

Community Engagement

May 7, 2024

<https://www.bethpl.org/building-project-updates/>



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Vaysen Studio



ASHLEY MCGRAW

the WHY's?

1 ADDRESS OUTDATED AND AGING COMPONENTS OF THE LIBRARY FACILITY.

- The last significant update was around 50 years ago.
- There is some presence of asbestos which puts limitations on some maintenance needs.
- The mezzanine level is not suitable for public, or staff needs.

2 ADD IN-DEMAND SPACE FOR LIBRARY USERS.

- Patrons are routinely turned away from the limited meeting and study rooms.
- Meeting space / popular Library programs are limited to 100 people.
- Improve performance space functionality.

3 ADD IN-DEMAND COLLECTIONS SPACE AND IMPROVE LIBRARY FUNCTION.

- Bethlehem Public Library's circulation is the highest in the Upper Hudson Library System.
- Children's area is often crowded and limited in terms of offerings. Teen area is lacking dedicated space.
- Properly address curbside pickup function.
- Improve and expand staff space for better workflow, safety, efficiency, and adequacy.

4 ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE LIBRARY FACILITY & RESOURCES.

- Improve accessibility to and within the facility to the spaces as well as to resources
- Improve parking area safety and add parking spaces
- Reduce distance between parking and entry
- Improve sense of arrival and wayfinding

5 ENHANCE THE LIBRARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FOOTPRINT.

- Increase energy efficiency leading to operational savings
- Update the green space around the Library and preserve the park-like feel
- Modernize site utilities to improve Library as a "good neighbor"

the **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.



ACTIVITY!

Share your thoughts

A large flock of birds, likely starlings, is captured in flight against a bright blue sky with soft, wispy white clouds. The birds are arranged in a dense, V-shaped formation that tapers towards the right side of the frame. The lighting is bright, suggesting a clear day, and the overall mood is serene and majestic.

Essence



Sustainability



**What does
Sustainability
mean to you?**

Site & Connection to Nature

native
plantings,
pollinator
garden

green
space:
-teaching
opportunity

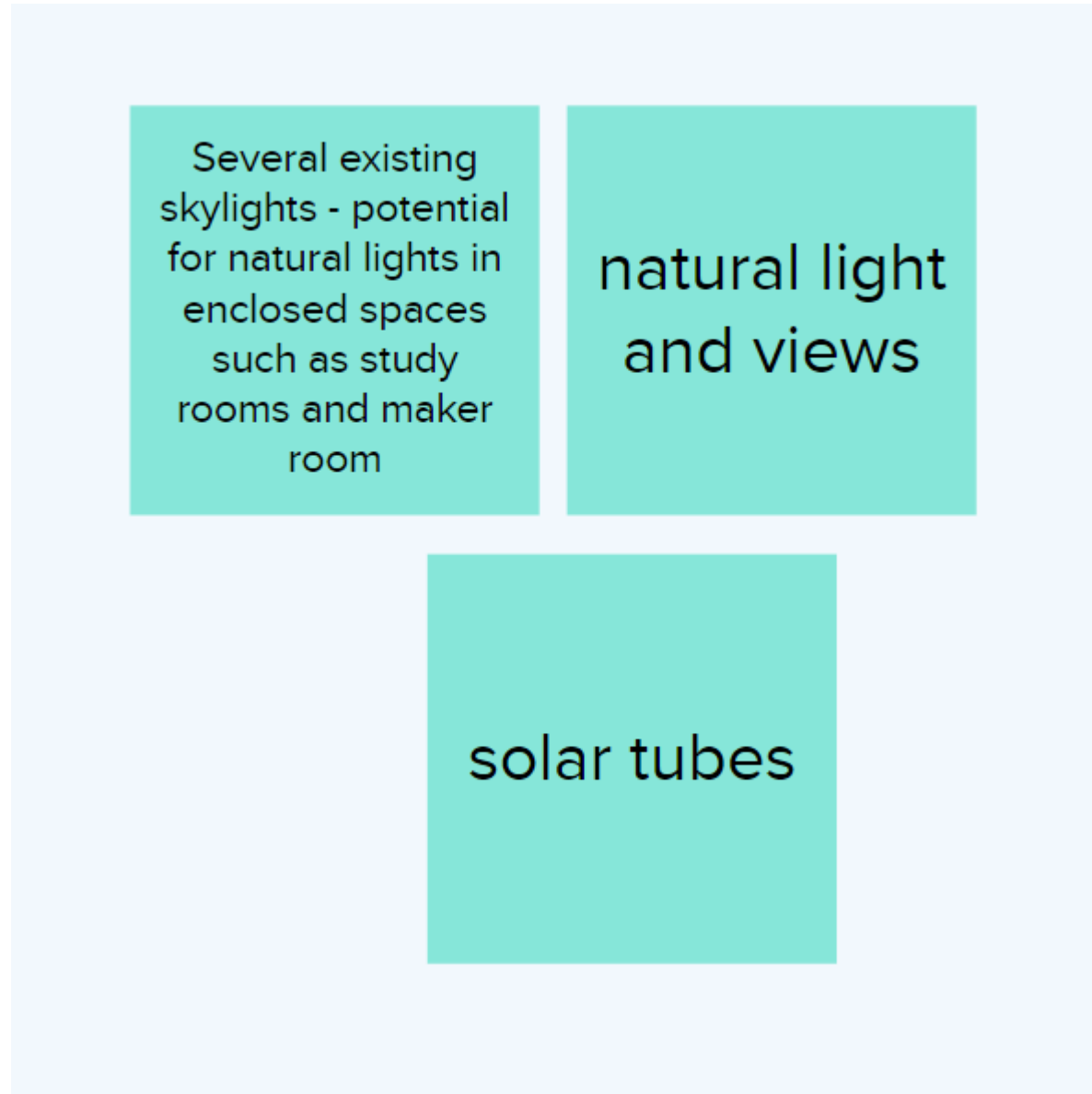
sensory
garden

bird
collision
prevention

permeable ground
cover in the
parking modules;
such as rocks in
the existing path
on the south

using storm
water for
water
closets

Daylighting & Views



Indoor Air Quality

want more operable windows

interested in sustainable building materials such as red list free items but dont want to be so restrictive where cost is added

Indoor air quality is a concern both for spread of viruses and pollutants

indoor air quality - materials, ventilation, operable windows

Alternative Transportation

traffic & safety
in the
neighborhood

how to embrace
alternative
transportation
methods especially
influencing staff
members during
high traffic events

bike repair
station,
encourage
alternative
Transportation for
staff

partnerships
with local
organizations
for pedestrian
advocacy

Energy

Level 3 not
level 2
Electric
Vehicles
chargers

net positive energy -
can exterior amenities
be powered by their
own sources (i.e. solar
powered tables, using
geo as a snow melt
system, solar pavilion)

highly interested in
solar opportunities
as this is a visible
indicator to the
community about
power - serves as a
teaching opportunity

energy
modeling
for glazing

solar
powered site
elements:
charging
tables

geothermal
to heat
walkways?

Energy



Elective Pay Overview



What is elective pay?

Elective pay allows applicable entities, including tax-exempt and governmental entities that would otherwise be unable to claim certain credits because they do not owe federal income tax, to benefit from some clean energy tax credits. By choosing this election, the amount of the credit is treated as a payment of tax and any overpayment will result in a refund.

For example, because of the Inflation Reduction Act, a local government that makes a clean energy investment that qualifies for the investment tax credit can file an annual tax return with the IRS to claim elective pay for the full value of the investment tax credit, as long as it meets all of the requirements including a pre-filing registration requirement. As the local government would not owe other federal income tax, the IRS would then make a refund payment in the amount of the credit to the local government.

Who is eligible?

Applicable entities can use elective pay. Applicable entities include tax-exempt organizations, states and political subdivisions such as local governments, Indian tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, the Tennessee Valley Authority, rural electric cooperatives, U.S. territories and their political subdivisions, and agencies and instrumentalities of state, local, tribal and U.S. territorial governments.

What types of businesses are eligible?

Generally, only "applicable entities" are eligible for elective pay. However, there are special rules for three of the clean energy tax credits. Specifically, other taxpayers that are not "applicable entities" may make an election to be treated as an applicable entity for elective pay with respect to the applicable credit property giving rise to:

1. The section 45Q credit (credit for carbon dioxide sequestration),
 2. The section 45V credit (credit for production of clean hydrogen), or
 3. The section 45X credit (advanced manufacturing production credit).
- There are additional rules if the taxpayer is a partnership or S Corporation.

How do I make the elective payment election?

Eligible entities would claim and receive an elective payment by making an elective payment election on their annual tax return along with any form required to claim the relevant tax credit.

However, there are steps leading up to this, such as a required pre-filing registration process. An EIN or TIN is required to complete the pre-filing registration process.

Electronic return filing is strongly encouraged.

What will I need to do to receive a payment?

1. **Identify and pursue the qualifying project or activity:** You will need to know what applicable credit you intend to earn and use elective pay for.
2. **Determine your tax year, if not already known:** Your tax year will determine the due date for your tax return.
3. **Placed in service:** The applicable credit property must be placed in service BEFORE a registration number will be issued.
4. **Complete pre-filing registration with the IRS:** This will include providing information about yourself, which applicable credits you intend to earn, and each eligible project/property that will contribute to the applicable credit and other information required. Upon completing this process, the IRS will provide you with a registration number for each applicable credit property. You will need to provide that registration number on your tax return as part of making the elective pay election.
 - Complete pre-filing registration in sufficient time to have a valid registration number at the time you file your tax return.
5. **Satisfy all eligibility requirements for the tax credit and any applicable bonus credits, if applicable, for a given tax year:**
 - You will need the documentation necessary to properly substantiate any underlying tax credit, including if bonus amounts increased the credit.
6. **File the required annual tax return by the due date (or extended due date) and make a valid elective payment election.**

What tax credits can elective pay be used for?

See Publication 5817g for a list of tax credits that can be used for elective pay.

Resources

- › [Elective Pay and Transferability](#)
- › [irs.gov/cleanenergy](#)
- › [Publication 5884, IRA and CHIPS Pre-Filing Registration Tool User Guide](#)
- › [Publication 5902, Clean Energy Authorization Permission Management User Guide](#)



Publication 5817 (Rev. 4-2024). Catalog Number 941211 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov

what about ENERGY.

ADVANTAGES OF GEOTHERMAL WITH DISTRIBUTED HEAT PUMPS

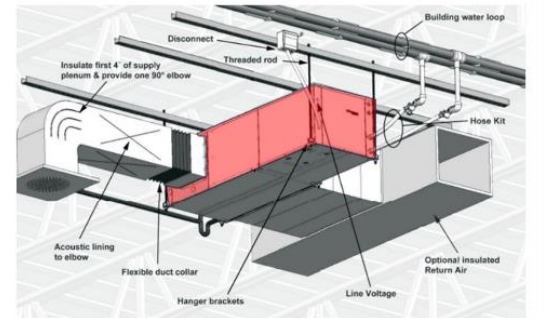
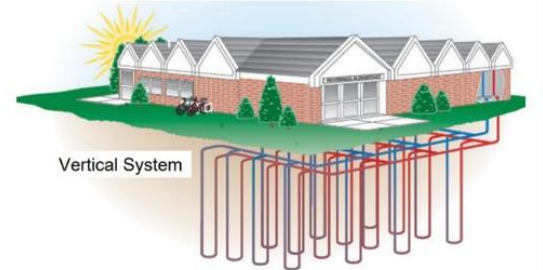
Carbon Footprint Reduction - No fossil fuels will be utilized on site. A geothermal heat pump option would be the most efficient system for heating and cooling the building using an all-electric energy source.

Energy Source Long-Term Reliability - Although natural gas is presently a cheaper fuel source than electricity, that is unlikely to be the case in the years ahead. Both federal and state governments have developed climate legislation to drastically reduce reliance on fossil fuels for energy consumption.

Noise - The proposed geothermal option will provide heat pumps above the ceiling inside the building, alleviating concerns about noise from present roof top HVAC equipment. The heat pumps include acoustic insulation and are designed to operate at low fan speeds to ensure quiet operation in a library setting.

Energy Efficiency - Upgrading and expanding the current Traditional Gas Fired Rooftop Air Handling Units with VAV terminal units for zoning would result in an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of: 62.9 total site energy / 105 total source energy. Switching to a Distributed Water Source Heat Pump Units and a DOAS system would lead to an EUI of: 24.2 total site energy / 72.7 total source energy. This change will decrease total site energy consumption by 61.5% and total source energy consumption by 30.8%!

Cost - When considering refundable tax credits from the Federal government and a rebate from National Grid, the cost of a geothermal option becomes comparable to that proposed for the "standard" HVAC option, utilizing similar rooftop units as the existing library.



Federal Tax Incentives

For Commercial Geothermal Heat Pumps

BENEFITS OF TAX INCENTIVES:

- Up to 30% credit on system cost
- Up to 10% credit for domestic content
- Up to 10% credit for energy communities
- Up to \$5 per square foot tax deduction
- 3-year accelerated depreciation and a 3-year bonus depreciation

*The Bethlehem Library is eligible for the Federal IRA incentives – which are tax credits for for-profit businesses and can be taken as a Direct Payment – also called **Elective Pay** for not-for-profit organizations. The Elective Pay is at the same percentage, with the same eligibility criteria. Please disregard references to Transferability – that’s not something the Library is eligible to do for this project.*

*The project will also be **eligible for the National Grid, NYS Clean Heat Rebate.***



ACTIVITY!

Share your thoughts

Project Update

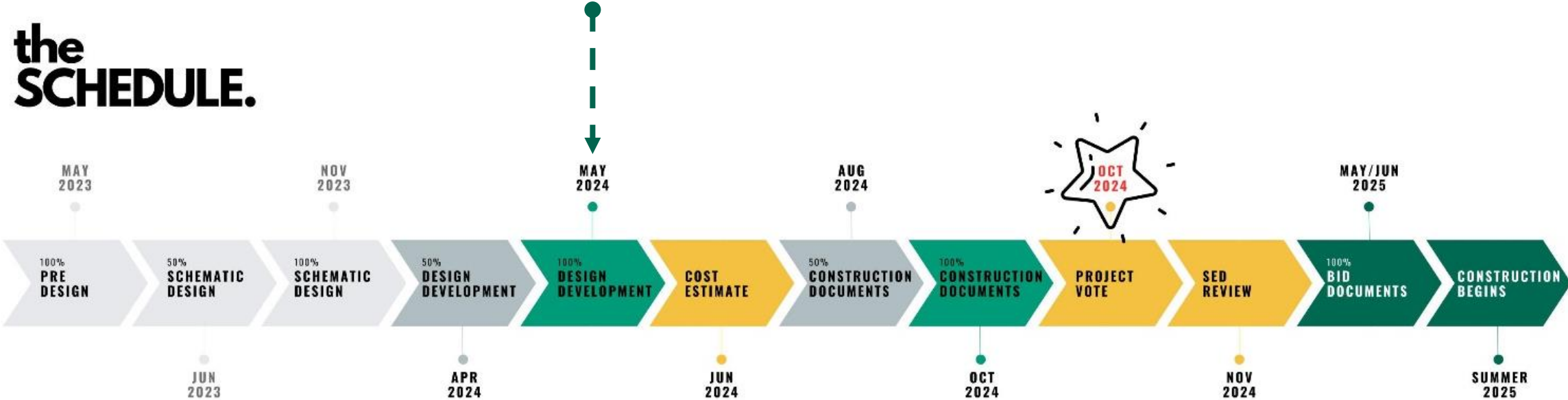
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the SCHEDULE.



Where we've been and where we are now...

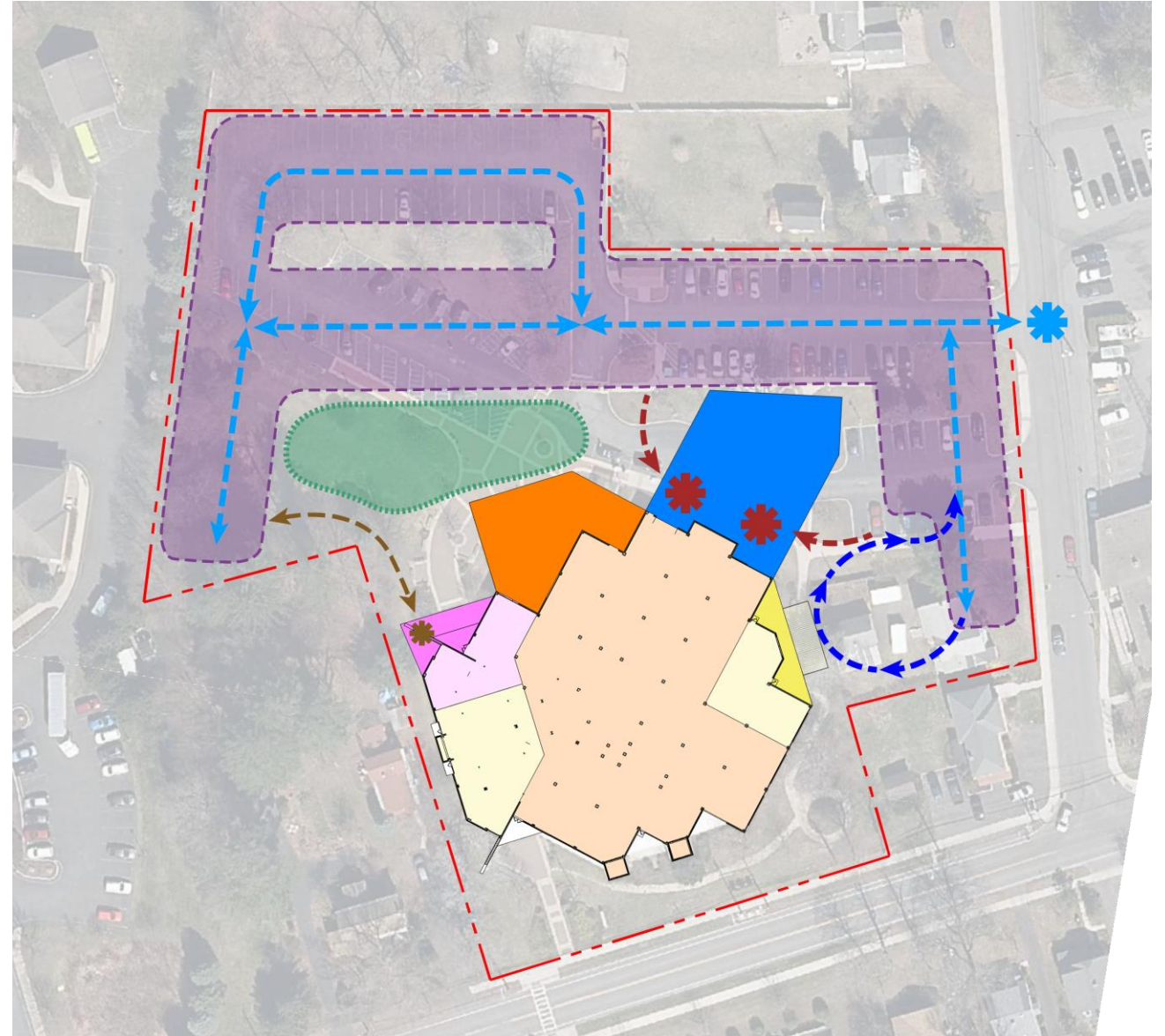
Site & Expansion Organization

SPLIT THE MIDDLE

Bringing the building closer to the entry to improve sense of arrival and wayfinding.

Activating both sides of the building in relationship to parking and patron access.

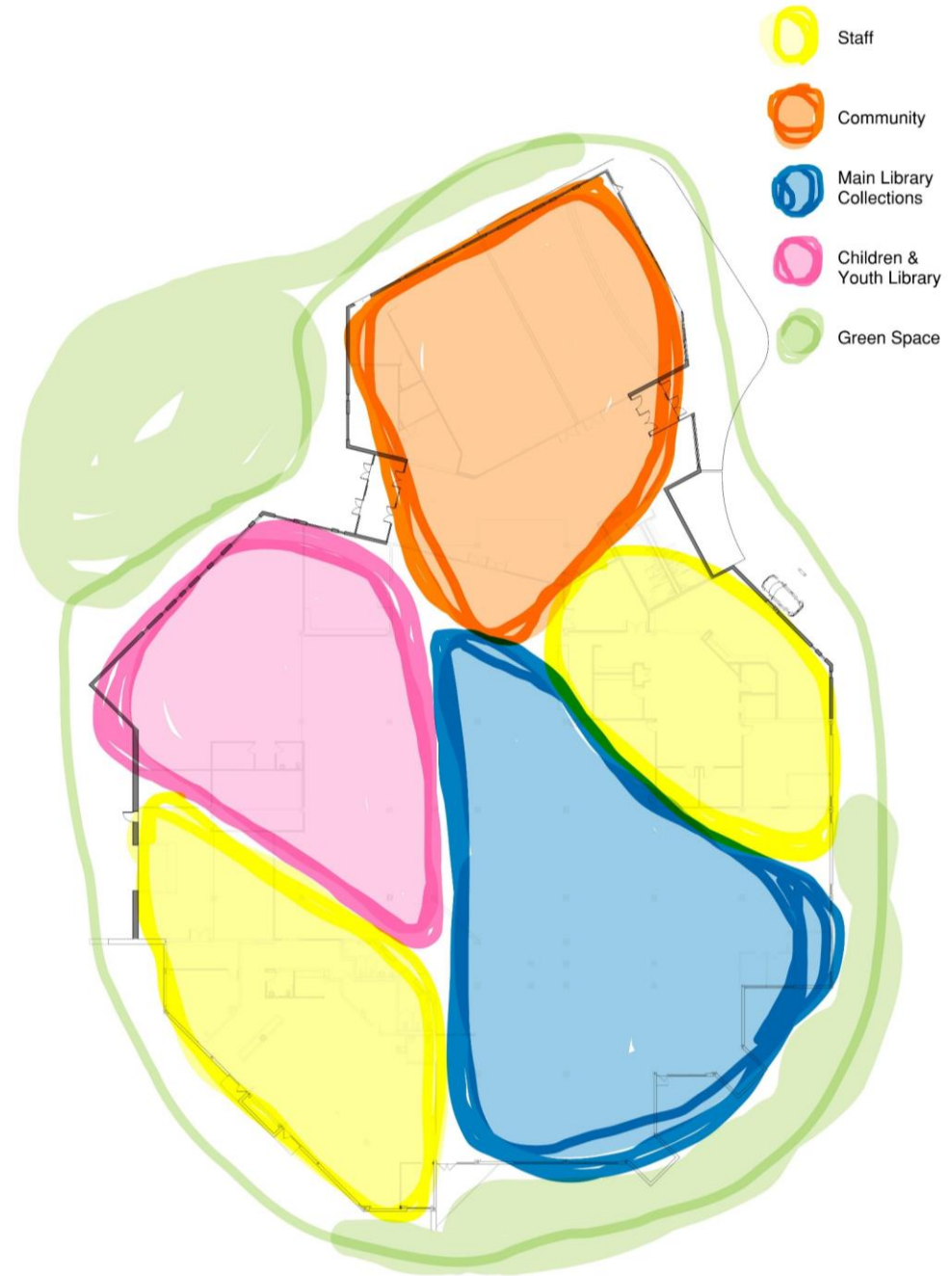
Increase opportunities for natural lighting into all interior spaces.



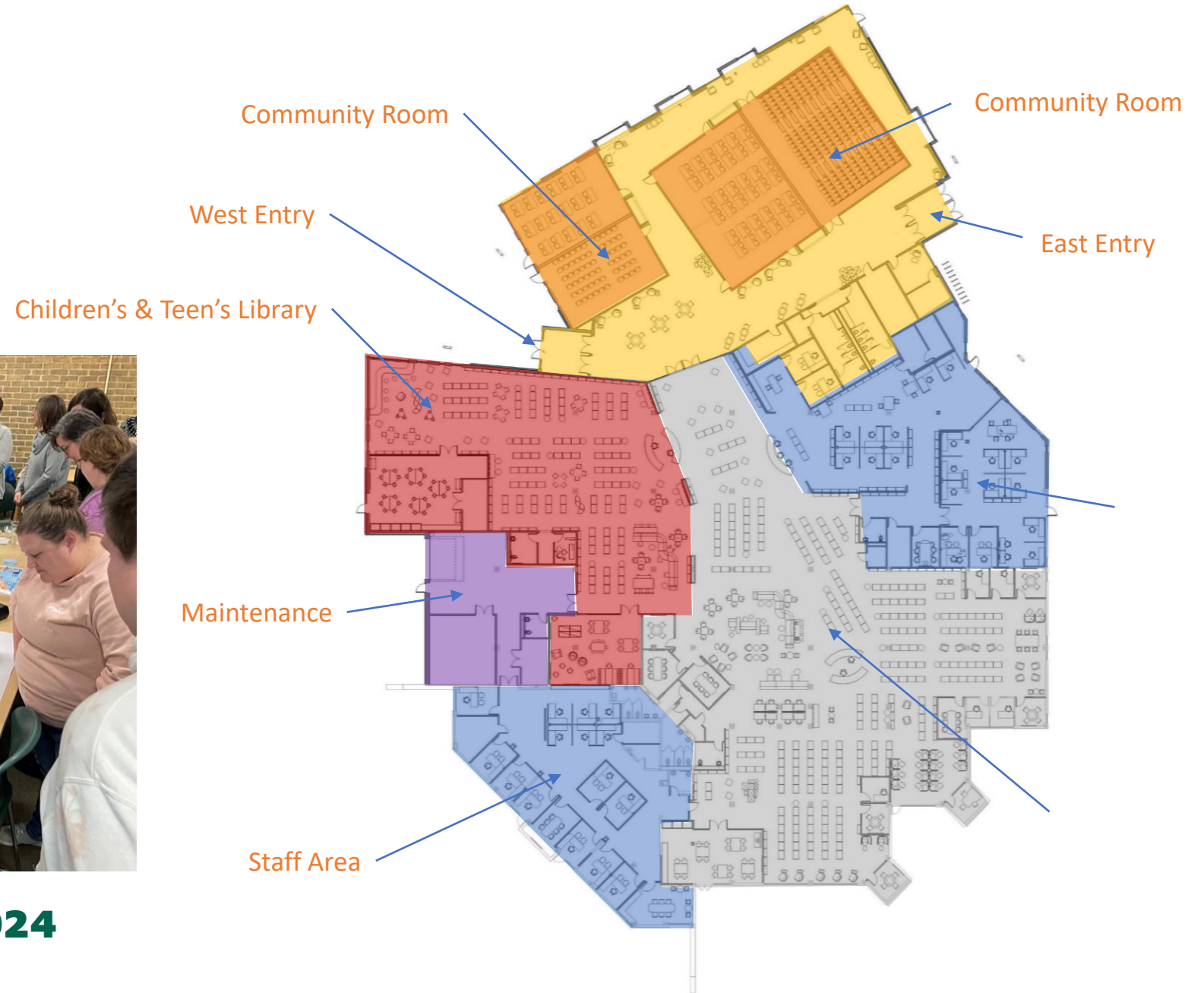
"Dovetail" Concept Narrative

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.

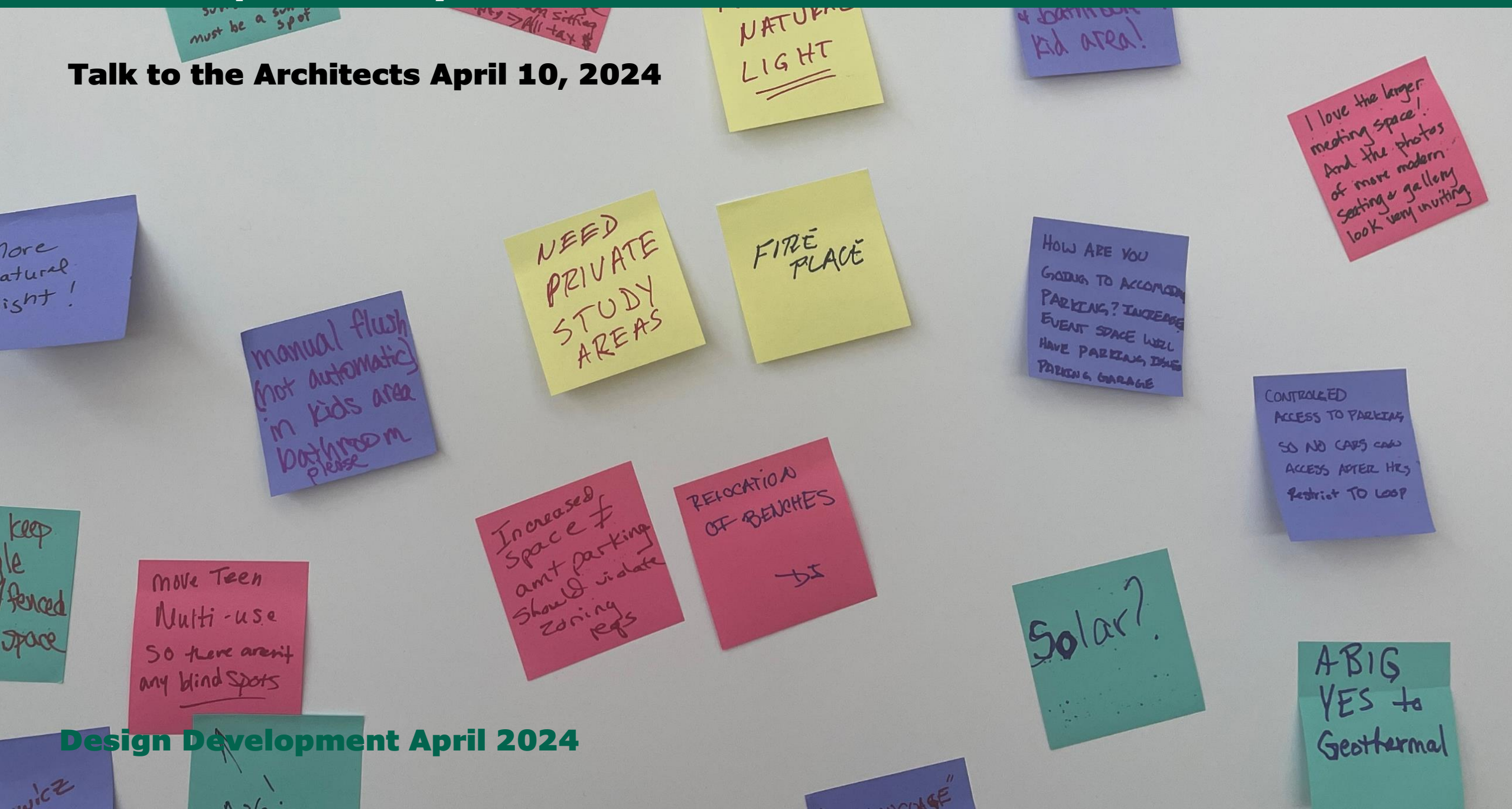
Stretching and expanding the program areas throughout the interior allows for accessible daylighting to people of all ages. Additionally, the building is surrounded by nature and outdoor resources on all sides.



Proposed Floor Plan



Talk to the Architects April 10, 2024



KEY FACTS: PROJECT LOGISTICS

- **Project cost cap: \$36M**
- **Anticipated Construction starting Summer 2025**
- **Two construction phases as part of one project so that the library can remain open**

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Proposed Site Plan

KEY FACTS: PARKING

- Existing: 117 spaces
- Proposed: 136 spaces
- ✓ **16.2% increase**

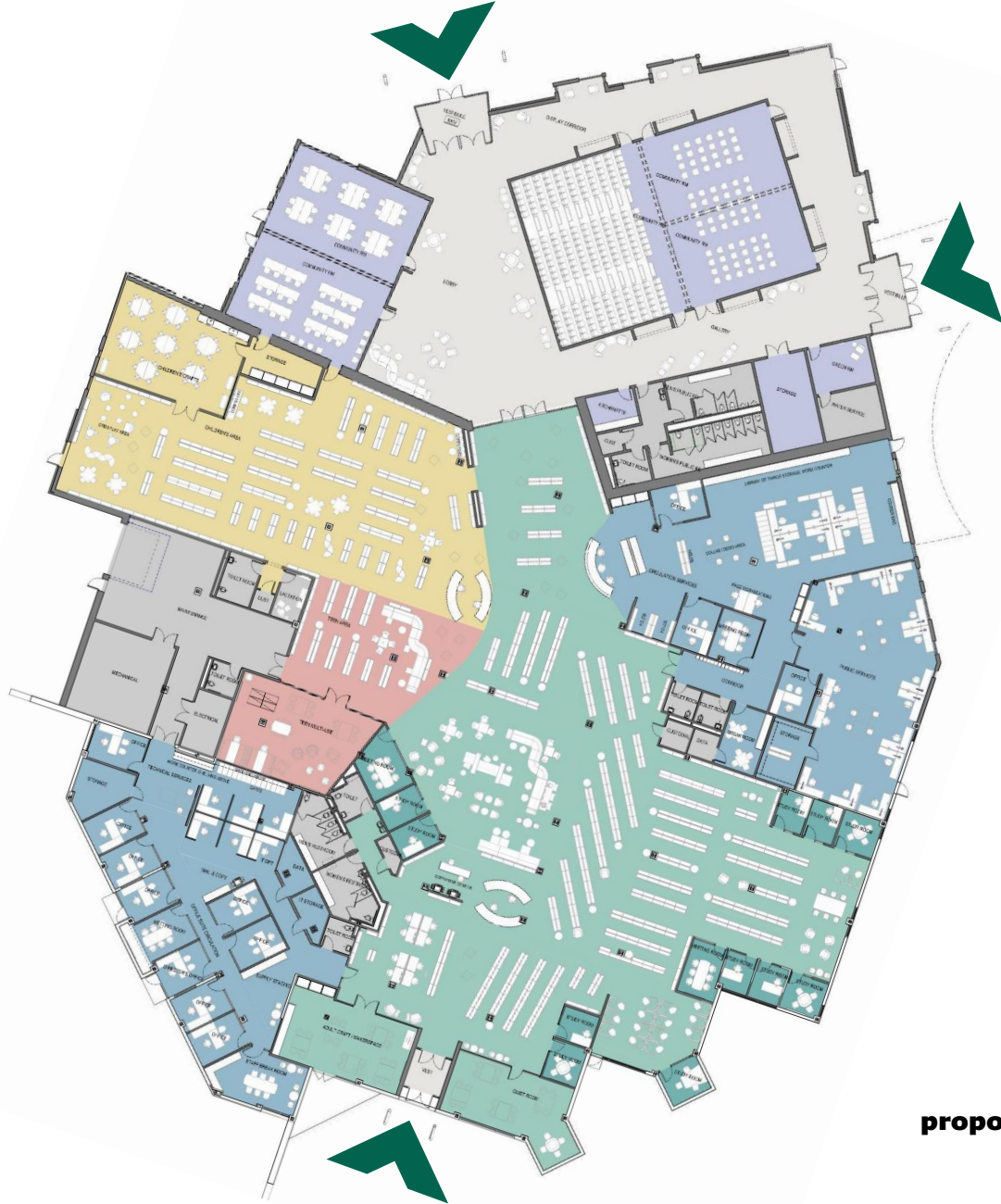


**Design Development
May 2024**

bethlehem public library



proposed site plan



- MAIN LIBRARY
- CHILDREN'S
- TEEN'S
- COMMUNITY ROOMS
- MAIN LOBBY/GALLERY
- STAFF AREAS
- MAINTENANCE

Design Development May 2024

proposed floor plan

bethlehem public library

KEY FACTS: OVERALL AREA

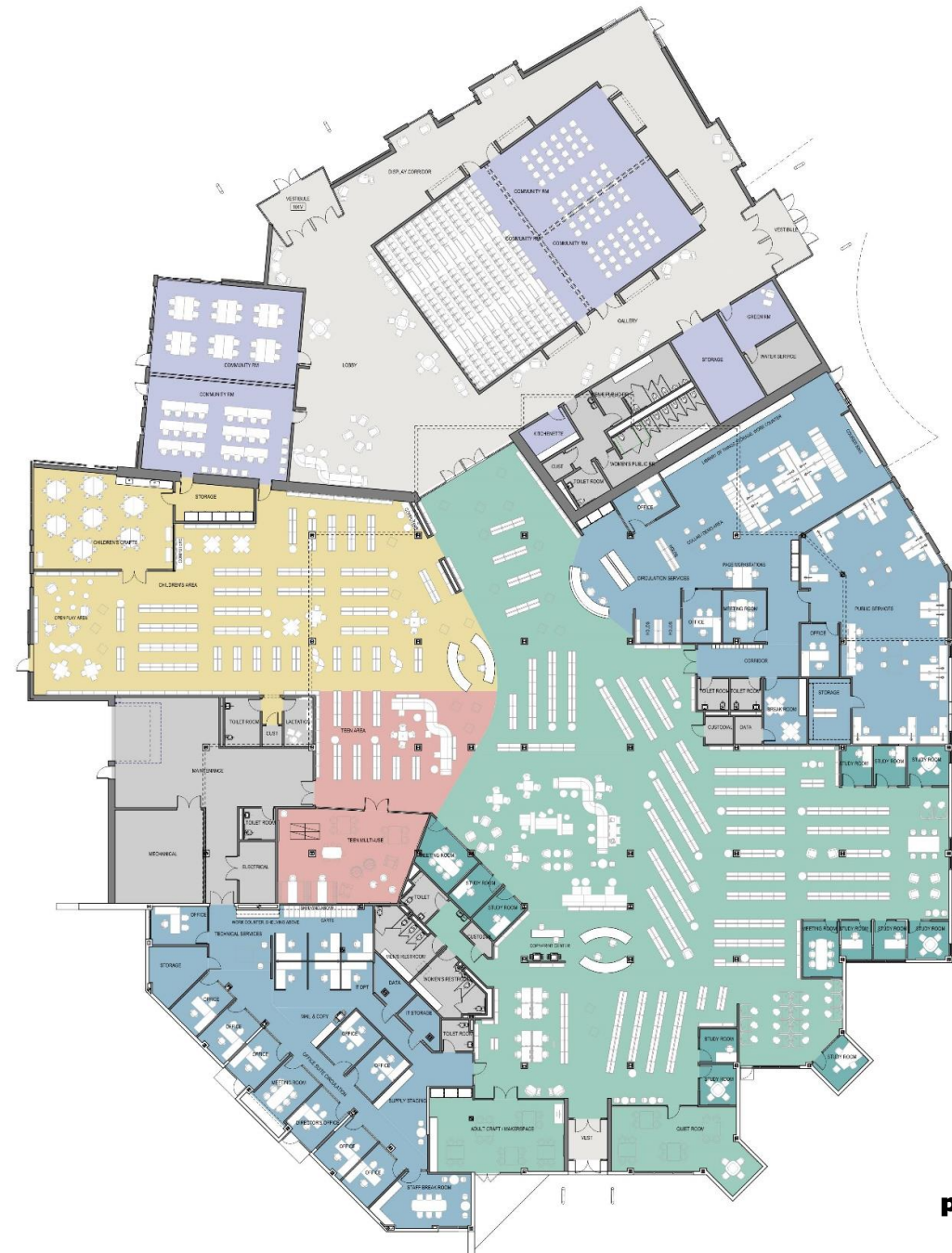
Existing Library Area: 32,710 gsf

- 29,870 gsf ground floor
- 2,840 gsf mezzanine

New Library Area: 49,800 gsf

- Area of new construction: 20,815 gsf
- Area of renovation: 29,870 gsf

✓ **52% increase in overall library area**



- MAIN LIBRARY
- CHILDREN'S
- TEEN'S
- COMMUNITY ROOMS
- MAIN LOBBY/GALLERY
- STAFF AREAS
- MAINTENANCE

proposed floor plan

KEY FACTS: PROGRAM AREAS

Children's Area

- Existing: 4,915 sf
- Proposed: 6,057 sf
- ✓ **23% increase**

Teen Area

- Existing: 855 sf
- Proposed: 2,022 sf
- ✓ **136% increase**

Main Area

- Existing: 6,761 sf
- Proposed: 12,827 sf
- ✓ **90% increase**

Study/Small Meeting Rooms

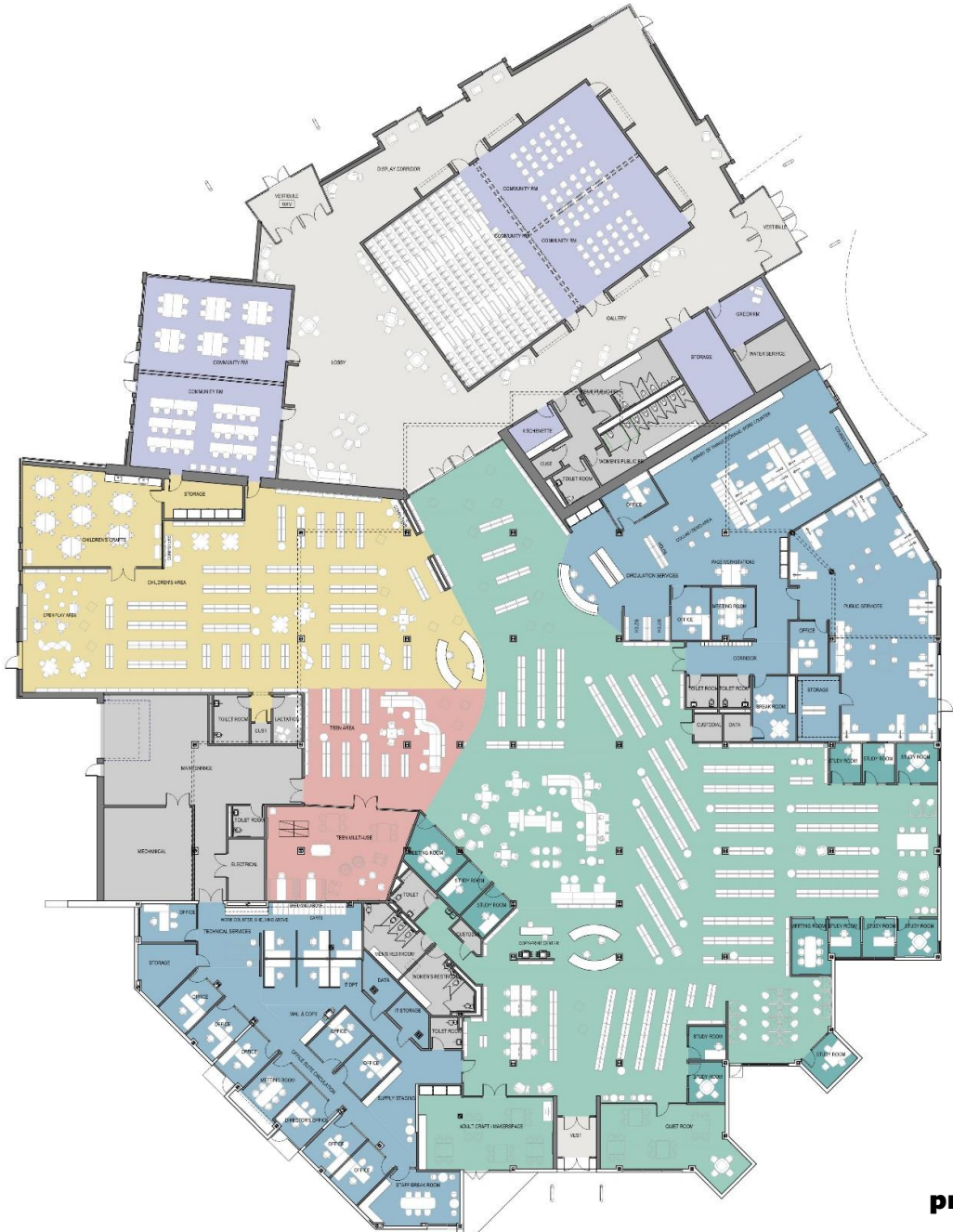
- Existing: 457 sf
- Proposed: 1,287 sf
- ✓ **182% increase**

Staff Space (excludes maintenance)

- Existing: 6,264 sf
- Proposed: 9,877 sf
- ✓ **58% increase**

Community Rooms

- Existing: 2,186 sf (*includes children's reading room 562sf)
- Proposed: 5,000 sf
- ✓ **128% increase**



proposed floor plan

KEY FACTS: COLLECTIONS SPACE

Main Collections

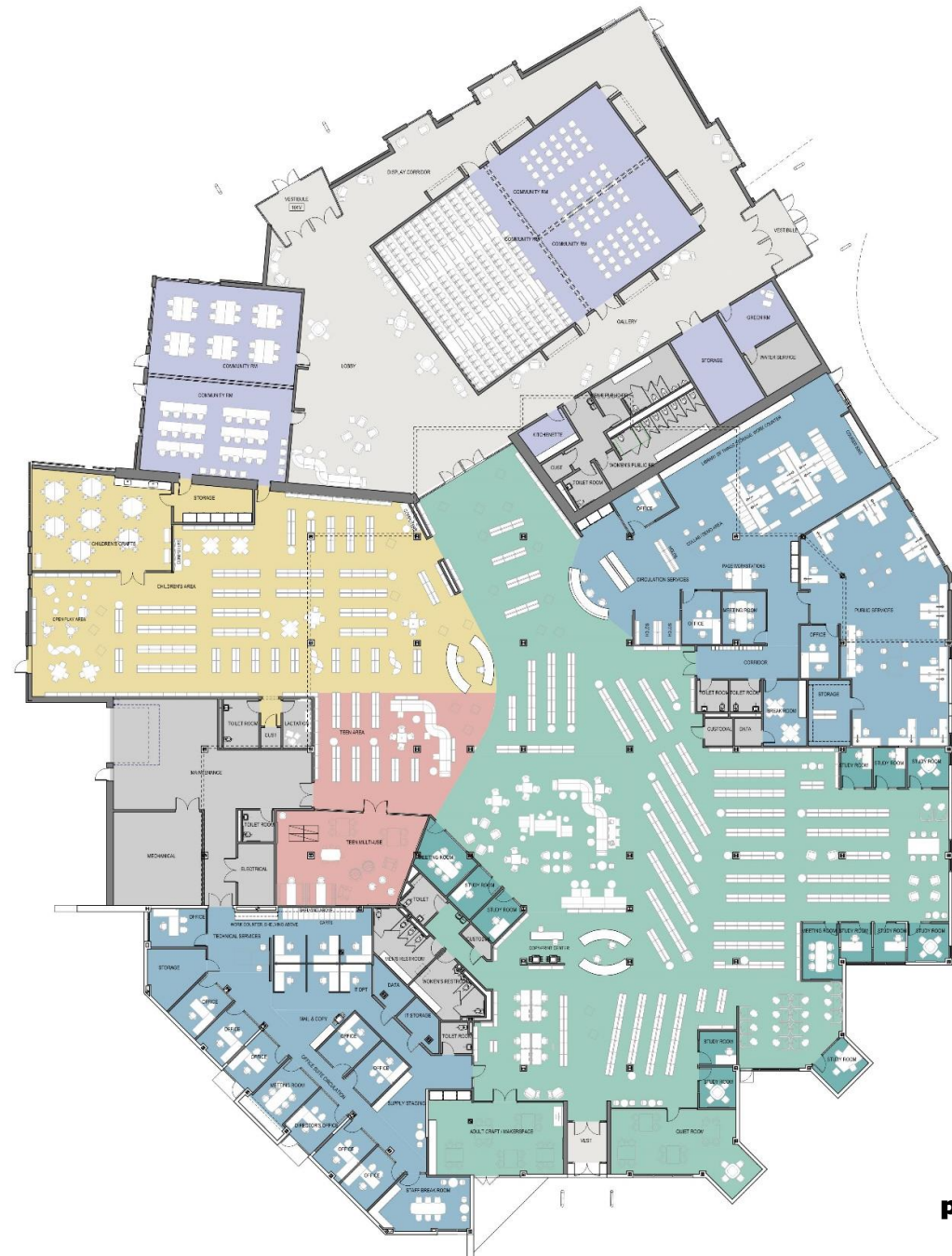
- Existing linear feet of stack space: 8,200
- Proposed linear feet of stack space: 8,226
- ✓ **0.3% increase**

Children's Collections

- Existing linear feet of stack space: 2,097
- Proposed linear feet of stack space: 2,141
- ✓ **2% increase**

Teen Collections

- Existing linear feet of stack space: 558
- Proposed linear feet of stack space: 624
- ✓ **12% increase**



proposed floor plan

bethlehem public library



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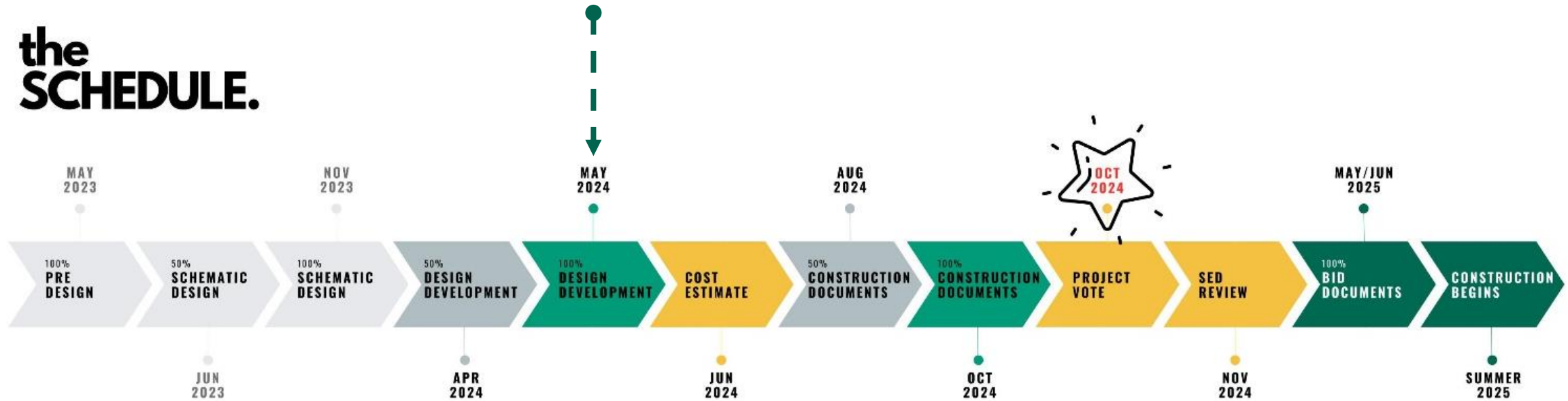
bethlehem public library



bethlehem public library



the SCHEDULE.



What's Next?

- **Board Meeting Presentation - June 10th**
- **Talk to the Architects, Round 2 - July**
- **Children & Teen activities – July**
- **Community Informational Session – September**
- **Bond Vote – October 1st**



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