\$2M	\$3M-\$5M	\$5M*
SORENSEN	\$2M	\$3M-5M	\$7M-\$8.5M*
CENTRAL	-	-	-
DOWNTOWN	-	-	-
SOUTH OMAHA	\$2M	\$9M-\$11M	\$15M-\$21M
WILLA CATHER	\$2M	\$5M-\$7M	\$12M-\$17M
MILLARD	\$2M	\$13M-\$15M	\$19M
SOUTHWEST	-	-	\$22-32M
SWANSON	\$2M	\$10M-\$12M	\$15M
ELKHORN	\$2M	\$3M-\$5M	\$23M-\$29M
ABRAHAMS	\$2M	\$8M-\$10M	\$12M
SADDLEBROOK	\$2M	\$6M-\$8M	\$21M-\$28M
TOTALS	\$22M	\$74M-\$96M	\$180M-\$215M

Small projects represent investment of \$2 million or less, medium projects budgets range from \$2 million - \$12 million, and large represent capital improvement projects.

*Considered large due to nature of project.

Decision-Making Framework

The plan's methodology — from its robust engagement process, to its guiding principles, locally-relevant data-centric inputs, and best practice applications — establishes a process and provides a set of decision-making frameworks for OPL and its communities to continue to collaborate as they advance and evolve the plan over time. The overall framework includes mechanisms for prioritizing decisions for collective impact including the dynamic Library Socio-Economic Needs Index, sustaining engagement with the Neighborhood Steering Committees structure, maintaining a community-centric focus, and leveraging the Library's trusted relationships with community members and partners. With an inherent community feedback structure, the plan ensures the process, research, engagement, and alignment is continually self-generated, providing an ongoing framework for investment and growth over the next 20 years.

Measuring Success, Capturing Feedback

The 2023 Library Facilities Plan incorporates the latest social impact and upward mobility assessment tools, positioning OPL to apply a more sophisticated and relevant approach to assessing the success of facility transformations. The plan's assessment approach is guided by the work of Opportunity Insights, the research and policy institute focused on improving economic opportunity, and is supported by the evidence to date from Reimagining the Civic Commons, a collaboration of national foundations and local civic leaders.



Common Soil Seed Library 10th anniversary Open House at Benson Branch.

A key indicator of successful facility transformations will be the Library's ability to foster socio-economic mixing and generate sustained dialogue with community leaders, partners, and community members to achieve the initial conditions that activate upward mobility and inclusive economic development: cohesiveness, economic connectedness, and civic engagement.²

Implementation Framework

Annually, OPL, in strategic collaboration with the City of Omaha, will engage community members and community-based organization partners to evaluate community needs and opportunities. The Neighborhood Steering Committees will continue to be a resource for supporting the Investment to Impact to Strategy by assessing citywide social impact goals that align with demographic growth. The Library Socio-Economic Needs Index tools will support the ongoing implementation of the community-driven, city-aligned Decision-Making Framework applied in this process.

Next Steps

1. Develop an implementation and prioritization strategy based on current and future funding and development opportunities, OPL capacity, and community needs.
2. At least annually, review and set goals to identify facilities projects and local funding sources.
3. Further develop success metrics as a City of Omaha and Library team.
4. Continue to develop the Neighborhood Steering Committee (NSC) / Community Partner structure for facilities development.
5. OPL leadership, in partnership with the City of Omaha, evolve the branch profiles in response to ongoing community, partner, and neighborhood development learnings and opportunities.

²Chetty, R., Jackson, M. O., Kuchler, T., Stroebel, J., Hiller, A., Oppenheimer, S. (2022). Social Capital Atlas. Opportunity Insights. <https://socialcapital.org/>

Conclusion

The critical need for the public library is, and has always been, a humanitarian one. The public library is an embodiment of a collective vision of the American dream, providing places and programs where people can engage in the pursuit of knowledge and happiness together. The library both taps into and builds on its community's civic infrastructure. It is foundational for generating trust and cooperation, which are crucial ingredients of inclusive and effective local economic development, elementary to a strengthened civic fabric. In this way, a world-class library system can elevate and transform communities.

Omaha Public Library's capital funding model is designed to leverage, scale, and amplify community contributions. By pooling resources through local taxes, philanthropic contributions, and strategic partnering, the Omaha Public Library enacts a collective impact construct. This enables residents to benefit from a return on investment greater than the sum of its parts. As an active component of its communities, Omaha Public Library is integral to fostering inclusivity and equity for Douglas County residents. When optimally activated for public good, its places will strengthen community and generate powerful, positive social impact.

This is the principle of this plan. With the implementation of this model, Omaha Public Library will be an essential contributor to the social and economic well-being of the City of Omaha itself.

Glossary

Anchor Institution

Entities having large stakes in a city, usually through a combination of internal missions and land ownership. These valuable institutions provide services for the communities they serve.

Asset-Based Community Design

A methodology to identify individual, organizational, and institutional community assets and demonstrate how to engage these community assets to create vital and sustainable communities. It highlights communities' strengths and potentials.

Civic Infrastructure

The combination of places, policies, programs, and practices that enable people to participate in civic life.

Coalition Building

The process in which the diverse interest groups join their human and material resources to produce a specific change that they cannot deliver as independent individuals. When members share responsibility, goals, decisions, and leadership and energetically and enthusiastically work toward a common goal, the coalition has the potential for great success.

Collective Impact

The commitment of a group of community agents from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a complex social problems, using a structured form of collaboration.

Community Aspirations

Community aspirations reflect the shared hopes that many individuals have for the future of their community. It is a statement of the future we are striving for that is based on common values and narratives.

Community Co-Creation

Community engagement to build resilient neighborhoods, achieved through sustained, coordinated, active, and scaled community participation.

Community Economic Development

Economic development is the creation of wealth from which community benefits are realized. It's an investment in growing your economy and enhancing the prosperity and quality of life for all residents.

Community Needs

Community needs are gaps between what services currently exist in a community and what should exist. It may be helpful to categorize gaps based on these four types of community needs—perceived needs, expressed needs, absolute needs, and relative needs.

Community Vitality

The ability of a community to sustain itself into the future as well as provide opportunities for its residents to pursue their own life goals and the ability of residents to experience positive life outcomes.

Economic Mobility

Economic mobility is the ability of an individual, family or some other group to improve their economic status—usually measured in income.

Healthy Community Framework

A healthy community is one that strives to meet the basic needs of all residents; it is guided by health equity principles in the decision-making process; it empowers organizations and individuals through collaboration, civic and cultural engagement for the creation of safe and sustainable environments. Vibrant, livable and inclusive communities provide ample choices and opportunities to thrive economically, environmentally and culturally, but must begin with health.

Human Capital

The knowledge, skills, competencies and other attributes embodied in individuals or groups of individuals acquired during their life and used to produce goods, services or ideas.

Human-Centered Experiences

A creative approach to problem-solving that starts with people and ends with innovative solutions that are tailor-made to suit their needs.

Human Development

Human development focuses on improving the lives people lead through freedom and self expression. Human Development develops people's abilities and provides the opportunities to use them. Three foundations for human development are to live a long, healthy and creative life, to be knowledgeable, and to have access to resources needed for a sustainable standard of living.

Inclusive Design

Inclusive design ensures that places and experiences are open to all people, regardless of age, disability and background. It benefits everyone.

Land Use Development

Land use development refers to the process by which land is allocated between competing uses in order to secure the rational and orderly development of land in an environmentally sound manner to ensure the creation of sustainable human settlements.

Opportunity Insights

A non-partisan, not-for-profit organization based at Harvard University and directed by Raj Chetty. They conduct scientific research using data-driven tools on how to improve upward mobility and work collaboratively with local stakeholders to translate research findings into policy change. They also train the next generation of social scientists and practitioners to improve opportunity for all.

People-Based

Community economic development strategies that focus on implementing systems to strengthen education, workforce, and financial outcomes in order for individuals to realize their economic potential.

People, Places, and Platforms

The public library's human-centered business model that capitalizes on the strengths of the public library's mission to build human capital, activate place-based initiatives (facilities, outreach and virtual) and be an adaptable, active platform for customized, participatory experiences in support of the unique learning needs of all community members.

Place-Based

Community economic development strategies that focus on addressing place-based inequities that constrain residents opportunities because of the zip code in which they live. Place-based strategies result in safe neighborhoods and public assets (schools, libraries, recreation centers) that ensure equitable access to the place-based institutions that build economic mobility.

Placemaking

A multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and wellbeing.

Placekeeping

The active care and maintenance of a place and its social fabric by the people who live and work there.

Prototype

The prototype is an experimental process where designers implement ideas into tangible forms. It allows people to refine and validate ideas.

Social Capital

Acting on and valuing interdependence and a person's sense of belonging. It is measured by how much people trust each other and how much they cooperate to make a place better.

Social Impact

The effect on people and communities that happens as a result of an action or inaction, an activity, project, program or policy.


Socioeconomic Mixing

Time spent face-to-face with people from different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Being able to encounter people in a mixed-income and diverse built environment with low rates of racial and economic segregation promotes higher levels of economic mobility and improves trust, generosity, and cooperation between peoples.

20-Minute City

Places where residents have easy, convenient access to all of the quality of life amenities that create an equitable and thriving place, without relying heavily on a car. They are characterized by a vibrant mix of commercial and residential uses all within a 20 minute walk. They have higher concentrations of people and are complete with the sidewalks, bike lanes and bus routes that support a variety of transportation options.

Appendix



**Table of
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80	Community Contributors
90	Participating Organizations
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Community Contributors

The Citywide Library Facilities Plan was made possible by the ambitious community engagement process that informed relevant needs, challenges, opportunities, and aspirations through direct inputs from a broad range of community members to support quantitative community evidence. This effort included over 200 individuals from over 100 organizations. A tremendous “thank you!” to all involved listed on the following pages and the 5,000 community members who participated in the citywide survey. Dozens of community members participated in the many opportunities for input. If you or your organization are not listed here, please know we appreciate and value your contributions.

City of Omaha, City Council

Pete Festersen, District 1
Juanita Johnson, District 2
Danny Begley, District 3
Vinny Palermo, District 4
Don Rowe, District 5
Brinker Harding, District 6
Aimee Melton, District 7

Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees

John R. Barrett, Trustee
Cameron Gales, Trustee
Mike Kennedy, President
Keegan Korf, Vice President
Rochelle Mullen, Trustee
DeJuan Reddick, Trustee
Albert Varas, Trustee
Jen Rae Wang, Secretary-Treasurer
Bryan Wilson, Trustee

Advisory Committee

Katie Bruno, OPLF Board President

Steve Curtiss, City of Omaha Finance Director

Elizabeth Johnson, OPL Senior Manager of Operations

Stacy Lickteig, OPL Senior Manager of Branches

Laura Marlane, OPL Executive Director

Rochelle Mullen, OPL Board Trustee

Carrie Murphy, City of Omaha Deputy Chief of Staff

Krystal Rider, Do Space Director

Deborah Sander, City of Omaha Director of Human Resources

Rebecca Stavick, Do Space/Community Information Trust CEO

Rachel Steiner, OPL Assistant Library Director

Chief Thomas Warren, City of Omaha Chief of Staff

Wendy Townley, OPLF Executive Director

Bryan Wilson, OPL Board Trustee

Library Facilities Plan Leadership Working Group

Rachel Drietz, Do Space, Operations and Marketing Manager

Marco Floreani, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff, Economic Development and Development Services

Anna Gadzinski, Heritage Omaha, Project and Development Officer

Elizabeth Johnson, Omaha Public Library, Senior Manager of Operations

Amy Mather, Omaha Public Library, Adult Services Manager

Nancy Novotny, Omaha Public Library, Youth and Family Services Manager

Michael Sauers, Do Space, Technology Manager

Keith Station, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Rebecca Stavick, Do Space/Community Information Trust, CEO



Community Contributors

Library Facilities Plan Advisors

Emily Getzschman, Omaha Public Library, Marketing and Media Relations Manager

Theresa Jehlik, Omaha Public Library, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager

Stacy Lickteig, Omaha Public Library, Omaha Public Library, Senior Manager of Branches

Linda Miles, Omaha Public Library, Facilities Manager

Deirdre Rountt, Omaha Public Library, Collections Manager

Yesenia Valenzuela, City of Omaha, Community Relations Coordinator

Engagement Committee

John Barrett, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

Rachel Drietz, Do Space, Operations and Marketing Manager

Marco Floreani, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff - Economic Development and Development Services

Anna Gadzinski, Heritage Omaha, Project and Development Officer

Emily Getzschman, Omaha Public Library Marketing & Media Relations Manager

Peter Frankhauser, Amplify Arts, Co-Director

Rachel Jacobson, Heritage Omaha, President; Community Information Trust, President

Theresa Jehlik, Omaha Public Library, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager

Elizabeth Johnson, Omaha Public Library, Senior Manager of Operations

Amy Mather, Omaha Public Library, Adult Services Manager

Jacquelyn Morrison City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff - Economic Development and Development Services

Carrie Murphy, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff - Communications

Lee Nel, Margaret Sullivan Studio, Project Manager

Annika Northland, Margaret Sullivan Studio, Urban Placemaker

Nancy Novak, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, Partner

Nancy Novotny, Omaha Public Library, Youth and Family Services Manager

Maggie Peterson, Omaha Public Library, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager

Krystal Rider, Do Space, Director

Michael Sauers, Do Space, Technology Manager

Keith Station, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Rebecca Stavick, Do Space/Community Information Trust, CEO

Margaret Sullivan, Margaret Sullivan Studio, Principal

Wendy Townley, Omaha Public Library Foundation, Executive Director

Tom Trenolone, HDR, Design Director

Yesenia Valenzuela, City of Omaha, Community Relations Coordinator



Community Contributors

Neighborhood Steering Committees (NSC)

North Omaha NSC

Paul B. Allen IV, 1st Sky Omaha/Benson Theatre, Director of Communications/ Co-Owner

Kathy Buchanan, Benson Neighborhood Association, Treasurer

Clarice Dombeck, SPARK, Urban Development Coordinator

Pete Festersen, City Council, District 1 (member of North Omaha NSC, Urban Core NSC & Northwest NSC)

Rafel Hart, Educare of Omaha, Inc., Executive Director

Dr. Barbara Hewins-Maroney, Ph.D., UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service Chair, Urban Studies Program

Dasia Horne, Well Read Women of Omaha, Founder

Lois Imig, Omaha Public Library, Florence Manager

Juanita Johnson, City Council, District 2

Jennifer Jazynka, Omaha Public Library, Benson Manager

Mele Mason, North Omaha Commercial Club, Florence Kiwanis, Florence Community Council, President

Matt Mason, Nebraska State Poet

Liz Moldenhauer, Benson Neighborhood Association, Vice President

Nyaliep Nhial, Youth for Greater Good, Executive Director (member of North Omaha NSC & South Omaha NSC)

Davielle Phillips, Urban League of Nebraska Young Professionals, Vice President

Chris Rodgers, Douglas County Commissioner, District 3

Amy Wenzl, Omaha Public Library, Charles B. Washington Manager

Nancy Williams, No More Empty Pots, Co-Founder & President/CEO

Urban Core NSC

Danny Begley, City Council, District 3 (member of Urban Core NSC & South Omaha NSC)

Bethany Barelman, Omaha Public Library, A.V. Sorensen Manager

Maria Brady, Omaha By Design, Director of Strategic Partnerships

Stuart Chittenden, Squishtalks, Founder

James Cavanaugh, Douglas County, District 2 (member of Urban Core NSC, South Omaha NSC & Southwest Omaha NSC)

Olajide Cooper, UNO Service Learning Academy, Assistant Director for External Partnerships, Student Engagement, and Pipeline Programs

Roger Garcia, Douglas County Commissioner, District 1 (member of Urban Core NSC & South Omaha NSC)

Marisa Hattab, Douglas County, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

Abby Hughes, Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, Program Manager

Matt Martin, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc., Assistant Vice President of Refugee & Immigrant Programs

**Members in multiple groupings due to legislative district boundaries.*

ICEBREAKER



Community Contributors

Alexzia Plummer, Weitz Family Foundation, Program Associate

Robia Qasimyar, Weitz Family Foundation, Program Associate

Nancy Round, Joslyn Art Museum, Director of Education & Outreach

Maggie Smith, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Executive Director

Natalie Struecker, Omaha Public Library, Downtown Manager

Steve Tamayo, Bluebird Cultural Initiative, Native Indigenous Cultural Education, Cultural Specialist

Monica Wells, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, Family & Community Program Administrator

South Omaha NSC

Jan Benitez, Completely KIDS, Director of Community Based Programs

Terri Blackburn, Lord of Hosts Church, Social Media Manager

Langston Frison, Norris Middle School, Principal

Yuridia Igbokwe, Lincua Academy, Founder & CEO, Immigrant Rights Advocate

Keegan Korf, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

Itzel Lopez, AIM Institute/Latino Economic Development Council, Vice President of Advancement/President (member of South Omaha NSC and Northwest Omaha NSC)

Marvel Maring, Omaha Public Library, South Omaha Manager

Raymundo Montes, Juan Diego Center - Catholic Charities of Omaha, Family Resource Coordinator

Lori Nelson, Omaha Public Library, Willa Cather Manager

Ashley Salem, AIM Institute, Tech Navigator & Outreach Coordinator

Jennifer Rodriguez, Heartland Workforce Solutions, South Omaha Affiliate Site Coordinator

Yesenia Valenzuela, City of Omaha Mayor's Office, Community Liaison

Southwest Omaha NSC

Susan Aguilera-Robles, Associate Director of Program Development/Executive Board President, Buffet Early Childhood Institute/Omaha Public Schools Foundation

Mary Ann Borgeson, Douglas County, District 1 Commissioner

Andrew Conzett, Mayor's Millennial Advisory Board, Chair

Matt Couch, Omaha Public Library, W. Clarke Swanson Manager

Dr. Angela Daigle, Millard Public Schools, Library Services Department Head

Wendy Goldberg, Tri-Faith Initiative, Executive Director

Jen Haggart, ESU #3 Early Learning, Early Learning Connection PD Coordinator

Autumn Hill, Omaha Public Library, Millard Manager

Richard Kinnischtzke, Retired Business Owner

Sara Kohen, Friedel Jewish Academy, Director of Advancement

Noah McClain, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Senior Director, Product Development

**Members in multiple groupings due to legislative district boundaries.*



Community Contributors

Rochelle Mullen, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

Nathan Morgan, Omaha Community Foundation, Donor Services Specialist

Beth Ostdiek Smith, Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue, Inc., CEO/President & Founder

Connie Remkus, Business Owner

Don Rowe, City Council, District 5

Sarah Sjolie, Meristem Consulting, Owner

Katie Twit, Mindfulness & Yoga Instructor, Wisdom House Collaborative, Latino Center of the Midlands, Great Plains Mental Health

Bart Vargas, Artist

Casey Kralik, Omaha Public Library, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Manager

Katy Lofgren, Omaha Public Library, Milton R. Abrahams Manager

Colleen Nieland, Northwest High School, Library Media Specialist

Michelle Settlemyer, Omaha Education Association, President

Bryan Wilson, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

Northwest Omaha

Meagan Bakhit, Adams Elementary, Principal

Jo Giles, Womens Fund of Omaha, Executive Director

Jill Guenther, QLI, Director of Skill Development

Julie Humphrey, Omaha Public Library, Saddlebrook Manager

**Members in multiple groupings due to legislative district boundaries.*



Participating Organizations

1st Sky Omaha	Completely KIDS	Lauritzen Gardens
Adams Elementary	Creighton University	Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties
Advancing With Purpose	Do Space	Lincua Academy
AIM Institute	Douglas County	Lord of Hosts Church
Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture	Durham Museum	Lozier Foundation
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - Nebraska	Educare of Omaha, Inc.	Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.
Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center	Emspace + Lovgren	Mayor's Millennial Advisory Board
Benson Neighborhood Association	Empowerment Network	Meraki Montessori
Benson Theatre	ESU #3 Early Learning	Meristem Consulting
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Field Club Homeowners League	Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
Bluebird Cultural Initiative, Native Indigenous Cultural Education	FNBO	Metropolitan Community College
Buffett Early Childhood Institute	Florence Kiwanis	Millard Public Schools
Canopy South	Fontenelle Forest	Nebraska Cultural Endowment
Center for Holistic Development	Friedel Jewish Academy	Nebraska Enterprise Fund
City of Omaha	Greater Omaha Chamber - Leadership Omaha	No More Empty Pots
City of Omaha Parks and Recreation	Growing Hearts Collaborative	Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
City of Omaha Public Works	HDR	Norris Middle School
Collective for Youth	Heartland Bike Share	North End Teleservices
Community Health Development Partners	Heartland Workforce Solutions	North Omaha Commercial Club, Florence Kiwanis, Florence
Community Information Trust Board	Heritage Omaha	Northwest High School
	Intercultural Senior Center	Olsson
	Invisible Histories Visible	
	Joslyn Art Museum	
	Juan Diego Center - Catholic Charities of Omaha	
	Kiewit Corporation	



OPEN MEETINGS ACT
Nebr. Rev. Stat. Ch. 84, Art. 11

DUNKIN'

Citywide Library Facilities Plan
Public Meeting #1
November 14, 2018

Participating Organizations

Omaha By Design	South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance (SONA)
Omaha City Council	SPARK
Omaha Community Foundation	Squishtalks
Omaha Community Playhouse	Table Grace Ministries
Omaha Conservatory of Music	The Kim Foundation
Omaha Education Association	The Sherwood Foundation
Omaha Foundation	The Simple Foundation
Omaha Performing Arts	Three Rivers Library System
Omaha Public Library	Tri-Faith Initiative
Omaha Public Library Board	University of Nebraska Omaha
Omaha Public Library Advisory Committee	University of Nebraska Omaha - Criss Library
Omaha Public Power District	Urban League of Nebraska
Omaha Public Schools / Invisible Histories Visible	Young Professionals
One Omaha	Vic Gutman & Associates (VGA)
Open Door Mission	Weitz Family Foundation
Opera Omaha	Well Read Women of Omaha
PMP Omaha	Wheelhouse Collective
Prairie STEM	Women's Fund of Omaha
QLI	
Rainwood Development Partners	
Raise Me To Read	
Refugee Women Rising	
Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue, Inc	
Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp	





Benson

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Benson community is ethnically and socio-economically diverse with a mix of long-time “Bensonites” and new Americans and refugees, particularly from Southeast Asia. The neighborhood has a strong identity that the community members feel proud of. The library serves all walks of life from seniors to young families, teens, students, working adults, and those experiencing homelessness. They are a creative and artistic bunch which is supported by the Benson creative community designation. They are interested in content creation and technology-related activities that spark creativity where they can be engaged in an educational and fun way. A popular program among adults is the book clubs

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

“Benson is diverse ethnically and socio-economically. There is a lot of pride and identity in the Benson neighborhood. This area has historic character with lots of small, unique businesses. It is also very pedestrian friendly.”

*Jennifer Jazyuka,
Benson Branch Manager*

where community members enjoy coming together and sharing stories. The needs of this community include family support, particularly for school-related demands. There are many community members needing resources for addiction struggles, housing support, mental health aid, and workforce development support. There is a major need for barrier-free access to technology as well as technology literacy to assist community members in filling out various applications or finding the resources they’re looking for.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime
Adult Book Clubs
Art & STEM Passive Programming
Conversation Kits

Current Partners

Benson Neighborhood Association
Douglas County Health Department
Benson Creative District
Charles Drew Health Center

Popular Collections

Children Collections
Fiction, Adult Fiction
Non-Fiction
Audio books
LIBBY

Popular Technologies

Computers
Charging Stations
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines
Wi-Fi

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



FAMILY SUPPORT: Library is a place for supervised visits, storytimes, and family friendly activities.



PASSIVE PROGRAMMING: Regularly rotated art and STEM activities.



VIBRANT TEENS SPACE: Place for teens to just be, interested in content creation and fun, educational activities.



CREATIVE COMMUNITY: Bustling arts community in Benson with artists and creatives.



SOCIAL SERVICES RESOURCES: "Community Resource Corner" set up with referrals due to high demand for addiction, homelessness, and mental health support.



NEED BARRIER FREE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY: Basic computer literacy for social service, career, and college applications, and e-government services.

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Rose Hill E.S., Benson H.S., Creighton Preparatory School, St. Bernard Catholic School



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: Charles Drew Health Center



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: Benson Community Center



TRANSPORTATION HUBS: Heartland Bike Share



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: Benson Artist District, Benson First Friday, Masonic Temple Art Gallery, the Waiting Room, Benson Theatre



OPEN SPACE/PARKS: Gallagher Park, Grace Young Park, Benson Lions Park, Bowling Green Park, Metcalfe Park










COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR BENSON BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Curious
Equitable and Inclusive
Literate
Innovative
Civically Engaged

...Omaha!

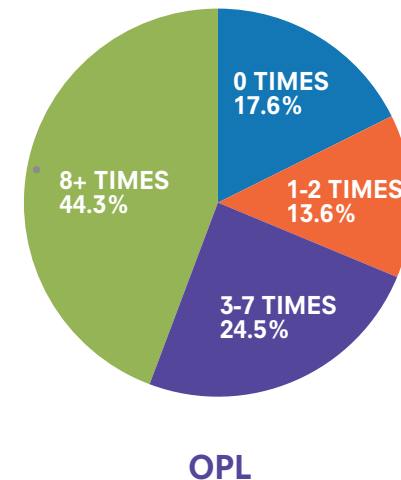
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?

- 1  Community Garden
- 2  Outdoor Reading Garden
- 3  Vibrant Cafe
- 4  Art Gallery
- 5  Outdoor Community Space
- 6  Community Kitchen
- 7  Food Truck Zone
- 8  Tool Library
- 9  Quiet Room
- 10  Genealogy & History Hub

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

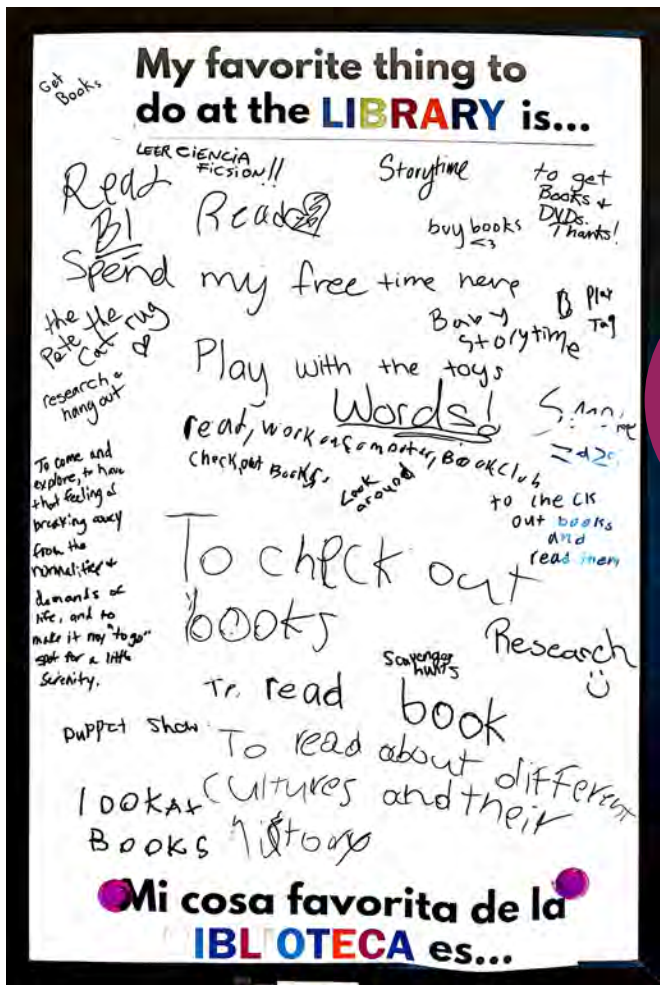
Maker or Creative
Professional Community Member (Meeting Space)
 Community Member (Internet/Computer Access) **Gardener**
Caregiver Reader Family or Individual
 Researcher or Family History Enthusiast
Technology Learner

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



COMMUNITY INPUTS (BENSON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

“My favorite thing to do at the library is to come and explore, to have feelings of breaking away from the normalities and demands of life, and to make it my “go to” spot for a little serenity.” - Community member from Benson Branch



Staff at the Benson branch installed a white board with markers at the front desk of the branch as part of the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st. The boards prompted community members to share their thoughts for what their favorite thing to do at the library is and what is their vision for the future of Omaha. The bubbles on the left illustrate the sentiments of the community.

Benson

Community Framework

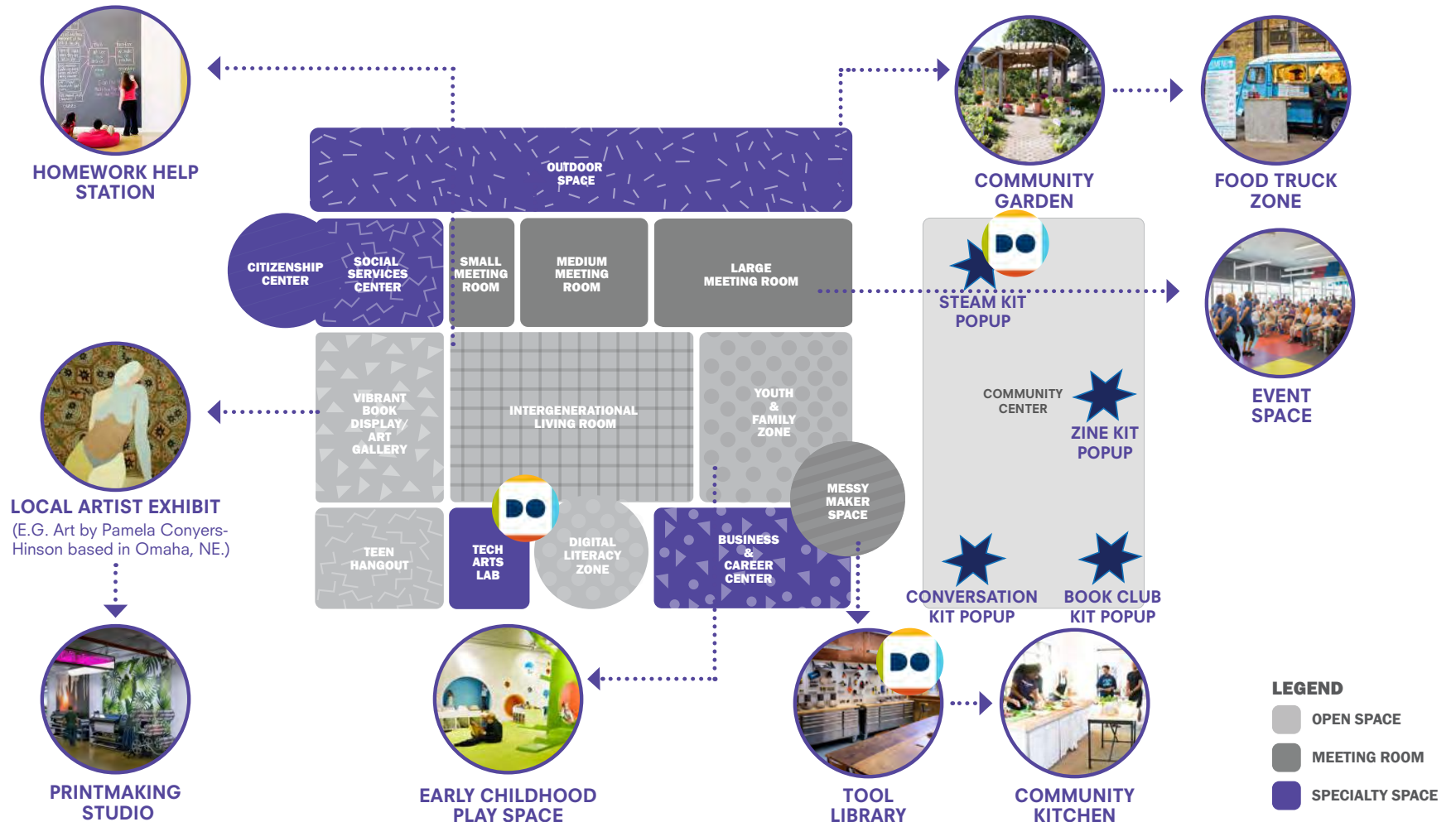
Recommendation REALIGN | Size 20,300 SF

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

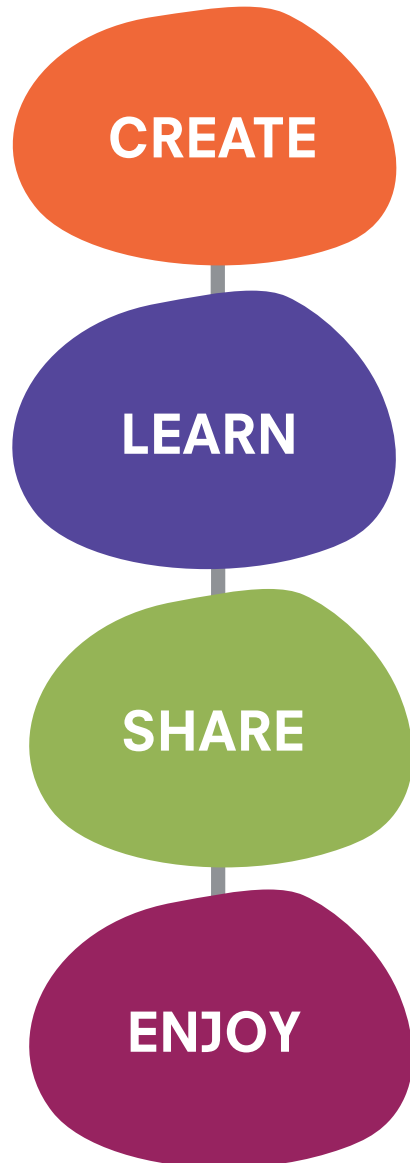
The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Benson Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This inclusive

learning environment can support the families, teens, adults, and those who are vulnerable in the community with enriching, passion-based programs and spaces that promote empowerment to be their best self.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Imaginative Play
Adult Book Clubs

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Up-Skilling Programs
Small Business Seminars
Career Coaching

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Barrier Free Access to Technology
Basic Technology Help
Digital Resource Checkout

Community Health & Safety

Performance Programming
Conversation Language Groups
Cultural Programs & Fairs

Neighborhood Development

Fun & Engaging Teen Programming
Rotating Local Art Display

Connection to Resources

Social Services Referral
Citizenship Services
School Support

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

Benson Neighborhood Association
Douglas County Health Dept
Benson First Friday (BFF)
Benson Theatre
Charles Drew Health Center
Creighton University's Department of Education
Nebraska Department of Labor
UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities
The Salvation Army of Omaha

Current & Potential Collections

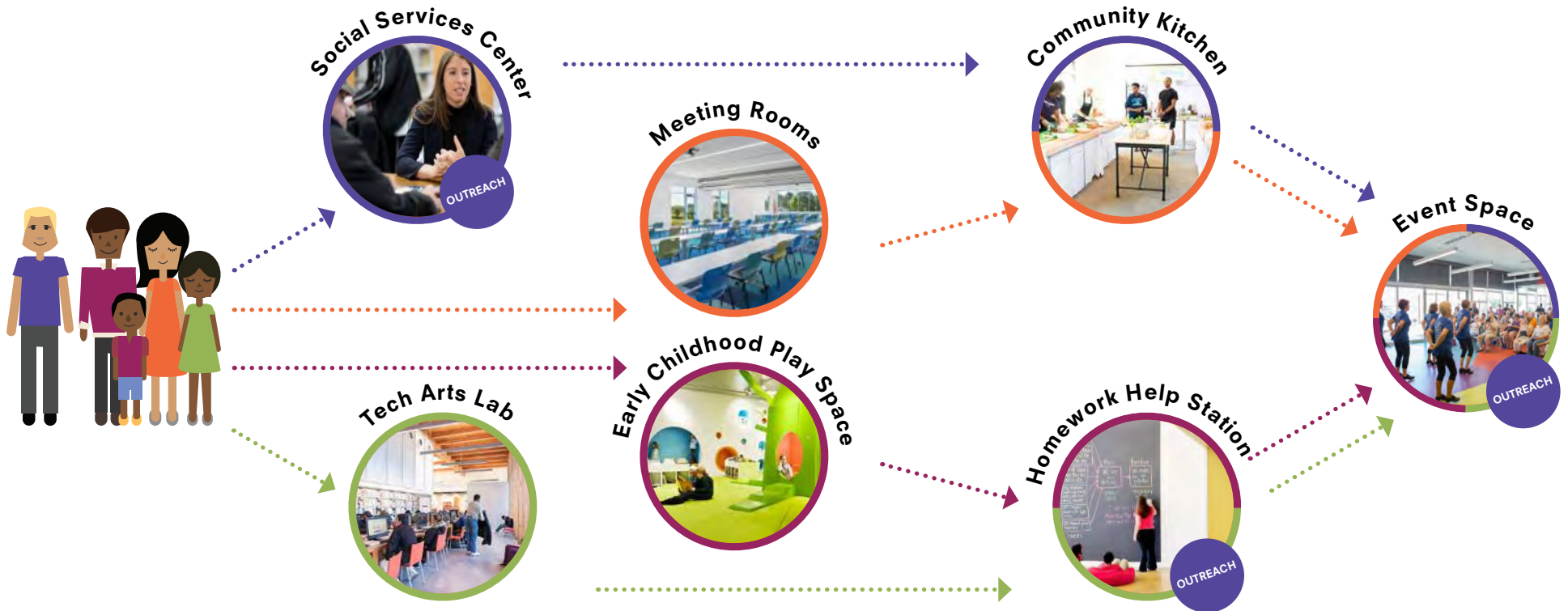
Youth (i.e. Picture Books, Board Books)
New Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction
Vibrant Displays
Art & Design
Self-Help
Seed Library

Potential Technologies

More Computers
More Printers/Scanners
Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- Teen Support
- Social Service Referral

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Little's Lab
- Kid Coders
- Make.Hack.Build.
- Active Learning Lab
- Tech Kit Check Outs
- Lunch & Learns

Outreach Opportunities*

- Nebraska Department of Labor (Social Services Center)
 - Creighton University Department of Education (Homework Help Station)
 - Benson First Friday (BFF) (Event Space)
- *Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

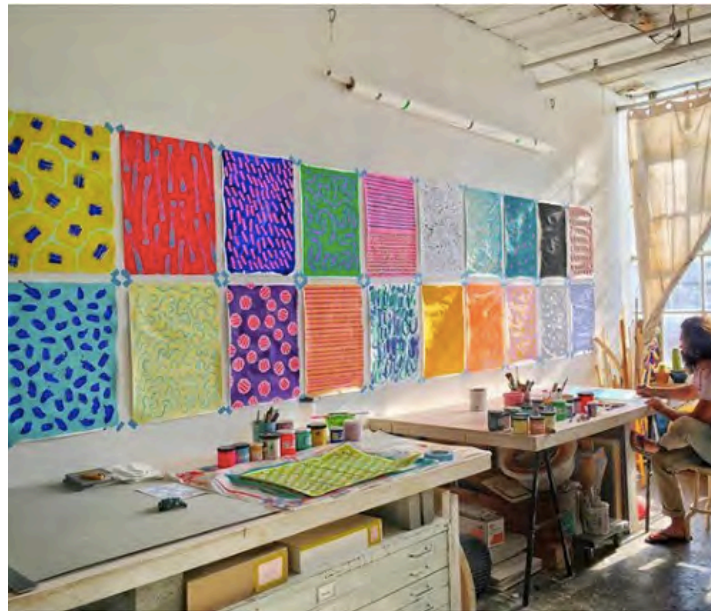
Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$8M-\$10M]	Large [\$12M]
 <p>Social Services Center</p>  <p>Tech Arts Lab</p>  <p>Early Childhood Play Space</p>  <p>Community Garden</p>  <p>Tool Library</p>  <p>Pop-ups</p>	 <p>Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</p>  <p>Community Kitchen</p>	 <p>Realign</p> <p>To Foster...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Equity• Family Support• Youth Development• Social Connections• Social Service Support• Partnership Impact

Benson

Community Framework

Recommendation REALIGN | Size 20,300 SF

FEELS LIKE...





Florence

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Florence Branch is a small library housed alongside the Florence Community Center, which is operated by Omaha Parks and Recreation. The two entities enjoy their colocated relationship, but could benefit from more synergized space and operations. The community center sees a lot of youth and teen members, whereas the library sees mostly families with young children, retirees and seniors. Teen participation at Florence Branch has decreased since Covid-19 but there has been an increase in youth services such as storytime; for example, the library is seeing double the attendance than past numbers. Florence Branch is a beloved place in the community, seen by the same community members who come

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

“In twenty years, I want someone to walk into the library and say, ‘Wow, you are carbon neutral!’”

*Lois Imig,
Florence Branch Manager*

in every day to talk and catch up with the staff. This contributes to the neighborhood’s small-town feel. There is a need for access to as well as education for computer and technology literacy and expanded youth programming. There has been an increase in family visitations at Florence Branch. The community’s interests include expanding the availability of print materials, educational and imaginative toys, and sustainable and innovative practices like robotics, electrical car charging stations, and education on carbon neutrality. The Florence Branch brings programs and services to the community outside the library walls with the Florence Branch youth librarian holding storytimes at Nelson Mandela Elementary.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime
Out and About Storytime
Read to a Dog
Youth Programming
Adult Omaha Symphony Program

Current Partners

Florence Community Center, Parks & Recreation
Nelson Mandela Elementary School
Florence Mill

Popular Collections

Print Material of All Genres

Popular Technologies

Computers
Charging Stations
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines
Wi-Fi

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Storytime and youth programming attendance has been increasing.



ACTIVE SENIOR COMMUNITY: Retired community members actively engage with the library. Several retirement communities are located nearby.



HIGH NEEDS FOR TECH HELP: Community members' needs range from basic to innovative.



ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY: Community members arrive by bus line 30, private vehicles, or walk.



COLOCATED WITH COMMUNITY CENTER: Shares a building with the Florence Community Center, could attract new community members to the library.

Florence

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN & SYNERGIZE** | Size **7,412 SF**

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Nelson Mandela E.S., Florence E.S., Philip Neri E.S., Minne Lusa E.S., MCC Fort Omaha



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: CHI Health Clinic, CHI Health Rehab, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Florence Medical Center



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: Florence, Community Center, Notre Dame Housing, Immanuel Senior Living, Seven Oaks of Florence



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Bus Line 30



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: Florence Mill, Mormon Trail Center, Fort Omaha, General Cook House



OPEN SPACE/PARKS: Miller Park, Dodge Park, MUD Trail, Craigs Park, Hummel Park

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR FLORENCE BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate
Accessible
Curious
Equitable and Inclusive
Innovative

...Omaha!

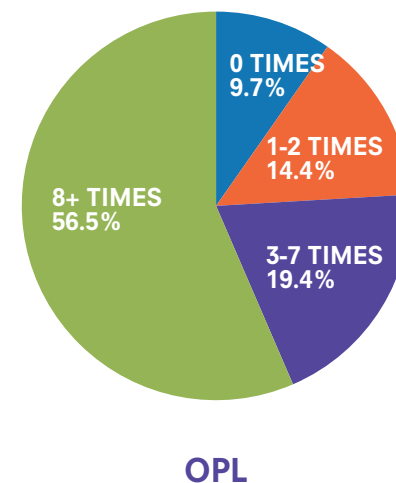
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- 1  Community Garden
- 2  Outdoor Reading Garden
- 3  Outdoor Community Space
- 4  Vibrant Cafe
- 5  Art Gallery
- 6  All of the options
- 7  Tool Library
- 8  Genealogy & History Hub
- 9  Food Truck Zone
- 10  Quiet Room

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Maker or Creative **Family or Individual**
 Other (Senior, Adult looking for books & programs)
Caregiver **Reader** **Gardener**
 Researcher or Family History Enthusiast
 Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)
Professional **Technology Learner**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



COMMUNITY INPUTS (FLORENCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY & NORTH OMAHA OUTREACH FINDINGS)



Kids games and reading area.

Reading Nooks



I don't have space for my own garden but still want to do it.

Community Garden



Socializing!

Social Club



MSS workshoped with teens at a Omaha 360 Teen Leadership group meeting, their sentiments are captured in the graphics to the left.



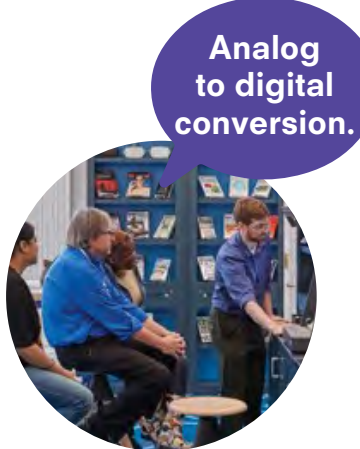
Make songs and talk about their lives.

Music Studio/ Podcast Room



Language classes to teach languages other than English.

Classrooms



Analog to digital conversion.

Tech Training Lab



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Florence staff installed beauty boards with photos of spaces and places and community members tagged what resonated with them with Post-its. These sentiments are illustrated to the left.

Florence

Community Framework

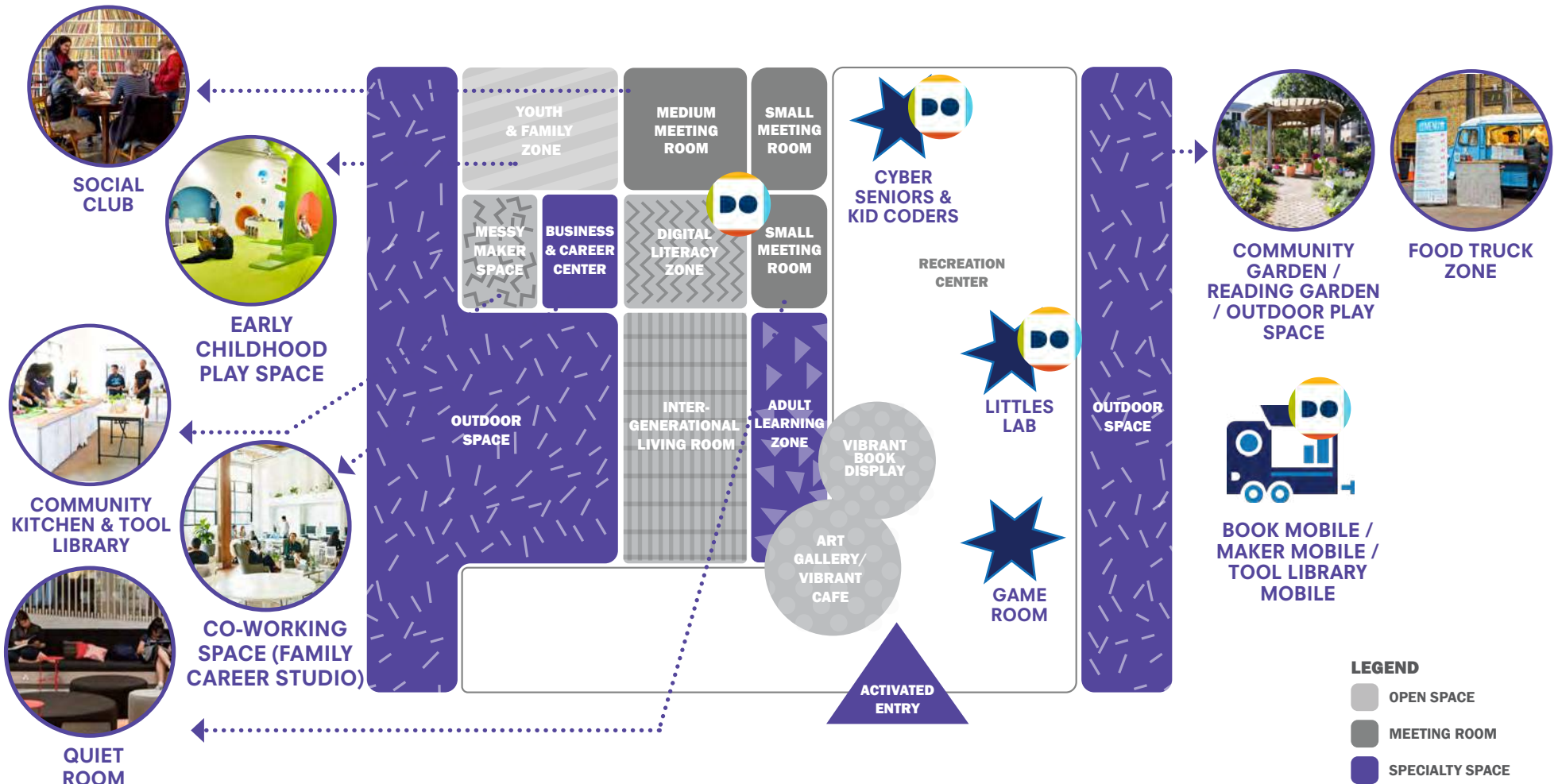
Recommendation REALIGN & SYNERGIZE | Size 7,412 SF

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

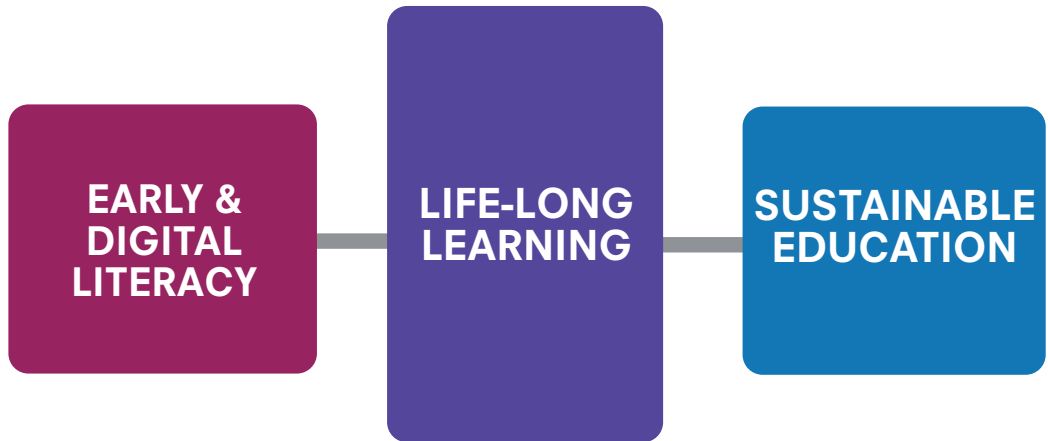
The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Florence Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This active learning

environment can support families, teens, and seniors' quality of life with programs that promote a healthy lifestyle, intergenerational connections, and empower people to be who they want to be by doing what they love.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

- Educational Toys & Games
- Expanded Storytimes
- Youth Storytelling Lab

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

- Family Career Studio
- Tinker Lab

Digital Equity & Inclusion

- Computer & Digital Programs Help
- STEAM Programming
- Maker & Creative Technology Equipment

Community Health & Safety

- Food & Cooking Programs
- Outdoor Recreation
- Sustainability Programming

Neighborhood Development

- Intergenerational Art/Entertainment
- Tool Check Out
- Local History Classes

Connection to Resources

- Retirement Planning
- Parent Education
- Language Learning

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

- Florence Community Center, Parks & Recreation
- Nelson Middle School
- Florence Mill
- No More Empty Pots
- Florence Historical Society
- Florence Boys & Girls Club
- Omaha Symphony
- Well-Read Women of Omaha

Current & Potential Collections

- Print Material of All Genres
- Large Print Material
- References/Periodicals
- Biographies
- Increased Charging Stations

Potential Technologies

- Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts
- Printing Resources
- Gaming Equipment
- Computer Access
- Business Software

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

Florence

Community Framework

Recommendation REALIGN & SYNERGIZE | Size 7,412 SF

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Youth Programming & Literacy
- Senior Programming
- Digital & Technology Literacy

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Kid Coders
- Active Learning Lab
- Tech Kit Check Outs
- STEM Classes
- Cyber Seniors

Outreach Opportunities*

- Parks & Recreation (Outdoor Reading Garden)
- No More Empty Pots (Community Kitchen)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

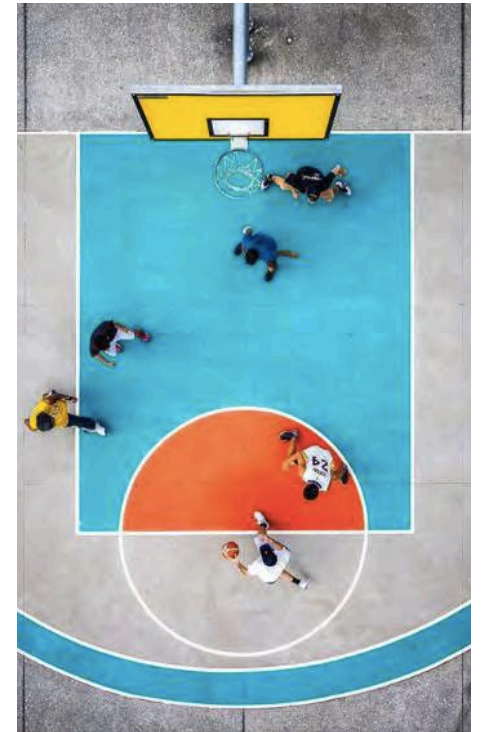
Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$3M-\$5M]	Large [\$4.5M]
<div data-bbox="100 548 352 766"> </div> <p data-bbox="88 792 394 909">Little's Lab / Cyber Seniors / Kid Coders Pop-up</p> <div data-bbox="113 964 340 1188"> </div> <p data-bbox="88 1201 340 1276">Early Childhood Play Space</p> <div data-bbox="420 574 646 766"> </div> <p data-bbox="436 792 634 867">Game Room Pop-up</p> <div data-bbox="420 964 646 1188"> </div> <p data-bbox="436 1201 533 1276">Quiet Room</p>	<div data-bbox="785 574 1155 863"> <p data-bbox="802 639 1113 789">Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</p> </div> <div data-bbox="785 964 1008 1188"> </div> <p data-bbox="785 1201 966 1276">Community Kitchen</p>	<div data-bbox="1415 574 1646 799"> </div> <p data-bbox="1415 815 1738 854">Realign & Synergize</p> <p data-bbox="1415 889 1591 928">To Foster...</p> <ul data-bbox="1465 932 1814 1156" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Literacy • Senior Support • Youth Development • Social Connections • Partnership Impact • Integrated Services

Florence

Community Framework

Recommendation REALIGN & SYNERGIZE | Size 7,412 SF

FEELS LIKE...





Charles B. Washington

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

Charles B. Washington Branch serves families, teens looking for a place to hang out and use technology, adults who work from home and need working space, seniors needing technology assistance, job and social service seekers, those experiencing poverty and homelessness, and families holding supervised visits. Due to the increase in supervised visits, staff has adapted study rooms to offer comfortable seating and added toys for imaginative play. Many families are single or working parents who need convenient service in a place where their children can also learn and connect with others. This means that many community members don't have a lot of expendable time and sometimes it is

COMMUNITY MEMBER QUOTE

“Washington is the side hustle corner, I started my business here.”

*Paul B. Allen IV,
1st Sky, Benson Theatre*

the older children bringing in their younger siblings. The teen and tween community needs places where they can connect to mentors and foster positive role models. It has an expanding arts community and urban gardening community. Washington Branch has affectionately been coined the “side hustle corner” where the entrepreneurial spirit is strong and many community members utilize the meeting rooms for professional endeavors. They could benefit from more directed workforce development support. Community members also need barrier-free access to social services.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Spark Your Story
Toys & Gaming
Juneteenth Camp and Flag Raising Luncheon
Book Clubs
Kids Programming
Summer Evening Programs

Current Partners

Miller Park Elementary
Union for Contemporary Arts
Juneteenth Nebraska Inc.
Volunteer Income Tax Assessment (VITA)

Popular Collections

Urban Fiction
Business Self-Help
Personal Self-Help
Mysteries

Popular Technologies

Computers
Charging Stations
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines
Wi-Fi

Charles B. Washington

Community Framework

Recommendation REALIGN & EXPAND | Size 24-28,000 SF

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



HIGHLY USED FAMILY SPACE: Family area is in high demand throughout the day.



MAKER COMMUNITY: Bustling North Omaha arts community. Quilters We Are meets here.



HIGH NEEDS FOR TECH HELP: Many community members' needs range from basic to innovative.



HIGHLY USED PUBLIC TRANSIT: Most community members arrive by foot, bike, or bus.



HIGH CHECKOUTS OF BUSINESS & SELF-HELP: Community members looking for a place to start their business.



FAMILY CAREER STUDIO: Many families come with children but also need a place to apply for jobs.

Charles B. Washington

Community Framework

Recommendation REALIGN & EXPAND | Size 24-28,000 SF

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: North H.S., King Science & Technology M.S., McMillan M.S., Belvedere E.S., Druid Hill E.S., Skinner E.S., MCC



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: Noah Clinic, Charles Drew



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: ENCAP, Adams Park Community Center, Heartland Family Service Generations Community Center.



TRANSPORTATION HUBS: North Omaha Transit Center, Heartland Bike Share



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: The Union for Contemporary Art, Great Plains Black History Museum, Malcom X Center, North Omaha Music & Arts Academy, The Omaha Star, SPARK Fabric Lab



OPEN SPACE/PARKS: Miller Park, Adams Park

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR WASHINGTON BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Equitable and Inclusive
Accessible
Innovative
Fun
Walkable

...Omaha!

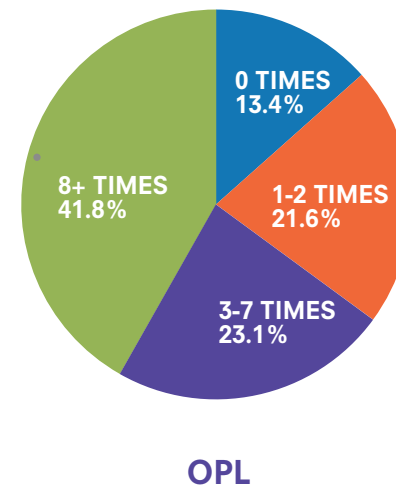
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)
Family or Individual
Caregiver **Reader** **Community Member (Meeting Space)**
Community Member (Basic Needs) **Technology Learner**
Maker or Creative
Gardener **Professional**

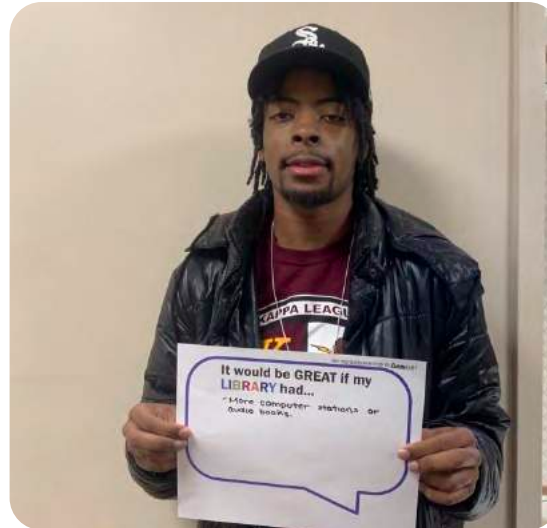
In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



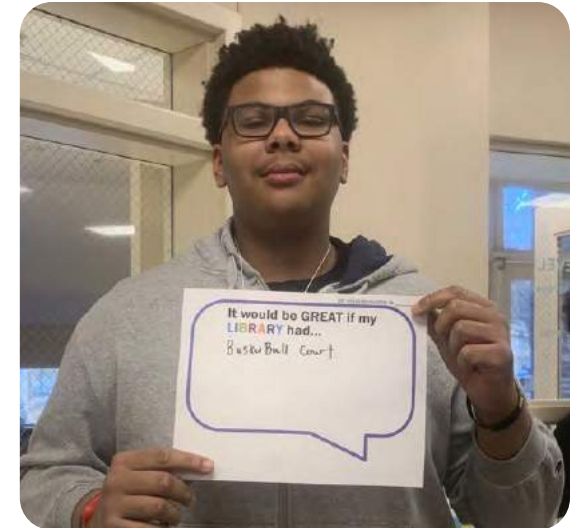
COMMUNITY INPUTS (NORTH OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE & OUTREACH FINDINGS)

When I leave the library, I want to feel...

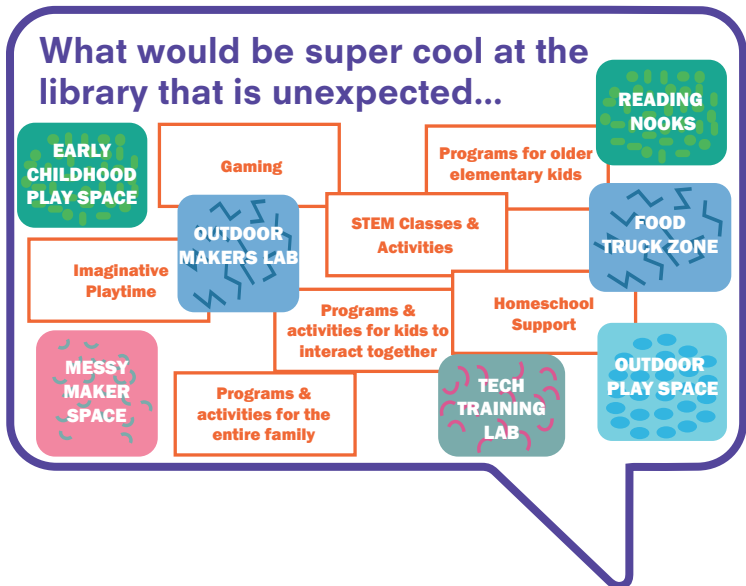
Accomplished	Expressive
Amazed	Hopeful
Creative	Joyful
Empowered	Optimistic



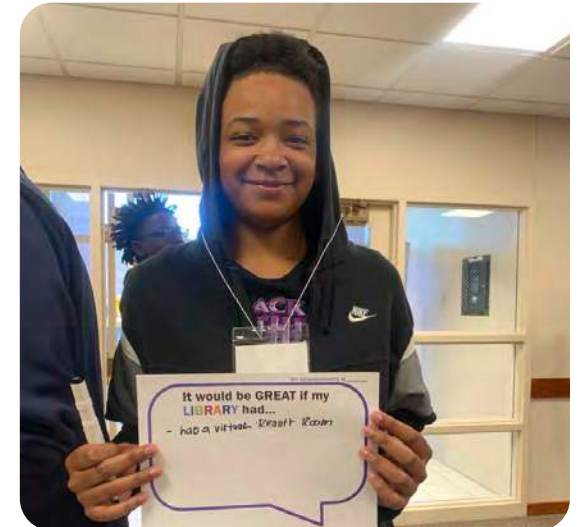
Teen from the Village Empowerment Center wants "more computer stations or audio books" at his library.



Teen from the Village Empowerment Center wants "a basketball court" at his library.



Community member at the North Omaha Community Open House at the Village Empowerment Center completing the magnet ad-lib, exemplified in graphics to the left.



Teen from the Village Empowerment Center wants "a virtual reality room" at his library.

Charles B. Washington

Community Framework

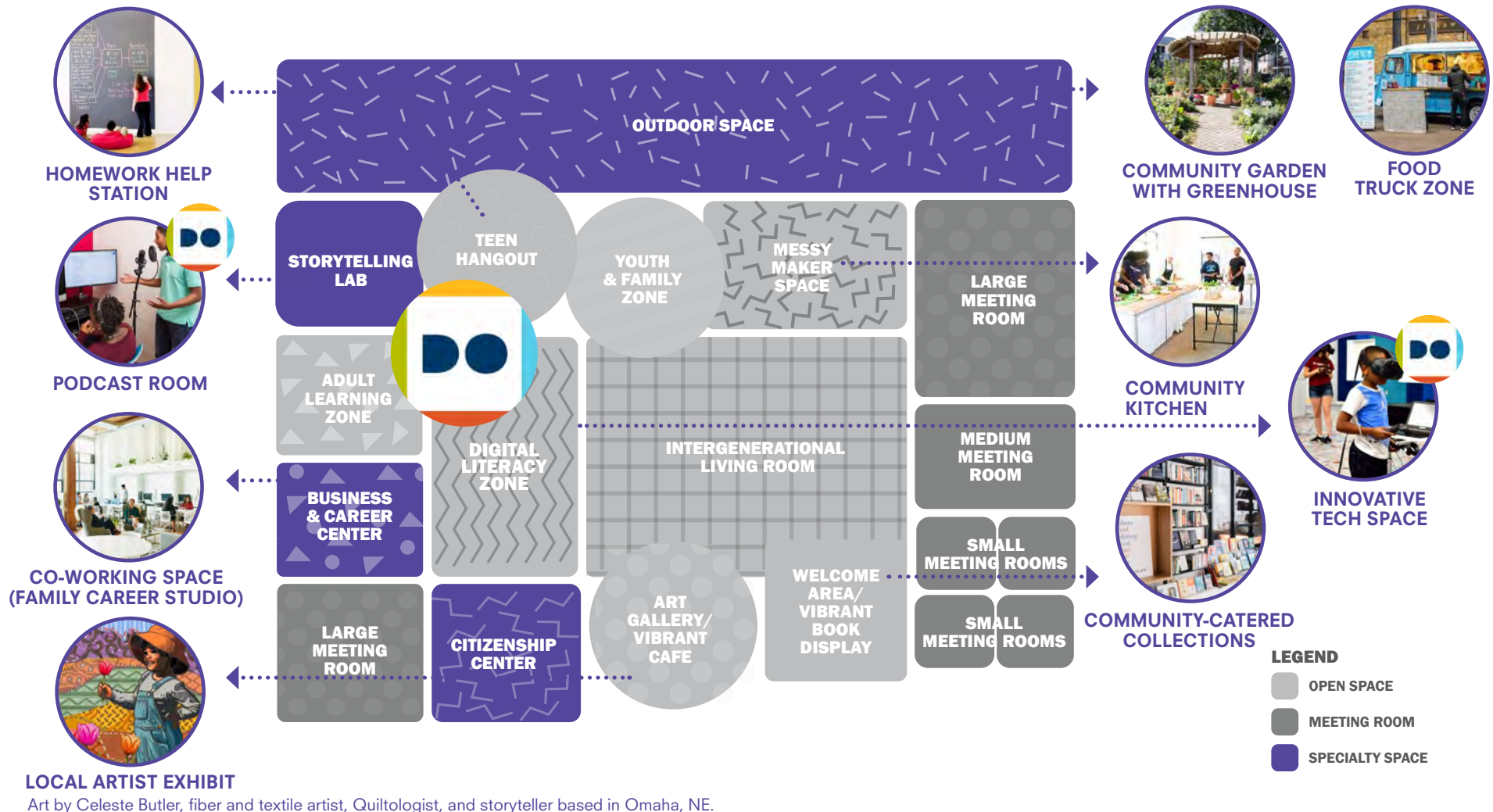
Recommendation REALIGN & EXPAND | Size 24-28,000 SF

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Charles B. Washington Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning

and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This energetic learning

environment for families, adults, and youth can be a community hub, supporting the community by providing passion-based programs, technology and spaces for an innovative and committed community of users.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

- House of Afros, Capes, & Curls
- SPARK Fabric Lab
- MCC Digital Express
- No More Empty Pots
- Empowerment Network
- Heartland Workforce Solutions
- Urban League of Nebraska

Current & Potential Collections

- Urban Fiction
- Popular Children & Teen
- Culturally Diverse
- Self-Help (Personal, Parenting, Business)
- Video Game Checkouts

Potential Technologies

- Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts
- Business Software
- Gaming Equipment
- Sewing Machines

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

- Imaginative Play
- Book Clubs

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

- DIY Programming
- Financial Literacy Classes
- Family Career Studio

Digital Equity & Inclusion

- Gaming
- Basic Technology Help
- Digital Resource Checkout

Community Health & Safety

- Mentorship program
- After-Hours Events for All Ages

Neighborhood Development

- Urban Gardening
- Rotating Local Art Display

Connection to Resources

- Social Services Referral
- Public Transportation Information

Charles B. Washington

Community Framework

Recommendation REALIGN & EXPAND | Size 24-28,000 SF

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- STEAM
- Local Workforce Development

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Make.Hack.Build
- Active Learning Lab
- Lunch & Learns
- Tech Kit Check Outs
- Innovative Tech Equipment

Outreach Opportunities*

- No More Empty Pots (Messy Maker Space)
- Urban League of Nebraska (Business & Career Center)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$6M-\$8M]	Large [\$16M-\$19.5M]
<div data-bbox="121 532 407 753"></div> <p data-bbox="121 768 254 837">Podcast Room</p> <div data-bbox="407 532 680 753"></div> <p data-bbox="407 768 695 837">Innovative Technology Space</p> <div data-bbox="121 862 348 1083"></div> <p data-bbox="121 1097 443 1167">Co-Working Space (Family Career Studio)</p> <div data-bbox="121 1190 348 1411"></div> <p data-bbox="121 1425 300 1495">Food Truck Zone</p> <div data-bbox="407 1190 634 1411"></div> <p data-bbox="407 1425 585 1495">Community Garden</p>	<div data-bbox="785 565 1155 850"><p>Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</p></div> <div data-bbox="785 927 1012 1148"></div> <p data-bbox="785 1162 963 1232">Community Kitchen</p> <div data-bbox="1062 927 1289 1148"></div> <p data-bbox="1062 1162 1220 1232">Do Space Lab</p>	<div data-bbox="1419 565 1646 786"></div> <p data-bbox="1419 800 1736 837">Realign and Expand</p> <p data-bbox="1419 881 1587 914">To Foster...</p> <ul data-bbox="1467 919 1917 1179" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Equity and Literacy • Youth and Family Support • Mentorship Development • Small Businesses • Social Connections • Partnership Impact • Cultural Celebrations

Charles B. Washington

Community Framework

Recommendation REALIGN & EXPAND | Size 24-28,000 SF

FEELS LIKE...





A.V. Sorensen

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The A.V. Sorensen Branch is very embedded in and directly serves the surrounding Dundee neighborhood. Although the branch is small, there are many regulars who come in daily and have relationships with staff and other community members. The branch serves many young families, parenting groups, teens and tweens, seniors and retirees, and lower income adults, many of whom have limited access to transportation. The socio-economic status of the neighborhood is at different spectrums, holding some of Omaha's wealthiest community members as well as those facing housing insecurity. Popular programming includes youth-focused events and activities, especially storytimes, as well as book clubs for adults. Even though

COMMUNITY MEMBER QUOTE

"A.V. Sorensen is a very neighborhood-y neighborhood branch, it's a beehive of activity."

*Nancy Round,
Joslyn Art Museum*

the square footage is limited, circulation numbers are comparable to surrounding neighborhood branches with more space. The library recently did a refresh during which they added new shelving, revamped the children's area and reorganized the business center. Even with a refresh, the space is very small and staff sometimes must refer community members to other spaces because there are not enough meeting and study rooms, computers and technology to meet the demand. A.V. Sorensen Branch shares a building with Omaha Parks and Recreation's A.V. Sorensen Community Center downstairs.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

- Storytimes
- Adult Book Clubs
- Youth Programming
- Book Bundles
- Reader's Advisory
- Partnership Passes

Current Partners

- A.V. Sorensen Community Center,
- Parks & Recreation
- Dundee Community Garden
- Local Neighborhood Associations

Popular Collections

- Youth Collections
- Adult Collections
- Newspapers
- Toys
- Seed Library

Popular Technologies

- Computers
- Wi-Fi

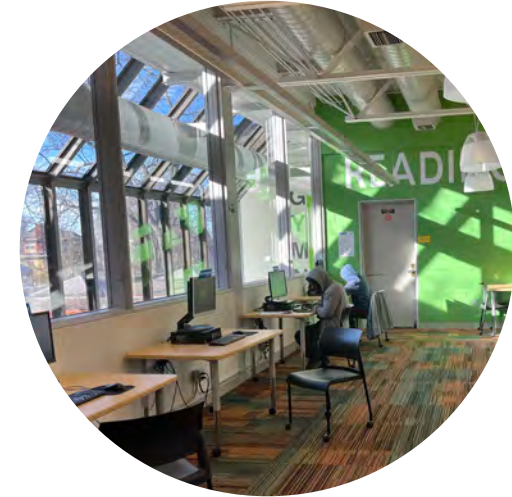
CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



HIGH CIRCULATION: Circulation statistics are almost equal to larger branches; holds and pickups are utilized in this walkable neighborhood.



HIGHLY ATTENDED YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Storytime receives community members in high numbers accommodating around 80 people at times.



SPACE IS LIMITED: Branch has very limited space, has to refer community members elsewhere for meeting space at times when branch is crowded.



COLOCATED WITH RECREATION CENTER: Being located on the second floor of the building has challenges but the branch appreciates the opportunities colocation brings.



VERY MUCH A NEIGHBORHOOD BRANCH: Branch is very embedded in Dundee, "beehive" of activity and conversations between community members and staff.



HIGHEST NEEDS & INTERESTS INCLUDE: Access to internet and basic technology, social services information/referrals, spaces to gather/study.

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Dundee E.S., St. Cecilia E.S., Parish Alternative School, UNMC, Duchesne Academy, Clarkson College



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: CHI Health Clinic, Nebraska Medicine, CVS-Minute Clinic



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: A.V. Sorensen Community Center



TRANSPORTATION HUBS: Heartland Bike Share, ORBT Bus Route



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: Joslyn Castle & Gardens, Karen Society of Nebraska, Film Streams' Dundee Theater



PUBLIC PARKS & UTILITY: Memorial Park, Elmwood Park, Gifford Park, Mercer Park, Clarkson Park

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR A.V. SORENSEN BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

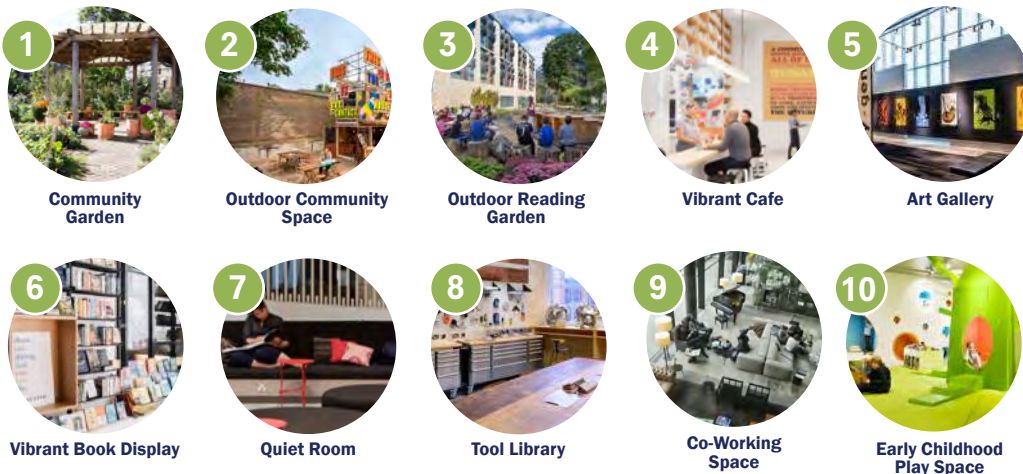
Equitable and Inclusive
Literate
Curious
Accessible
Civically Engaged

...Omaha!

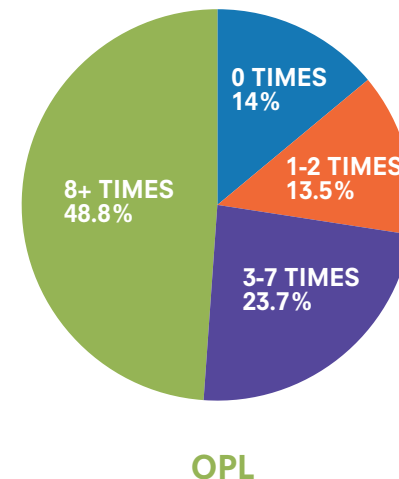
How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Maker or Creative **Volunteer**
Community Member (Meeting Space)
Reader **Caregiver**
Family or Individual
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast **Gardener**
Technology Learner **Professional**

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



COMMUNITY INPUTS (URBAN CORE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)

“It would be great if my community had a movie night or talent show, and arts and crafts.”

Community Member's Quote from "It would be GREAT" if my "COMMUNITY" had... visioning activity sheet.

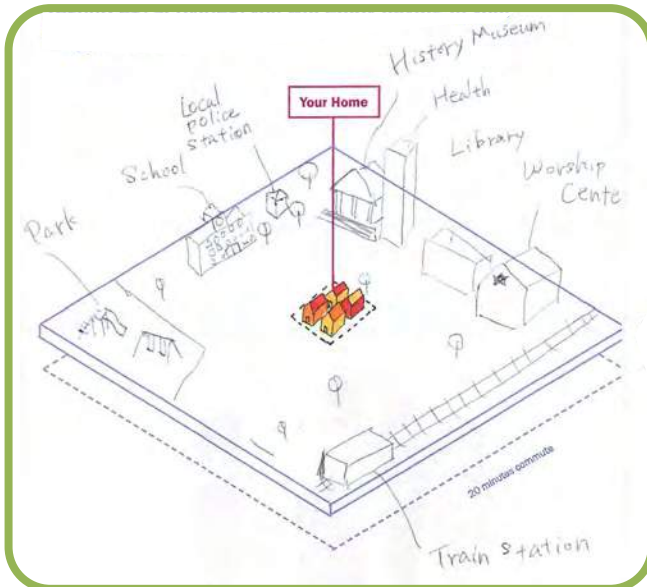
It would be GREAT if my

COMMUNITY had...

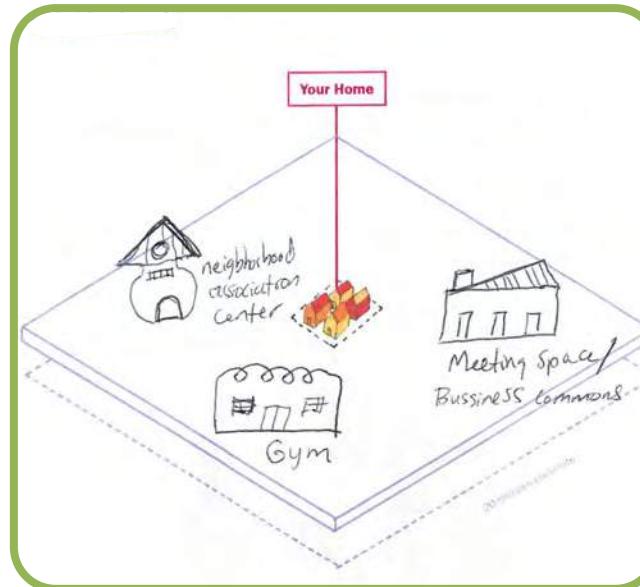
a playground and a outdoor pool and a cooking Academy and a cuby for when you read book's and Snacks Maybe: and a Movie night or a talent show and arts and crafts and a outdoor playground Photoshoot for Library



Your preferred mode of transportation is: Cycling
Bus/Trains



Your preferred mode of transportation is: e-bike



Community Assets:

- Library
- Meeting Spaces/Business Commons
- Park
- School
- Health Facility
- Gym
- Local Police Station
- Neighborhood Association Center
- History Museum
- Worship Center
- Train Station

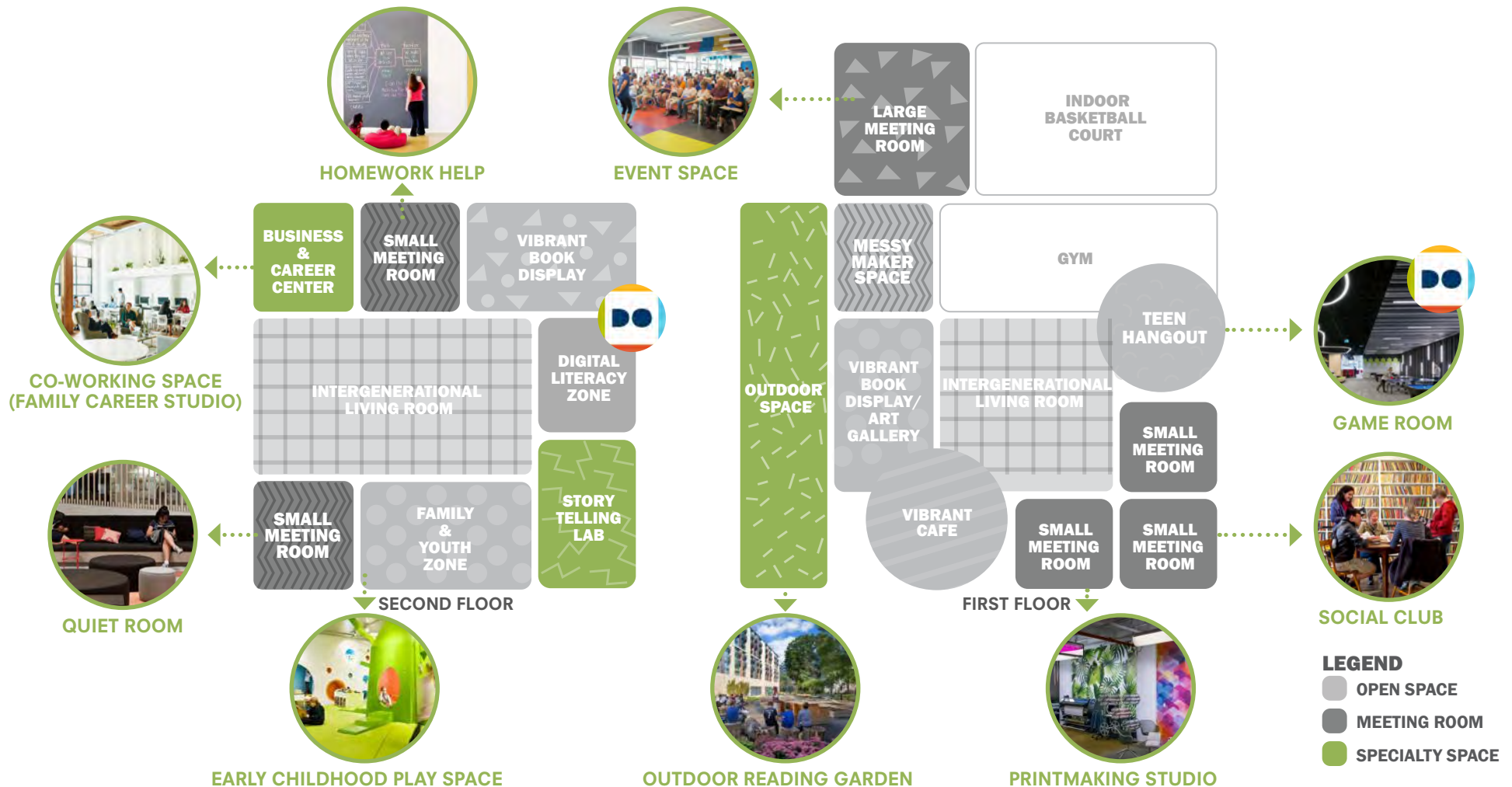
Community members at the Urban Core Community Open House at Do Space completed activity zines to envision the community assets that they would benefit from having within 20 minutes of their homes. They also designated their preferred mode of transportation for getting around town.

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

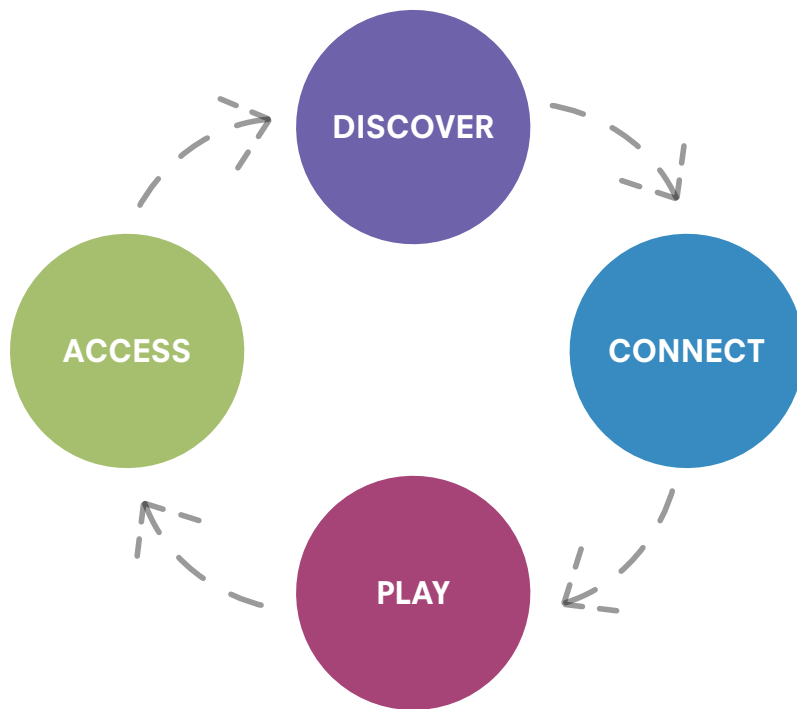
The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at A.V. Sorensen Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development,

planning and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This active

learning environment can support families, teens, and seniors' quality of life with programs that promote a healthy lifestyle, intergenerational connections, and access to the resources they need by synergizing space utilizations.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Storytime
Study & Meeting Spaces

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building
Family Career Studio

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Technology Literacy
Access to Technology Equipment
Sensory Play Spaces

Community Health & Safety

Youth programming
Family-Centric Programming
Cultural Heritage Programming

Neighborhood Development

Community Gardening
Local Art Display

Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships
More Heartland Bike Share Stations

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners

AV Sorensen Community Center
Neighborhood Associations
Dundee Community Garden
Joslyn Castle & Gardens
Joslyn Art Museum
Neighborhood Schools
Local Social Health & Senior Service Providers
Omaha By Design
Weitz Family Foundation
Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
Film Streams' Dundee Theater

Current & Potential Collections

Expand Book Collection & Audiobooks
Seed Library

Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts
More Computers
Sensory Play Equipment

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- Youth Programming
- Social Service Referrals

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Kid Coders
- Active Learning Lab
- Cyber Seniors
- Tech Kit Check Outs
- Excel-erate

Outreach Opportunities*



- A.V. Sorensen Community Center, Parks & Recreation (Event Space & Game Room)
- Dundee Community Garden (Outdoor Reading Garden)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$3M-\$5M]	Large [\$7M-\$8.5M]
<div data-bbox="121 540 352 764"></div> <div data-bbox="117 769 380 847">Early Childhood Play Space</div> <div data-bbox="422 540 653 764"></div> <div data-bbox="430 769 560 844">Vibrant Cafe</div> <div data-bbox="121 883 380 1107"></div> <div data-bbox="121 1117 228 1192">Game Room</div> <div data-bbox="422 870 653 1094"></div> <div data-bbox="415 1097 680 1172">Homework Help Station</div> <div data-bbox="121 1218 352 1442"></div> <div data-bbox="113 1442 394 1516">Outdoor Reading Garden</div>	<div data-bbox="785 548 1155 834">Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</div> <div data-bbox="785 909 1010 1133"></div> <div data-bbox="777 1146 1092 1185">Community Kitchen</div>	<div data-bbox="1415 574 1646 799"></div> <div data-bbox="1407 812 1856 850">Realign/Expand/Synergize</div> <div data-bbox="1407 889 1591 925">To Foster...</div> <ul data-bbox="1461 928 2003 1156" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Equity • Family and Youth Development • Community Hub • Social Connections • Partnership Impact • Integrated Services

Recommendation REALIGN, EXPAND, & SYNERGIZE | Size 10-12,000 SF

FEELS LIKE...





South Omaha

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The South Omaha Library serves families and seniors who are linguistically and culturally diverse with a significant Latin and Hispanic community from Central America, refugees from South Sudan, as well as a community of Irish, Italian, and Eastern European descent. English and Spanish are the main languages spoken in South Omaha. Other languages include Arabic, Maay Maay, a dialect of the Somali language, and Kanjobal, a spoken but not written language from Guatemala. This provides an opportunity to expand collections, services, programs, and signage beyond the English language, including expanding bilingual staff capacity. The community includes many needing social services including job assistance,

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

“The staff at the South Omaha Library are very committed to serving this community and find great joy in doing so.”

*Marvel Maring,
South Omaha Library Manager*

mental health resources, and family support. The branch serves community members from surrounding low-income housing developments as well as the Stephen Center homeless center which has a substance abuse treatment center. Many community members actively rely on technology from the branch as they don't have computers or smartphones at home. South Omaha Library can more intentionally support community members' basic technology literacy needs with help such as filing online applications and training to grow and learn new skills. The library also has the opportunity to foster community as a place for sharing and celebrating their fellow community members' identities and cultures.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Bilingual Storytime
Traditional Storytime
Urban Gardening
Family Zumba
Special Events
Workshops

Current Partners

Metropolitan Community College
The Simple Foundation
Learning Community Center of South Omaha
Latino Center of the Midlands

Popular Collections

Bilingual materials
DVD

Popular Technologies

Computers
Copier
Scanner
Fax Machine

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



SUCCESSFUL TEEN AND FAMILY SPACES: Recent reallocation of spaces optimizes the specific user experience.



LINGUISTICALLY & CULTURALLY DIVERSE: Refugee, New American, & immigrant populations from parts of Central America, Africa, & Asia.



HIGH NEEDS FOR TECH HELP: Many community members rely on the library for Wi-Fi and help with technology literacy.



LIMITED VISIBILITY & ACCESS: Library signage is limited from Q street, Q Street is major barrier to residential neighborhood, not walkable.



PARTNERSHIP WITH METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MCC): shared facility and operations offers pros and cons.



HIGHEST NEEDS INCLUDE: Technology access, job assistance, social services referral, & bilingual programming.

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Spring Lake E.S., Gateway E.S., Indian Hill E.S., Marrs M.S., Buena Vista H.S., MCC South Omaha Campus



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: One World Community Health Center, Stephen Center



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: The Simple Foundation, Latino Center of the Midlands, Learning Community Center of South Omaha



TRANSPORTATION HUBS: Metro Bus Terminal on the MCC South Omaha Campus, Heartland Bike Share



CULTURAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: El Museo Latino, Completely KIDS, Juan Diego Center, Lord of Hosts Church, Avenue Scholars, Lincua Academy



PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY: Metropolitan Community College Police Department

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR SOUTH OMAHA LIBRARY)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Accessible
Innovative
Equitable & Inclusive
Literate
Sustainable

...Omaha!

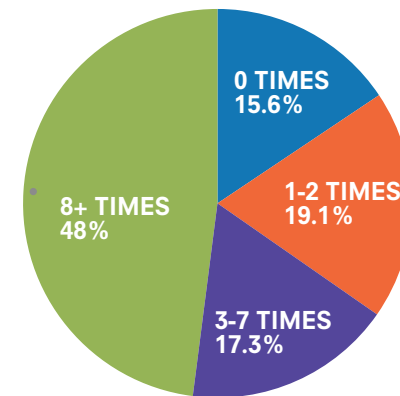
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Professional **Community member (Internet/Computer Access)**
Family or Individual
Caregiver **Reader** **Technology Learner**
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast **Gardener**
Community Member (Meeting Space) **Maker or Creative**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

COMMUNITY INPUTS (SOUTH OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)

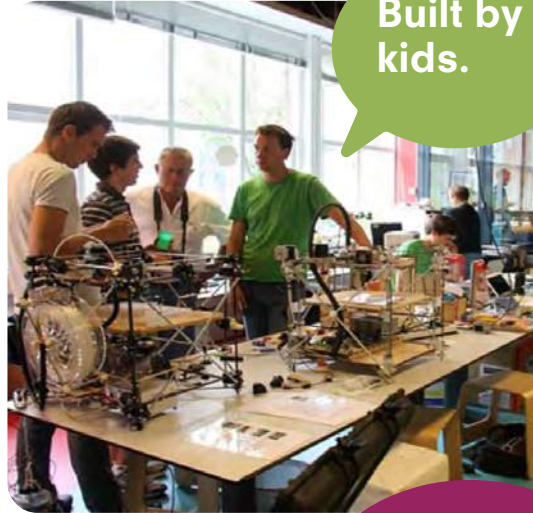
OUTDOOR SPACES

Looks fun!
People are on it.



MAKERSPACES

Built by kids.



CATERED COLLECTIONS

Kids place with kids books.

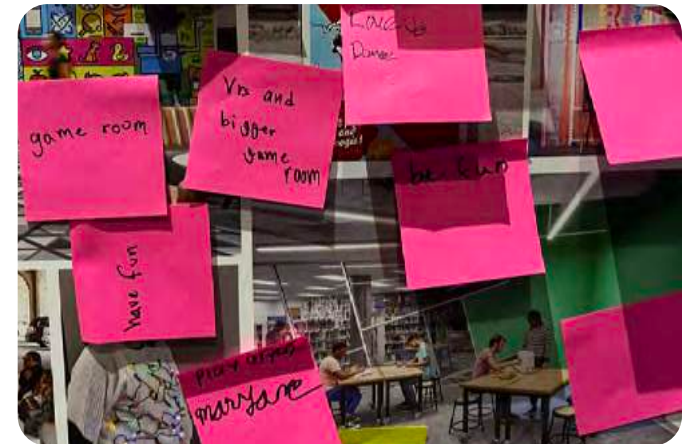


SOCIAL SPACES

A place to take a break and hang out with friends.



60 attendees participated at South Omaha Community Open House at the Simple Foundation.



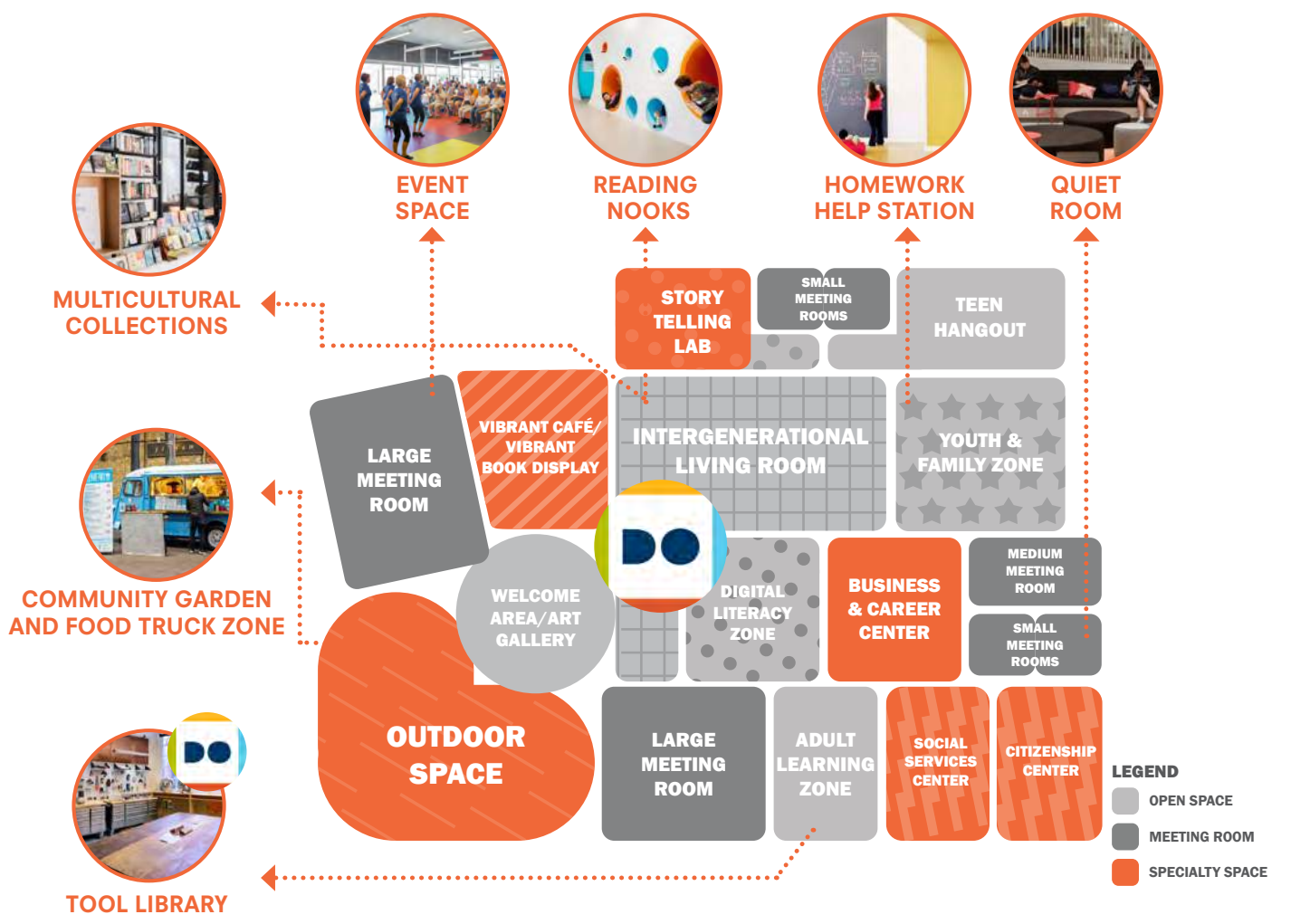
Attendees tagged beauty boards with what resonated with them for a future library experience.

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at South Omaha Library. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This enriching learning

environment for families and youth, especially those who are vulnerable, can support the community by providing programs and spaces that foster empowerment, identity, celebrations, and pride.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Storytime in Even More Languages
Sustained Dialogue Project (Storytelling)

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building
Family Career Studio

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Sensory Play Spaces
Technology Literacy
Robust Technology Equipment

Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program
Family-Centric Programming
Cultural Heritage Programming

Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening
Rotating Local Art Display

Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships
Public Transportation Information

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners

Metropolitan Community College
The Simple Foundation
Learning Community Center of South Omaha
Latino Center of the Midlands
Heartland Workforce Solutions
AIM Institute
Completely KIDS
Lord of Hosts Church
Stephen Center
Local Consulates
City Sprouts
Canopy South

Current & Potential Collections

Expand World Collection Books & Audiobooks
Seed Library

Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts
Sensory Play

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- Social Services Referral
- Local Workforce Development

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Active Learning Lab
- Cyber Seniors
- STEM Classes
- Lunch & Learns
- Tech Kit Check Outs

Outreach Opportunities*

- Stephen Center (Social Services Center)
- Heartland Workforce Solutions (Adult Learning Zone & Business & Career Center)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$9M-\$11M]	Large [\$15M-\$21M]
<div data-bbox="121 527 373 764"></div> <p data-bbox="142 776 256 846">Tool Library</p> <div data-bbox="121 865 348 1084"></div> <p data-bbox="121 1096 298 1166">Food Truck Zone</p> <div data-bbox="121 1185 348 1404"></div> <p data-bbox="121 1416 235 1485">Health Pop-up</p> <div data-bbox="415 540 642 760"></div> <p data-bbox="407 771 588 841">Community Garden</p> <div data-bbox="415 865 642 1084"></div> <p data-bbox="407 1096 701 1166">Business & Career Center Pop-up</p> <div data-bbox="415 1185 680 1404"></div> <p data-bbox="407 1416 625 1485">Wi-Fi Hotspot Mobile</p>	<div data-bbox="785 576 1155 862"><p>Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</p></div> <div data-bbox="785 938 1012 1157"></div> <p data-bbox="785 1177 940 1247">Do Space Lab</p>	<div data-bbox="1419 576 1646 795"></div> <p data-bbox="1419 815 1545 852">Analyze</p> <p data-bbox="1419 893 1587 930">To Foster...</p> <ul data-bbox="1465 933 1839 1153" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Equity • Family Support • Youth Mentorship • Small Businesses • Partnership Impact • Cultural Celebrations

South Omaha

Community Framework

Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size 25-30,000 SF

FEELS LIKE...





Willa Cather

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

Willa Cather Branch has strong ties to the community members it serves including seniors and retirees, longtime residents of the area, young families, and those experiencing homelessness or near homelessness. The programs, collections, and activities that interest the community most include reading, the newspaper collection, author talks, a weekly knitting group, the seed library, access to the computers, printer and fax machines, and utilizing holds/pickups. This branch sees high adult circulation and usage which suggests the adult collections and programs could be expanded while also providing a dedicated family area for the many young families who utilize the branch. Willa Cather Branch is a quiet library and is the oldest non-

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

“The building has a small library feel and staff know their regular patrons by sight or name. The staff are continuously looking for better ways to serve them.”

*Lori Nelson,
Willa Cather Branch Manager*

renovated branch; the building hasn't changed much over the years. Staff have to be creative with the space in order to provide the best service to its community such as finding private spaces for social service consultations and family visitations. The branch is important to the neighborhood because it serves as a community hub in a neighborhood that lacks an intimate main street feel. It is fairly walkable but lacks centralization. Parks, restaurants, grocers, and fast food restaurants are isolated from each other or far from the Willa Cather Branch. The branch's proximity to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Immigrant Legal Center and Refugee Empowerment Center provides an opportunity for the branch to further its reach and serve the community even better.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Read to a Dog
Gardening Storytime
Musician Storytime
Symphony Musician Storytime
Make A Sock Puppet
Create Your Own Adventure

Current Partners

Paws for Friendship

Popular Collections

Seed Library
Newspapers

Popular Technologies

Computers
Printing
Fax Machine

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



SPACES FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS: Community served includes retirees, young families, long-time residents, and those at risk or currently experiencing homelessness.



HIGH ADULT CIRCULATION: Adult spaces, programs, and collections could be expanded.



STAFF ARE CREATIVE WITH SPACE: Find alternative spaces for privacy when needed by community members, such as for phone calls, case worker meetings, and family visitations.



BUILDING NEEDS TO BE RENOVATED AND EXPANDED: Oldest non-renovated OPL building that needs to be larger to accommodate high usage.



BRANCH IS HUB FOR COMMUNITY: The neighborhood lacks the feel of a main street and local amenities are spread out, library serves as main attraction.



PARKING IS LIMITED: Parking is limited on the lot and often at capacity.

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Jackson E.S., Washington E.S., Field Club E.S., Norris M.S., Mercy Catholic H.S., Clarkson College



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Douglas County Health Department, University of Nebraska Medical Center



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: Hispanic Art Center of Omaha, We Are South Omaha, Intercultural Senior Center



TRANSPORTATION HUBS: Omaha Metro Bus Route 15, Heartland Bike Share



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: Hanscom Church, Immigrant Legal Center & Refugee Empowerment Center



OPEN SPACE & PARKS: Field Club of Omaha, Hanscom Park

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR WILLA CATHER BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Curious
Literate
Equitable & Inclusive
Civically Engaged
Innovative

...Omaha!

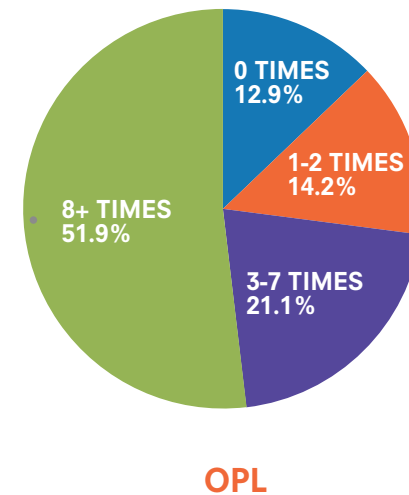
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Researcher or Family History Enthusiast
Family or Individual Gardener
Caregiver **Reader** **Volunteer**
Technology Learner **Professional**
Community Member (Meeting Space) **Maker or Creative**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



COMMUNITY INPUTS (SOUTH OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)



Classrooms

Learn about
other cultures
and get help
with subjects I'm
struggling with.



Community Kitchen

Make food
w/ community
and support
communities w/
meals
Seed Library
Program



Game Room

Hang out
Play minecraft
and Nintendo
Switch.



Outdoor Community Space

Play sports
We need more
adult programs.



Vibrant Cafe

Break talk
with friends.
Have fun
with kids.



Study Room

Space to do my
homework.
Use tablets to
do my
homework.



About 60 community members attended the South Omaha Community Open House at the Simple Foundation. Their sentiments are captured in the graphics to the left.

Willa Cather

Community Framework

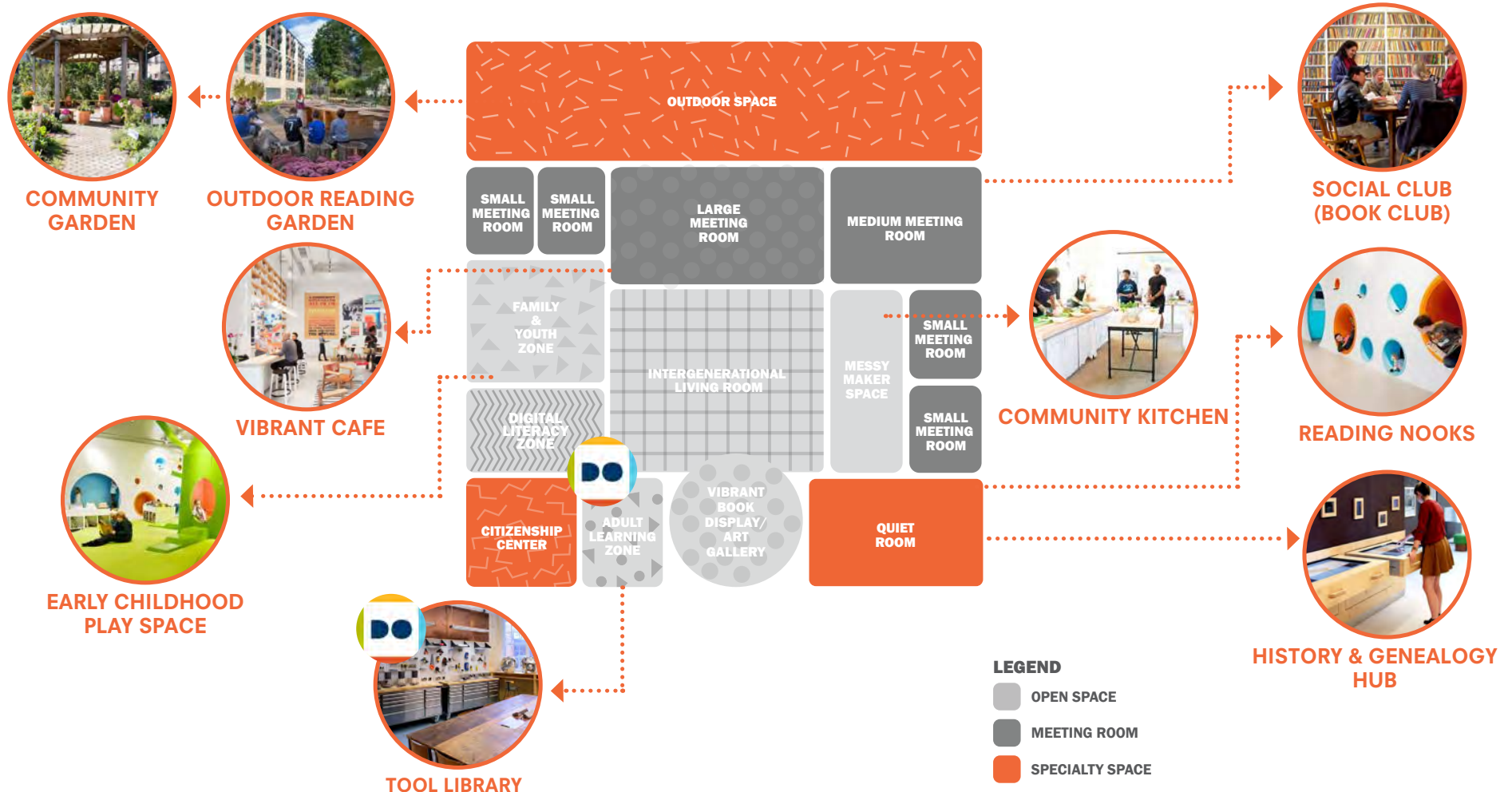
Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **18-24,000 SF**

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Willa Cather Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary

approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This environment can foster the community gathering spaces that the neighborhood needs, provide enriching

experiences for both youth and adults, empower those who are vulnerable with access to resources and information, and spark more creative outlets that the community currently enjoys.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Book Clubs
Collaborative Learning

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Computer Lab
Study Rooms
Financial Literacy Programs

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Basic Technology Help
Digital Resource Checkout
Innovative Technology Resources

Community Health & Safety

After-Hours Events for All Ages
Community Garden

Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening
Intergenerational Arts/Entertainment
Hands-On Learning

Connection to Resources

Social Services Referral
Immigration Support

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners

Paws for Friendship
Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital
Immigrant Legal Center & Refugee
Empowerment Center
Hanscom Park United Methodist
Church's Food Pantry
Local Consulates

Current & Potential Collections

Mystery Titles
Best Sellers
Gardening
Cooking
Popular Movies
Poetry

Potential Technologies

Business Software
Game Room
Tool Library
Music/Podcast Studio

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Childhood Programs
- Adult Programs
- Social Service (Homelessness & Immigrant Support)

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Cyber Seniors
- Active Learning Lab
- STEM Classes
- Computer Literacy Classes
- Mentorship Classes

Outreach Opportunities*

- Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital (Social Club)
- Immigrant Legal Center & Refugee Empowerment Center (Citizenship Center)
- Hanscom Park United Methodist Church's Food Pantry (Community Kitchen)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

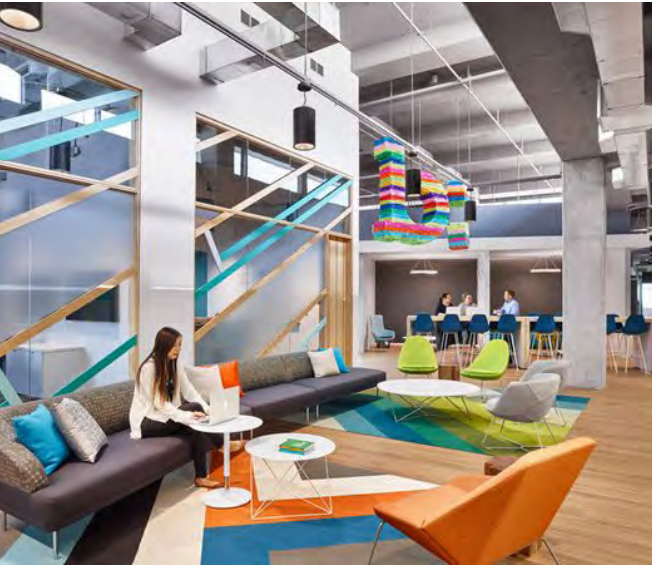
Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$5M-\$7M]	Large [\$12M-\$17M]
<div data-bbox="121 526 373 764"> </div> <p data-bbox="142 773 256 841">Tool Library</p> <div data-bbox="121 854 348 1078"> </div> <p data-bbox="121 1084 373 1156">Early Childhood Play Space</p> <div data-bbox="121 1175 348 1399"> </div> <p data-bbox="142 1409 243 1477">Social Club</p> <div data-bbox="424 539 651 763"> </div> <p data-bbox="445 773 625 841">Community Garden</p> <div data-bbox="424 854 651 1078"> </div> <p data-bbox="436 1084 558 1156">Vibrant Cafe</p>	<div data-bbox="785 548 1155 834"> <p data-bbox="802 613 1113 763">Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</p> </div> <div data-bbox="785 909 1012 1133"> </div> <p data-bbox="785 1149 961 1221">Community Kitchen</p>	<div data-bbox="1415 548 1642 773"> </div> <p data-bbox="1415 786 1541 821">Rebuild</p> <p data-bbox="1415 863 1587 899">To Foster...</p> <ul data-bbox="1465 902 1810 1130" style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hub • Digital Equity • Family Support • Youth Development • Social Connections • Partnership Impact

Willa Cather

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size 18-24,000 SF

FEELS LIKE...





Millard

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Millard Branch is the largest branch in the Omaha Public Library (OPL) system with the highest circulation. It's a bustling branch that is well-loved and sees many of the same loyal and consistent community members every day. It currently serves a larger portion of Douglas County residents than any other OPL library branch. Millard Branch serves families with children, adults with developmental disabilities, people needing areas for work or study, and those needing access to a computer and/or printer. In surveys, the Millard Branch community reports they enjoy

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

"We are well-loved by our community who are loyal and consistent."

*Autumn Hill,
Millard Branch Manager*

the OPL Partnership Pass program, storytimes, the seed library, book clubs, having spaces to relax or work, their relationships with the staff, and utilizing the self-service options. Millard Branch could benefit from programming for the whole family with intergenerational opportunities, a larger variety of meeting room options with video conferencing technologies and the addition of both quieter and noisier areas to gather.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime
Seed Library Program
Book Clubs & Book Club Bags
Kids Programming
Board Game Check Out
Relaxing, Studying or Working

Popular Collections

Children and Youth Collections
Board Games
Seed Library

Popular Technologies

Computers
Charging Stations
Printers
Wi-Fi

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Storytimes are very popular as the branch serves many young families.



MEETING ROOMS IN HIGH DEMAND: Community groups, working adults, and students looking for more variety of meeting spaces.



QUIET VS. LOUD SPACES: Community members looking for a variety of gathering spaces that cater to different uses.



SELF-SERVICE: Community members usually arrive by car and enjoy self-services when available.



TECHNOLOGY USAGE: Computers and printers are in high demand, community would benefit from video conference software.



LARGE SERVICE AREA: Although Millard is a highly used branch, there are gaps in service in west Omaha where commute to a OPL branch is far.

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Portal E.S., Cather E.S., Meadows E.S., George Russell M.S., Millard High Schools



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: CHI Health Clinic Women's Health, One World West



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: Montclair Community Center, Hillcrest



TRANSPORTATION HUBS: West Papio Trail, most community members drive to the branch



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: Tri-Faith Initiative



OPEN SPACE/PARKS: Zorinsky Lake, Chalco Hills


COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR MILLARD BRANCH)


A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...


Literate
Curious
Innovative
Equitable & Inclusive
Fun


...Omaha!


What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?


- 


1
Community Garden
- 


2
Outdoor Reading Garden
- 


3
Vibrant Café
- 


4
Outdoor Community Space
- 

5
Early Childhood Play Space
- 

6
Genealogy & History Hub
- 

7
Outdoor Play Space
- 

8
Tool Library
- 

9
Quiet Room
- 

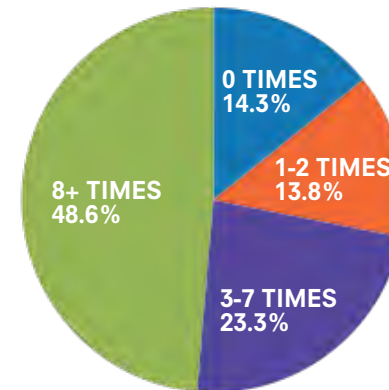
10
Community Kitchen

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Family or Individual
Caregiver **Reader**
Gardener
Maker or Creative
Community Member (Meeting Space)
Volunteer

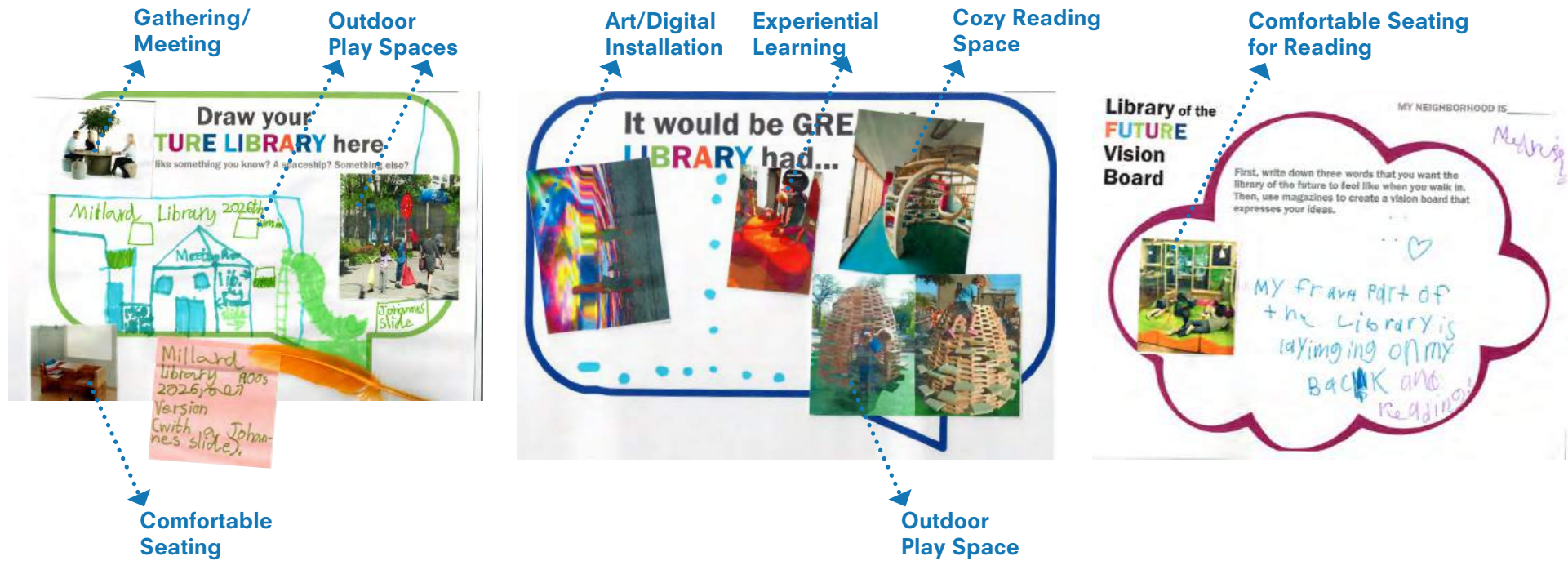
Professional
 Technology Learner
 Researcher or Family History Enthusiast

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

COMMUNITY INPUTS (SOUTHWEST OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS & MILLARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY FINDINGS)



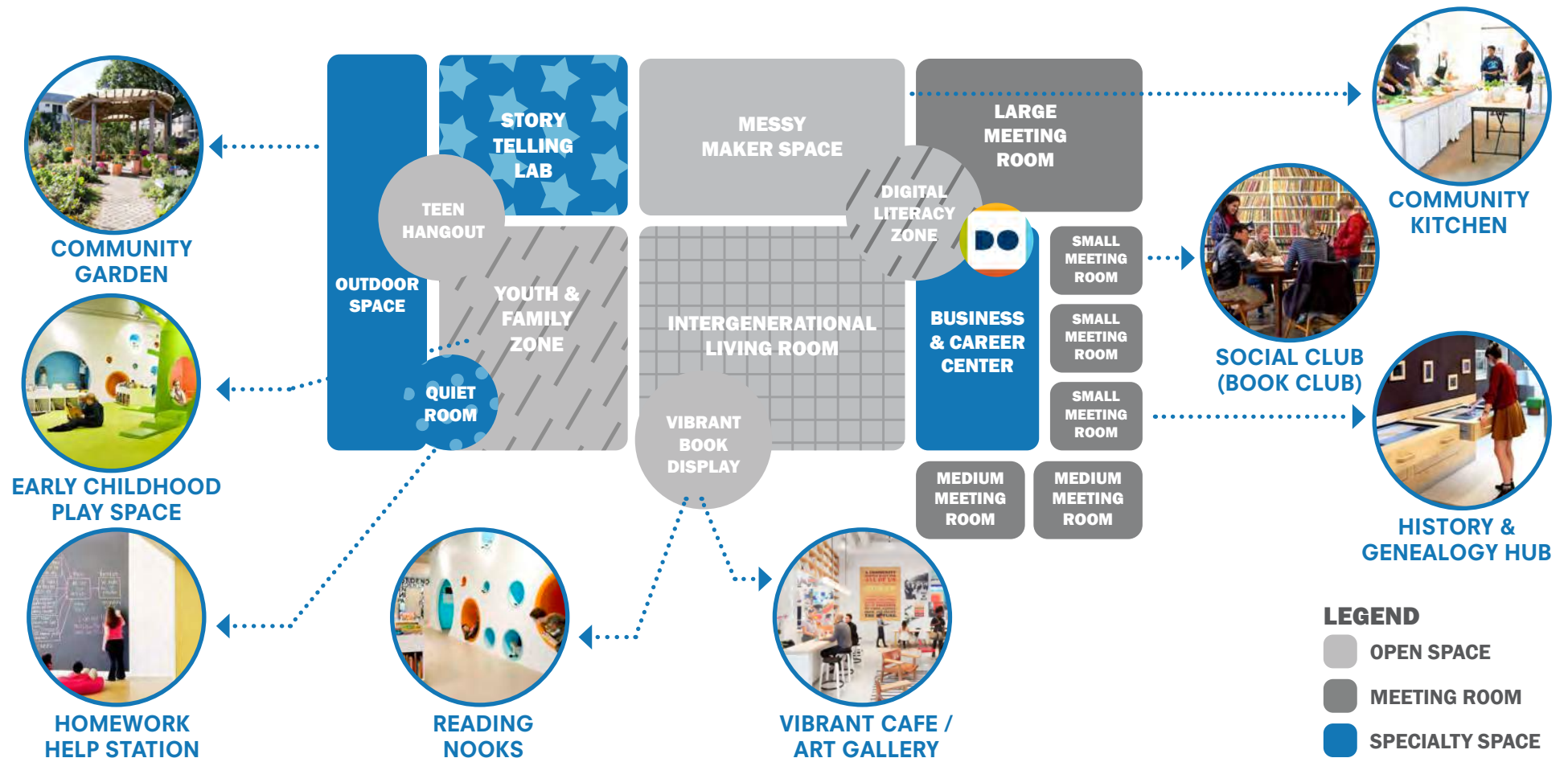
During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Millard staff installed beauty boards with photos of spaces and places. The community was prompted to tag what resonated with their aspirations for a future library. At the Southwest Community Open House at Millard, community members created vision boards based of what they wanted their future library to look and feel like. They also tagged beauty boards and filled in ad-libs with ideas for their future library experience. The items with most mentions in the feedback experiences are illustrated above.

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Millard Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This environment can foster

different types of learning in spaces that cater to different needs and aspirations. The following spaces can host programs and activities that young families, professionals, and all community members can feel empowered in their autonomy and growth.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Sensory Play Spaces
Book Clubs
Homework Help

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Life Skills Classes
Family Career Studio
Community Work Spaces

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Basic Technology Help
Digital Resource Checkout
STEAM Programming

Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program
After-Hours Events for All Ages
Wellness Programs

Neighborhood Development

Community Gathering Programs
DIY Programming for All Ages
Learning Incubator

Connection to Resources

Local Trail Connections
Financial Literacy Classes
Parent Education Classes

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

Boys Town
Senior Centers and Retirement Homes
Organizations for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities
Friedel Jewish Academy

Current & Potential Collections

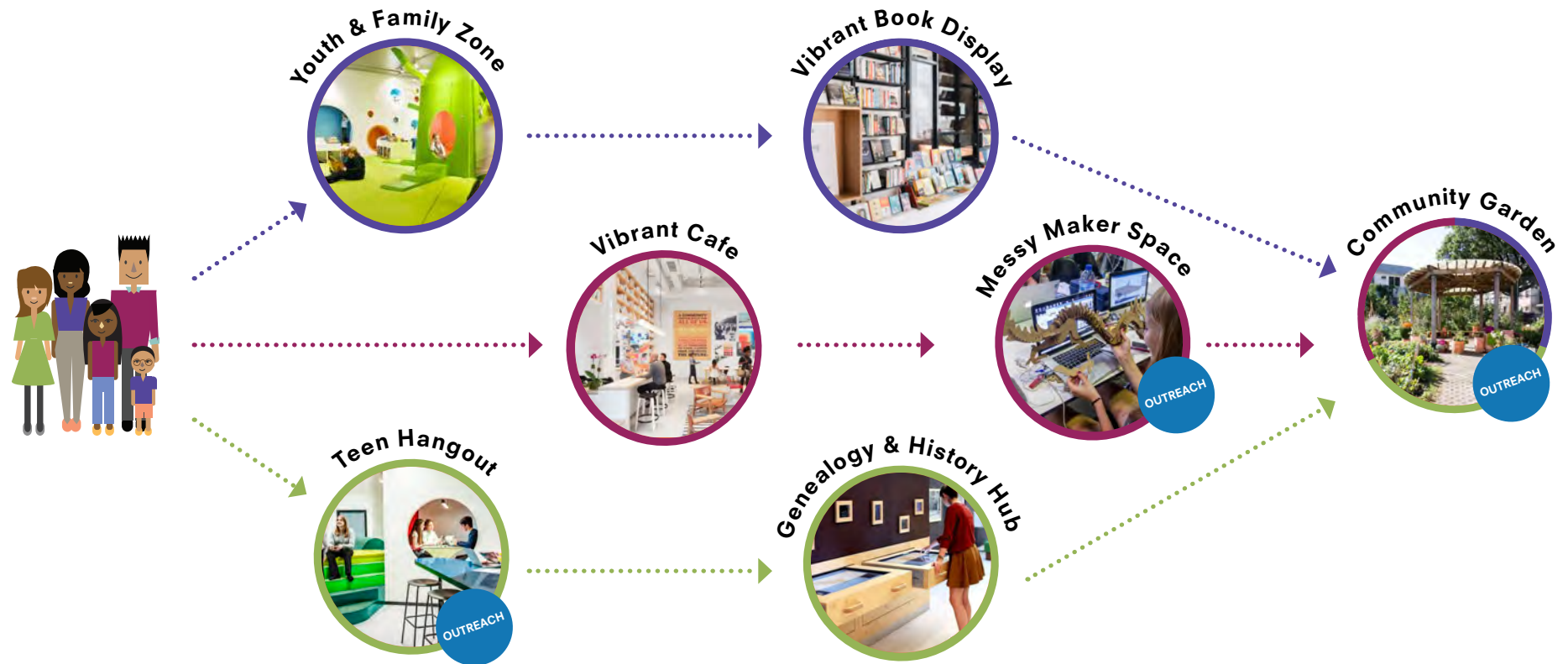
Gardening Related Collections
Seed Library
Study Books
Self-Help (Personal, Parenting, Business)
Video Game Checkouts

Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts
Business Software
Gaming Equipment
Printers and 3D Printers
Laptops
Digital Check Outs

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- Community Gathering
- Local Workforce Development

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Make.Hack.Build
- Tech Kit Check Outs
- Lunch & Learns
- Excel-erate
- Cyber Seniors

Outreach Opportunities*

- Boys Town (Teen Hangout)
- Senior Centers & Organizations for Children & Adults with Developmental Disabilities (Community Garden & Messy Maker Space)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

INVESTMENT MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$13M-\$15M]	Large [\$19M]
<div data-bbox="121 591 348 818"></div> <div data-bbox="100 829 361 909">Early Childhood Play Space</div> <div data-bbox="422 591 648 818"></div> <div data-bbox="415 829 560 906">Reading Nooks</div> <div data-bbox="121 987 348 1214"></div> <div data-bbox="115 1224 321 1304">Homework Help Station</div> <div data-bbox="422 987 648 1214"></div> <div data-bbox="415 1224 606 1300">Community Garden</div>	<div data-bbox="785 574 1152 862">Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</div> <div data-bbox="785 935 1010 1162"></div> <div data-bbox="777 1172 966 1248">Community Kitchen</div>	<div data-bbox="1415 574 1640 802"></div> <div data-bbox="1407 812 1543 852">Realign</div> <div data-bbox="1407 889 1591 927">To Foster...</div> <ul data-bbox="1459 928 1814 1156" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Equity • Family Connections • Early Literacy • Social Connections • Youth Development • Partnership Impact

Millard

Community Framework

Recommendation | REALIGN Size | 31,360 SF

FEELS LIKE...





W. Clarke Swanson

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The W. Clarke Swanson Branch serves a community of families with young kids, students and tutors, seniors, and computer and technology users. In surveys, they report their favorite things about the Swanson Branch include the books and vibrant displays, the storytimes, passive programming like fun worksheets for kids, and the relationships they have with staff. Swanson Branch is tucked in a residential neighborhood situated on a major commercial and transportation corridor, which contributes to it feeling like a hybrid between a cozy neighborhood branch and a busy regional hub. The library sees community members not only from its surrounding neighborhood but also from beyond the immediate vicinity. Due to its

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

"Swanson's motto is warmly welcoming to all; helping our community members conquer today's hurdle; sparking and sharing a love of books and reading."

*Matt Couch,
Swanson Branch Manager*

location on major roads, the library is a good place for community members to stop in on their commute to work or on their way to a movie. The library sees more returns than checkouts, possibly because of this convenience. Swanson Branch shares the space with Friends of Omaha Public Library, whose book sales benefit the whole OPL system. Swanson Branch would benefit from more study rooms for the students, tutors, and professionals who frequent this branch and are looking for quiet space to study or work. Swanson Branch would also benefit from communal areas where people can connect with others, promoting more social cohesion by having spaces that provide the opportunity for personal and historical storytelling.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime
Youth Programming
Passive Programming
Reader's Advisory

Current Partners

Friends of the Omaha Public Library
(systemwide partner for OPL)
Master Gardeners - University of
Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
Public Works
Parks & Recreation

Popular Collections

Book Displays
Newspaper Archives
Genealogy Databases

Popular Technologies

Computers
Copier
Scanner
Fax Machine

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY CONDITIONS



REFRESHED CHILDREN'S AREA: Recently refreshed children's area with activity wall and shelving with book displays.



NEED STUDY ROOMS: Currently Swanson has two meeting rooms which can be reserved but does not have any study rooms for drop-in use by patrons.



MANY HOLDS: Because Swanson is centrally located, it is part of the community's commute resulting in many holds.



NEIGHBORHOOD/REGIONAL HUB: Branch is easily accessible by foot, car, or public transportation and is visited by near and far community members.



FRIENDS OF OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY: The branch hosts the Friends on the lower level, they bring new members to the branch who wouldn't otherwise visit.

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Westbrook E.S., Loveland E.S., Westside M.S. & H.S., Nebraska Methodist College, University of Nebraska Omaha



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Methodist Hospital, Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy



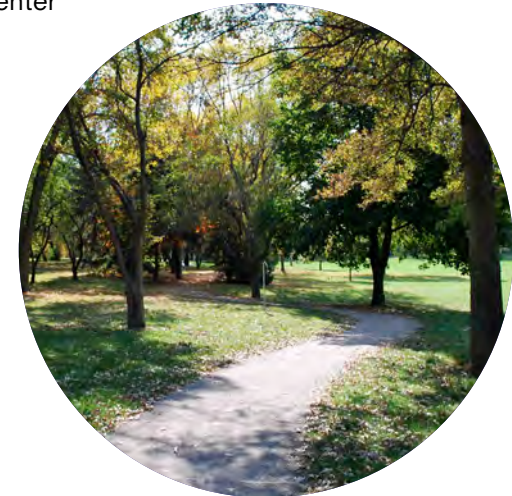
SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: New Cassel Retirement, Astoria Senior Living, Arboretum Village, St. John Vianney Residence, Pipal Park Community Center



TRANSPORTATION HUBS: Westroads Transit Center, ORBT Bus Stops



CULTURAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS: Community Playhouse, Conservatory of Music, Academy of Ballet



PARKS & OPEN SPACE: Keystone & Big Papio Trails, Swanson Science Park Arboretum, & several parks

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR W. CLARKE SWANSON BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate
Innovative
Curious
Equitable & Inclusive
Accessible

...Omaha!

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?

- 

1
Community Garden
- 

2
Vibrant Café
- 

3
Outdoor Reading Garden
- 

4
Art Gallery
- 

5
Quiet Room
- 

6
Meeting Rooms
- 

7
Outdoor Community Space
- 

8
Co-Working Space / Reading Nooks
- 

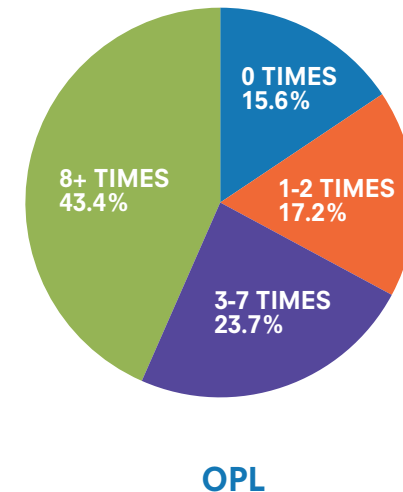
9
Food Truck Zone
- 

10
History & Genealogy Hub

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Technology Learner
Family or Individual **Community Member (Meeting Space)**
Caregiver **Reader** **Volunteer**
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast **Gardener**
Professional **Maker or Creative**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



COMMUNITY INPUTS (SWANSON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

When I leave the library, I want to feel...

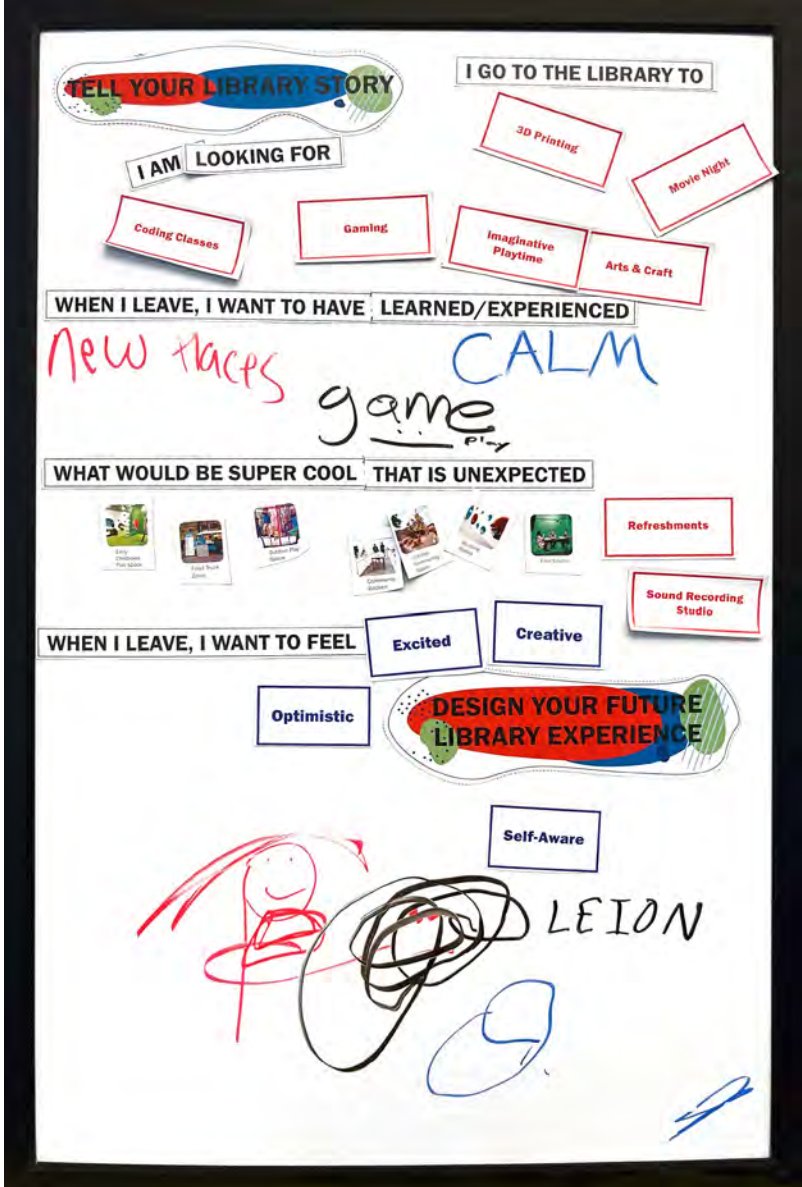
Calm **Optimistic**
Creative **Self-Aware**
Excited

SPACES & PLACES

- CHILDREN-FRIENDLY BATHROOMS
- COMMUNITY KITCHEN
- EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAY SPACE
- FILM STUDIO
- FOOD TRUCK ZONE
- NEW PLACES
- OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE
- OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE
- OUTDOOR READING GARDEN
- PRINTMAKING STUDIO
- QUIET AREAS
- READING NOOKS
- SOUND RECORDING STUDIO
- STUDY ROOMS
- TEEN HANGOUT

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- 3-D PRINTING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- CODING CLASSES
- CONCERT SERIES
- DANCING
- GAMING
- IMAGINATIVE PLAYTIME
- MOVIE NIGHT
- PROGRAMS FOR KIDS TO INTERACT TOGETHER
- REFRESHMENTS
- STORYTIME



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Swanson staff installed a magnet board with ad-lib prompts for the community to fill in. There were magnets separated into categories like spaces and places, programs and activities, and feelings. Over time, the community filled in the ad-lib to complete the sentences. This is illustrated above.

W. Clarke Swanson

Community Framework

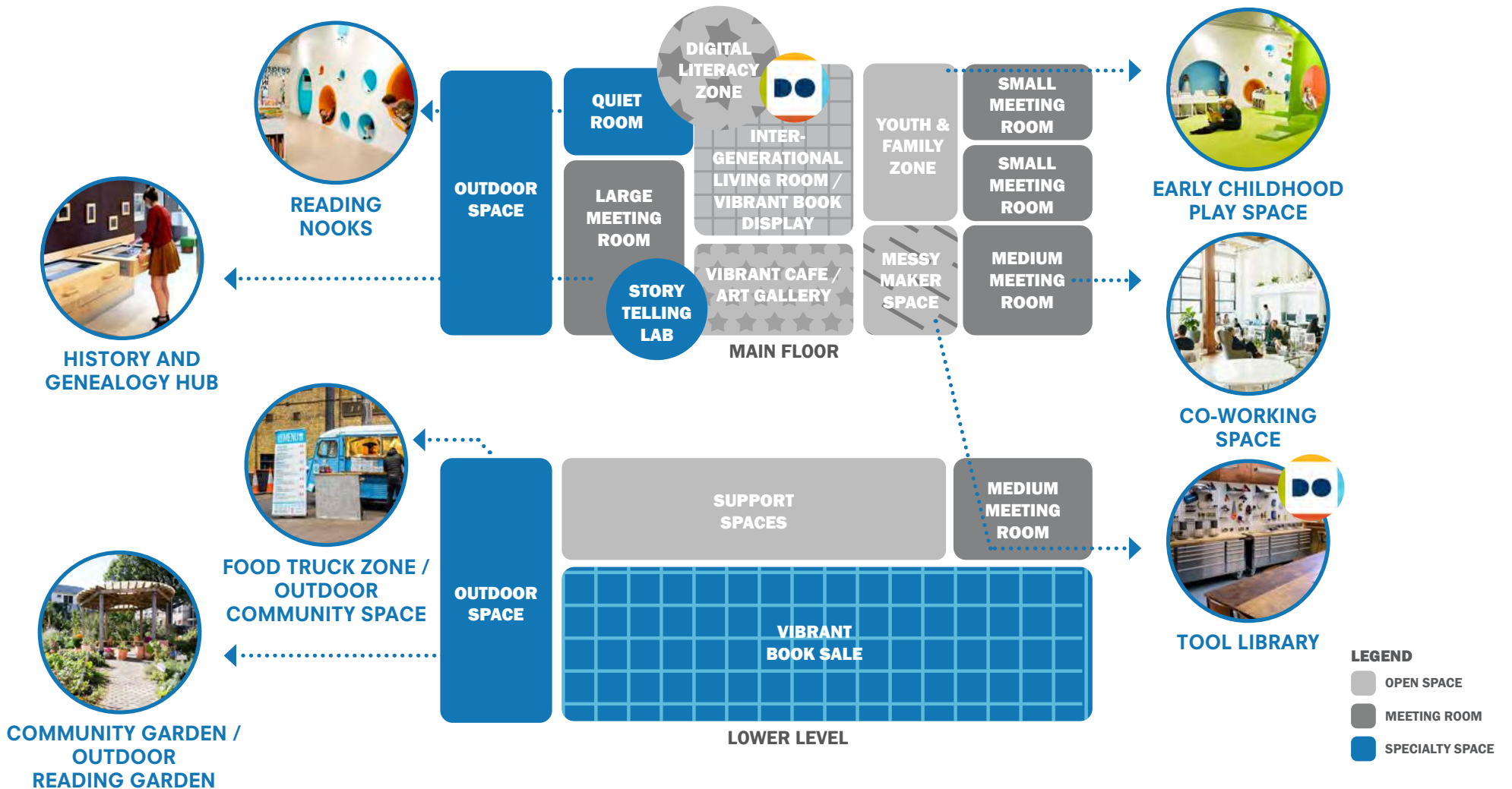
Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **24,495 SF**

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at W. Clarke Swanson Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This learning environment for

young families, students and tutors, seniors, and technology users can support the community by providing programs and spaces that foster literacy, play, storytelling, identity, community, and pride.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Vibrant Book Displays
Storytelling Lab

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building
Family Career Studio

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Sensory Play Spaces
Technology Literacy
Content Creation Equipment

Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program
Family Support Programming
Social Services Referral

Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening
History & Genealogy Programs

Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships
Public Transportation Information

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

Friends of the Omaha Public Library
(systemwide partner for OPL)
Master Gardeners - University of
Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
Public Works
Parks & Recreation
Inclusive Communities
Nebraska Writers Collective

Current & Potential Collections

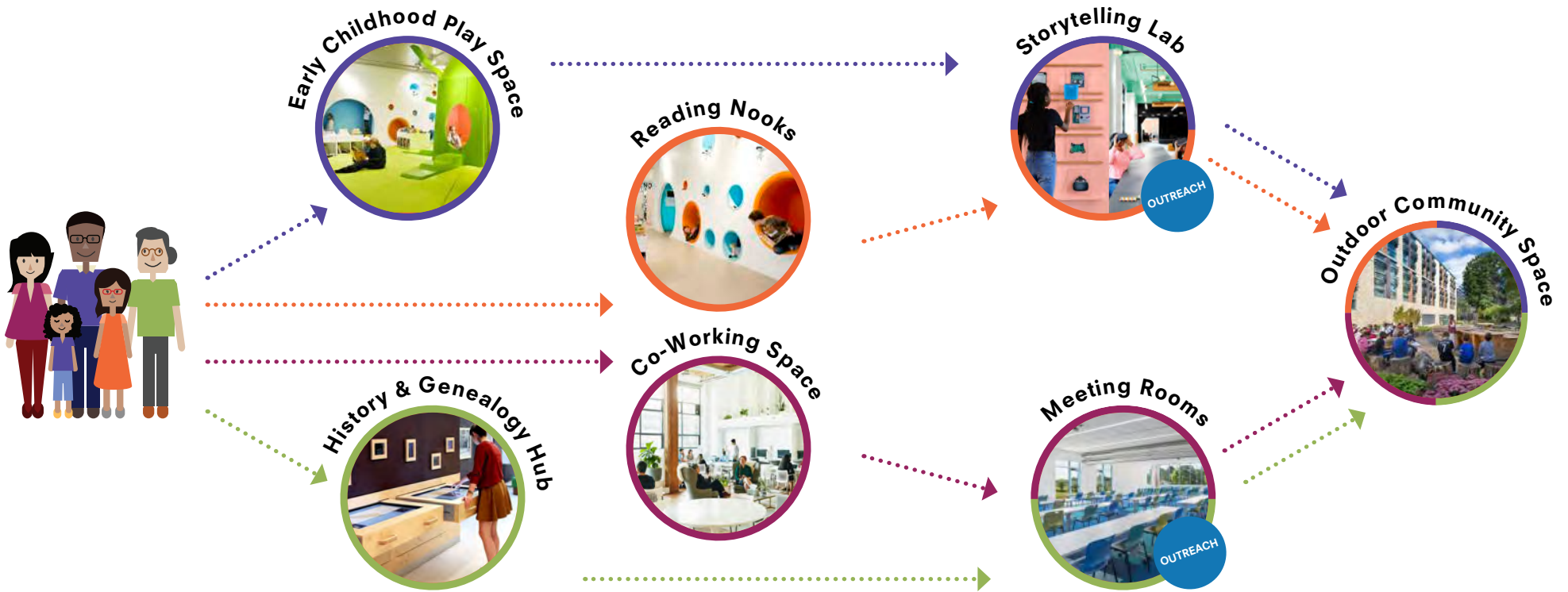
Expanded History & Genealogy
Fiction (Mysteries, Romance, Historical
Fiction)
Youth Collections (Picture Books,
Children's Novels)
Graphic Novels for Children, Teens, &
Adults
Board Games & Puzzles
Bestsellers for all ages

Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts
Sensory Play Toys
Zoom Technology in Study Rooms

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- Social Services Referral
- Local Workforce Development

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Kid Coders
- Cyber Seniors
- Lunch & Learns
- Tech Kit Check Outs
- Summer Passport Program

Outreach Opportunities*

- Inclusive Communities (Lunch & Learns)
- Nebraska Writers Collective (Storytelling Lab)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$10M-\$12M]	Large [\$15M]
<div data-bbox="121 565 352 792"></div> <div data-bbox="121 808 298 922">History & Genealogy Hub</div> <div data-bbox="424 565 655 792"></div> <div data-bbox="424 808 541 880">Tool Library</div> <div data-bbox="121 945 352 1172"></div> <div data-bbox="121 1188 247 1253">Art Gallery</div> <div data-bbox="424 945 655 1172"></div> <div data-bbox="424 1188 604 1253">Community Garden</div>	<div data-bbox="785 548 1155 834">Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</div>	<div data-bbox="1415 548 1646 776"></div> <div data-bbox="1415 792 1541 824">Realign</div> <div data-bbox="1415 863 1591 896">To Foster...</div> <ul data-bbox="1465 906 1810 1091" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Equity • Family Support • Youth Development • Social Connections • Partnership Impact

W. Clarke Swanson

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 24,495 SF

FEELS LIKE...





Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The creative and passionate Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch community comprises families of all ages, including teens and tweens, older retired couples, students and remote workers. The branch has touches of the flair of its community, which adds an artistic spark and makes the library feel welcoming and personal to all community members. Because West Omaha is spread out and lacks public meeting spaces, the library is a place where the community enjoys coming together to meet each other to work, study, tutor, and socialize. Interests include art, music, performances, books (especially the Reader's Advisory), and access to technology. The roads and public transportation system surrounding

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

“Our patrons love their community, library, schools, and nearby community center!”

*Casey Kralik,
Elkhorn Branch Manager*

the Elkhorn Branch need to be improved to provide better access to the library. Downtown Elkhorn has a small town feel but is growing rapidly with local businesses, an expanding school district, and attractions such as the UBT Sports Complex. Elkhorn Branch offers outdoor programs when possible as there is more space outside than inside. Elkhorn Branch could easily host more programs if it had the space to do so, as their programs are very well-attended and beloved. This speaks to how the community wants to come together in a fun and engaging way. Elkhorn Branch has the opportunity to be a gathering place that is a true hub for the community.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime
Music and Movement Storytime
Special Guest Storytime
Outdoor Programs
Partnership Passes

Popular Collections

Mystery
Animals
Family Books
Non-Fiction
Fiction
Romance

Popular Technologies

Computers
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines
Wi-Fi

Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



OUTGROWN THE BUILDING: Elkhorn is the second busiest branch in the library system yet its building is OPL's third smallest.



STORYTIME AT CAPACITY: Storytime is consistently highly attended and could benefit from a bigger space to better accommodate.



OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE PROGRAMMING: Elkhorn community members want more library programs and activities.



STRONG MAKER COMMUNITY: Elkhorn serves a flourishing artistic and creative community.



OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTDOOR PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES: The lot is large enough for fun outdoor programming that the community would enjoy and benefit from.



OPPORTUNITY TO BE A COMMUNITY HUB IN THE WEST: Community members want spaces to meet, socialize, work, study, tutor, and build community.

Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Arbor View E.S., Hillrise E.S., Skyline E.S., Elkhorn North Ridge M.S., Elkhorn H.S., St. Patrick's Catholic School



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: Methodist Women's Hospital, CHI Lakeside, Boys Town National Research Hospital



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: Common Ground Community Center, Holiday Rolling Hills Ranch, Marquis Place of Elkhorn



GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES: U.S. Post Office



PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY: Omaha Police Department West Precinct, Omaha Fire Station #71, OPPD Elkhorn Service Center, M.U.D.



OPEN SPACES: Ta-Ha-Zouka Park, Lawrence Youngman Boat Ramp & Park, UBT Sports Complex, Pacific Preserve

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR ELKHORN BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Innovative
Curious
Literate
Fun
Equitable & Inclusive

...Omaha!

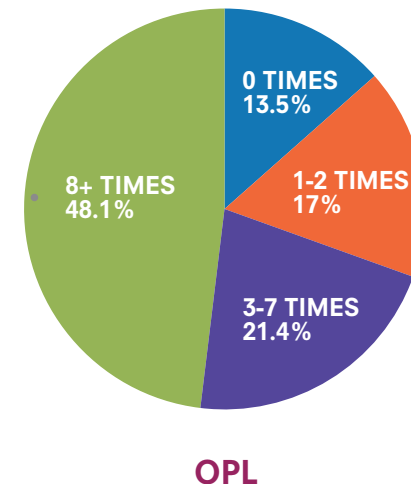
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Family or Individual **Professional**
Caregiver **Reader** **Technology Learner**
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast **Gardener**
Community Member (Meeting Space) **Maker or Creative**
Volunteer

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

COMMUNITY INPUTS (NORTHWEST OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)

“I want my library to be filled with all kinds of art when I walk in!”

*Elementary School Age Community Member,
Northwest Omaha Community Open House*



MESSY MAKERSPACE

I would like this for me and others.



PRINTMAKING STUDIO

I would like to learn.



OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE

So we can play around!



OUTDOOR READING GARDEN

Love it, it is quiet.



READING NOOKS

Would be fun to read up high!



Attendees at Northwest Omaha Community Open House at the OPL Elkhorn branch building their dream future library, as exemplified to the left.



Attendees tagged beauty boards with what resonated with them for a future library experience., exemplified in bubbles to the left.

Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

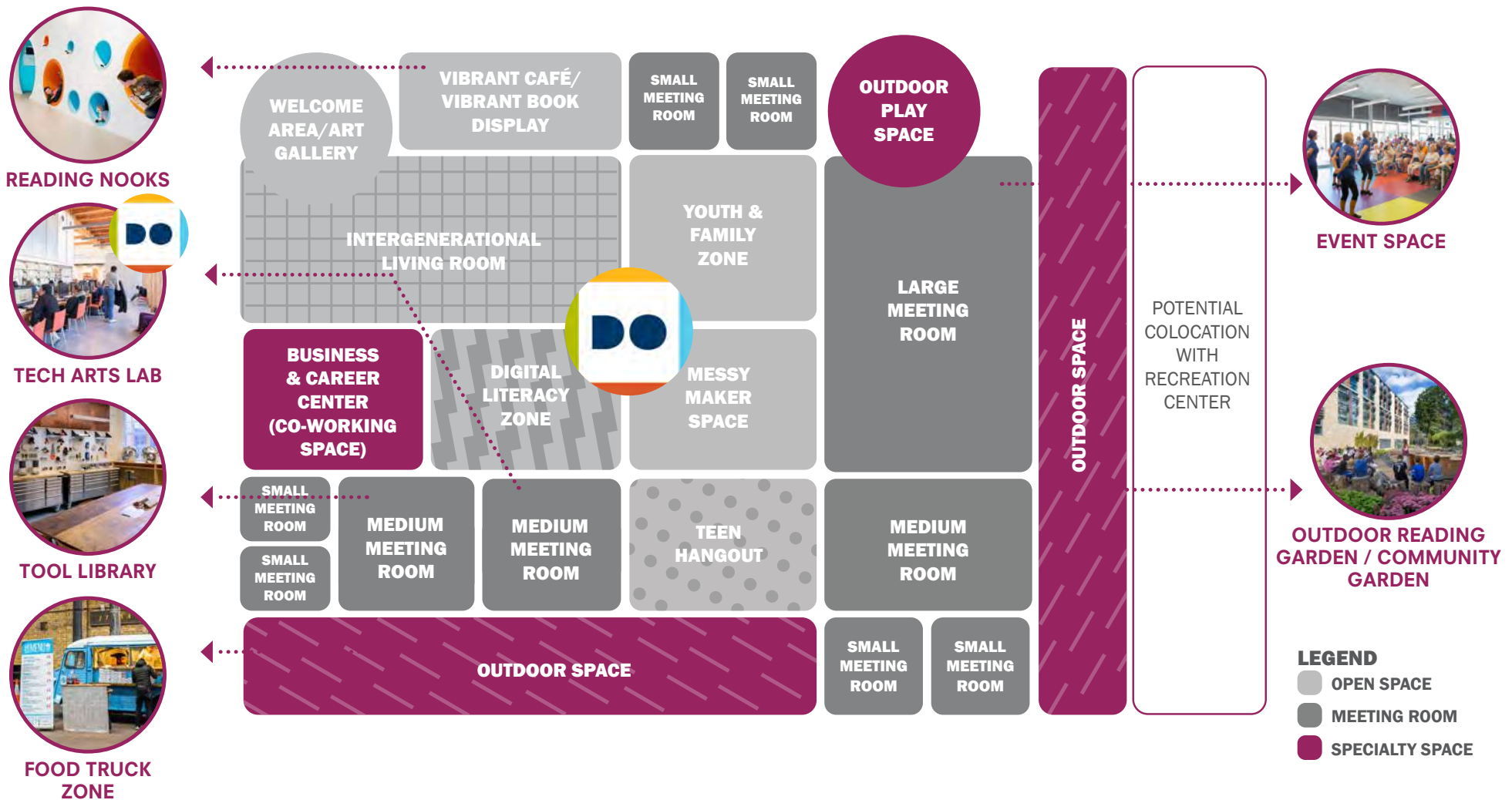
Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning

and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This creative learning

environment for youth, families, and adults can support community gathering and creative aspirations by providing programs and spaces that foster literacy, hands-on learning, the arts, job support, and healthy living.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Storytime
Music and Movement

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Building Better Babysitters
Resume Writing

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Arts & Crafts Makerspace for Various Age Groups

Community Health & Safety

Family Zumba Music & Movement
Outdoor Activities

Neighborhood Development

Elkhorn Eclectics Book Club
Jolly Neighbors Book Club
Civic Engagement Programming

Connection to Resources

Public Transportation Advocacy
Heartland Bike Share

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

Common Ground Community Center
Parks and Recreation

Current & Potential Collections

Mystery
Animals
Family Books
Non-Fiction
Fiction
Historical Fiction
Science
Graphic Novels
Large Print
Romance
Bestsellers

Potential Technologies

Free Wi-Fi Hotspots
Imaginative Play and Storytime Space
Laptops and Chromebooks
Maker Equipment
Video Conference Capabilities

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- Maker and Artistic Support
- Gathering & Social Programs

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Little's Lab
- Active Learning Lab
- Lunch & Learns
- Summer Passport Program
- Senior Makers Club

Outreach Opportunities*

- Common Ground Community Center (Event Space)
- Parks & Recreation (Community Garden & Outdoor Play Space)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

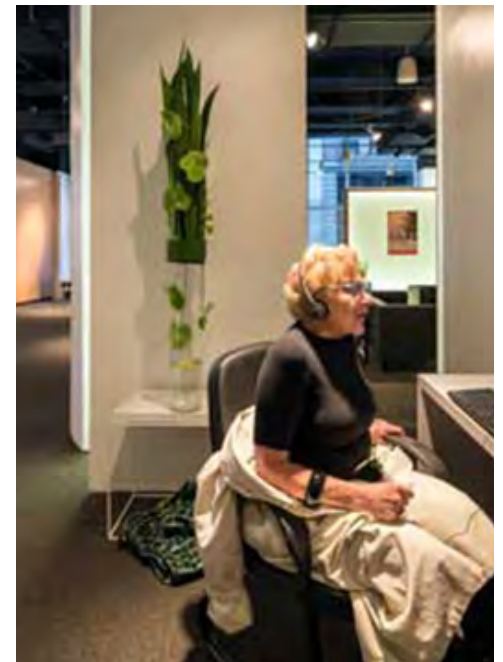
Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$3M-\$5M]	Large [\$23M-\$29M]
<div data-bbox="121 591 375 818"></div> <p data-bbox="121 833 338 865">Tech Arts Lab</p> <div data-bbox="396 591 625 818"></div> <p data-bbox="396 833 693 946">Business & Career Center (Co-Working Space)</p> <div data-bbox="121 987 348 1214"></div> <p data-bbox="121 1229 300 1299">Food Truck Zone</p> <div data-bbox="396 987 625 1214"></div> <p data-bbox="396 1229 579 1299">Community Garden</p>	<div data-bbox="785 574 1155 860"></div> <div data-bbox="785 935 1010 1162"></div> <p data-bbox="785 1177 940 1247">Do Space Lab</p>	<div data-bbox="1415 574 1644 802"></div> <p data-bbox="1415 816 1541 849">Rebuild</p> <p data-bbox="1415 893 1591 925">To Foster...</p> <ul data-bbox="1465 932 1850 1192" style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hub • Community Gathering • Social Connections • Partnership Impact • Content Creation • Family Support • Youth Development

Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

FEELS LIKE...





Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Milton R. Abrahams Branch serves several diverse communities including families, job seekers, clients and caregivers from the Developmental Disability Center of Nebraska (DDCN), and people who need places to study, hold visitations, and access to and help with technology. The neighborhood surrounding the branch sees a family-centric community with large religious communities nearby. The community members whom the branch serves enjoy the open and bright space the library provides, the friendly staff, the “sun burst” art installation in the library, the large selection of print material and collections, and utilizing holds and pickups. The book clubs at Abrahams Branch have grown very

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

“In 20 years, I want people to walk in and say ‘What a beautiful and welcoming library! I see myself here.’”

*Katy Lofgren,
Abrahams Branch Manager*

popular and continue to bring new members to the library, as do storytimes and the seed library. The Abrahams Branch community enjoys creating together, which is supported by the relocation of Do Space to the branch. With the dedicated Do Space area, Abrahams Branch members have access to a design studio, 3D Lab, Active Learning Lab, plenty of computers and printers, and one of Omaha’s only free podcast studios. The Abrahams Branch community also sees a need for social services such as support for homelessness, families, food insecurity, healthy aging, and social and government services.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Book Clubs
Storytime
Technology Help

Current Partners

Joslyn Art Museum
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
Omaha Public Schools

Popular Collections

Seed Library
Movies
Mystery

Popular Technologies

Computers
Wi-Fi
Printing & Scanning

Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 20,450 SF

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



DO SPACE PILOT: Integrated programs include podcast and design studio, the 3D Lab, Active Learning Lab, and plenty of computers and printers.



HIGH TECH CIRCULATION: The community needs more access to technology as well as help with technology literacy.



STORYTIME & BOOKCLUBS: Storytime is popular, as well as book clubs, which continue to draw in new community members.



SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDED: Community members need help on issues like homelessness, food insecurity, healthy aging, and accessing social security and government services.



BRIGHT SPACE: Design of space is favorable, with big bright windows, colorful elements, and art and plant installations.

Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Pinewood E.S., Springville E.S., Masters E.S., Hale M.S., Marian H.S., St. James Seton Catholic School, MCC



PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES: Skyline Health Center, Good Hope Healthcare, Physicians Health Clinic, One World Northwest



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: Keystone Villas, Skyline Retirement Community, Kings Gate Senior Living



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Omaha Metro Bus Route 5



PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY: Omaha Fire Station #42 and #43, Irvington Volunteer Fire Department



OPEN SPACES: Democracy Park, Esther Pilster Park, Palomino Hills Park, North Oaks Park, Tomahawk Hills Park

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR ABRAHAMS BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate
Curious
Accessible
Innovative
Equitable & Inclusive

...Omaha!

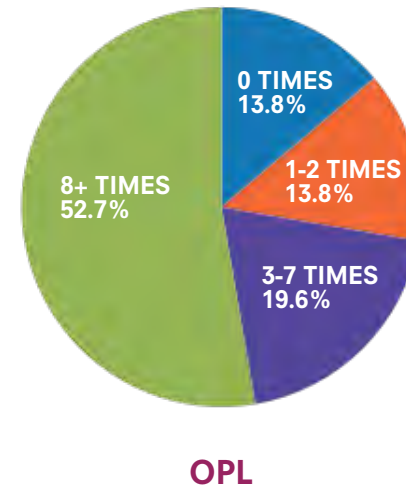
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Family or Individual **Gardener**
Caregiver **Reader** **Maker or Creative**
Technology **Professional**
Learner **Researcher or Family History Enthusiast**
Community Member (Meeting Space) **Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



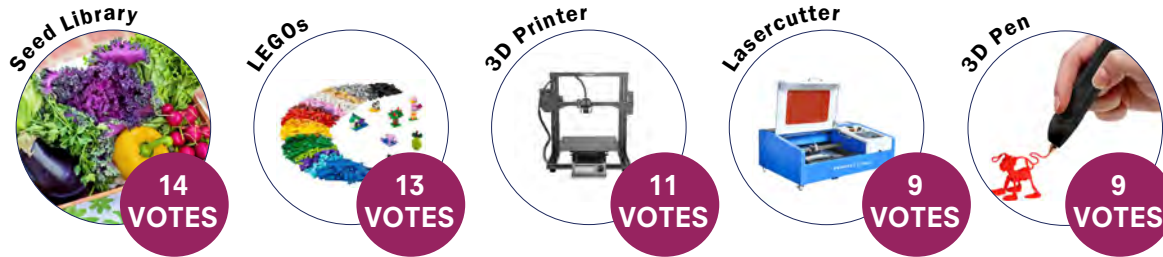
Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 20,450 SF

COMMUNITY INPUTS (ABRAHAMS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

TOP 5 SELECTED TOOLS & COLLECTIONS



When I leave the library, I want to feel...

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Accepted | Energized | Joyful |
| Accomplished | Excited | Optimistic |
| Amazed | Expressive | Playful |
| Confident | Gratitude | Self-Aware |
| Creative | Hopeful | Surprised |
| Curious | Inspired | Wonder |
| Empowered | | |

TOP SELECTED TOOLS & COLLECTIONS

CREATIVE LEARNING

- DESIGN SOFTWARE
- KEYBOARD
- LEGOS
- NINTENDO
- PAINTING MATERIALS
- SEWING

STEM LEARNING

- 3D PEN
- 3D PRINTER
- LASER CUTTER
- ROBOTICS
- VR EQUIPMENT

RESOURCES

- CAREER PREP
- JOB SEARCH TOOLS
- TOOL SET

COLLECTIONS

- ANCESTRY
- CLASSICS
- GENEALOGY
- LOOK BOOKS
- PICTURE BOOKS
- POETRY
- SEED LIBRARY



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Abrahams staff installed beauty boards with photos of tools and collections and community members tagged what resonated with them with stickers. These sentiments are illustrated to the left. Also during this process, community members filled in ad-libs, one of which is illustrated above.

Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

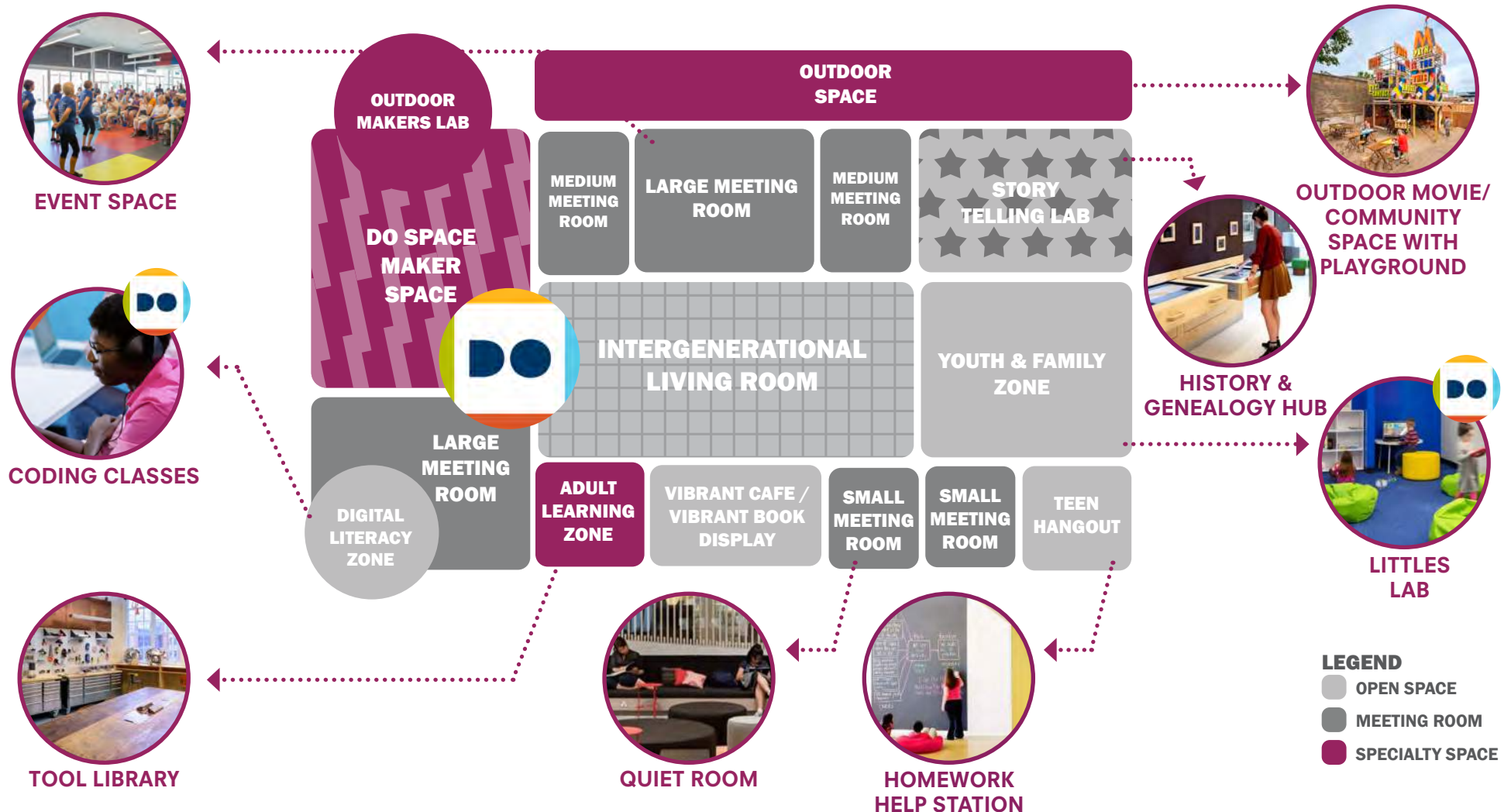
Recommendation REALIGN | Size 20,450 SF

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

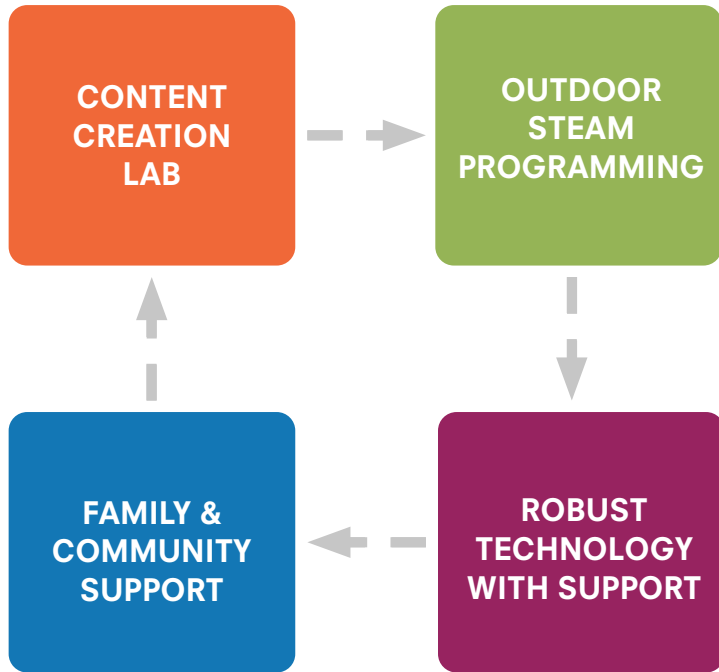
The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Milton R. Abrahams Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This creative and innovative

learning environment can support the community by providing programs and spaces that foster literacy, hands-on learning, creative passion-based projects, job support, and empowerment.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Poetry Night
Book Club

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building
Job Fair/Workforce Connections

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Technology Literacy
Robust Technology Equipment
STEAM Classes

Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program
Art Meet Up/Family Game Afternoon
Cultural Programming

Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening
Rotating Local Art Display

Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships
Public Transportation Information

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
Omaha Public Schools
Nebraska Humane Society
Metropolitan Community College
Master Gardener Program
QLI
Women’s Fund of Omaha
Do Space

Current & Potential Collections

Seed Library
Movies
Mystery
Inspirational
New/Popular Titles
Career Prep

Potential Technologies & Current Do Space Technologies**

Sensory Play Equipment
Computers & Printers
Podcast Studio
Design Studio
3D Lab
Active Learning Lab

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships
**Technologies to be implemented as part of Do Space pilot, June 2023

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Digital Literacy & Equity
- Social Service Referral
- Workforce Development

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Cyber Seniors
- Podcast Studio
- Design Studio
- 3D Lab
- Active Learning Lab

Outreach Opportunities*

- American Association of Retired Persons (Event Space)
- Metropolitan Community College (Adult Learning Zone/Tool Library)
- Master Gardener Program (Outdoor Reading Garden)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships


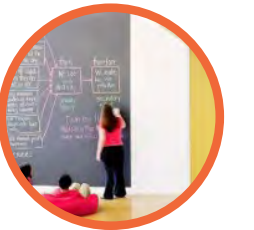





Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

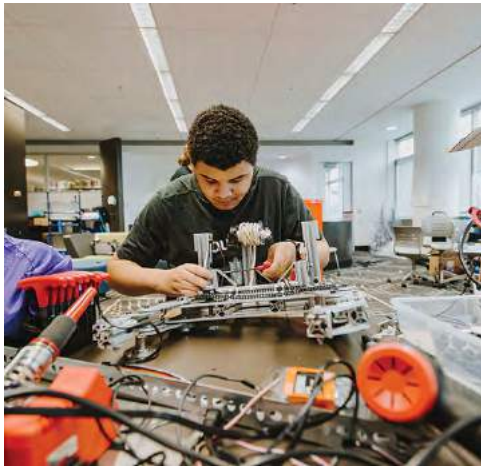
Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$8M-\$10M]	Large [\$12.5M]
 <p>Do Space Programming</p>  <p>Homework Help Station</p>  <p>Outdoor Community Space</p>  <p>Outdoor Makers Lab</p>	 <p>Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</p>  <p>Do Space Maker Space</p>	 <p>Realign</p> <p>To Foster...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital Equity and Literacy• Content Creation• Early Literacy• Family Support• Youth Development• Social Connections• Partnership Impact

Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 20,450 SF

FEELS LIKE...





Saddlebrook

Community Framework

ABOUT THE BUILDING



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Saddlebrook Branch is situated in a fast-growing residential neighborhood with active Homeowners Association groups. The branch shares a facility with Omaha Public Schools' Saddlebrook Elementary and Omaha Parks and Recreation's Saddlebrook Community Center. The branch serves homeschoolers, private school students, Saddlebrook elementary students, middle and high school students, young families (including new-immigrant families), and seniors. The Saddlebrook Branch's community members enjoy family-centered programs like storytime and senior programs like senior coffee hangouts, book clubs, and pickleball at the adjacent Saddlebrook Community Center. Community members

BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

"Saddlebrook serves a fast-growing community with lots of neighborhood pride."

*Julie Humphrey,
Saddlebrook Branch Manager*

also enjoy the parks and walking trails around the nearby lake. Some of their needs include social spaces for seniors, more gathering spaces for celebrations, quiet spaces and study rooms for adults, and fun and engaging youth and teen programming. Saddlebrook's location caters to the directly connected residential neighborhood but limits others from accessing it. Saddlebrook Branch's entrance in the joint facility can be confusing and it also shares physical library space with Saddlebrook Elementary for certain parts of the day, which is great for connecting students with the library but can inhibit access to the space and certain materials.

THE BRANCH

Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime
Programs for Large Families
Adult Book Club
Senior Hangouts
Partnership Passes
Book Bundles
Grab and Go Bags
Curbside Pickup

Current Partners

Omaha Public Schools
Omaha Parks & Recreation

Popular Collections

Youth Collections
Adult Collections
Seed Library

Popular Technologies

Wireless Printing
Wi-Fi

CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



YOUTH PROGRAMMING: Branch serves many families and young students who could benefit from expanded programming that is fun and engaging.



ADULT PROGRAMMING: Branch serves many adults and seniors who could benefit from more book club, quiet spaces, and social spaces.



PLACES TO GATHER: More free places needed for social gatherings such as small playdates and senior socials.



ACTIVE LIFESTYLES: Community members enjoy sports and recreation, utilizing the nearby parks and walking trails around the lake



JOINT FACILITY: Shared space with elementary school and community center offers pros and cons.

CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



SCHOOLS: Saddlebrook E.S., Prairie West E.S., Fullerton E.S., Standing Bear E.S., St. Vincent de Paul E.S., Davis M.S., Concordia Lutheran H.S.



GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES: Douglas County Treasurer, U.S. Post Office



SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS: Saddlebrook Community Center, YMCA Westview, Larimore Apartments



PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY: Omaha Fire Station 78, Douglas County Dispatch, Bennington Police



OPEN SPACES: Standing Bear Lake, Heron Haven Nature Center, Stone Ridge Splash Park, Glacier Creek Preserve, Tranquility Park, Kelley Fields

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR SADDLEBROOK BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate
Innovative
Curious
Equitable & Inclusive
Accessible

...Omaha!

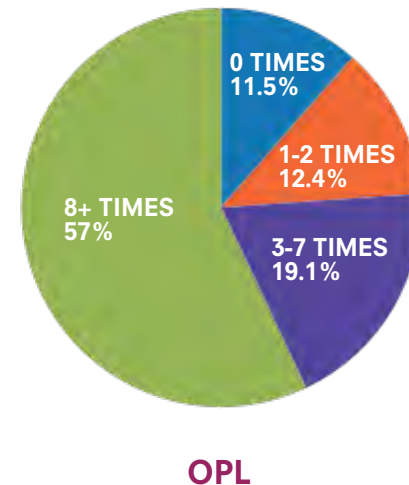
What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Family or Individual **Professional**
Caregiver **Reader** **Technology Learner**
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast **Gardener**
Maker or Creative
Community Member (Meeting Space) **Volunteer**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

COMMUNITY INPUTS (SADDLEBROOK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

TOP 4 SELECTED SPACES & PLACES



TOP SELECTED TOOLS & COLLECTIONS

SOCIAL SPACES

- COMMUNITY SKETCHBOOK EXCHANGE
- EVENT SPACE
- GAME ROOM
- MEETING ROOMS
- VIBRANT CAFE

OUTDOOR SPACES

- COMMUNITY GARDEN
- FOOD TRUCK ZONE
- OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE
- OUTDOOR MAKERS LAB
- OUTDOOR READING GARDEN

CREATIVE & TECH SPACES

- ART GALLERY
- INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY SPACE
- MESSY MAKERSPACE
- MUSIC STUDIO
- PODCAST ROOM
- PRINTMAKING STUDIO
- STORYTELLING LAB

RESOURCES & LEARNING

- CITIZENSHIP CENTER
- CLASSROOMS
- EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAY SPACE
- GENEALOGY & HISTORY HUB
- HOMEWORK HELP STATION
- MAP EXPLORATION WALL
- QUIET ROOM
- TOOL LIBRARY

SPACES AND PLACES :: ESPACIOS Y LUGARES



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Saddlebrook staff installed beauty boards with photos of spaces and places and community members tagged what resonated with them with stickers. These sentiments are illustrated to the left.

Saddlebrook

Community Framework

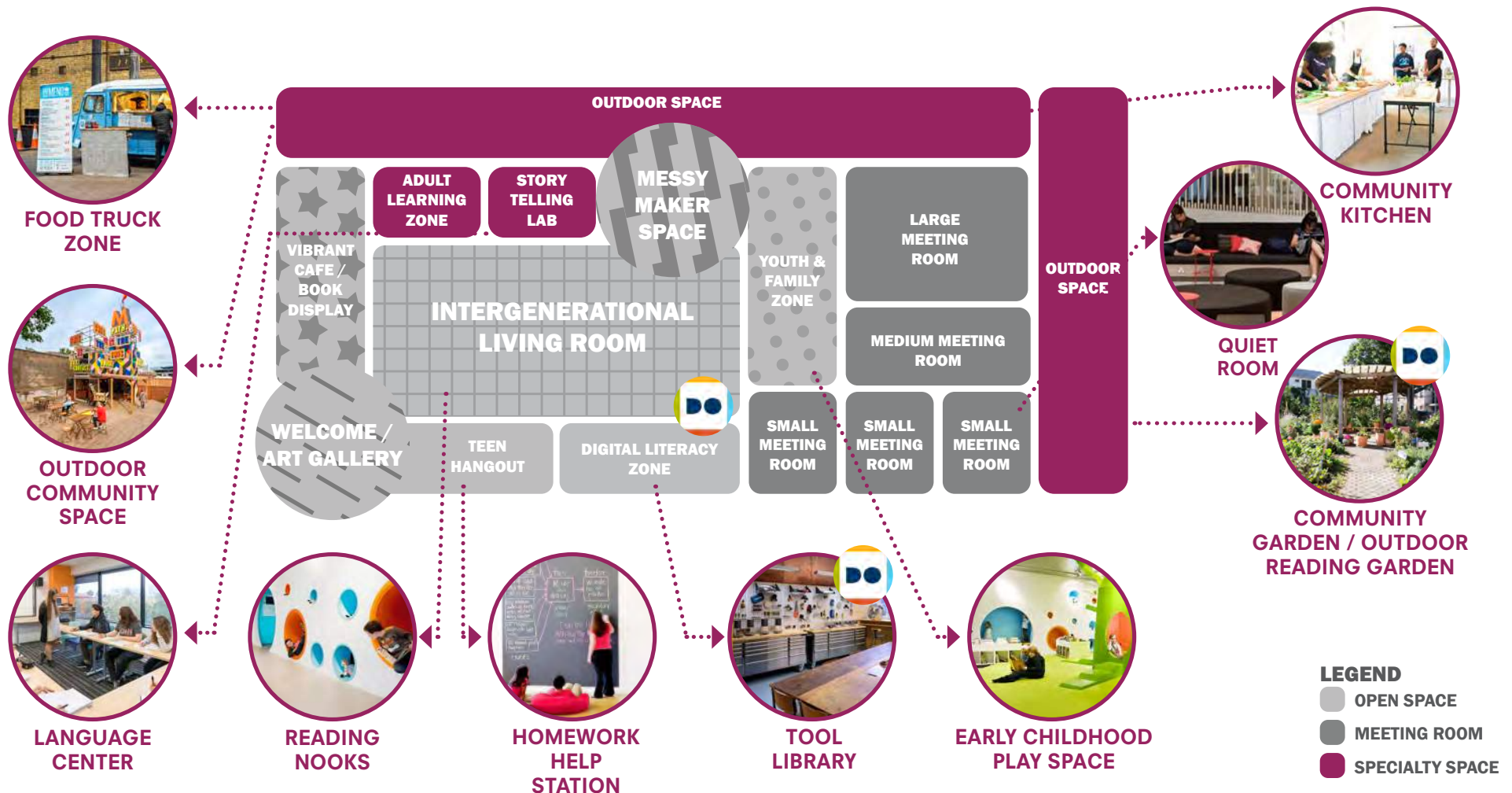
Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **16-24,000 SF**

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Saddlebrook Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This environment can foster

literacy, social gathering, life-long learning, creativity, and healthy living for families, young students, and seniors to support social, enriching, and active lifestyles.



DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

Literacy

Learning Incubator
Youth Story & Activity

Workforce & Entrepreneurship

DIY Programming for Adults
Expanded Volunteer Program

Digital Equity & Inclusion

Sensory Play
Content Creation
STEAM Programs

Community Health & Safety

Trail Connections
Wellness Programs
Third Spaces

Neighborhood Development

Community Gardening
Family Play Dates
Senior Socials

Connection to Resources

Heartland Bike Share
Community Cooking & Food Share

SPACES/SERVICES

Current & Potential Partners*

Omaha Public Schools
Omaha Parks & Recreation
Local Senior Groups
Local Tween/Teen Empowerment Groups
Women’s Fund of Omaha

Current & Potential Collections

New Release Books
New Release Movies
Children’s Picture Books
Children’s Non-Fiction
Cookbooks for All Ages
Large Print Collections
More Variety of Partner Passes
Expanded Seed Library

Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts
Sensory Play Equipment
Gaming

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



3 Critical Programs

- Early Literacy & Family Literacy
- Youth Programming
- Gathering & Social Programs

Do Space Programs & Technologies

- Littles Lab
- Kid Coders
- Make.Hack.Build
- Cyber Seniors
- Senior Makers Club
- Summer Passport Program

Outreach Opportunities*

- Local Senior Groups (Social Club)
- Local Tween/Teen Empowerment Groups (Homework Help Station & Teen Hangout)

*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$6M-\$8M]	Large [\$21.5M-\$28M]
<div data-bbox="121 565 380 792"></div> <div data-bbox="115 803 237 881"><p>Tool Library</p></div> <div data-bbox="422 565 653 792"></div> <div data-bbox="415 803 680 878"><p>Homework Help Station</p></div> <div data-bbox="121 959 352 1187"></div> <div data-bbox="115 1198 302 1317"><p>Early Childhood Play Space</p></div> <div data-bbox="422 959 653 1187"></div> <div data-bbox="415 1198 606 1317"><p>Outdoor Community Space</p></div>	<div data-bbox="785 574 1157 862"><p>Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships</p></div>	<div data-bbox="1415 574 1646 802"></div> <div data-bbox="1415 813 1549 850"><p>Analyze</p></div> <div data-bbox="1415 889 1591 927"><p>To Foster...</p></div> <ul data-bbox="1465 932 1814 1154" style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Equity • Early Literacy • Family Connections • Youth Development • Social Connections • Partnership Impact

Saddlebrook

Community Framework

Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size 16-24,000 SF

FEELS LIKE...

