



BETHLEHEM PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD MEETING
DESIGN UPDATE



ASHLEY MCGRAW

August 14th, 2023



AGENDA

Design Update

Recap of Community Sessions & Survey

The “Whys”

Community Addition Meeting Space size

Cost

Next Steps

DESIGN UPDATE





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.

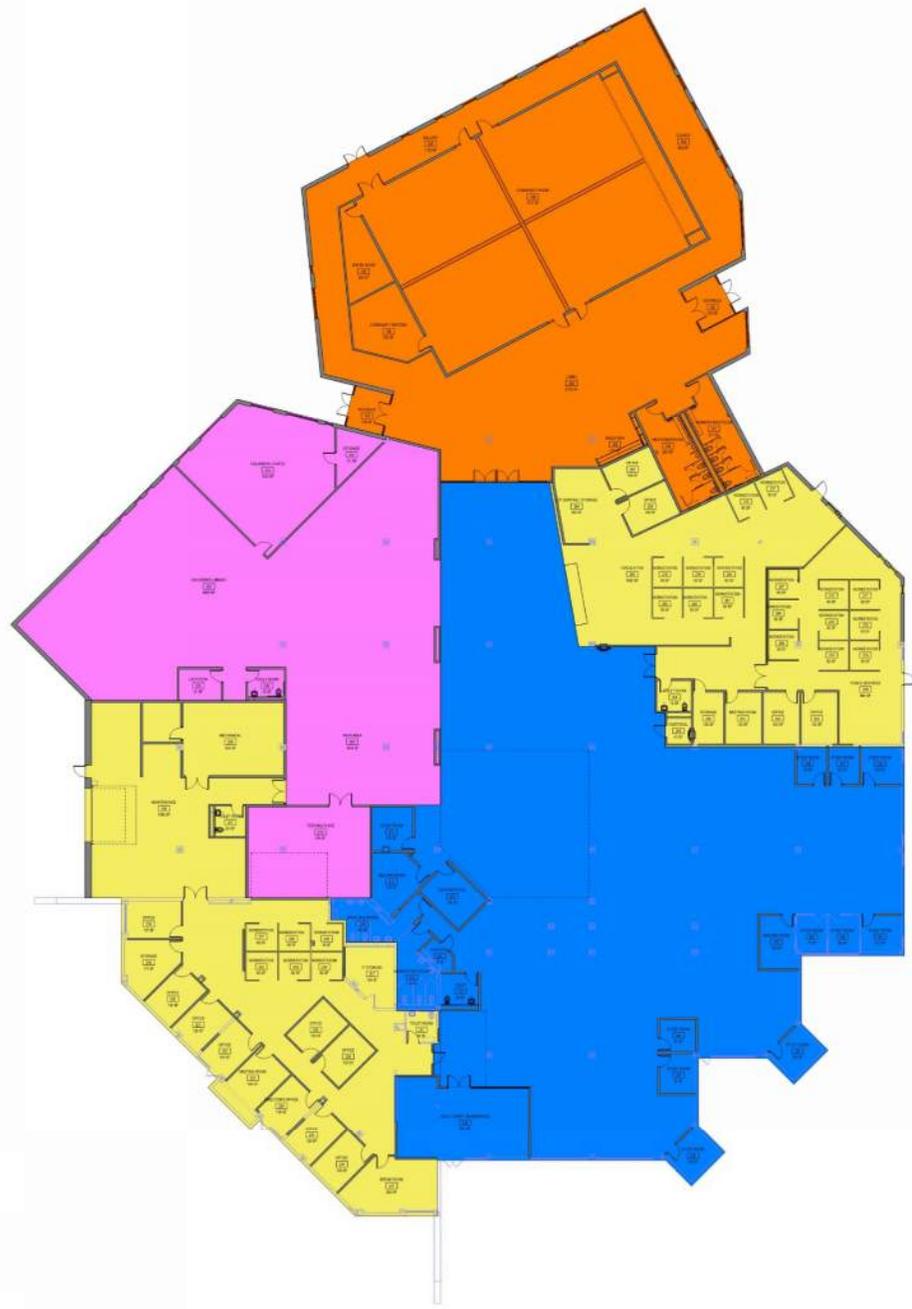
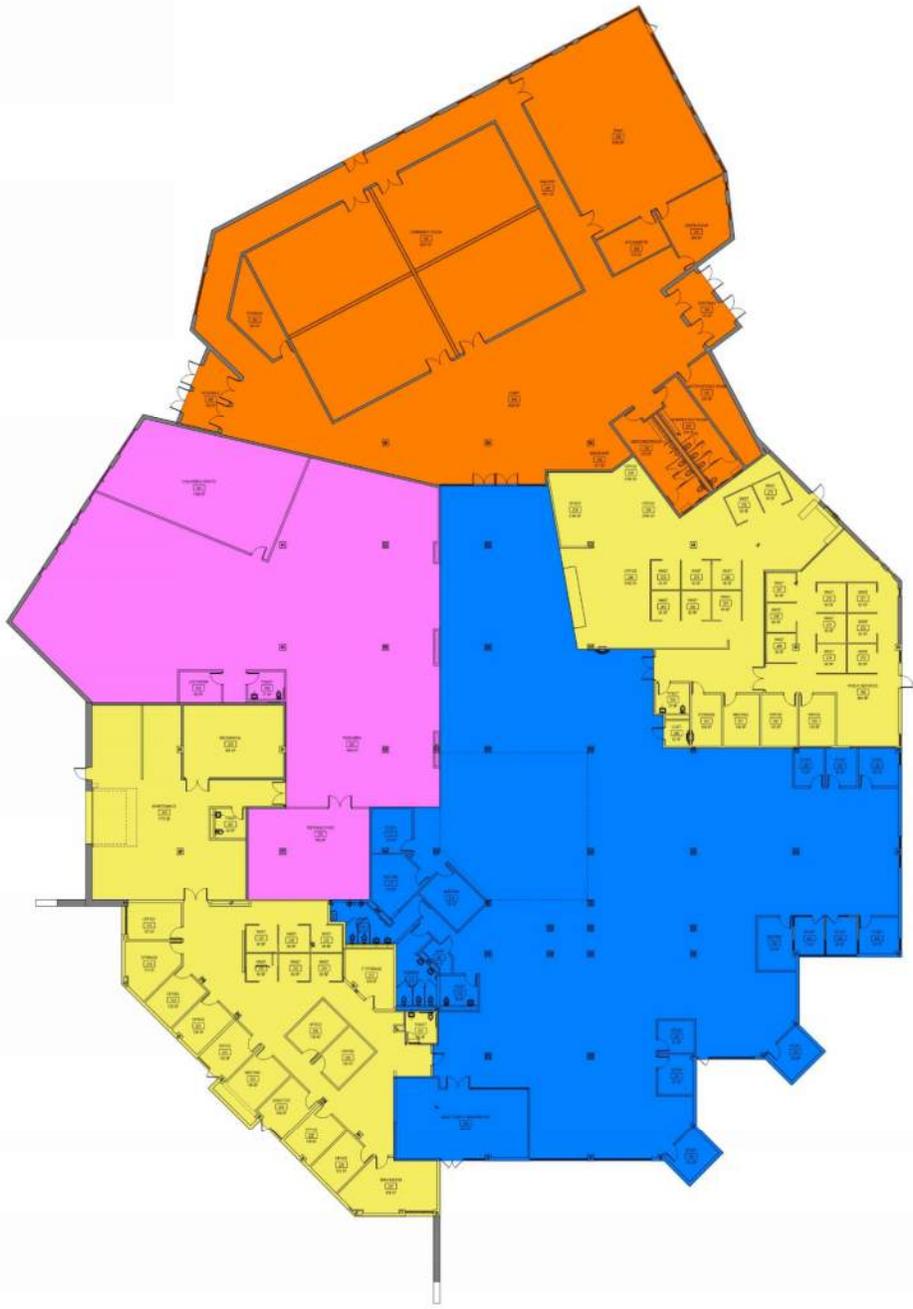
Slide 4

KHO

Can these introductory slides be reduced? Maybe just to Project purpose and key elements

Kristen Hill, 2023-07-21T17:47:34.709





RECAP OF COMMUNITY SESSIONS & SURVEY



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~~ **RESOURCE** 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 for 250**.

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.

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?

Noise from dumpster pickup.
- location
- type

entry point
1 way vs. 2 way

Heat sinks
green options.

hours of construction
+ days of week
construction vehicle parking.

Laid HVAC

light trespass from interior
+ site lighting
direction, type, hours

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.

concern that this project is looking to make a need happen vs. addressing an existing need

Staff function + safety #1

C.1
B + D
Can D also be divided into 3 rooms like B?

TELESCOPING SEATING IS INTERESTING AND DOES PROVIDE VALUE - BUT IS THE COST WORTHWHILE?

PREFER MODULAR & FLEXIBLE CONFIGURATIONS. OVERALL PREFER C1 CONFIG B IS D ALSO WORTHWHILE?

Is it possible for new community room to have some kind of kitchen space for kids + all-ages cooking programs?

6 Rooms + Stadium Seating

Cafe? vs. vending. feel cafe not needed - causes damage to materials

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?

WOULD HOPE TO
SEE YOUTH SPACE
OFFER A BIT MORE
AUTONOMY TO USE/
PROGRAM/CONFIGURE
TO YOUTH - WITHOUT
ALWAYS NEEDING ADULT
FACILITATORS

The photo markup
of all the little
reading nooks are
awesome! Integrating
reading with creative
play... kids will love
it

INCLUDING
TEEN SPACE
IS AN
EXCELLENT IDEA

Would be helped
to have children's
computer area
traced away/not
prominently when
first entering to
emphasize the books/
make space / no desk.

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?

Want to still maintain traditional functions of Library

Attention to All populations / ages

STAFF SPACE and safety should be the highest priority

LIKE THE LOUNGE / COLLABORATION SPACE UNDER SECURITY

THE ADDITIONAL SMALL MEETING ROOMS IS GREAT. SEEMS LIKE IT ADDS SOME OPTIONS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO COMMUNITY SPACE NEEDS

Glad to see this materials expansion!

Collection area needs to be ~~open~~ expanded greatly to buy new books.



Who is the Bethlehem Public Library Community?

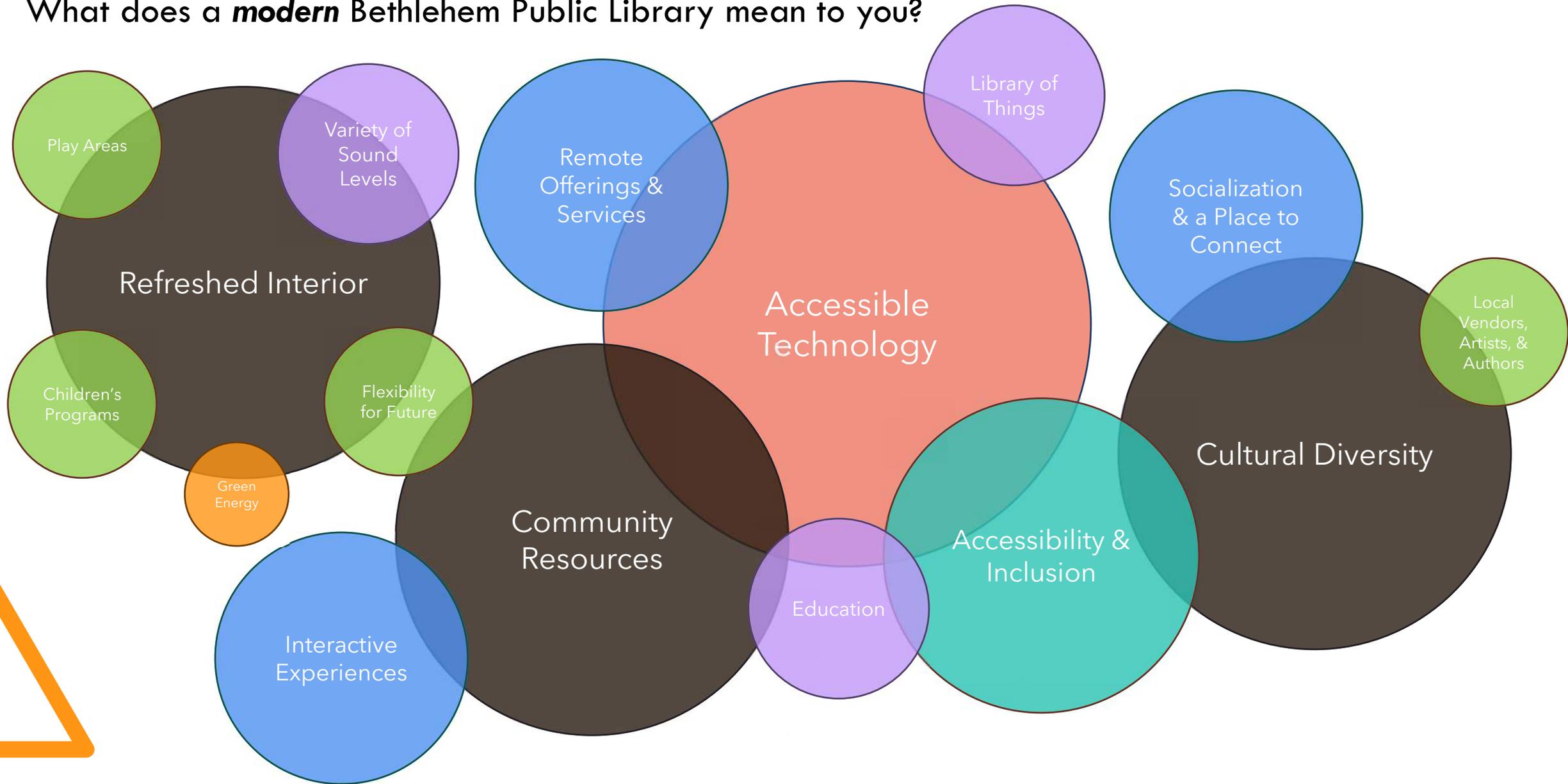
Adults
Albany Residents
Artists
Bethlehem Residents
Board Members
Business Owners
Children
College Students
Community Groups
Delmar Residents
Disabled Individuals
Educators
Families
Grandparents
Glenmont Residents
High Schoolers
Immigrants
Local Schools
Parents
Professionals
Refugees
Retirees
Teens
Tutors
Seniors
Slingerlands Residents
Staff
Volunteers



Imagine Bethlehem Public Library as a close friend. Think about their struggles and joys of the past, what their hopes and dreams for the future are, what do they want to become?



What does a *modern* Bethlehem Public Library mean to you?



"Let's honor the success of the current library"

THE WHYS



The Whys

1. **Address outdated and aging components of the Library facility.**
 - a) The last significant update was around 50 years ago.
 - b) There is some presence of asbestos which puts limitations on some maintenance needs.
 - c) The mezzanine level is not suitable for public, or staff needs.

The Whys

2. **Add in-demand space for Library users.**
 - a) Patrons are routinely turned away from the limited meeting and study rooms.
 - b) Meeting space / popular Library programs are limited to 100 people.
 - c) Improve performance space functionality.

The Whys

3. **Add in-demand collections space and improve Library function.**
 - a) Bethlehem Public Library's circulation is the higher in the Upper Hudson Library System.
 - b) Children's area is often crowded and limited in terms of offerings. Teen area is lacking dedicated space.
 - c) Properly address curbside pickup function.
 - d) Improve and expand staff space for better workflow, safety, efficiency, and adequacy.

The Whys

4. **Enhance accessibility of the Library facility & resources.**
 - a) Improve accessibility to and within the facility to the spaces as well as to resources
 - b) Improve parking area safety and add parking spaces
 - c) Reduce distance between parking and entry
 - d) Improve sense of arrival and wayfinding

The Whys

5. **Enhance the Library's environmental sustainability footprint.**
 - a) Increase energy efficiency leading to operational savings
 - b) Update the green space around the Library and preserve the park-like feel
 - c) Modernize site utilities to improve Library as a "good neighbor"

COMMUNITY ADDITION



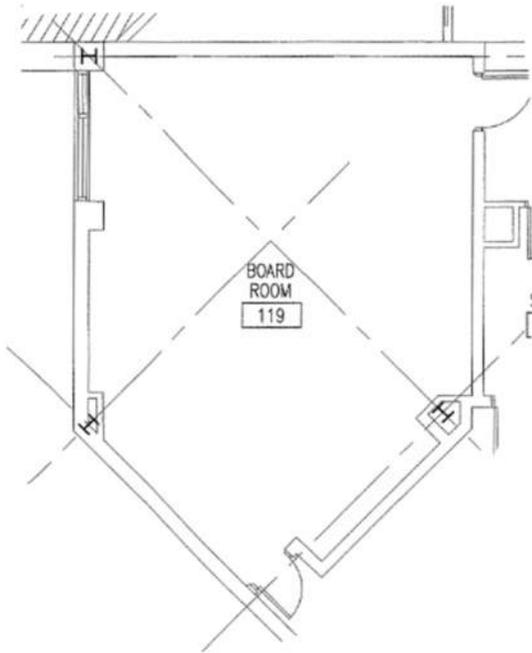


Existing Community Spaces

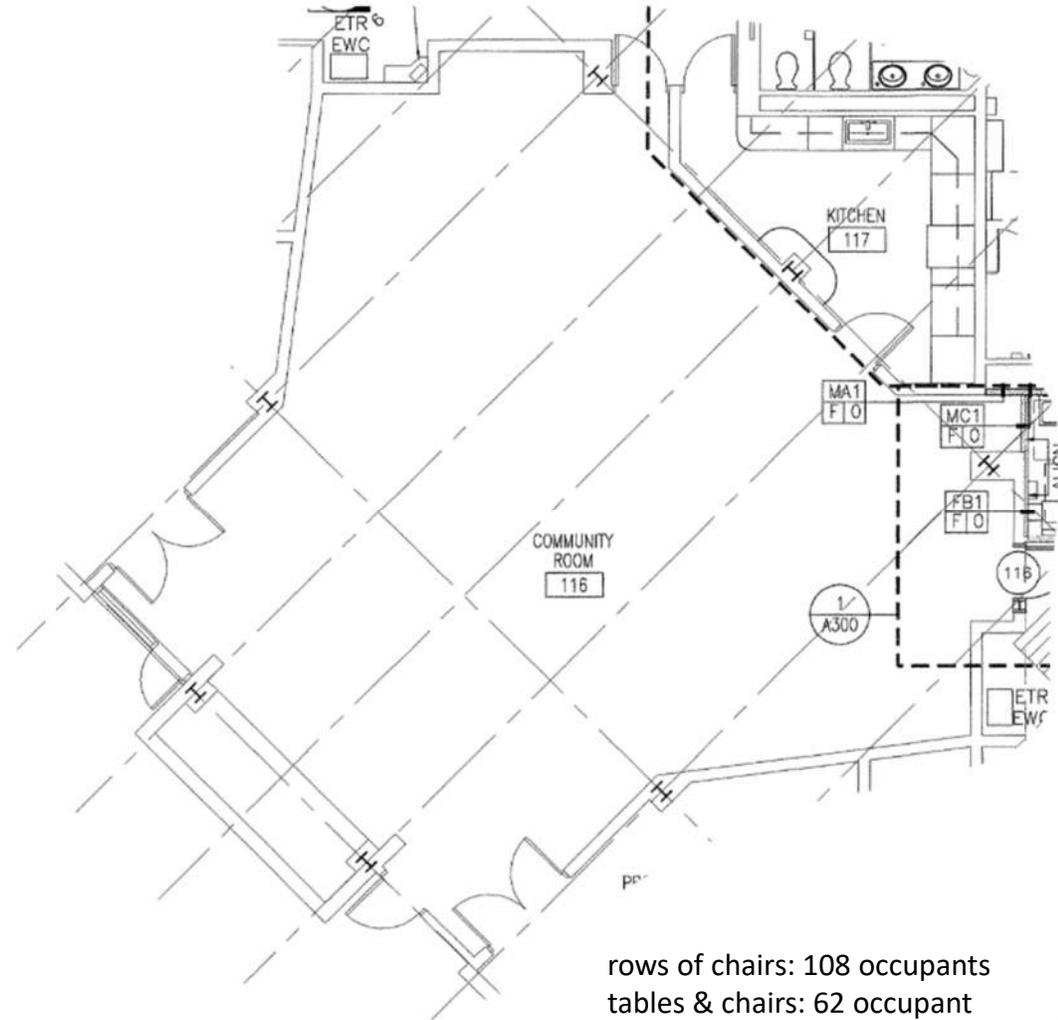
One "large" Community room: 1624sf

One "small" Community room: 562sf

Total: 2186 sf



rows of chairs: 37 occupants
tables & chairs: 22 occupants



rows of chairs: 108 occupants
tables & chairs: 62 occupant



Community Addition: Opt 1 – “Smaller”

Total meeting room space: 3600 sf

Small: 900 sf

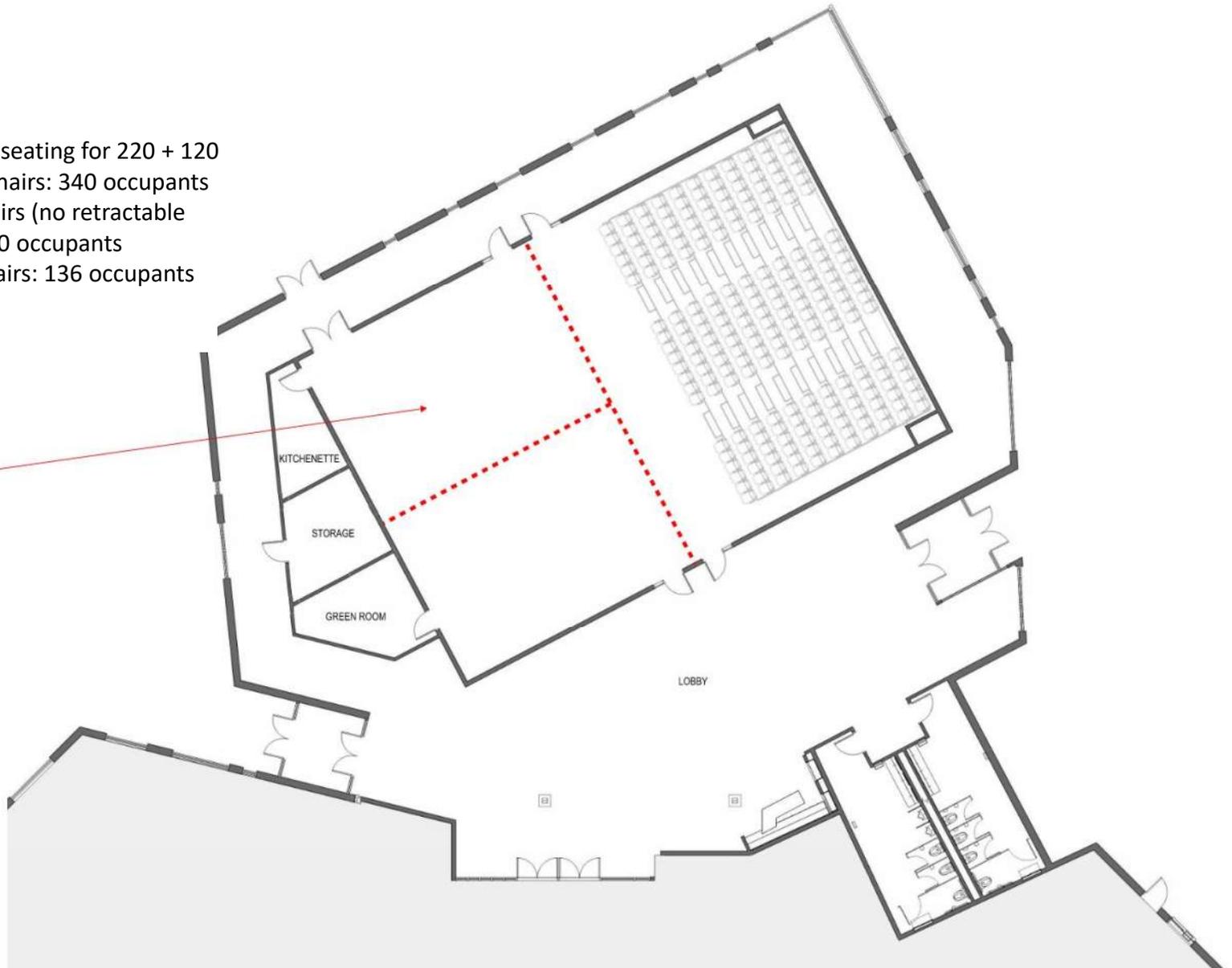
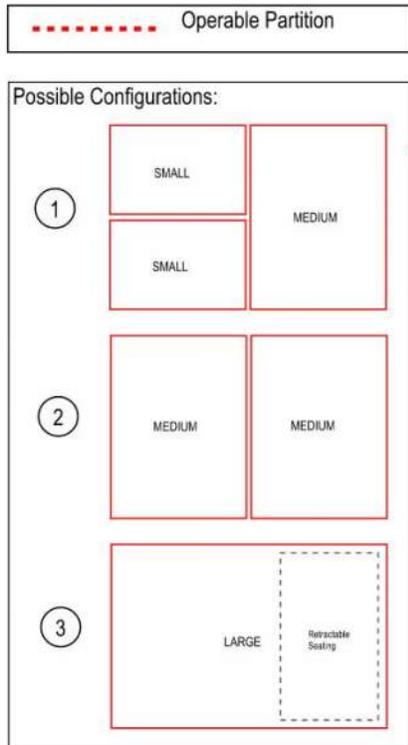
- A. Rows of chairs: 60 occupants
- B. Tables & chairs: 34 occupants

Medium: 1800 sf

- A. Rows of chairs: 120 occupants
- B. Tables & chairs: 68 occupants

Large: 3600 sf

- A. Retractable seating for 220 + 120 in rows of chairs: 340 occupants
- B. Rows of chairs (no retractable seating): 240 occupants
- C. Tables & chairs: 136 occupants



Community Addition: Opt 2 – “Larger”

Total meeting room space: 5400 sf

Small: 900 sf

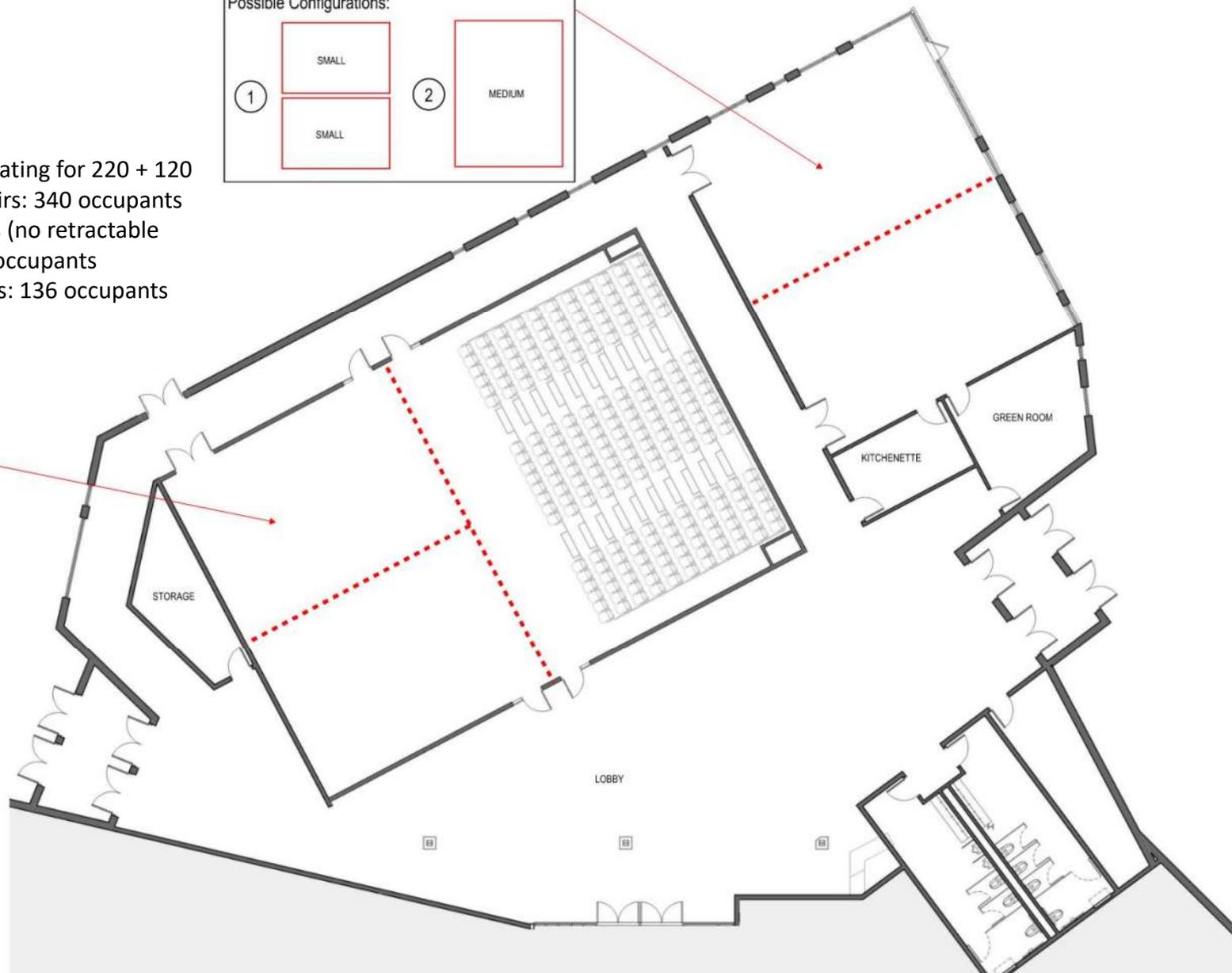
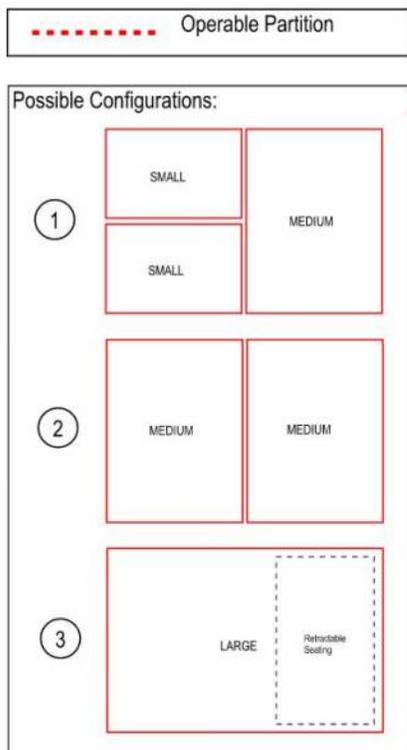
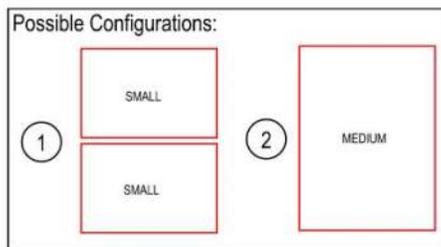
- A. Rows of chairs: 60 occupants
- B. Tables & chairs: 34 occupants

Medium: 1800 sf

- A. Rows of chairs: 120 occupants
- B. Tables & chairs: 68 occupants

Large: 3600 sf

- A. Retractable seating for 220 + 120 in rows of chairs: 340 occupants
- B. Rows of chairs (no retractable seating): 240 occupants
- C. Tables & chairs: 136 occupants



COST



Cost Overview

Sub total Construction Cost - Renovations & Additions		\$12,711,345
Site		\$2,557,508
General conditions, overhead & profit, phasing premium, design contingency, bid contingency, escalation)		\$8,107,752
construction manager fees		\$1,200,134
Construction contingency		\$1,920,216
FF&E		\$1,761,750
Total Project Construction Cost:		\$28,258,706
<u>Other items to consider</u>		
Rock excavation, provisions for unstable soils, soil remediation		
Site testing		
Moving costs		
Design fees		

Next Steps

- Cost estimate to determine project cost and Bond need.
- Community outreach.
- Schematic Design phase completion end of October.

