



DC PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY
RENOVATION
DRAFT LIBRARY BUILDING PROGRAM
AS OF OCTOBER 2014

901 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library Renovation Library Program Overview

(as of October 2014)

Imagine a place where people come to experience the joy of reading, explore new interests, find information, learn, create, reflect, interact and have fun. Imagine a space that is open, welcoming and bright. Imagine a building that preserves its history while embracing the future. Imagine the newly renovated Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library's renovation is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the central library into an amazing, state-of-the-art library for the residents of the District of Columbia. The project's architects have been tasked with designing a welcoming, flexible space that will serve people at all stages of life. They have been asked to design a spectacular 21st Century central library that D.C. residents want and deserve.

Community Input

There has been an overwhelming amount of public interest in this project. Community ideas have shaped and enhanced many aspects of the design concept including new spaces for people to create, lounge, relax and read, and the need to honor and celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. For a full overview of all public input to date, please visit dclibrary.org/mlkfuture.

Early in the planning for the renovation, we thought we could create a spectacular central library in about 250,000 square feet. Since then, more than 3,000 District residents have shared their ideas with us. Through the Library's online crowdsourcing portal, community meetings, focus groups, surveys and comment cards, we have heard creative and inspiring ideas about what spaces and services residents want to see in their central library.

With that input, along with feedback from library staff and review of other central libraries around the world, **we now know that we will need all 425,000 square feet, plus a fifth floor suite for public use, staff use and mechanical space.**

Guiding Principles

- **Balance** the joy of reading with space for innovation, creation, collaboration and technology.
- **Showcase** the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- **Respect** the building's historic designation and the industrial, modern style of the building's original architect, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.
- **Create** a space that is bright, open, flexible and welcoming for all.

The design will include many environmentally sustainable elements including making the building more energy efficient as well as more comfortable for occupants. The Library will seek a minimum of LEED "Silver" certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The renovation also will incorporate elements of universal design, an approach that encourages spaces that can be easily navigated by everyone, regardless of age, height, sightedness, dexterity or mobility. Examples of universal design include power doors with sensors, clear sightlines across rooms, easy-to-read signage and counters that are a variety of heights to accommodate standing, sitting, and a range of different tasks.

In short, the aim is to go beyond a library that is merely transactional – a place where you go simply to checkout a book – to create a library that truly transforms lives – a world-class library for the 21st Century.

Program Description

This library building program, which continues to evolve, outlines each type of service, but does not identify where each service will be located or which services will be grouped together. It also does not specify every activity that will happen in these spaces. These details will be determined as the design process evolves. The program calls for flexibility to accommodate new services within the spaces. The building program is broken into three major components (that make up the 425,000 square feet) public space, non-public or staff space and mechanical space.

MARKET HALL/GREAT HALL

What We're Hearing . . .

"You should see lots of people engaged in library-related activities upon entering. The Great Hall is too empty."

One of the most frequent comments we heard was to make the entrance of the building more welcoming and easier to navigate. Many residents requested a place to purchase a cup of coffee without having to leave the building. Still others recommended "activating" the Great Hall and making it "feel more like a library" as soon as one enters.

Existing space: approx. 13,000 sq. ft.

Allocated space: approx. 20,000 sq. ft.

Space and Services

- Transition area: customers move through to get to other destinations
- Check out area for customers to check out books and other materials
- **NEW** clear, visible vertical connections with sightlines to floors above and below
- **NEW** café with interior and exterior seating
- **NEW** performance space
- Exhibit space with movable furniture
- Flexible furniture to allow different configurations
- Reserved books pick-up area
- New releases display
- Computers for quick look-up

What We're Hearing . . .

"Make the Great Hall more eye-catching."

INNOVATION AND PROTOTYPING

What We're Hearing . . .

"Have the latest gadgets and software."

World-class, 21st Century libraries include spaces for customers to create as well as contemplate. Often called "maker spaces," such areas include equipment for designing and prototyping. These spaces feature flexible set up and invite collaboration. They have specialized equipment, such as 3-D printers, power tools, specialized software and other equipment.

Existing space: approx. 13,700 sq. ft.

Allocated space: approx. 16,700 sq. ft.

Space and Services

- Flexible space with movable furniture
- **MORE** meeting spaces in a range of configurations
- **MORE** collaborative work spaces
- **NEW** software and equipment for prototyping
- Digital Bar to demonstrate electronic devices
- **MORE** 3-D printers
- Power tools and other specialized equipment
- Book printing machine
- Recording studio (video and audio)
- Computers

TEEN SERVICES

What We're Hearing . . .

"Have more comfortable seating and more group study areas."

Teens have told us they want spaces to socialize and work in groups, in addition to quiet study areas. They want space to be creative and to make a little noise. Teens would like easy access to adult books and materials and don't want to be too close to children's services. Visit dclibrary.org/node/43021 for more of what we're hearing from teens.

Existing space: approx. 3,800 sq. ft.

Allocated space: approx. 4,300 sq. ft.

Space and Services

- Larger space with transparency and clear visibility among the different activities
- Distinct look that is appealing to teens
- A range of reading/studying places supported by a variety of furniture types
- Reading and browsing areas
- **MORE** study/meeting rooms
- **MORE** comfortable seating
- **MORE** quiet study areas
- Video and audio listening booths
- Books, periodicals and magazines
- Computers
- College and career info

What We're Hearing . . .

"Keep teens separate from kids. Don't treat us like children."

ADULT SERVICES: Fiction and Non-Fiction

Many community members asked that the new library continue to offer plenty of books as well as traditional reading and study spaces, while embracing the newest technology and new ways of learning and exploring. We heard loud and clear that the library should continue to celebrate reading and offer a "great reading room."

What We're Hearing . . .

"People need natural light. Seating should be by the windows as much as possible."

Existing space: approx. 56,000 sq. ft.

Allocated space: approx. 65,400 sq. ft.

Space and Services

- Welcoming and inspiring space that appeals to discovery and learning
- **NEW** seating along windows to take advantage of natural light and views
- A variety of reading/studying spaces
- **NEW** comfortable lounge seating
- Display shelving for books and other materials
- Shelving for fiction and non-fiction books, media collections, international languages, periodical magazines, newspapers and reference collection.
- Printing and copy center
- Computers
- **NEW** download stations
- Exhibit/display space

ADULT SERVICES: Adult Literacy

Current adult literacy customers told us that privacy is a top request for them in the renovated central library. They also want easy access to collections that match their reading skill level.

What We're Hearing . . .
"The space needs to offer privacy and confidentiality. It needs to respect the customers' situation."

Existing space: approx. 4,100 sq. ft.

Allocated space: approx. 5,200 sq. ft.

Space and Services

- Visual privacy
- Tutoring lab
- **MORE** private study and tutoring rooms
- **ENHANCED** training room
- Welcoming and inspiring space for adults to learn with a tutor or by themselves

CENTER FOR ACCESSIBILITY (formerly Adaptive Services)

Because this area of the library was recently renovated and updated, customers of the Center for Accessibility are largely happy with the current space. When asked about opportunities for improvement, customers did say that they want to feel welcome everywhere in the library, while still having an easily accessible space dedicated to meeting their specific needs. They noted loud HVAC systems can be distracting.

As part of the renovation, the Library will move to more efficient, compact storage of recorded materials, which will reduce the space needed for collections by nearly 4,000 square feet. Space for the public will remain the same. Read more feedback from customers with disabilities at dclibrary.org/node/44001.

Existing space: approx. 11,700 sq. ft.

Allocated space: approx. 8,000 sq. ft.

Space and Services

- Easily accessible and close to elevators to minimize travel distances
- Adaptable furniture: height adjustable tables and chairs
- Signage for visually impaired customers (large print and Braille)
- Meeting room that is “looped” for hearing impaired customers
- Braille books, periodicals and newspapers for adults and children; audio books
- Adaptive technologies and equipment (magnifying scanner, magnifying stations, adapted video-phone booth, SARA, gaming stations)
- Training room
- Computers
- Recording booth

What We’re Hearing . . .
“I’d like to see more ‘universal design’ to make the entire library more inherently accessible for everyone.”

What We’re Hearing . . .
“Some cool art object, like a spaceship, with reading nooks kids can climb into.”

SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

We received many – and sometimes conflicting – ideas about services for children. Some customers expressed preference for easy access (e.g., close to entrance minimizing movement of strollers within the building) while others preferred “out of the way” space to increase security. Everyone wants fun and flexible space for children to read, but also learn, create, interact and play.

Existing space: approx. 8,000 sq. ft.

Allocated space: approx. 10,800 sq. ft.

Space and Services

- Distinct look and feel that appeals to children of all ages – colorful, playful, inviting
- Furniture and fixtures appropriately sized for children
- Exhibition/Display area
- Collaborative work areas
- Separate areas for children birth to age 5 and school age children
- Early childhood learning and play space
- Computers
- Quiet space for homework/study
- Story time space

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (including WASHINGTONIANA & BLACK STUDIES)

Customers requested that the renovated central library provide appropriate space for “serious scholarship” and quiet research. Feedback focused on the need to

What We’re Hearing . . .
“I want to see seas of grey archival boxes. I want to do justice to the materials we are charged with protecting.”

highlight, celebrate and increase accessibility of the unique and wonderful Special Collections of DC Public Library. Customers also want to see more of the collection displayed throughout the building. Staff expressed the critical need to improve storage and accessibility of the collections. The Library will introduce state-of-the-art, archival storage as well as digitization of some of the records, which will greatly reduce the space needed for storage. This new compact storage will reduce space needs by more than 5,000 square feet. For more customer input, please visit dclibrary.org/node/43276.

Existing space: approx. 29,400 sq. ft.	Allocated space: approx. 24,000 sq. ft.
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Space and Services

- **MORE** study tables and chairs with sufficient space to spread out larger items like maps, newspapers, atlases, etc.
- **IMPROVED** exhibition space
- Genealogical research
- **NEW** space for programs or classes
- **IMPROVED** collection and storage space for books, periodicals, maps, photographs, microfilm, E-resources

MEETING EVENT SPACE/ROOF TERRACE

The MLK Memorial Library currently is used for everything from author talks to ANC meetings and choir practice. Overwhelmingly, community feedback has centered on the desire for more meeting space – located somewhere more inviting than a basement with low ceilings and poor lighting – as well as a larger performance space. Rooftop access in the center of downtown has been a popular idea as well. Customers expressed excitement at the opportunity to take advantage of outdoor space and beautiful views on the currently un-used rooftop. Others want the library to be a place they can spend several hours – not just a few minutes picking up a book – including enjoying a meal or reading in the fresh air with a cup of coffee or tea. For more on what we’re hearing about community and cultural space, check out our [blog post](http://dclibrary.org/node/45078). (dclibrary.org/node/45078).

What We’re Hearing . . .
 “I’d love the library to be a space where I want to spend the whole day.”

Existing space: approx. 9,400 sq. ft.	Allocated space: approx. 30,600 sq. ft.
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Space and Services

- **NEW** large theater-style auditorium, featuring state-of-the-art technology and acoustics. Amenities such as green rooms, changing rooms, restrooms etc.
- Variety of meeting spaces located throughout the library, available for use by community organizations and for library programs.
- **NEW** pre-function space for people to gather before events, register for meetings, and enjoy refreshments
- **NEW** catering kitchen
- **NEW** roof terrace with outdoor seating and program space

NON-PUBLIC SPACES

The library's non-public spaces include staff, storage and mechanical spaces. The proposed renovation will make these spaces significantly more efficient and functional. Reductions in staff space will result in 30 percent more space for public use. Staff spaces also will be much more pleasant. The numbers below do not include the mechanical level or the B level, which is approximately 106,000 square feet.

Existing non-public space: approx. 124,000 sq. ft.	Allocated non-public space: approx. 94,000 sq. ft.
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Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

Draft Library Building Program

**At-a-Glance
(in square feet*)**

SPACE	EXISTING BUILDING	ALLOCATED FOR	TOTAL
	Net Square Feet	RENOVATION	DIFFERENCE
		Net Square Feet	Net Square Feet
PUBLIC SPACE			
Market Hall/Great Hall	13,000	20,000	7000
Adult Services (Fiction & Non-Fiction)	56,000	65,400	9400
Adult Literacy	4,100	5,200	1100
Innovation, Prototyping & Technology	13,700	16,700	3000
Children's Services	8,000	11,000	3000
Teen Services (including college info?)	3,900	4,400	500
Special Collections (Washingtoniana & Black Studies)	29,400	24,000	-5400 **
Center for Accessibility (formerly Center for Adaptive Services)	11,700	8,000	-3700**
Meeting/Event Spaces	9,400	30,600	21200
TOTAL PUBLIC SPACES NET	149,200	185,300	36100
NON-PUBLIC SPACES			
Including staff, operations, supplies, equipment, maintenance, and Friends of the Library	91,400	72,500	-18900
TOTAL PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC NET	240,600 NET sq feet	257,800 NET sq ft	17,200 NSF

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

*** As part of the renovation, the Library will move to more efficient, compact storage of some materials, which will reduce the space needed for collections.*

SPACE	EXISTING BUILDING	ALLOCATED FOR RENVOATION	TOTAL DIFFERENCE
	Gross Square Feet	Gross Square Feet	Gross Square Feet
TOTAL PUBLIC	149,200 NSF	185,300 NSF	36,100 NSF
Estimated core factor (gross multiplier for un-usable space)	1.3	1.29	
TOTAL PUBLIC GROSS	194,000 GSF	239,000 GSF	45,000 GSF
TOTAL NON-PUBLIC	91,400 NSF	72,500 NSF	-18,900 NSF
Estimated core factor (gross multiplier for un-usable space)	1.36	1.3	
TOTAL NON-PUBLIC GROSS	124,300 GSF	94,200 GSF	-30,100 GSF
TOTAL LEVEL B (Fleet, equipment storage, parking)	73,600 GSF	73,600 GSF	no change
TOTAL LEVEL M (Mechanical)	32,600 GSF	32,600 GSF	no change
EXTRA MECHANICAL		1,900 GSF	1,900 GSF
VOIDS (ventilation, mechanical, electrical, elevator shafts)		24,000 GSF	24,000 GSF
TOTAL	424,500 GSF	465,300 GSF	40,800 GSF

All numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 square feet.