

“What are your HOPES & DREAMS for Vancouver’s new main library?”  
Public Forum -- November 27, 2007  
Suggestions/Ideas/Comments/Questions Received

### **Site planning and parking**

- Sign with hours of operation visible from car
- What is happening with I-5 and the Columbia River Crossing?
  - Any danger that it will change the project?
- What is happening with the Academy building?
- Noise from the freeway
- Security for the parking garage
- Security in the civic plaza
- Lighting
- Courtyard for outside reading
- Positive reaction to civic plaza
- Negative reaction to two-way road through the plaza
  - Pedestrian access only
- Lighting the bus stop
- Concern about having only one exit from the parking garage
- Connection with C-Tran
  - Validation incentive for transit users
- Staff parking: where, cost to staff, safety and security
- West Linn has a rain sculpture that is “art as function”
- Portland Center Stage also has a rainwater “art” treatment
- Café
- Connection to walking trails
- Geothermal
- Water feature
- One-of-a-kind restaurant with a café
- What about the local vegetation (trees)?
- Bike parking: enclosed and secure
- Concern about limited time in the parking garage

### **General look and feel**

- Meeting room space for media needs: films, AV equipment
  - Tie art exhibits and film together
- Multipurpose room(s) – flexible size
- Community information in one spot – not scattered, easy to find
- Partner with Vancouver School District
  - Kids volunteer for credit
  - WSU Vancouver and Clark College tied in with curriculum
  - Help make library a usual and ongoing part of kids’ lives

- Display who we (librarians) are
- Lighting that works well for seniors
- A warm feel (not much exposed concrete and stainless steel; more wood and brick)
- As much natural light as possible
- Do a green building (LEED)
- Shield building from traffic on all sides to avoid air impurities
- What can we learn from Seattle Public Library's underground parking?
- Local art, youth art exhibits and display areas – secured
- How can we accommodate people who live on the street?
  - Can there be facilities for them inside? What about outside?
  - How can we provide for them, along with all others who use the library
- Friends' store and used book store
- Individual study desks; not all seats at big tables
- Lots of storage space with good access
- Areas for casual conversation
- Comfortable room for book group discussions
- Easy access to load and unload books, display materials, etc.
  - For Friends' book sales
  - Freight elevator
- Emphasis on books
- Library for blind and for deaf patrons within the library
- Areas to sit and read; overlook the plaza, enjoy the view
- Concern about demolition of historic houses
- Street parking just for very short-term parking
- Close plaza for lunch and dinner; allow seating outside without traffic
- Support transit; voucher for transit
- Free parking could open up a "can of worms"
- Public meeting rooms, including tiered auditorium space and flat floor
- Public art – like folk art that is a reflection of the area
- Space to exhibit art; changing exhibits
- Tie in with First Friday art events
- Warmth, wood, natural look, plus light
- Use of green materials
- Geothermal exchange with UV light (kills germs); comfortable, payback in seven years
- Create space to support civil dialog
  - Be a "Third Place" to provide civic engagement
  - Room for 50 people to sit at small tables and talk about current events and issues
- Archeological finds uncovered at the site during development should be included in library
  - Filed and/or displayed in the history area
- Involve all ages as volunteers in the library
- NOT a Southern California look – want Northwest feel and look, regional
- How close is library to I-5?
- Want Pacific Northwest look for plaza

- Don't like road through middle of development
  - Prefer pedestrian only space
  - None in Vancouver now, except Esther Short Park
  - Arrange for deliveries through the basement
- Include artwork in the plaza
- Provide a place out of the weather to wait for the library to open
- Bicycle parking in plaza
- Public meeting rooms for exhibits for neighborhood meetings, clubs
  - Ability to break into smaller rooms
- Avant-garde art work / new media art
- Art areas as a functional part of the building
- Children-friendly art work; interactive
- Excellent lighting
- Large large-print collection
- Comfortable seating (not at tables)

### **Teens, 'tweens & technology**

- Mac access
- Distinct teen area
- Variety of books; graphic novels
- Internet access; social platforms
- Music / video
- Flexible space
- Card games for 'tweens
- Check-out locks for bikes (kids – safe, secure)
- Study rooms for tutoring and quiet study
- Tables near books (to check out books first)
- Lots of color
- Face-out display
- Bright labels
- Bus tokens (incentives for using mass transit)
- Room outside to “play”
- Covered benches
- Display books – sometimes afraid to take
- Face-out chapter books
- Vibrant fun colors
- Mural by kids from local schools
- Scroll paper for drawing images from books
- Spaces for family projects
  - Areas for multiple families to work on common school projects
- Secure display areas for finished projects
- Packets that focus on certain content (pre-packaged to accommodate school assignments)
- Technology: I-pods, etc.

- Access to technology not available at home
- Color printer
- Points for recycling
- Computers that can be checked out (for use in library or at home)
  - Program for refurbished computers
  - Focus on patrons without a computer at home
  - Allow patron to use computer where needed (home or library)
- Reading incentive programs throughout the year
- New library card at “tween age” – cooler looking with newer signature
- Built-in displays for kids to display their “creations”
- Game nights – kids bring their favorite game
- Have better programs on computers for doing graphic design (manipulate images)
- Multi-user listening stations
- User-friendly research interface for databases
- Training on how to use databases
- Work with local schools
  - Senior projects and deadlines
  - Teachers could provide information on syllabi
  - Links to the syllabi, deadlines, criteria

## **Families and children**

- Nooks – places, not chair/table, to curl up with a book
  - Especially school-age (saw at Salt Lake City Library)
  - Window view appeals to adults
- Recommend ground floor for children’s areas
  - Strollers and day-care groups cannot fit into elevators
- Bright colors and plants
- Coat room and stroller parking
- Easy, safe for families to walk up to entry; public plaza space access
- Safe bike parking
- ‘Tweens need books and computers for research; easier to use
- Activity room with sinks, storage; should not have to dismantle
- Outside area, maybe balcony
- Sanitary wipes (similar to what grocery stores are offering at shopping cart area)
- Interactive learning tapes, computers, puppets, animals (like Alberta the Turtle)
- Intergenerational and same-age activities
- Kindergarten
- Investigate – take the next step in learning
- Design (general): center stacks with peripheral areas for specific users and purposes, such as magazines, computers
- Accommodate different learning styles; auditory, visual, etc.
- Rotating art work, such as teens and kids art work, continuing a sense of ownership; fluid
- Display 3<sup>rd</sup> grade projects (Vancouver themes) and high school senior projects

- School class in the library: meet daily, connection with university; connection to education
- Come to library to create books and multi-media records of family history, travel diary, wedding
- Capture diverse ethnic and cultural history
- Early evening story time for working parents and other enriching activities for parents with young children
- Opportunity for families to practice listening and conversational skills on different topics
  - Space for 10 tables with 5 at each
- Conversation café
- Children’s movies (with little chairs and headphones) to watch at the library
- Coat storage
- Stroller storage or parking area; car seats, too
- Displays for child-created materials, especially kindergarten
- Labeling and signs in multiple languages
- Montessori sensory boards of letters, usually sandpaper (check on standardized print form for signage; what form is used by the Vancouver schools? Denelian?)
- Raised platform: kids play differently in a different physical space; maybe also sit on floor and play or write on the platform
- Access to filtered, controlled internet
- Children love to check out their own books at self-check
- Pride of being able to explore on their own when young
- Parent area within view of kids (to look at a magazine casually)
- Intimate spaces are OK but provide for large groups for story time

## **Adults & collection**

- Nothing in storage, unless really old and unused
- Magazines: current issues easily found
- Cell-phone-free area
- Comfortable “homey” soft chairs
- Quiet and secure study rooms (patron can safely leave project in room)
- Areas for computer use
- More computers
- Northwest “historical” study room and collection
- Business center for start-up businesses
- Friends’ room for retail purposes
- 12-14 comfortable chairs in an area for book group gatherings
- Larger room that is divisible
- Large meeting rooms for book sales, children’s programs
- Teaching resources and floor space (computer and technology)
- Partnership for community programs
- Current and expanded large-print materials
- Better lighting in stacks

- OPACs [Electronic Resource computers] spread throughout library
- Better access to archived reference materials
- Opportunity for patrons to create books / multi-media
- Books arranged by category (similar to retail, not Dewey decimal system)
- Explore different learning styles
- More local art – regularly changed-out and rotated throughout the library
- Broader local history collection
- Ability to check out art
- Ability to check out bikes
- More books on tape
- Ability to show art films and family films
- Expanded hours of operation
- Fireplace reading area
- Job search resources; including e-mail, phone message retrieval system
- GED classes
- Citizenship classes
- Map room
- Online magazines and newspapers
- Poetry and book readings
- Lecture series (not just books) oriented for all age groups
- Intellectual hub
- More books on CD
- Provide tax assistance, not just forms
- Partnership with legal aid
- Library for deaf and blind (facilities for all)
- Free WiFi
- Local government office counter
- “Performing” books (teens would “perform” a book for children)
- International language center (93 different languages spoken in Vancouver)
- Tutors and study rooms
- Bike lockers
- Civic dialog (50-60 people at tables of 5 discussing current events and issues)
- Library of conflict resolution materials (theory and practice)
- Space for businesses
  - Resources for global, regional and local research and trends