BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

ASHLEY MCGRAW

July 26th, 2023

What is your favorite memory involving the Bethlehem Public Library?

Work Session

GOALS

Inform

Reflect

Contribute

Meet the Team

Susanne Angarano
Principal

Elbert Eller
Senior Architect

Danisley Jayson
Architectural Designer

Natalie Redmore
Interior Designer

Brooke Williams
Interior Architectural Designer

DeAnna Hine
Professional Project Manager

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Schedule & Phasing

2022 SEP – 2023 FEB	Feasibility/Planning Study
SEP 29 2022	Board Meeting
NOV 15 -17 2022	Stakeholder Discovery Sessions
NOV 29 2022	Interiors Scope Part II
DEC 15 2022	Board Meeting
JAN 09 2023	Hybrid Concepts Board Presentation
FEB 13 2023	Final Concept Presentation with Renders
2023 APR – 2023 SEP	Schematic Design
MAY 08	Staff Programming Meetings
MAY 08	Board Meeting
JUN 12	Board Meeting
JUL 11	Staff Open House
2023 SEP – 2024 JAN	Design Development [appx. 14 weeks]
2024 JAN – 2024 APR	Construction Documents [appx. 12 weeks]
2024 APR – 2024 JUN/SEP	SED Submission [appx. 8-20 weeks]
2024 DEC	NYS Library Construction Grant Application
TBD	Bidding & Construction Award

Executive Summary

The Bethlehem Public Library is seeking the opportunity to update the building, streamline operational efficiencies and enhance accommodations to the community which involve providing more space, opportunities and easier access to the building.

The acquisition of 59 Borthwick increases the property footprint and allows for the Library to utilize the space in a variety of ways that achieve the goals of building and community enhancement.

The approach to determine where the priorities lie and what impacts could be made by engaging the Stakeholders along the way to collaborate ensured the design was the foundation of their priorities and goals.

We are continuing to engage through a series of stakeholder interviews with the Library Administration, Library Staff and Library Committee, and Community. The intent of the discussions are to not only talk about specific areas in and around the building, but also identify what the stakeholders want their Library to be in the future, and how it serves the community.

Project Background

- **Understanding the history and culture of the Library**
- **Researching and analyzing the facility**
- **Developing detailed program space needs.**
- **Defining Scope & Purpose**
- **Visioning through Stakeholder Interviews & Feedback**
- **Determining the Critical Success Factors**

Discovery

- **Initial Concept Exploration**
- **Stakeholder Voting & Collaboration**
  - Developing Hybrid Concepts
  - Deducing to a Final Hybrid Concept

Space Planning & Concept Design

- **Developing Interior Program Concept**
- **Comparing Existing vs. Proposed Space Allocation**
- **Determining Component & Feature Precedents**

Site Logistics

- **Site Development**

- **Mechanical / Electrical / Plumbing / Fire**

PURPOSE

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Project Purpose.

To position the Bethlehem Public Library as a community resource that is accessible to all, offering modern programming in a mindful environment that's nestled within the fabric of the community.

Designed in a way that's welcoming, simple to navigate, modern, and adaptable to a variety of programs, both inside the library and throughout the site.

Optimizing the library so that both patrons and staff have cohesive environments to suit their evolving needs, and to support the next generation of collaboration, discovery, and learning.

Guiding Principles

What are the critical items that define the success of the project?

Guiding Principles

Critical to success

Create a **safer** exterior environment that is more **accommodating** to patrons and library activities, has clear vehicle and pedestrian traffic patterns, and a more **prominent entry**.

To be considered the port in a storm for our community members, and a valued **community support partner**.

Create an easily accessible addition that caters to the library and community **program needs** and accommodates multifunctional, **flexible** spaces and increases patron **capacity up to 400**.

Providing **adequate space** to ensure that **multiple demographic** needs of patrons are accommodated in functional spaces customized to their intended use and program needs, while **cohesively integrating efficient** employee operational spaces.

As we start to think about how we want this library to serve the community and how the definition of a library is currently evolving, we recognize that there is a need to support an array of functions and activities.

Throughout each phase of the project, we will consider the purpose of the space in accordance with space adjacencies to develop a comfortable and cohesive environment.

KEY ELEMENTS

- Additions for Community Rooms, Children/Teen Library, staff space
- Eliminate mezzanine – all one level
- Full interior renovation/reimagining of existing space
- New site / parking configuration

PROJECT OVERVIEW & SITE

147 SPACES
6 ACCESSIBLE SPACES
SPEED TABLE
OUTDOOR READING NOOK
ELEVATED PATIO
4 FT. ORNAMENTAL FENCING
RAISED GROVE
PAVILION
EVENT SPACE
4 FT. ORNAMENTAL FENCING
PRESERVED EXISTING VEGETATIVE BUFFER
RELOCATED MAINTENANCE SHED
DUMPSTER AREA
SERVICE ACCESS
BIKE RACKS
FLAGPOLE
DROP OFF / PICK UP LOOP w/ BYPASS

147 SPACES
6 ACCESSIBLE SPACES
SPEED TABLE
OOK DROP UNIT
4 FT. ORNAMENTAL FENCING
RAISED GROVE
PAVILION
EVENT SPACE
4 FT. ORNAMENTAL FENCING
PRESERVED EXISTING VEGETATIVE BUFFER
RELOCATED MAINTENANCE SHED
DUMPSTER AREA
SERVICE ACCESS
OUTDOOR READING NOOK
ELEVATED PATIO
10 MIN. PARKING
GREEN BIN
BIKE RACKS
FLAGPOLE
DROP OFF / PICK UP LOOP w/ BYPASS

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SITE & EXTERIOR THOUGHT STARTERS

1

What concerns do you have for traffic patterns, parking, and general navigation of the site?

2

Do you feel the proposed landscape design has enhanced the user experience and connection to the outdoors? How or how not?

3

What connection does the library have to its natural surroundings and why does it value green space?

4

What three words should describe the feeling of arriving at the library?

"Dovetail" Concept Narrative

The dovetail concept provides opportunity to patrons of all ages to access the library resources they seek out. It Optimizes space needed for program areas while allowing them to interface at key opportunities. Strategic intersections will allow for the primary functions of the library to co-exist.

Stretching and expanding the program areas throughout the interior allows for accessible daylighting to people of all ages. Additionally, the building is surrounded by nature and outdoor resources on all sides.

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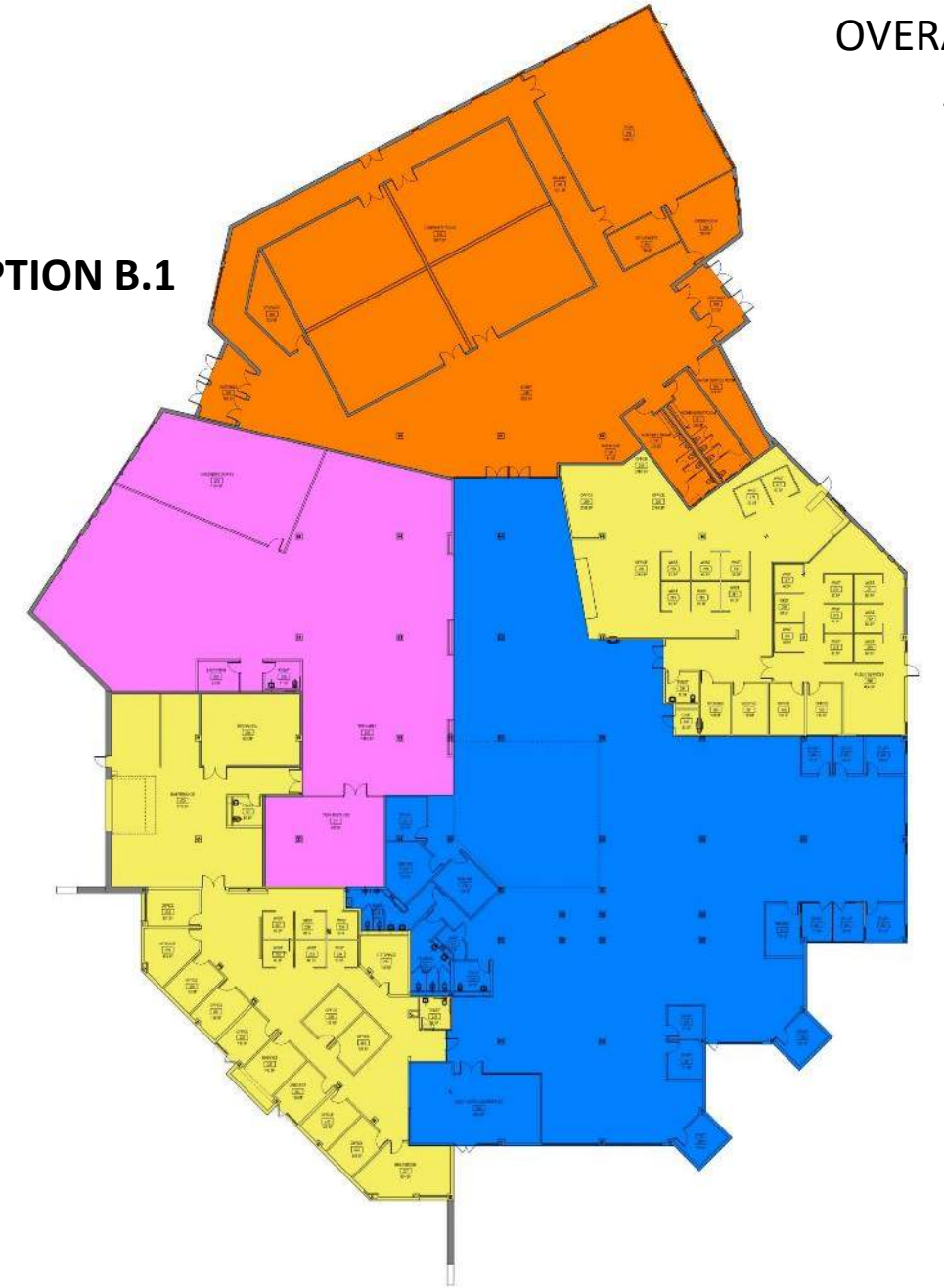
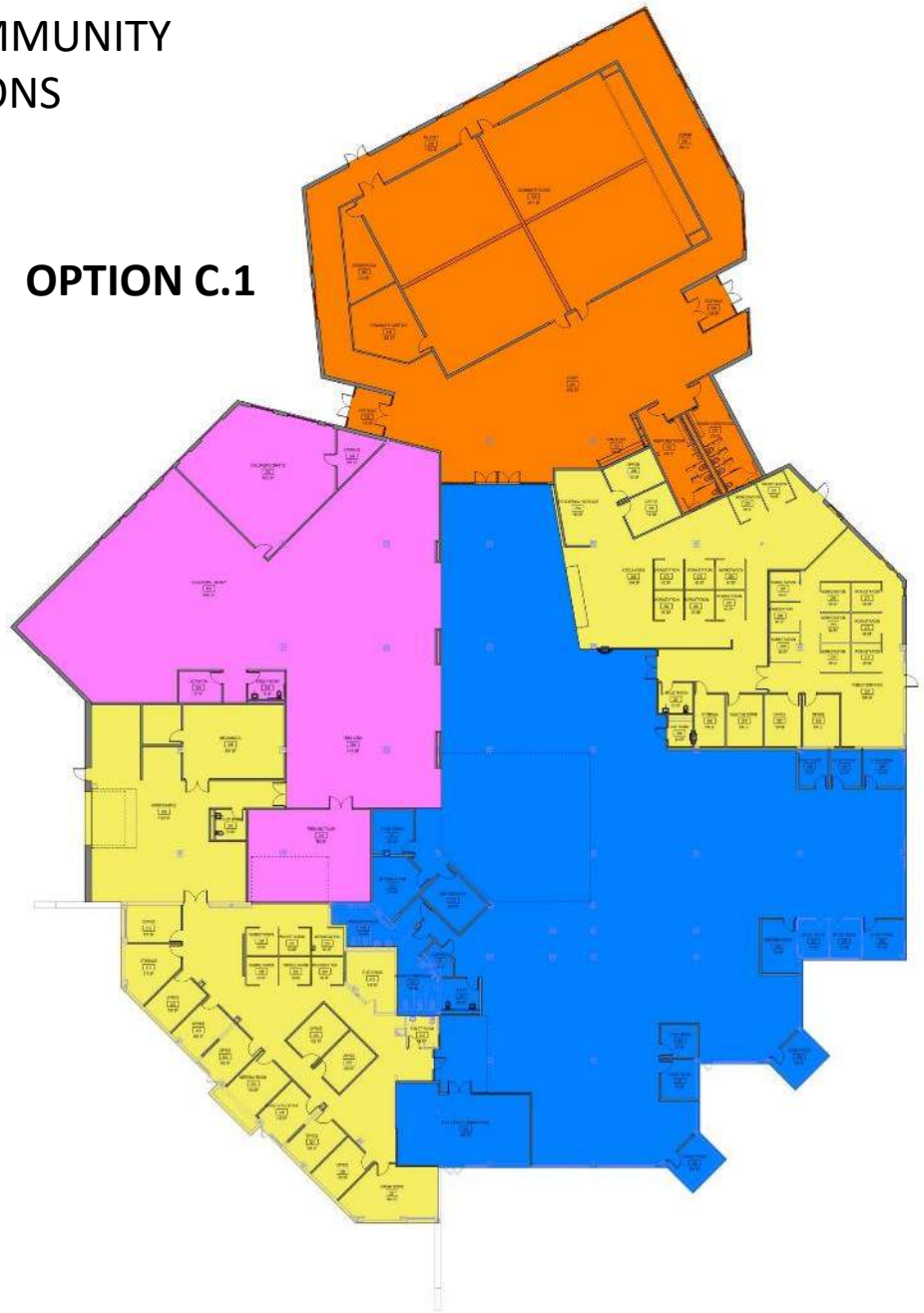
OVERALL PLAN & COMMUNITY ADDITION OPTIONS

OPTION B.1



OPTION C.1



COMMUNITY ADDITION

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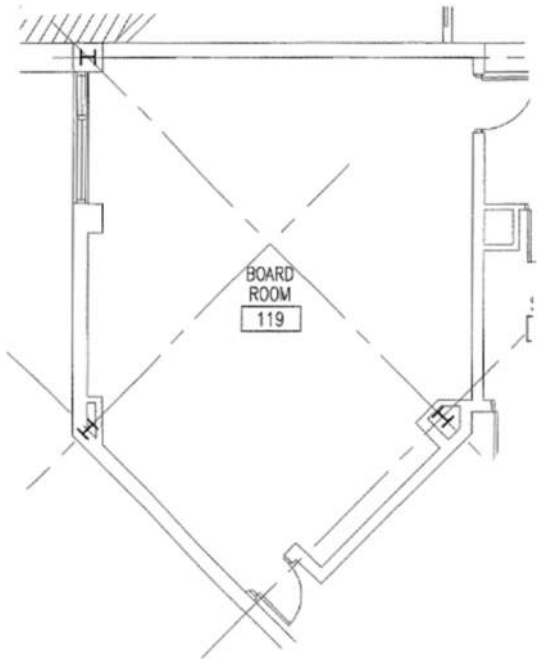
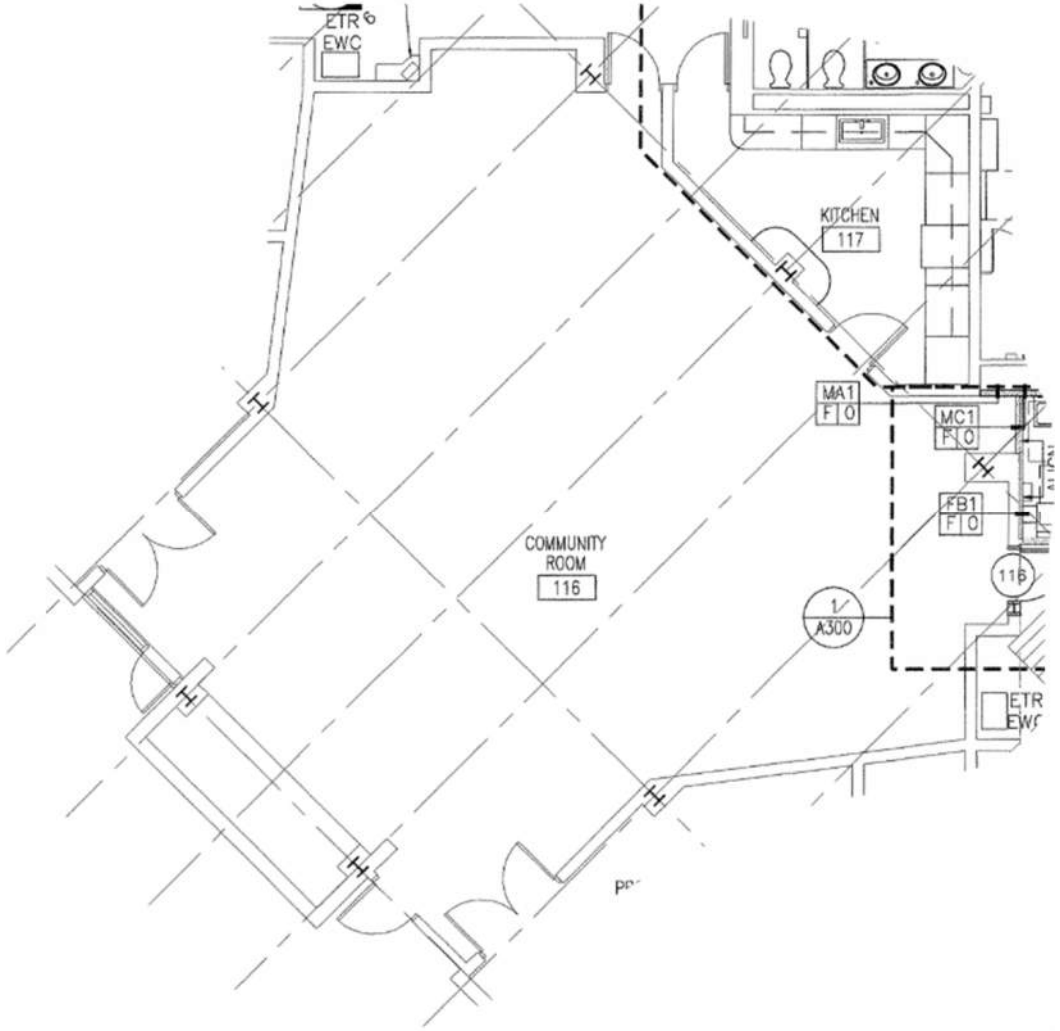
Existing Community Spaces

One “large” Community room: 1628sf
One “small” Community room: 872sf





Community Option B.1

PROGRAM SPACE	SIZE (SF)
COMMUNITY MTG A	900
COMMUNITY MTG B	900
COMMUNITY MTG C	900
COMMUNITY MTG D	900
COMMUNITY MTG E	900
COMMUNITY MTG F	900
TOTAL (SF)	**5,400**

Community Option C.1

PROGRAM SPACE	SIZE (SF)
COMMUNITY MTG A	900
COMMUNITY MTG B	900
COMMUNITY MTG C	900
COMMUNITY MTG D	900
TOTAL (SF)	**3600**

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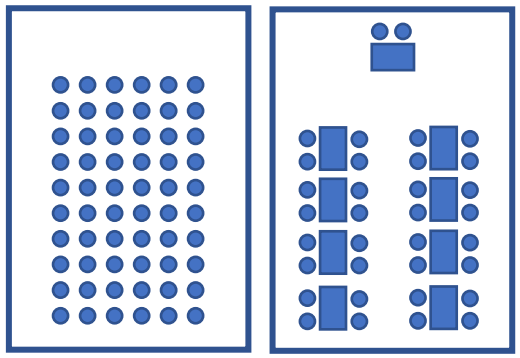
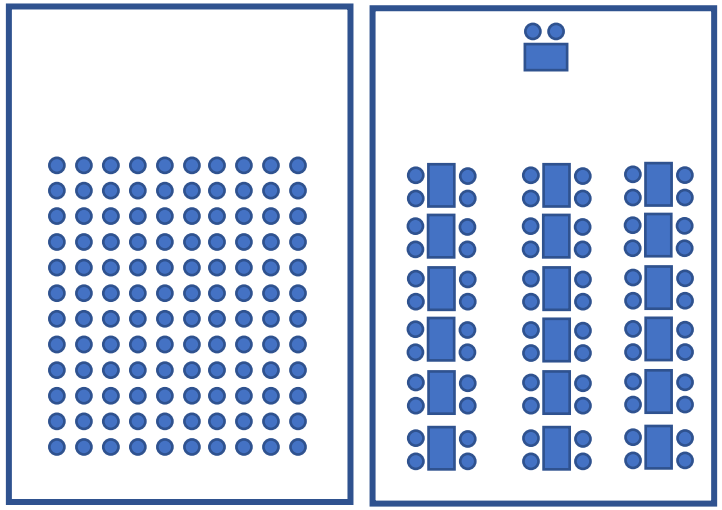
Community Option C.1
Meeting Room Capacity



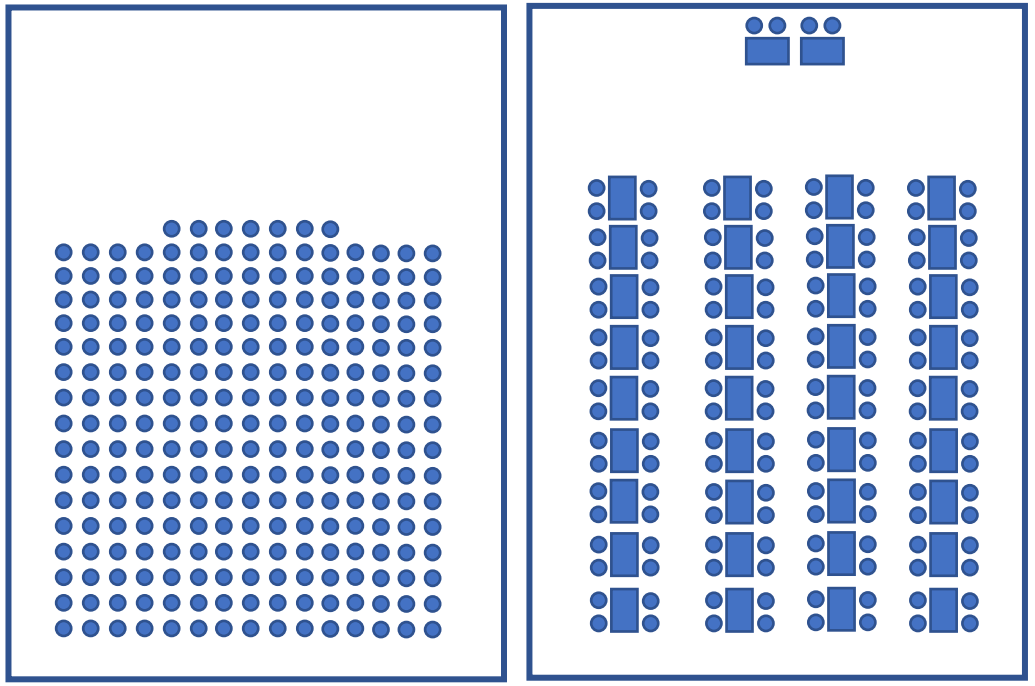
900 SF MEETING ROOM
CHAIRS = (900/15) = 60
TABLES & CHAIRS = (900/26) = 34

CODE MAX CHAIRS = (900/7) = 128
CODE MAX TABLES & CHAIRS = (900/15) = 60



1,830 SF MEETING ROOM
CHAIRS = (1830/15) = 122
TABLES & CHAIRS = (1830/26) = 70

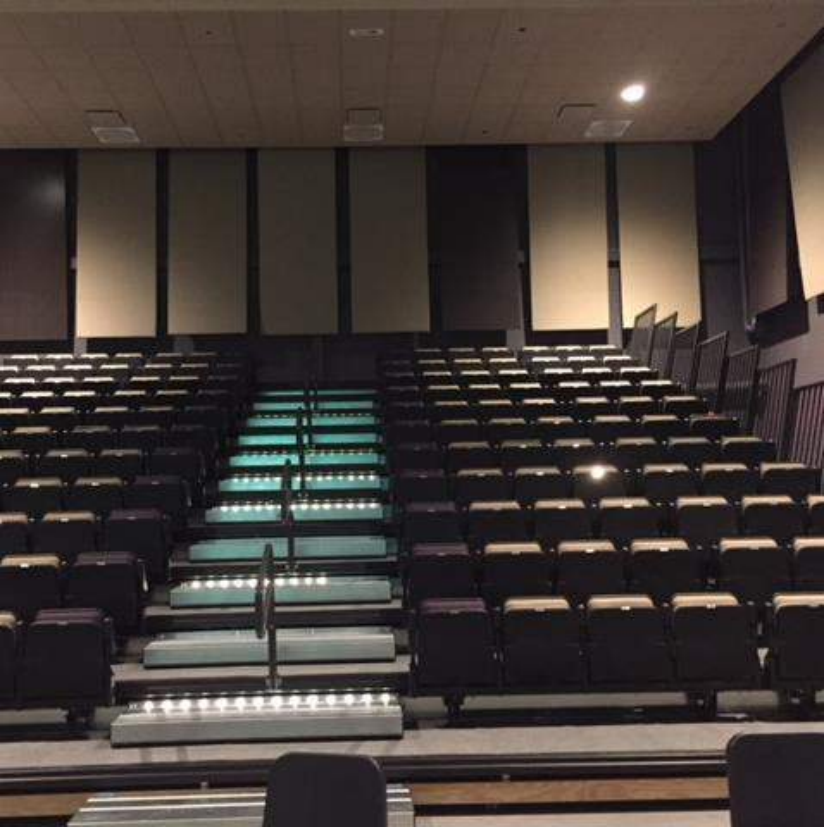
CODE MAX CHAIRS = (1830/7) = 261
CODE MAX TABLES & CHAIRS = (1830/15) = 122

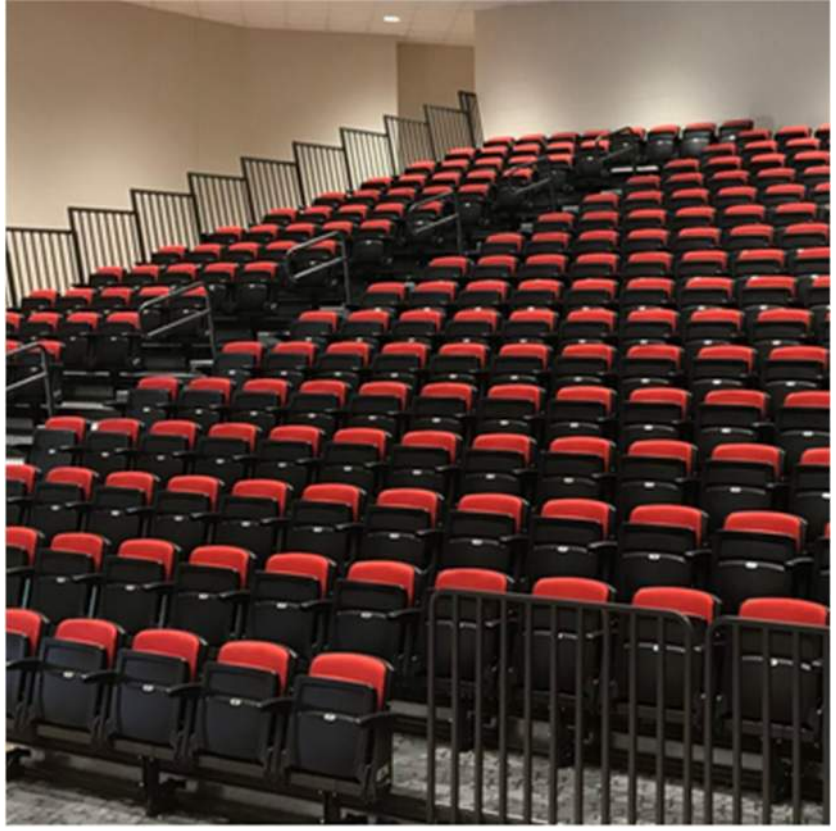


3,710 SF MEETING ROOM
CHAIRS = (3710/15) = 247
TABLES & CHAIRS = (3710/26) = 142

OR
TELESCOPING SEATS & CHAIRS = (2000/15) + (200TS) = 333

CODE MAX CHAIRS = (3710/7) = 530
CODE MAX TABLES & CHAIRS = (3710/15) = 247





Telescoping Seating Install Samples

- Lit Central Aisle
- Upholstered Seats
- Front Rails
- Seat Numbers

Stage Options

Hydraulic Air Lift Stage

- Retracts into the floor for max space when not in use
- Motorized for easy setup
- No extra storage is required for a stage
- ADA accessible

Wall Recessed Stage

- Retracts into the wall for max space when not in use
- Motorized or Manual for easy setup
- No extra storage is required for a stage but separate platform stairs are required and stored separately
- ADA accessibility is achieved by attaching a mobile ramp – which would need to be stored.

Platform Stage

- Is flexible and can be set up and configured in a variety of ways
- Storable when not in use in designated storage area
- Most cost-effective

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COMMUNITY THOUGHT STARTERS

1

What new opportunities do you see for programming that the existing space can't support?

2

How can the library better serve as a community resource?

3

Which option best supports the needs of the library and local community? Please explain.

4

Do you see value in prioritizing higher cost items over other potential library features? Please explain.

MAIN LIBRARY/ TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

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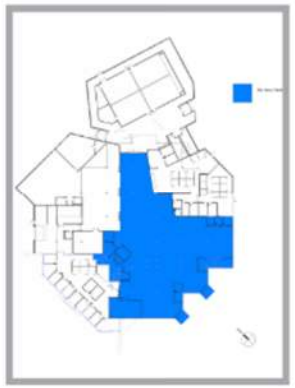
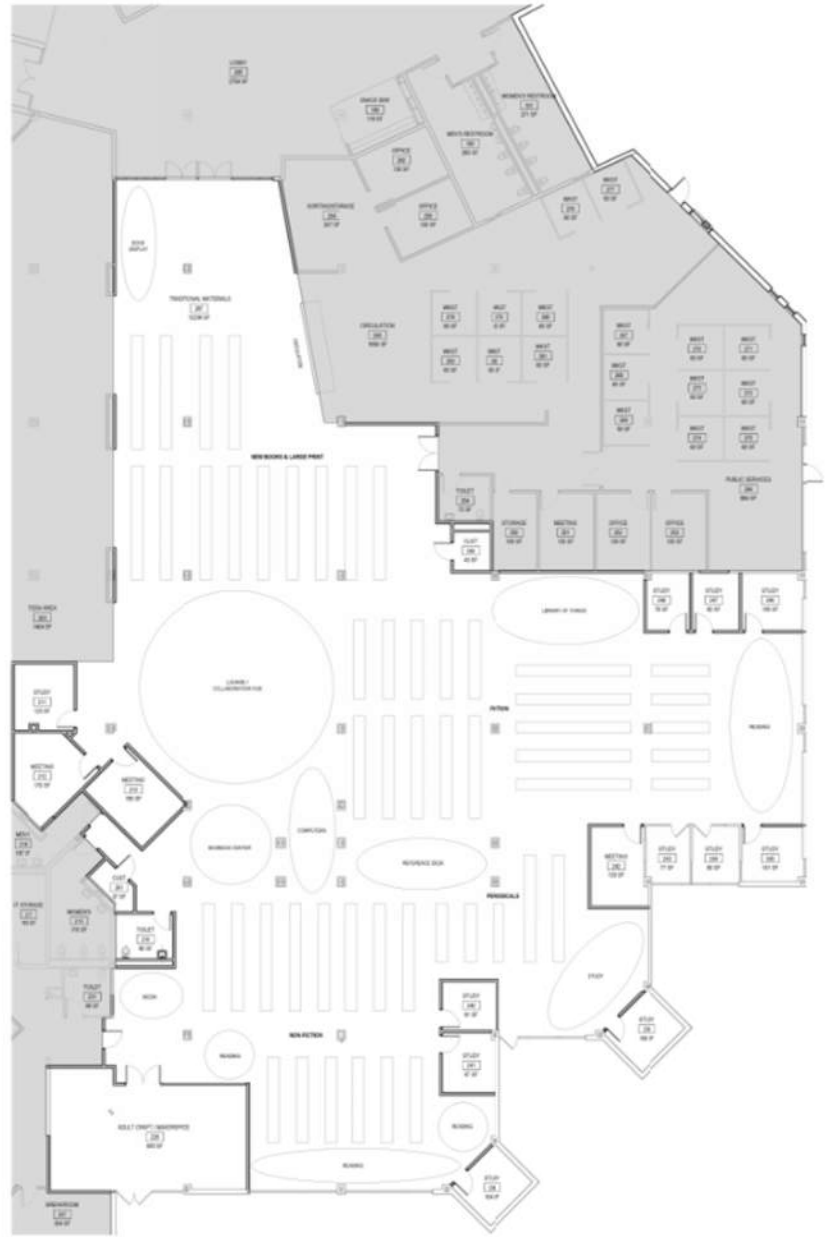
Traditional Materials



Square Foot Comparison for :
Traditional Materials: 7,000 sf to 12,000 sf



1 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY + ASHLEY MCGRAW

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TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

THOUGHT STARTERS

1

What new opportunities do you see for the adult offerings that the existing space can't support?

2

In 10 – 20 years how do you envision young adults, adults, and seniors making use of the library?

3

What concerns do you have for the proposed plan and utilization of space?

4

What does modernizing the library mean to you?

CHILDREN & YOUTH LIBRARY

Children & Youth Areas

Square Foot Comparison for :
Children & Youth: 4,700 sf to 8,100 sf

1 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHILDREN & YOUTH THOUGHT STARTERS

1

What new opportunities do you see for the children & youth offerings that the existing space can't support? How could the library use the crafting and multi-use rooms to expand its programming?

2

In 10 – 20 years how do you envision children and teens utilizing the library?

3

What concerns do you have for the proposed plan and utilization of space?

4

How can the library provide better resources to families with children of all ages?

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Next Steps

Community Survey

Open until 8/4

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE!

Thank you for your participation.