

Clifton Virtual Community Forums | Feedback

Dec 2020

Background: Two virtual community forums were held on Zoom. The library put postcards for the virtual events on neighboring properties to the new library. The conceptual designs were posted online with an online survey for feedback. These designs were also posted on the outside of the Clifton branch for patrons to view with paper surveys. Feedback was solicited on two different concepts, including parking lot configurations.

Overall the feedback was very positive. People were overwhelmingly positive about the outdoor space but also happy that there would be more study/computer space in either design. There were neighbors that attended the virtual forum and gave feedback. People had questions on funding the project as well as if people would be voting on the final designs. The library will continue to post information and designs related to the project for further feedback. It was mentioned that since Clifton lacks an identity and civic center that this project might fulfill that purpose.

More specific feedback was given in these areas:

Parking lot

- Is the driveway owned by the county?
- Is there a buffer between the parked cars and the properties on the west? With a request for a “green” wall to further offer a buffer. A “green wall” could be bushes or a wall of succulents or a climbing plant. Appreciated the buffer with the neighbors closest to the property.
- Neighbors appreciate the drive through the property to ease their traffic. See above comments.
- Concern about a lack of overflow parking (i.e. not enough parking for events)
- Asking for bikes to be accounted for in parking them and in riding through the property safely.
- Happy to see a drive up entrance
- Parking is very dispersed making it hard to plow snow and direct people to the main entrance.
- The flow seems hard if you are dropping someone off and then turn around to leave.
- It could be dangerous crossing the driveway from west-side parking spots.

Heat Island

- The material of the roof matters. As does the window glazing.
- Outdoor elements need to be shaded - either by natural trees or structures
- Decreased heat will save the library money (i.e. in cooling)
- Good use of east/west planning with the sun’s path and the natural views
- Does Xeriscape create more heat with the rocks than natural landscaping? Xeriscape does take some maintenance so watch the cost to the library.
- Office windows on the west will get some heat/sun/glare during parts of the day.
- Include more trees

Open Concept Interior

- What sound barriers will be used to keep noise down since kids area is not separate (i.e. like at Central)
- Where does story time happen?
- Is the placement of the kids area a safe place or is there easy access to the entrance/exit?
- Liked the blending of indoor/outdoor spaces

- Hoping to have more separation (with a wall not just furniture) with kids activities.

Amenities

- Garden outside was of interest with concerns over the location for heat and need for shade. Happy to see it on the plan (multiple mentions).
- Emphasis on doing renewable energy in the library
- Liked the Xeriscape landscape
- Liked the outdoors space (multiple mentions). Amphitheater was mentioned.
- Recommended the amphitheater be built below ground with an accessible ramp (for wheelchairs and others).
- Need to include plans to incorporate local art
- Outdoor space on the east side seems jagged. May not get used May-November?
- There is a teen lab. What about computers for kids? People don't want kids in the teen space.
- Outdoor areas should be enclosed for security and to keep maintenance costs down for the library since it's not a park and doesn't have the budget to operate such a space.
- Bigger kitchen to accommodate community events

Adult Learning Center

- Are the classrooms and spaces set aside for this purpose used throughout the day?
- Liked the space for classrooms

Restrooms

- It's a long walk to restrooms from the ALC and from outdoors.

Concept 1

- Does this show two separate buildings? Individuals thought this separation made sense and was functional
- How does the activity flow with the stacks and the ALC?
- Better flow of traffic. Important with COVID.
- Reading areas and natural light were a positive
- This was preferred with the curved wall a good MCL brand tie in to Central.
- Too chopped up
- Impractical with too many individual spaces and overdoing some creative elements

Concept 2

- The flow was better inside the library (access to bathrooms). Maximum use of practical space. The parking lot worked better.
- Like the outdoor design better and how it blended with the indoor
- East facing spaces are thoughtful for increased use
- Lacks a secondary access point

Eye Candy

- Windows with custom shapes are more expensive than standard windows
- Building materials are important for green building standards but also usefulness. Need to pay attention to natural building materials as well as metal on the outside of buildings (with heat).
- Exterior options look too modern for Clifton. Maybe use inspiration from the Bookcliffs?

Usage

Many people saw themselves using the new Clifton library for:

- Reading material
- Activities/programs
- Outdoor spaces - this type of outdoor space isn't available elsewhere in Clifton
- Meetings