Welcome, neighbors!

Thank you for joining us to review what we’ve heard from you and share feedback on design concepts.
SURVEY RESULTS: Demographics

Online Survey Respondents
n: 763

Pop-up Survey, Version One, Respondents
n: 68

Pop-up Survey, Version Two, Respondents
n: 66

Gender

Identity

Race/Ethnicity

Age

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WE ASKED: What library features are most important to meeting the needs of the community?

WE HEARD:

**all respondents**
- Improved accessibility
- Community meeting and/or program spaces and study rooms
- A space that reflects the cultures in my community

**BIPOC respondents**
- A space that reflects the cultures in my community
- Improved accessibility

**respondents under age 18**
- Sustainable and environmentally-friendly libraries
- Improved accessibility
WE ASKED: What library features are most important to meeting the needs of the community?

WE HEARD:

There are two versions of pop-up survey data due to a difference in the way respondents answered survey questions.
No strong community consensus on concepts. Support for concepts varied.

Support for concepts varied.

Consistent support for concept 2.
SURVEY RESULTS:

Data

WE ASKED: What concepts best meet the needs of the community today and for the next 100 years?

WE HEARD:

online survey respondents

pop-up survey, version 1, respondents

pop-up survey, version 2, respondents

There are two versions of pop-up survey data due to a difference in the way respondents answered survey questions.

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SURVEY RESULTS: Summary

WE ASKED: What excited you about the concepts?

WE HEARD THAT PEOPLE WANTED THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

- A library for future generations that is connected to history and the past
- Accessibility for all
- A cozy, beautiful, inclusive space that fosters safety and belonging
- More space and improved use of space for all

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SURVEY RESULTS:
Data

WE ASKED: What excited you about the concepts?

WE HEARD:

“I’m really excited for this library to expand and become more user friendly. I love and teach nearby and would to have a large enough collection that I could bring my classes in for research projects. Personally I like the idea of an expanded kids area.”

“I love the idea of preserving the old and maintaining history, while adding new spaces more adapted for today’s and tomorrow’s needs.”

“A lot of people work remote or take remote classes and live in loud/busy households, having a place to go could be a nice escape.”

“Being able to keep the original library and its historical beauty (providing a historical legacy to the neighborhood), while adding modern updates to address community needs.”

“I love the idea of incorporating something of the current building in a new design, in a way that’s creative and interesting. I’m also excited about making this new building more reflective of our community, its needs, and its cultures. I want the library to feel welcoming to ALL. I want a building that welcomes people in architecturally. (I don’t think our current building does that very well.)”

“Keeping the classic building as the main point.”

“Keeping the original look of the library. It feels more local, cozier, and like I’m going to one of the libraries that Arthur the Aardvark would go to.”

“My niece is in a wheelchair and I am ashamed to bring her to my own neighborhood library. We go to Highland or somewhere that treats her with the same dignity as everyone else. Build a library for her.”

“I am just so excited to have a larger, more accessible library in the neighborhood that represents the rich history of our community while, more importantly, represents the current community and culture.”

“I’m excited that my local library is getting attention. While I appreciate other’s emotional connection to the existing space, I would like an environmentally friendly building with community spaces that will need little maintenance for the next 100 years.”

“Sustainability, accessibility, keeping style of original building.”

“Net zero building for children of the future. Preserving the best parts of the old building in order to remember the past.”

“I would really love to see more usable spaces like study rooms or even just space like tables available to do work - I’m a student at Hamline across the street so it would be awesome to have another space to be able to do work!”

“I appreciate the architectural detail and feel our neighborhood is at risk of losing architectural character of this vintage. ... But I also would love to see a more comfortable building where I don’t have to duck or worry about tripping on the stairs. I appreciate these creative approaches.”

“Forward thinking and respectful of history”

“We’re regular users of Hamline-Midway Library. After nearly losing a library in our neighborhood a decade ago, we’re incredibly happy that Saint Paul is dedicating the money to the current location and we’d like to see a new building that is built for current and future needs.”

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YOUTH-LED YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: Summary

Youth Recommendations for Hamline Midway Library

- Expand space to accommodate a variety of needs
- Make the library more vibrant, comfortable, and welcoming
- Reconfigure existing layout to increase usability and safety

"The teens appreciate the books and how helpful and enthusiastic staff are. What keeps them from going to the library are their busy schedules, transportation challenges, lack of variety of new books, and it can get boring. Teens would like more quiet study spaces, a teen designated space, and large windows. They basement was mentioned as being “creepy.”"

-Youth Leadership Initiative about Hamline Midway Library
Q: What is a "conceptual site plan?"

A: Conceptual is the first phase of the project. The overall idea for the site is established however there is still a significant opportunity for input in design.

Safety and maintenance upgrades include new site lighting, bike parking, cameras, and concrete and paving repairs.

Exterior programming opportunities provide safe space for children and community access to outdoor space for storytime and events.
Hamline Midway

Option A

New entry provides accessible access to building, everyone can enter through the front door.

Equity and safety are improved with new single user gender-neutral and accessible restrooms, relocated to improve sightlines for library staff.

Lower level includes a community room and a flex-space for creative programming and meetings. This space is accessible to the public when library programs are in operation or by community reservation.

Conceptual Floor Plan A

The estimated cost is within the Library Transformations project budget.

Q: What is a “conceptual floor plan?”

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Safety and maintenance upgrades include new site lighting, bike parking, cameras, and concrete and paving repairs.

Exterior programming opportunities provide safe space for children and community access to outdoor space for storytime and events.
Hamline Midway
Option B

New entry provides opportunities for reuse of building materials, in a new way that provides equitable access through the front door.

Opportunities for iconic public art installations that reflect the Hamline Midway community.

Based on survey responses and community desire for flexible space to support creative programming and community meets, plan includes flexible meeting rooms that allow small, medium, and large-sized configurations.

Equity and safety are improved with new single user gender-neutral and accessible restrooms, relocated to improve sightlines for library staff.

The estimated cost is within the Library Transformations project budget.

Q: What is a “conceptual floor plan?”
A: Conceptual is the first phase of the project. The overall idea for the building layout is established however there is still a significant opportunity for input in design.

Expand children’s area provides opportunities for dynamic family play and a fireplace and adjacent community room for storytime.

High-performance enclosure and systems will provide best-in-class energy performance, opportunities for rooftop solar, and daylight harvesting.
Which features are most important to you?
What excites you about either option?
What questions do you have?

Option A

The surveys showed a preference for moving the existing building forward and expanding to the back of the existing building. After pricing each of the concepts, moving the building forward was not in budget. The option shown here, like that option, maintains the existing library reading room and expands to the back. Main public level has 6,200 SF which is 2,000 SF more than the current library.

This option has improved accessibility with a 1:20 sloped walkway to the Main Entry. This allows everyone to enter through the front door.

Having the staff Workroom, and the book drop on the lower level of the library is inefficient for staff and material management. Having the community room on the lower level will mean mediated use only.

By replacing the rear portion of the building, the basement of the new addition could be built at the level of the existing community room eliminating the need for a second lift and provides additional ceiling height to allow for mechanical ventilation, however this will require significant modification to the existing structure.

Materials used for the rear addition could be selected to compliment the existing brick and precast.

The existing building envelope (foundation, slab, walls and roof) and mechanical systems do not meet today’s energy code and will require significant investment to meet the Saint Paul’s Sustainable Building Policy.

This option eliminates parking behind the building. Street parking is available.

Option B

The survey indicated that the preferred option for expanding the library to a new larger library was to incorporate features of the existing building’s elements from the existing building (front façade). Main public level has 9,400 SF which is 3,200 SF more than Option A and 5,200 SF more than the current building.

This option improves accessibility with a single level library where everyone enters the through the same pathway and front door.

The materials for the new library could include reuse of existing materials such as the arched entry and salvaged brick and precast. In this option we could reuse historical materials and also reference the diversity of cultures in the community today with added patterning in the brick and precast.

The staff workroom and book drop on a single level supports staff efficiencies and improves security.

The community room on the main level increases flexible use of that space. This allows the community room to be utilized throughout the day for programs such as storytime, guest author readings, large group meetings, educational programs and more. When it is not reserved, the operable doors could remain open for library patrons to utilize for quiet reading or focused work. Added community and meeting space was the top request we heard during engagement.

A new library will be designed to meet Saint Paul's Sustainable Building Policy and has greater opportunity to achieve a Net Zero status if desired.

The option shown maintains the current parking.
Criteria for Determining a Design Direction

• Community input
• Building assessments
• Project budget
• Saint Paul’s strategic goals for libraries, sustainability, equity and inclusion, and fiscal responsibility
• SPPL’s vision for library facilities that:
  • Are safe, inviting, affirming, and comfortable libraries for people of all cultures, abilities, and communities
  • Have improved accessibility
  • Have additional spaces and study rooms for communities to gather, work, study, and collaborate
  • Separate quiet and loud spaces
  • Have enhanced play and learn spaces
  • Are technology-rich environments

City administration will share a decision with the community in May. From there, the community engagement and design process continues.
Stay updated!

Join our newsletter list to receive updates and invitations to future opportunities to provide input.