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Omaha Public Library  
System

# Citywide Library Facilities Plan

2023 - 2043

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# Acknowledgments

Omaha Public Library thanks the over 5,000 community members who contributed to the Citywide Library Facilities Plan. These individuals have ensured that this plan is informed by community needs, opportunities, and aligned outcome goals.

Additional thanks to the committed Omaha Public Library staff members who engaged in workshop sessions to incorporate their deep knowledge of their communities, Omaha's neighborhoods, and the rich array of daily programs they facilitate for their patrons.

The Library Facilities Plan acknowledges Omaha Public Library's Board of Trustees and its Advisory Committee's enlightened advancement of Omaha Public Library's mission to serve the residents of Omaha through connection to people, ideas, and innovative services. With a continuous focus on the vibrant communities that enjoy Omaha Public Library's services, this process was stewarded by the Library Facilities Plan Working Group to ensure that Omaha Public Library's network of places will evolve with a values-driven, community-centric lens for decades to come.

A special thanks to Michael Helgerson and Josh Corrigan, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, and David Drozd, Community Health Development Partners, for their support in providing map and data analytics to help inform the plan's data-driven approach.

For a full list of Community Contributors and Participating Organizations, please see the Appendix.

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**Stacy Lickteig**, OPL Senior Manager of Branches  
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# Letter from the Mayor

Public libraries are tremendous community assets, welcoming public spaces that open new doors for young readers and life-long learners, creative thinkers, and makers.

Libraries offer connections, access to ideas and emerging technology, and a safe physical space. Libraries can also offer much more.

Omaha is a city of strong neighborhoods, each with unique characteristics and needs. The recommendations in this community-based plan anticipate future opportunities and partnerships for our neighborhood branches to facilitate connections and offer resources and services important to you and your family.

One of my priorities is to improve the taxpayer experience. We do that by listening to you. These recommendations are based on suggestions from 5,000 responses to a community survey, small group discussions, and conversations with hundreds of community leaders and partner organizations to design and enhance the experiences possible at each neighborhood branch over the next two decades.

Good plans are equal parts practical and aspirational. This plan is both. The recommendations also align with our other key priorities: improving public safety, creating job growth and economic development, and managing the city budget.

Together with our Omaha Public Library staff and the Board of Trustees, the recommendations will be evaluated for affordability, urgency, and equity throughout our library system.

Thank you to our partners: Heritage Omaha, Community Information Trust, Omaha Public Library Foundation, the Omaha Public Library



Jean Stothert  
Mayor, City of Omaha

Board of Trustees, Margaret Sullivan Studio, and Advancing with Purpose. Omaha has a successful record of public-private partnerships. Building great partnerships with our business, development, and philanthropic communities and our nonprofit sector is the way we get things done.

And, thank you to everyone who has participated in the extensive community engagement process.

I hope you are excited about the future of the Omaha Public Library system!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Stothert".

Jean Stothert  
Mayor, City of Omaha

# Letter from the Executive Director



Providing our communities with libraries that reflect their wants, needs, and neighborhoods is vital to the work of Omaha Public Library (OPL). In 2017, we received an update to the 2010 Library Facilities Plan that made recommendations for the library system based on how well current library facilities were meeting community needs, as well as what facilities would be needed in the next 20 years to continue to do so. OPL shared plan priorities with our community and gathered feedback about the level of support for each one. We were thrilled to discover a high level of enthusiasm for the growth of the library system. A financial commitment from the City toward a new downtown branch and a branch in southwest Omaha further set the stage for implementing the facilities plan.

While momentum was on our side, a global pandemic was not. Plans for new facilities paused as OPL shifted to providing library services as safely as possible. As our community began to emerge from the pandemic, facilities plan recommendations were reactivated with the closure of W. Dale Clark Main Library in favor of a modern, resized Downtown Branch.

The proposal for a new central public library at the intersection of 72nd & Dodge introduced another important opportunity, along with the idea of utilizing an Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS). This technology allows for flexibility in reimagining of spaces while still maintaining and growing the collections available across OPL.

In order to create a vision for each neighborhood branch, OPL, the Omaha Public Library Foundation, the City of Omaha, Heritage Omaha and Do Space, with the help of Margaret Sullivan Studio, launched a citywide library facilities plan. Its development included engagement from city and community leaders, OPL and Do Space patrons, and individuals who do not currently use libraries.



Laura Marlane  
*Executive Director,  
Omaha Public Library*

Their incredible feedback provided the foundation for a dynamic plan that allows us to evolve over time with our communities, maximize resources, and continue to provide access to the books, services, programs, and spaces that Omaha and Douglas County residents deserve, while moving forward with the integration of Do Space's technology services.

I am grateful to everyone who contributed to this plan with their time, ideas, and support. We are excited to bring this vision to life!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Marlane".

Laura Marlane  
Executive Director, Omaha Public Library

# Executive Summary



# Executive Summary

The result of an ambitious, nine-month facilities planning process, the 2023 Citywide Library Facilities Plan is an aspirational vision for growth and investment in the Omaha Public Library system over the next 20 years. Margaret Sullivan Studio (MSS) led the process in partnership with the Library Facilities Plan Working Group, OPL staff, partners, and the Omaha community. This plan provides many options for implementation with each option designed to maximize the social impact and utilization of OPL's facility portfolio. The partners present this plan to the Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees for its consideration.



*Virtual reality at Do Space.*

This Library Facilities Plan builds on OPL's previous facilities plans and is designed to harmonize with and harness momentum from Omaha's historic investment in a new world-class central public library, OPL's new state-of-the-art Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS), and the integration of Do Space's nationally-acclaimed technology programming. This moment provides an exceptional opportunity for OPL to leverage these investments and their resulting efficiencies for all of its branch locations over the next 20 years.

The 2023 plan will enable OPL's facilities to more effectively foster culturally-relevant social, learning, and storytelling experiences for all within the community. OPL can utilize the plan's findings and knowledge of local community conditions, histories, and assets to deliver place-based programs and services that result in shared outcome goals, with a focus on literacy, digital inclusion, workforce and entrepreneurship, community health and safety, neighborhood development, and connection to resources.



*An Enchanted Dia Celebration at Willa Cather Branch.*

Backed by a dynamic, robust set of qualitative and quantitative data, the plan not only proves that library services are essential, but it also demonstrates that community needs, partner opportunities, and city alignments best inform an effective library growth plan.

The plan is mindful of delivering the best investment value for all funders, including the City of Omaha, Douglas County, the state, and philanthropic supporters. With a variety of investment strategies



Community members at the Neighborhood Steering Committee orientation.

beyond what is already included for facility maintenance in the capital improvement program, the plan delivers recommendations for a world-class library system for the residents of Omaha to realize their hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

This 20-year vision for OPL's systemwide growth focuses on serving the library's communities, optimizing OPL's assets systemwide, leveraging synergistic goals with the City of Omaha, and catalyzing equitable community economic development. Highlights of the 2023 plan include:

### **An Aspirational 20-Year Vision:**

#### **Elevates OPL's Civic Infrastructure Role**

Foundational to the 2023 plan is a vision that actuates OPL as the essential connective tissue for a healthy civic infrastructure. The plan positions the library facilities as active anchor institutions that catalyze neighborhood community economic development and foster an inclusive, vibrant, and safe Omaha. It achieves this by connecting OPL's facilities and programs to amplify and leverage some of Omaha's greatest assets: community-based organizations and leaders, the philanthropic community, and a collaborative city government.

#### **Amplifies Citywide Development Goals**

This plan positions the role and purpose of library facilities to foster shared outcome goals derived

from alignments with OPL's vision and mission, Do Space's strengths, and the City of Omaha's quality-of-life priorities. This plan also enables the City of Omaha to integrate current development projects, including Vision Zero, the Economic Equity and Inclusion Program (EEIP), the City Inclusive Entrepreneurship Network (CIE), the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP), and racial equity initiatives in order to amplify their impact.

### **A Revolutionary Community-Driven Approach**

Omaha's 2023 plan took on one of the most ambitious community engagement processes in the country for a library facilities plan, with inputs from a broad range of community members — including over 5,000 unique inputs generated from surveys, community conversations, and creative visioning exercises.

### **A Pioneering Data-Rich Methodology**

In addition to the community inputs, MSS' comprehensive methodology used quantitative and qualitative inputs, including socio-economic and demographic research as well as best-practice applications, that shifted the conventional methodology of library facilities planning from a more abstract reliance on national public library standards, metrics, and benchmarks to one informed by a complex assessment of the conditions, challenges, and opportunities facing Omaha and Douglas County.



Community members at the South Omaha Community Open House at the Simple Foundation.



## Investing Strategically to Achieve Quality-of-Life Goals

By expanding reach with an equity lens, prioritizing investment with a data-driven Library Socio-Economic Needs Index tool, and applying a model that allows for projects with small, medium, and large impacts, the plan enables OPL and the City of Omaha to effectively allocate resources for facilities expansion, investment, and strategic outcomes that increase equitable access to quality-of-life services across the city.

## Integrating Do Space

This plan delivers an approach to integrate and scale Do Space, one of the first community technology libraries in the U.S., by catalyzing OPL and Do Space place-based innovative collaborations with Do Space programming strengths. Recommendations incorporate the place-based conditions Do Space programs need to foster experiential learning, entrepreneurship, and digital equity/literacy. It also accelerates the vision for OPL facilities developed by OPL staff in 2019 to foster storytelling in all its vibrant forms.

## Increases Staff Impact

The recommendations deliver concept plans for the library facilities that enable staff to do their best work and for the buildings to work hard for the community. The concept plans provide a variety of flexible and adaptable spaces that can



3-D printing at Do Space.

evolve with the programs, partners, collections, and technologies of each location. With designs that respond to ever-changing communities' interests, libraries are poised to provide customized experiences well into the future.

## Partner Activations

The plan provides a flexible approach to partnering that activates and optimizes the facilities for greater connection to the city's vast network of community-based organizations and nonprofits. Recommendations for partner-ready facilities include providing dynamic meeting and community spaces.



Community members at a Community Partner Breakfast.

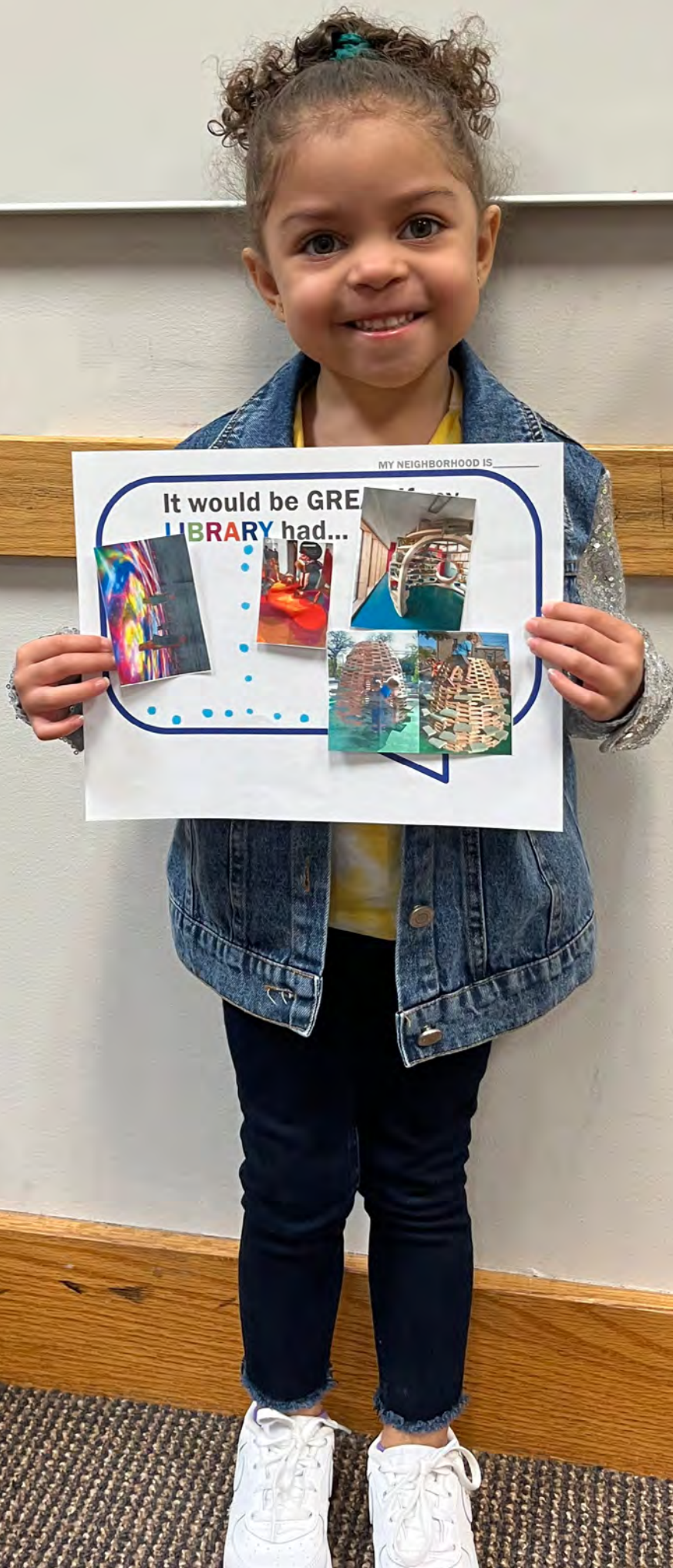
## A Model for Ongoing Success

The 2023 plan is designed to promote ongoing best outcomes for Omaha's diverse communities and the library's ability to catalyze economic development. OPL not only achieves this through its continued work in literacy and access to information and technology, but also by leveraging the city's network of community-based organizations and establishing an ongoing communications structure with the Neighborhood Steering Committees and community partners. The plan's data-driven tools enable an approach to decision-making for capital projects that engages OPL and the City of Omaha for more intentional social impact outcomes.

# An Aspirational 20-Year Vision

- 1 Elevates OPL's Civic Infrastructure Role
- 2 Amplifies Citywide Development Goals
- 3 Utilizes a Revolutionary Community-Driven Approach
- 4 Pioneers a Data-Rich Methodology
- 5 Invests Strategically to Achieve Quality-of-Life Goals
- 6 Integrates Do Space Meaningfully
- 7 Increases Staff Impact
- 8 Activates Partnerships
- 9 Exemplifies A Model for Ongoing Success





# OPL Vision

**Omaha is a vital and vibrant city, with Omaha Public Library as an essential catalyst, collaborator and connector.**



# OPL Mission

**Omaha Public Library  
strengthens our  
communities by  
connecting people with  
ideas, information,  
and innovative services.**

# Background & Opportunities

# Background & Opportunities

## Building on the Momentum

This Citywide Library Facilities Plan builds on the recommendations of recent facilities plans and current investments already underway. Since the completion of the 2017 Facilities Plan Update, OPL has seen significant changes. These include:

1. Relocation of the Downtown Branch and of library administration and genealogical collections to a temporary Library Administrative Building (LAB).
2. Evolution of OPL towards a 21st century public library service model that prioritizes active spaces across the system for community programs and activities.
3. OPL's increased strategic alignment with community partners to inform facilities' future sizes, needs, and potential colocations.
4. Increased public and philanthropic funding opportunities.

Recent investments in OPL provide an especially opportune moment for an ambitious Library Facilities Plan. Thanks to a robust partnership with the Omaha



ASRS system at the Macquarie University Library in Sydney, Australia.

Public Library Foundation, the City of Omaha, Do Space, and Heritage Omaha, OPL is on track to open a new central public library at 72nd and Dodge streets by 2026. The innovative new building will include a state-of-the-art Automated Storage and Retrieval System (ASRS) known as the Collections Hub, and with the planned systemwide integration of Do Space's technology-driven services, Omaha's branch libraries will be able to provide more equitable access to collections and technologies and have new opportunities for activating public space.



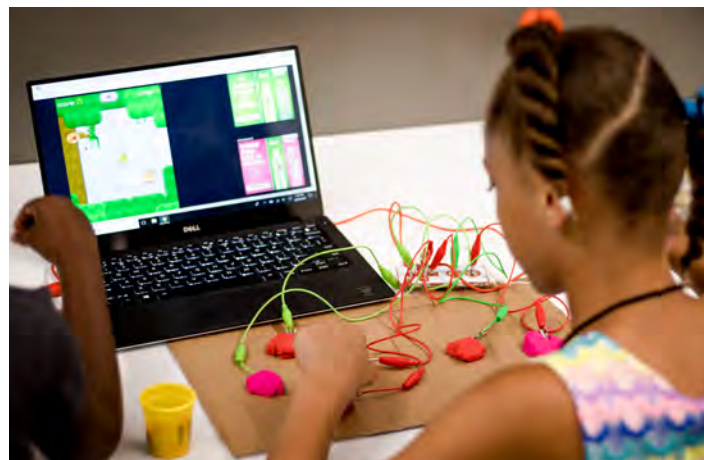
Rendering of new Omaha Central Public Library.

The first in the nation for a public library, OPL's ASRS will nearly double the library's collection capacity in a 4,000-square-foot footprint. This innovative approach increases materials collection capacity and curation for the entire system, and it provides effective distribution of books, technologies, and other collections for every OPL branch. Additionally, the system creates new opportunities for reimagining and activating spaces for people and activities. Each location will continue to have an ample collection of books and other materials interspersed with cozy reading nooks and technology workstations.

OPL's new partnership with Omaha's Do Space, one of the first community technology libraries in the U.S., is integrating innovative technology services with traditional library services systemwide. Expanding the Do Space experience across OPL locations will enable the library to deliver flexible, targeted activities and programs that augment OPL's existing offerings. Programming will include technology-focused classes and creative workshops for all ages and skill levels, innovative technology access, technology assistance, STEM-focused educational programs, mentorship programs, workforce development support, video conferencing capabilities, and more. This will enhance OPL's ability to support digital equity, entrepreneurship, makerspaces, intergenerational learning, and partnership opportunities.

### Current Portfolio: Challenges

By 2026, Omaha Public Library will have thirteen public library locations in its real estate portfolio distributed throughout Omaha. Ranging in size from 6,500 square feet (A.V. Sorensen) to 96,000 square feet (Omaha Central Public Library), OPL's approximate 300,000 total square feet of public space will serve a 2024 population of about 585,000 Douglas County residents. With Omaha growing rapidly, and with exponential expansion occurring in the western part of Douglas County, in 20 years the Omaha Public Library system is anticipated to serve approximately 660,000 people. Omaha's rapid growth will stretch OPL's facilities and staff capacities to serve the socio-economic challenges of the county as a whole.



*Innovative Do Space programming.*



*Refreshed teen space at South Omaha Library Branch.*

Challenges facing OPL's branch locations include their building size to community served ratio limitations, inefficient interior layouts, and needed updates to fully support evolving community needs and aspirations. The process in creating this plan confirmed that OPL's facilities are well-maintained by the City of Omaha, and all locations have the potential to more effectively impact their communities positively with an intentional approach to space utilization. This plan maximizes facilities optimization to meet community needs by increasing staff's ability to deliver the innovative programs they provide daily. To expand OPL's capacity and impact while optimizing facility utilization, this facilities plan takes a strategic approach both to serving Omaha's growing population and to synergistically collaborating with the City and community partners for shared goals.

### Refresh Investments

Public facilities require continued public investment for basic maintenance and operations. Facilities that are as highly utilized as Omaha Public Library's branches continually need to renovate and replace those well-loved furniture pieces and well-worn carpet areas, refresh walls with paint, and upgrade lighting for increased sustainability standards.

Over the past few years, OPL has implemented investments in the branches that have had great impacts. OPL replaced almost all of the shelving at A.V. Sorensen Branch, refreshed end panels to showcase collections, added children's interactive

playsets, and replaced most of the furniture. At South Omaha Library, family and teen spaces were reconfigured to better fit the spaces to the community's usage needs. OPL reorganized the layout at Charles B. Washington Branch to relocate computers and allocate more space for children and families with updated flooring and new furniture. These small-scale annual renovation projects bring pride to community residents and serve diverse learning needs as each branch expresses the unique character of the community it serves.

The City of Omaha has been an excellent steward of its library facilities. Even with a high level of commitment to maintenance and operations, all public buildings should be evaluated for larger infrastructure investments at their 30-year mark. Currently, all of OPL's branch locations will hit this building age within 20 years of this report.

### Aligning Maintenance and Vision Investments

To better understand expected maintenance and investment costs, the 2023 plan applied

the Facilities Condition Index (FCI) to OPL's facilities portfolio. The FCI is a benchmark in the facility industry to objectively assess the current and projected condition of building assets and anticipate future infrastructure investments in relation to maintaining the buildings for health and safety. FCI is calculated by the total cost of the existing maintenance of a facility divided by its current replacement value.<sup>1</sup>

In the 2023 plan, the FCI illustrates that even without implementing a community-driven vision, OPL's facilities will require an investment due to routine public facilities maintenance over the next 20 years. This investment maintains the facilities at their current standards by providing basic building safety and functionality.

Anticipating future facilities needs, it is both responsible and prudent for the City of Omaha and OPL to align maintenance investments with the 2023 visionary plan. Thus, OPL has the potential to increase impact for all residents of Omaha with a greater return than the cost of investment.

Branch	Total SF: Library	Year Opened	Year Renovated	30 Year System Upgrades
Florence	7,412	1976	2010	2040
Washington	16,675	1972	2006	2036
Benson	20,300	1946	1998	2028
Central	96,000	2026	-	2056
A.V. Sorensen	6,495	1976	2009	2039
Downtown	30,000	2023	-	2053
Willa Cather	11,477	1956	-	1986
South Omaha	21,050	2008	-	2038
Millard	31,360	1981	1999	2029
Swanson	24,495	1966	2010	2040
Elkhorn	7,893	1996	-	2026
Saddlebrook	14,155	2009	-	2039
Abrahams	7,893	1988	2011	2041
Southwest	-	-	-	-

*This diagram illustrates the current Omaha Public Library buildings, their size, age, and recommended dates for major infrastructure upgrade investment.*

<sup>1</sup>CIOB, BSRIA, IHBC, CIAT, ECA and APM. (2022, August). Facility Condition Index FCI. Designing Buildings - The Construction Wiki. [https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Facility\\_condition\\_index\\_FCI#Defining\\_the\\_facility\\_condition\\_index](https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Facility_condition_index_FCI#Defining_the_facility_condition_index)

# Methodology



# Methodology

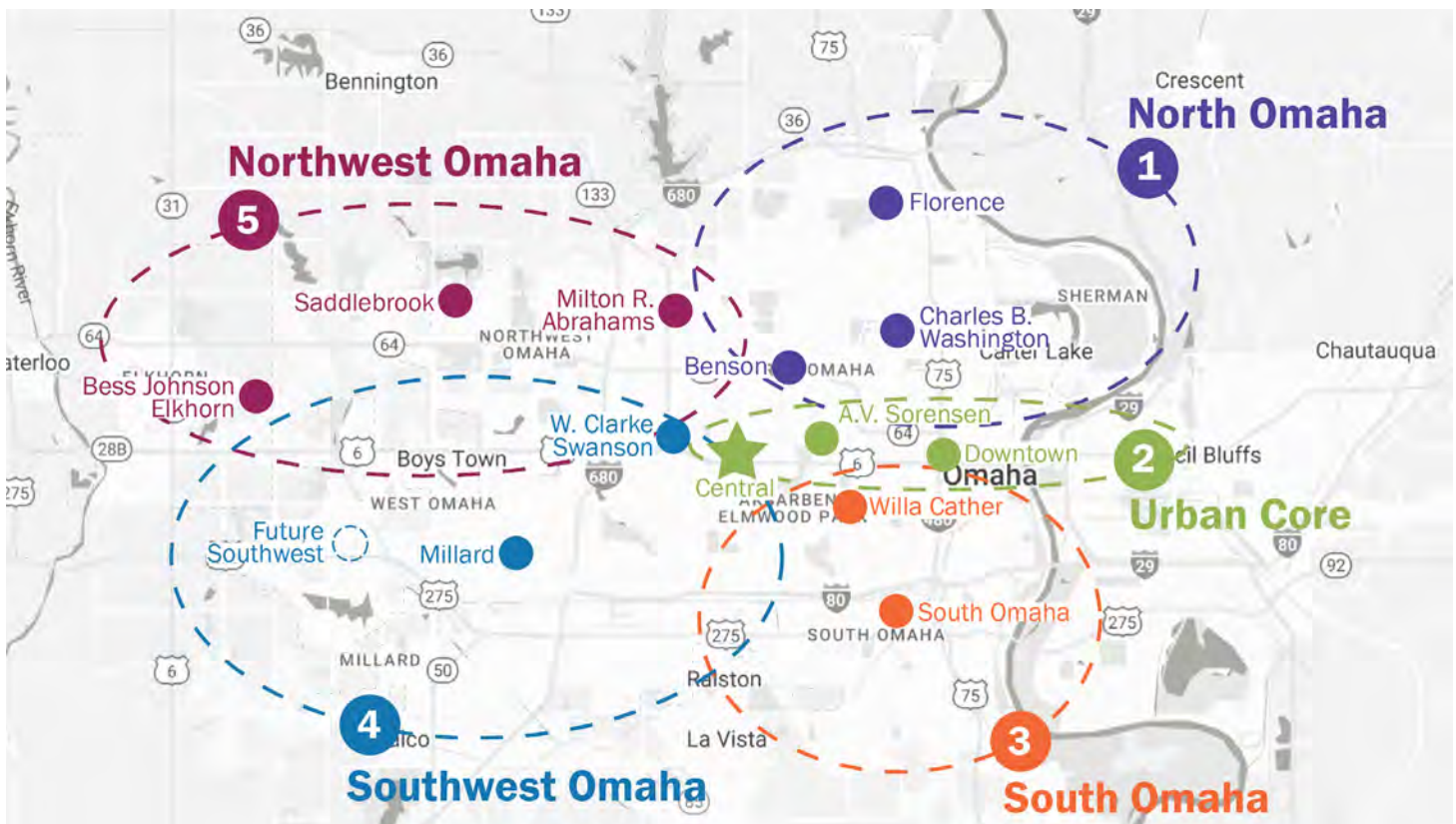
Over a nine-month period, the 2023 Library Facilities Plan employed a complex and comprehensive discovery, engagement, and planning process, utilizing a methodology focused on community co-creation and collective impact to drive development of a plan for current and future capital projects.

## Robust Community Engagement and Collaborative Citywide Leadership

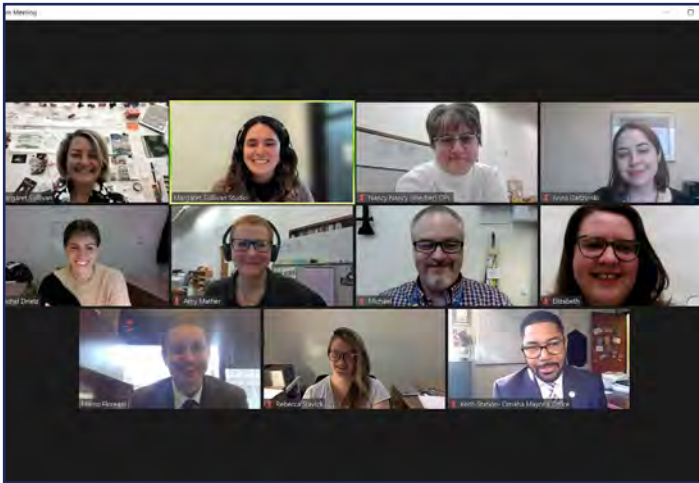
Margaret Sullivan Studio facilitated this iterative engagement and planning process led by the Library Facilities Plan Working Group, which was composed of staff representatives from OPL, Do Space, the City of Omaha, and Heritage Omaha. The process involved input from and engagement with over 5,000 community members, 200 partner

organizations, and five Neighborhood Steering Committees (NSC), composed of OPL branch managers; elected representatives; and local educational, nonprofit, and community leaders. The NSC structure was organized around five regions: the Urban Core, North Omaha, South Omaha, Northwest Omaha, and Southwest Omaha.

The Working Group used a combination of strategies for community engagement and input including six community open houses, five NSC workshops, four leadership workshops, two community partner breakfasts, and a citywide community survey. The Leadership Team met regularly, including bi-weekly calls to assess inputs and learnings, and to refine strategies for engagement.



Map representing the five regions of Omaha used to organize the Neighborhood Steering Committees.



The Library Facilities Plan Working Group on a virtual bi-weekly call.

## Guiding Principles for Facilities Transformation

The Working Group was critical in upholding guiding principles across the entire research, community engagement, assessment, and planning process. These principles derive from the vision, mission, and values foundational to OPL and Do Space, the Healthy Community framework, and the City of Omaha's priorities for quality-of-life, equity, and economic opportunity for all:

- **Center the community experience:** Design places that celebrate diversity, reinforce community pride and identities, welcome all users, and facilitate socio-economic mixing.
- **Meet the community's learning needs:** Provide learning and growth experiences and environments to accommodate all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels.
- **Equitably distribute 21st century service models:** This includes access to technology, programming, and Do Space offerings to provide superior services across the system.
- **Catalyze the City of Omaha's quality-of-life and equity development objectives:** As an elemental part of the City's social infrastructure, provide the places and relationships to augment the City's goals.
- **Amplify community social impact:** Collaborate with community partners by providing access to spaces and knowledgeable, connected staff.

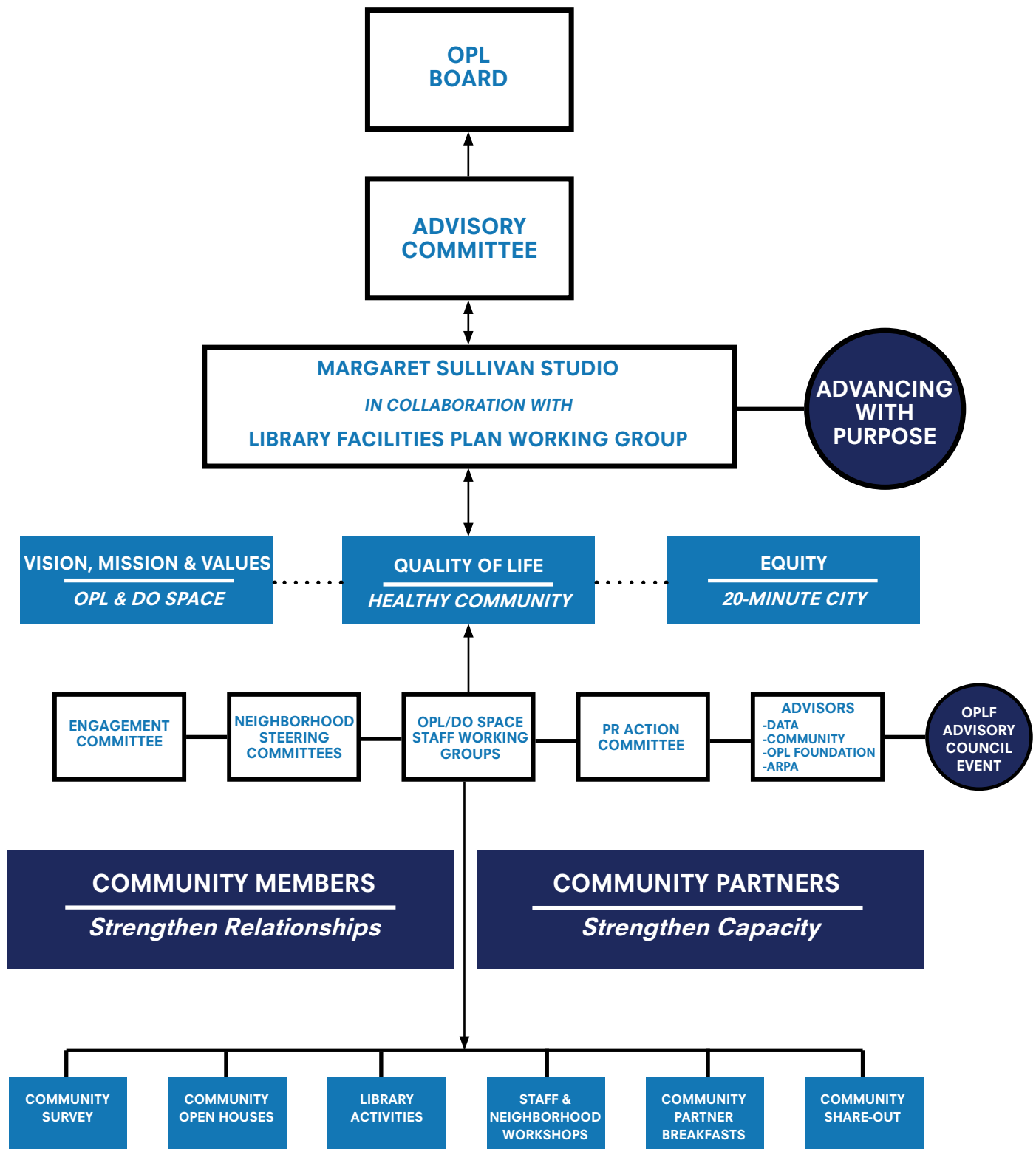
- **Elevate OPL staff to do their best work:** Provide flexible environments that enable staff to be creative, collaborative, innovative and adaptable to the community's needs.
- **Maximize OPL's strategic goals:** Serve community members daily, and expand reach and impact throughout Omaha to ensure its facilities continue to serve as essential anchor institutions for the next century.
- **Incorporate urban planning best practices:** Consider transit needs and 20-Minute City principles to enable branch locations to deliver maximum economic development impact.
- **Advance the Healthy Community framework:** This is composed of goals for advancing diversity, equity and inclusion; civic health, economic health, cultural identity, educational health, and personal health.
- **Activate OPL's public assets to best serve the public good:** Optimize OPL's buildings for community impact and partner activation.

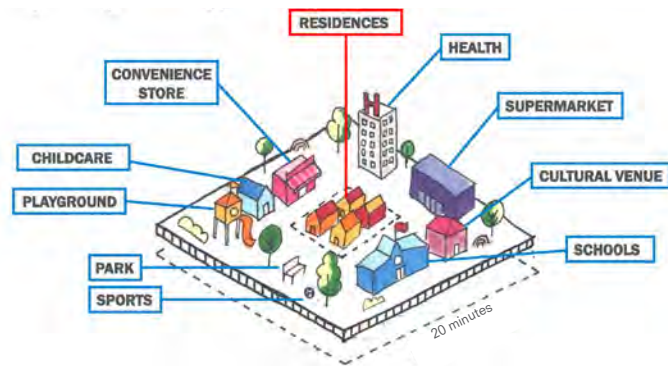
## New Critical Inputs

Building on the criteria for growth and expansion established in the 2017 Facilities Plan, the methodology for the 2023 plan incorporated a wide range of research, input, and data. This approach was designed to address the dynamic changes facing Omaha, to integrate industry best practices, and to create a flexible, future-focused plan.



Healthy Community Framework





Example of 20-Minute City principles.

## Data-Driven Research

The 2023 plan is distinctive as a facilities plan in its application of a robust set of qualitative and quantitative data encompassing a broad array of contextual inputs about life in Omaha and Douglas County, from housing and transportation to socio-economic conditions, high school education rates, and partnership opportunities.

This data-driven approach incorporated current data from over a dozen resources, such as Community Health Development Partners and Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), to generate a dynamic and customized tool, the **Library Socio-Economic Needs Index**, to assess and prioritize facilities initiatives and investments.

## Best Practices

The plan included research on national library models and case studies to support best practices for colocations, innovative development models, and scaled investments. This work examined a flexible distribution of services based on industry trends, including mobile services, pop-ups, kiosks, partnerships, leased spaces, and colocations as strategic facilities growth opportunities. With the space efficiencies realized through the Collections Hub, spaces allocated to vibrant programming and activation can be increased to meet best practices for public space allocation.

## Expansive Engagement for Input

The 2023 Library Facilities Plan sought diverse perspectives across a broad range of community members on the programs, activities, collections, tools, and technologies that support their needs and aspirations. This included:

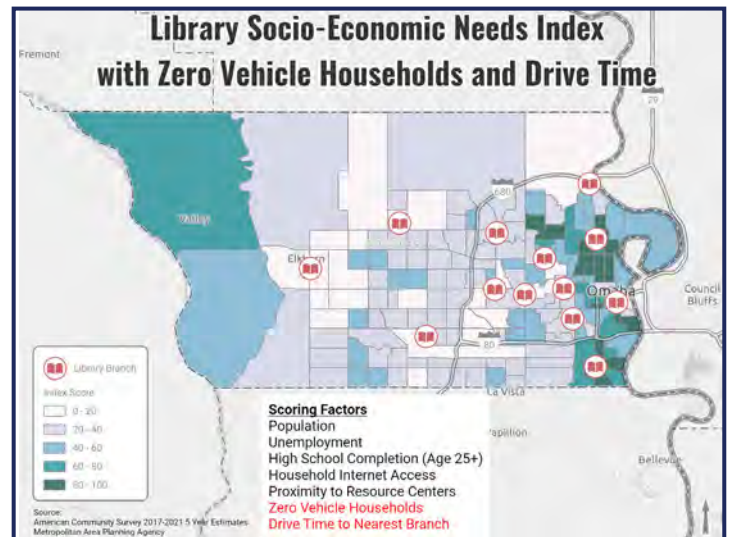
- Engaging community leaders through the Neighborhood Steering Committees in sustained dialogue and community co-creation to envision future programs and services.
- Engaging City and Library leaders in a prototyping workshop session to model an innovative collective impact approach to capital investment.
- Engaging community partners to envision innovative future programs, services, and places that would advance community development.
- Assessing utilization of Do Space's 90,000+ membership roster to equitably redistribute services throughout OPL's system.

## Informed Analyses

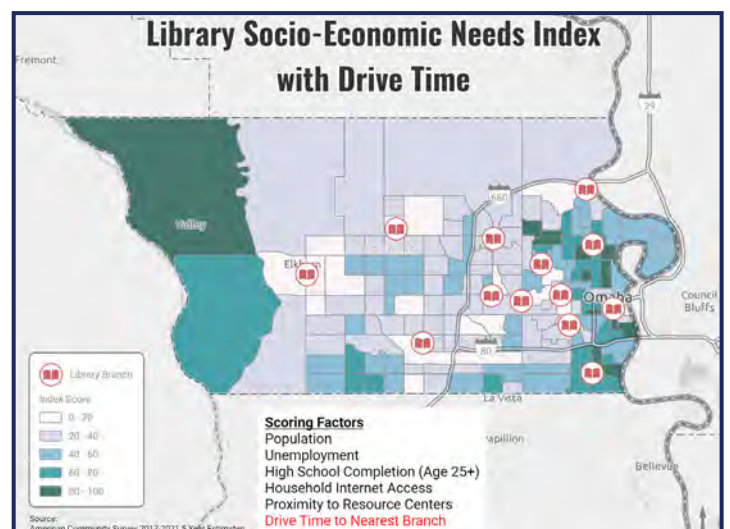
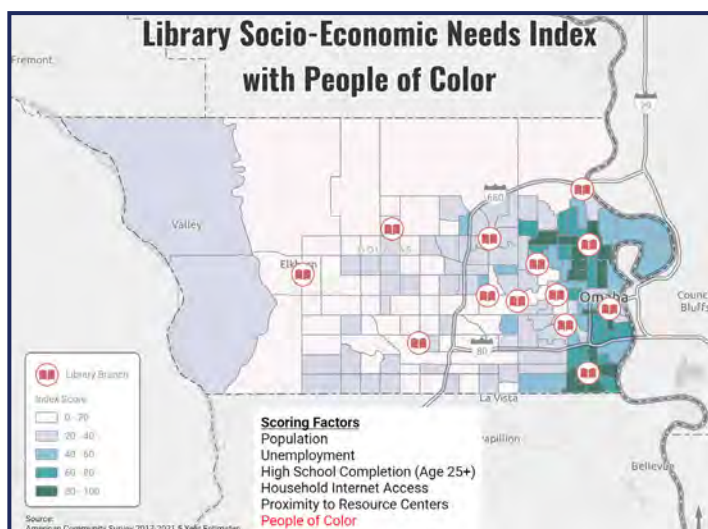
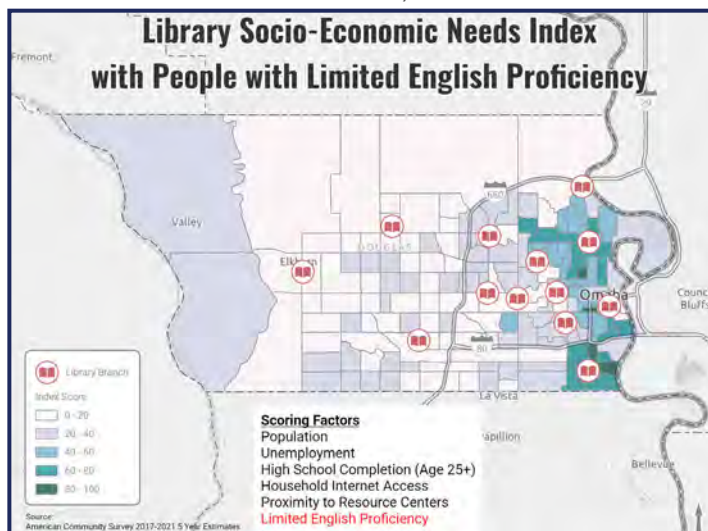
This foundation of data-rich inputs and broad engagement enabled an informed analysis of OPL's existing facilities and library utilization to identify ideal distribution of services for optimal impact.

Central to this approach is the plan's Library Socio-Economic Needs Index, a data-driven prioritization system. The index is based on socio-economic measurements with a weighted set of variables, including a spectrum of social, economic, and equity factors: population density; library locations distances factoring in drive times, public transportation routes, and multi-modal access; high school completion rate; household internet access; proximity to job centers, recreation centers, and community centers; vehicle availability; English proficiency; race/ethnicity; and disability status.



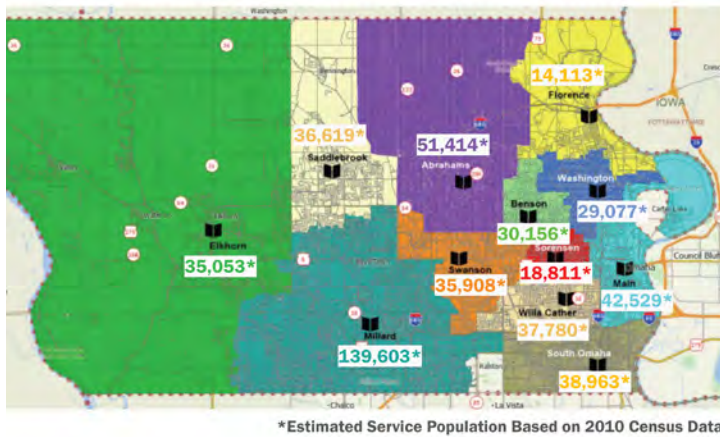


*Library Socio-Economic Needs Index: the map on the left shows the highest needs based on basic scoring factors of population density, unemployment rate, high school completion rate, households with internet access, and proximity to resource centers like an employment center or community center. The map to the right shows how the areas with highest needs changes when we add households with zero vehicle access and the time it takes to drive to the nearest library branch.*

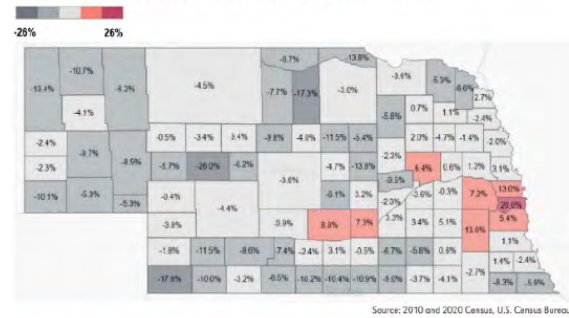




Omaha Public Library INCLUSIVE Branch Service Areas 2017



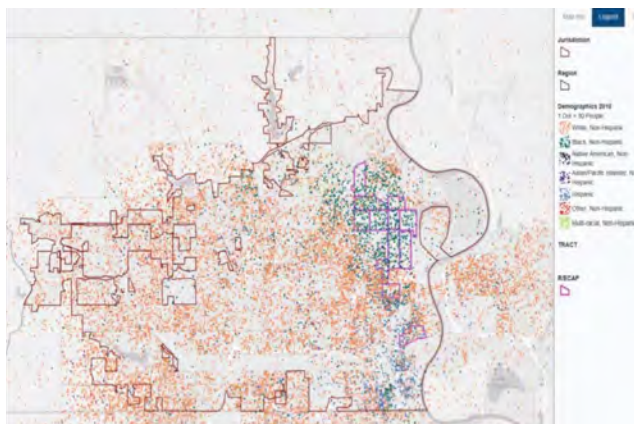
OPL Branch Service Areas (2017) &amp; Population Served (2010)

Figure 1: Since 2010, Nebraska's population has increased 7.4% but 69 counties have lost population  
Percent change in population 2010 - 2020 | 2020 total population - 1,961,504

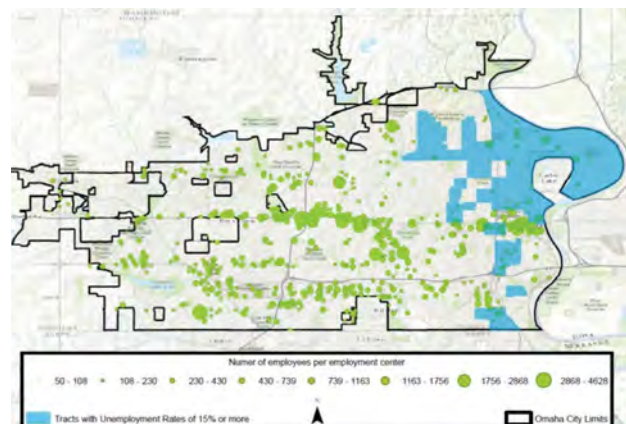
DOUGLAS COUNTY POPULATION:

1990:	2000:	2010:	2020:	2030:	2040:	2050:
416,444	463,585	517,110	584,526	615,383	643,724	660,606

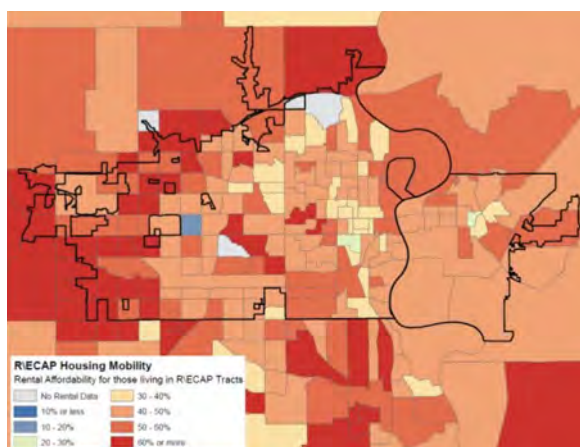
Population Increase of Douglas County



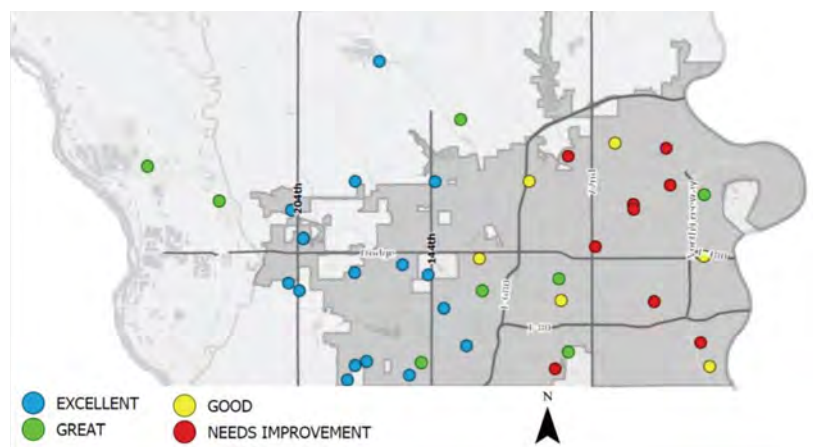
HUD Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Map



Employment Centers &amp; High Unemployment



Housing Mobility

AQuESTT Public School Performance Ratings  
(High Schools & Middle Schools in Douglas County)



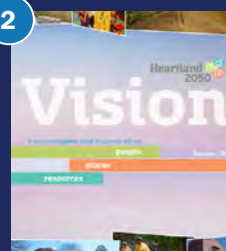
## Utilizing Local Knowledge & Resources to Align Outcome Goals

1. Heartland 2050 Action Plan (2014), Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
2. Heartland 2050 Vision (2014), Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
3. Core Customer Intelligence, Public Library Reach, Relevance, and Resilience (2016), Marc Futterman and Danielle Patrick Milam
4. Landscape Listening Report (2020), Omaha Community Foundation
5. Covid-19 Snapshot (June 2020), Voices for Children Nebraska
6. Population Projections for Nebraska Counties 2020 to 2050, University of Nebraska Center for Public Affairs Research
7. Kids Count in Nebraska Report (2021), Voices for Children Nebraska
8. Greater Omaha 2040 Remix (2021), Greater Omaha Chamber, United Way of the Midlands, Latino Center of the Midlands, Urban League of Nebraska
9. OPL Annual Report (2021), Omaha Public Library
10. Do Space Investor's Report (2021), Do Space
11. Urban Core Housing Data Book (2022), Prepared for the Greater Omaha Chamber
12. Transportation Improvement Plan (2022-2027), Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
13. Annual Report (2022), United Way of the Midlands
14. North and South Omaha Economic Recovery Coordination Plan: Public Engagement Summary (2022), Olsson, Lamp Rynearson, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, Iconic Consulting, B2Lab, Inc., Canyon Research Southwest
15. Urban Core Strategic Plan (2022), Greater Omaha Chamber, Urban Core Committee, HDR

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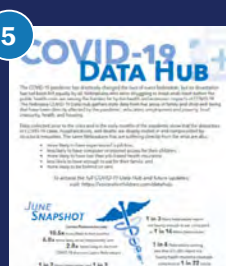
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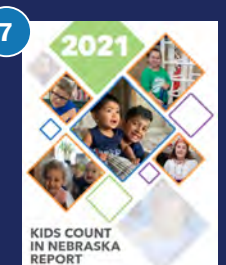
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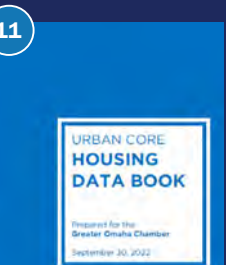
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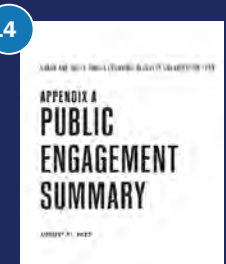
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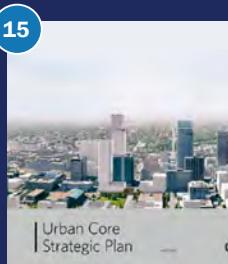
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14



15







Library of the  
**FUTURE**  
Vision  
Board

MY NEIGHBORHOOD IS

Mary

First, write down three words that you want the library of the future to feel like when you walk in. Then, use magazines to create a vision board that expresses your ideas.



MY FAVORITE PART OF  
the library is  
laying on my  
back and  
reading



# In the future, community members would like the Omaha Public Library to provide...

- **Community Gathering** • Outdoor Activities • Quiet Spaces
- **New Technology Courses** • Adult Social Activities • Cooking Academies • **Arts & Crafts** • Movie Nights • Performance Spaces • **Language Labs** • Recording Spaces • Game Rooms
- **Tool Libraries** • Laser Tag • Homework Studios • Virtual Reality
- **Special Events** • Basketball Courts • Audio Libraries •

# Findings & Alignments

# Findings & Alignments

The following outlines the 2023 plan's key findings regarding opportunities for alignment with City of Omaha objectives, community aspirations for their branches, how library investments can address demographic and equity issues, and how an investment and growth plan can optimize resources for maximum impact.

## Aligning with the City of Omaha

Aligned with the objectives and developments of the City of Omaha, this plan's core strategy is to enable the City and OPL to collaborate through a strengthened and coordinated effort. The City's quality-of-life and equity values are an integral part of the guiding principles that directed every aspect of this plan's development, including neighborhood safety and inclusive economic development. Data on Douglas County's demographic growth and population shifts, as well as transit access issues, are all factored in to ensure OPL's facilities team can look ahead to how they can generate positive change for their communities. The plan embraces the City's and OPL's enormous opportunity to work



Diagram illustrating the value in both a central library and a neighborhood library experience.

together to usher resources for shared outcome goals. It offers a pathway for strategically using facilities investments to activate neighborhoods and smart growth with a focus on literacy, digital inclusion, workforce and entrepreneurship, community health and safety, neighborhood development, and connection to resources.

## A System of Vibrant Neighborhood Hubs Activated by Strategic Partners

During the Library Facility Plan's workshops and community open houses, residents indicated they like the idea of having a central destination library and still very much want and love their neighborhood branches. They see the new Omaha Central Public Library as a vital gathering spot as well as a resource for OPL's comprehensive services and partnerships. At the same time, the branch locations are valued as unique, vibrant neighborhood hubs. The community survey shows residents desire a combination of traditional and innovative services — they want access to books, and they also want outdoor spaces, community gardens, community kitchens, early childhood play spaces, reading nooks, zones for food trucks, and amenities. This community engagement process also reinforced the understanding that technology access is essential to users and that innovative technology is integral to the 21st century public library.



Community members and leaders' areas of focus for change from the Greater Omaha 2040 Remix Vision and Plan.



OPL's community partners have indicated they are excited about the opportunity to reimagine collaborations with a more effective framework, enabling all to build new strategic partnerships that expand reach, audiences, innovations, and impact.

### Redefining Facilities Standards

When the new Omaha Central Public Library opens, OPL's real estate footprint will be .52 square feet per person. National best practice benchmarks range from .5 to 1.0 square feet per population served. National benchmarks are based on single-use spaces, do not factor in the many local and demographic differences and programming needs that should guide facility design, and do not necessarily prioritize public space for active community use. As OPL grows, it will strive towards meeting these national benchmarks as well as expanding reach with pop-ups, bookmobile services, and partnerships.

This plan focuses on the understanding that library space must be flexible and multi-use, and that each branch location's facility and programming should be a reflection of the profoundly individual nature of each community. This plan's growth and investment strategy is informed by a deep investigation of complex community conditions, with the goal of strengthening strategic partnerships and taking advantage of citywide development opportunities. It also incorporates investments already underway, such as Do Space's integration into the OPL system, which will drive realignment of spaces for future programming for the benefit of all community members.



Community members at a Community Partner Breakfast.



Community members at the Neighborhood Steering Committee orientation.

Therefore, in assessing OPL's facility portfolio, this plan specifically stepped out of the typical library standards mindset and used the community engagement process and contextual data to gather input not just about a specific location's facility issues, but also about the relevant needs of the surrounding community. This approach enables the assessments to be grounded in the communities' perspectives and needs, as well as allows a more innovative exploration of future space use, programming, and partnerships.

### Creating Agile Spaces

OPL is creating a new service model that activates the staff to further engage with patrons, de-emphasizes the service desk, and focuses on developing collections, programs, and resources to meet community needs. Facilities must support OPL's focus on a customized recipe of collections and technologies, expanded collections for families and youth, and realigned public space. This means library facilities must also be adaptable and flexible to ensure social, educational, and learning needs are met. Facilities will need to provide a variety of agile spaces that can be modified and activated by programs, partners, and equipment. Using the recommendations illustrated in the Facilities Framework and in the Branch Profiles concept plans, OPL staff and partners will have the tools to activate spaces for the public most effectively.



North Omaha NSC members at a NSC small-group workshop.

The integration of Do Space into OPL's system also incorporates learnings on how to create conditions for experiential hands-on learning, entrepreneurialism, and digital inclusion within an informal learning environment.

### Equitable Expansion and Investment Based on Data, Need, Usage and Capacity

The 2023 plan reconfirmed the primary recommendation of the 2017 Facilities Plan Update that Southwest Omaha is underserved with a lack of library presence, and the Millard and Elkhorn branches are experiencing high demand from demographic growth.

### Realignment

The 2023 plan not only recommends facilities expansions based on the conventional demographic growth metrics, but also recommends investments throughout the city and at neighborhood branch locations based on the application of the Library Socio-Economic Needs Index, which factors in the socio-economic challenges and opportunities of a community.

Around 70% of the nearly 100,000-square-foot increase of the library portfolio recommended for the next 20 years is allocated to locations in Northwest and Southwest Omaha due to their rapid demographic growth.

To align with citywide quality-of-life objectives, growth and investment recommendations are also based on socio-economic needs and the evolving usage of library branches even when demographic growth is not the driver. Therefore, the Library Facilities Plan also calls for strategic investments throughout the library system for re-imagined library spaces that equitably support specific place-based initiatives over the next 20 years.

Using qualitative and quantitative data and tools for prioritizing investments according to weighted variables, this plan is able to focus expansion recommendations on where there is proven need. The plans range of frameworks and investment tools allow OPL to approach its operational growth through responsible investment decisions that yield the greatest impact.



Community members at the Northwest Omaha Community Open House.



## Increased Library Funding Potential to Meet Community Needs

The Library Facilities Plan process proved that OPL could realize its visionary goals given its responsible approach to growth and investment. Space efficiencies generated by the new Collections Hub and other strategic approaches enable OPL to recapture interior public space for multiple uses and expanded programming while still offering ample browsable collections for readers. This plan calls for an increase of up to 100,000 square feet of library real estate.

Alignment with community partners also optimizes library capacity, extending the function of spaces for multiple uses. This plan enables partners, in addition to staff, to easily activate spaces, which reduces the capital needs for partners and generates savings for the whole citywide community ecosystem.

In addition, this plan is designed to maximize funding opportunities by employing a variety of conventional and non-conventional strategies on an ongoing basis that can be realized by leveraging strategic program partners, as well as by engaging city leaders and citywide departments in annual capital planning.

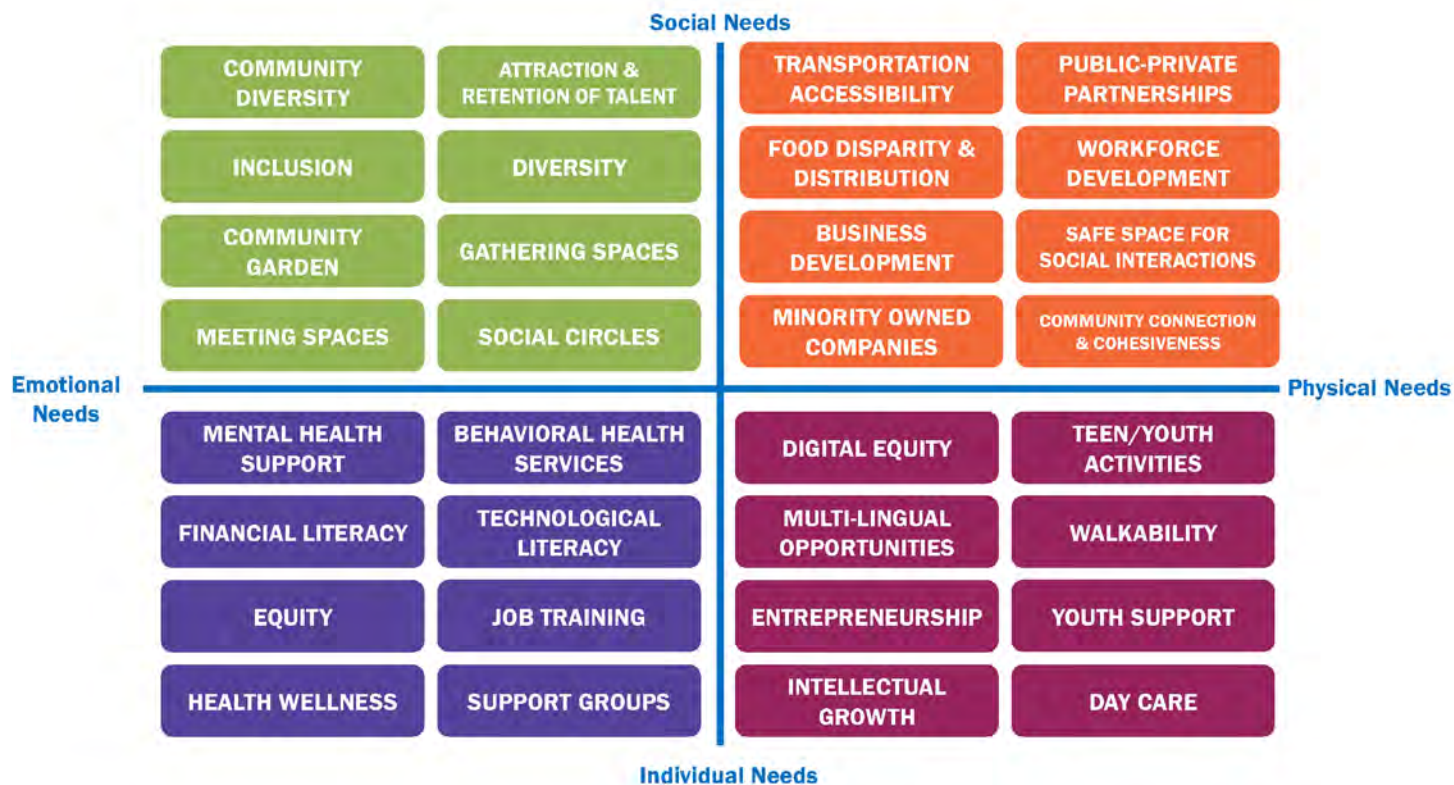
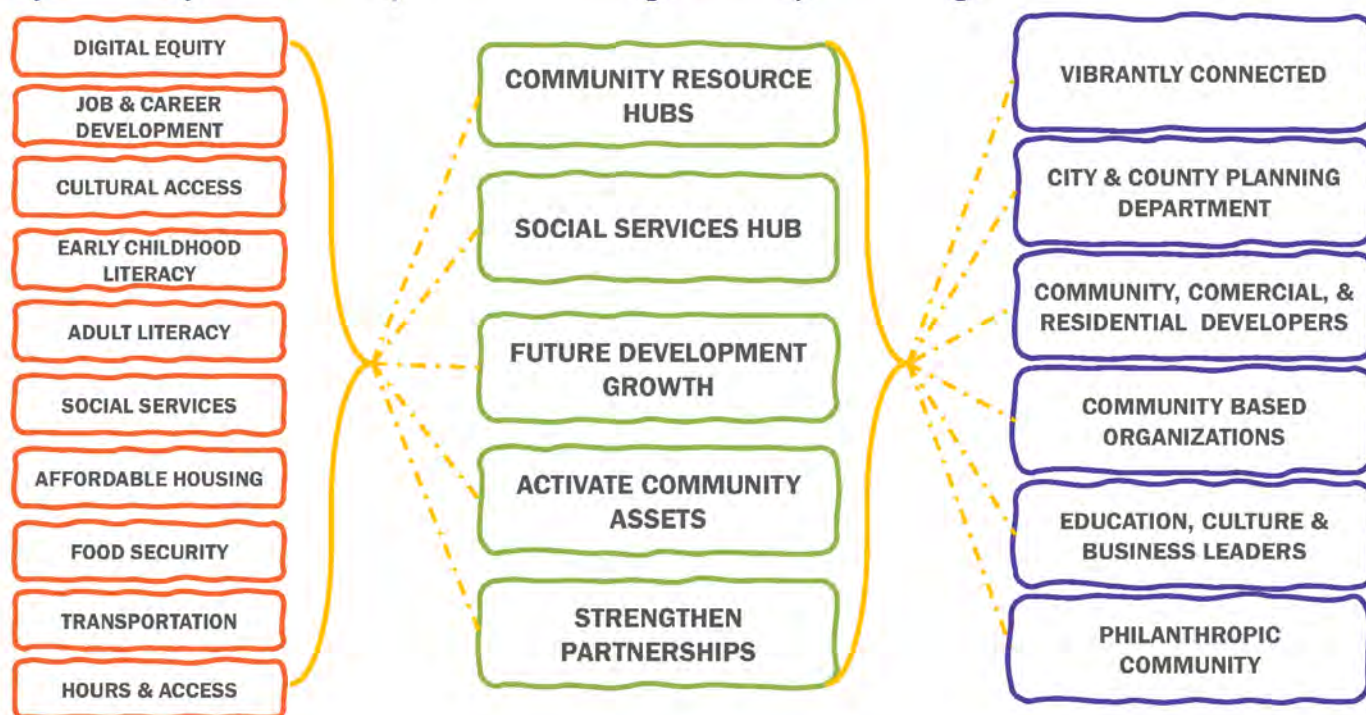
## Identifying Alignments

To derive the greatest value for OPL's facilities investment and growth, the 2023 Library Facilities Plan identifies aligned values, programs, and objectives across the Library system and among community groups and city agencies for greater synergy and impact. The plan:

- Generated community alignments through a study of inputs from partner organizations, the Engagement Committee meetings, the Neighborhood Steering Committees' workshops, and the leadership and staff workshops.
- Studied the learning objectives, experiences, environments, programs, services, collections and technologies of OPL and Do Space to identify shared place-based opportunities and recommended place-based integrations, and enhancements.
- Identified opportunities for investment and growth based on community strengths, partnership opportunities, and a variety of local funding sources.
- Guides ideal locations of services by considering multi-modal transportation options based on drive times, pedestrian and bicycle access, convenience, and the community's expectations and lifestyles.
- Guides future locations of facilities and services based on community inputs, guiding principles for inclusive economic development, and citywide development opportunities.



Leadership working together in new ways.



## THE PROCESS APPLIED THE NATIONAL HEALTHY COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

**DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY &  
INCLUSION**

**CIVIC  
HEALTH**

**ECONOMIC  
HEALTH**

**CULTURAL  
IDENTITY**

**EDUCATIONAL  
HEALTH**

**PERSONAL  
HEALTH**

## THE COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

- Accessibility
- Acknowledgment of Indigenous Histories/Peoples
- Affordable Housing
- Anti-Racism
- Awareness of Services
- Childcare
- Civic Engagement
- Community/Coalition Building
- Community Health
- Community Vitality
- Cultural Diversity & Resilience
- Digital Equity
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Ecological Diversity & Resilience
- Educational Attainment
- Entrepreneurial Support
- Environmental Sustainability
- Equal Opportunity
- Gang Reduction
- Good Governance
- Hands-On Learning
- Home Ownership
- Immigrant & Refugee Support
- Intentionality with Purpose/Time
- Joy & Happiness
- Literacy
- Living Standards/Quality of Life
- Mentorship
- Passion-Based Programming
- Passive Programming
- Pockets of Poverty
- Public Transportation
- Resource Sharing
- Restorative Justice
- Safety
- Violence Reduction
- Voices Heard
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development

## TO GENERATE AN ACTIVATION STRATEGY FOR THE FACILITIES

**LITERACY**

**WORKFORCE &  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**DIGITAL EQUITY  
& INCLUSION**

**COMMUNITY  
HEALTH & SAFETY**

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT**

**CONNECTION TO  
RESOURCES**





*Juneteenth Camp at Charles B. Washington Branch.*

### Individual Branch Assessments

Through observations, interviews, and discussions over the course of the discovery and engagement processes, the plan developed assessments for each branch location. These examine current strengths and challenges, what communities especially need from their branches, relevant demographic trends or shifts, and opportunities there might be for aligning resources to enhance services for community impact.

Neighborhood locations are valued as vibrant neighborhood hubs, and provide an infrastructure across the City and County to address equity issues such as digital access, technological proficiencies, and quality-of-life amenities. In many cases, library users want better access to the branches themselves, raising issues about limited public transportation or long drive times, which opens up consideration of mobile alternatives and other innovative solutions to improve access.

The following outlines opportunities identified in response to how the community already uses the facilities, inputs from community surveys, and the deep knowledge OPL and Do Space staff have about the communities they serve. The branches are organized around the Neighborhood Steering Committees structure.

### North Omaha

**Benson Branch** is adequately sized but needs a realignment of the interior to best cater to the ethnically and socioeconomically diverse community, which has a significant need for social services support and basic technology literacy support. Benson Branch is similar to Charles B. Washington Branch in that it has relationships with community partners who are ready to help provide critically needed social, educational, creative, technological, and workforce services that can bolster Benson Branch as the go-to resource for the community.

**Charles B. Washington Branch** is undersized for its community needs and current usage of the building. The interior layout creates inefficiencies for staff and limits their ability to create ideal conditions for innovative programs that the community needs and enjoys. With increased space and a realigned interior, combined with the nearby North Omaha Transit Center and the supportive network of community-based organizations, Washington Branch has potential to be an even more vital resource for the North Omaha community.

With a new vision, Washington Branch could provide an array of critically needed social, educational, creative, technological, and workforce services for the neighborhood, such as an intergenerational space that combines early literacy and imaginative play space with workforce development tools; environments for small business start-up success; innovative technology tools and collections; a family maker hub; a community greenhouse; and ESL classes.



*Storytime at A.V. Sorensen Branch.*

### **Florence Branch** and **A.V. Sorensen Branch**

both have opportunities to synergize their existing colocated Omaha Parks and Recreation facilities. For example, the libraries and their community centers currently have different operating hours. Florence Branch is the right size for its usage, but there is a need for more tailored programming for its community, mostly seniors and young families. Realigning the interior of Florence Branch could allow for more innovative technology programming and more youth programs while continuing to provide the print materials the community enjoys.

### **Urban Core**

**A.V. Sorensen Branch** is challenged by its limited space and location on the second floor of the building. Even though the square footage is limited, circulation numbers are comparable to surrounding neighborhood branches with more space. Sorensen Branch's greatest needs include more private and shared meeting spaces to gather, work, and study, increased access to internet and technology, and improved access to and awareness of this second-floor library.

**Downtown Branch**, the most recently constructed building, is demonstrating a new service model with its exciting new children's play space and family-centric programming. The branch will continue to serve its current community as well as welcome new community connections.



*Día Celebration at South Omaha Library.*



*Make a sock puppet at Willa Cather Branch.*

### **South Omaha**

**South Omaha Library** needs to be analyzed further to examine its relationship to its community and assess how to align more effectively with the neighborhood. Its shared location with the South Omaha Metropolitan Community College campus on the north side of Q Street creates the perception that it is only a library for college students, which may contribute to its underuse. The community is linguistically and culturally diverse with critical needs that the library could better address. In addition to a strong Latino and Hispanic community from a number of Central American countries, the community is composed of a significant population of people of Irish, Italian and Eastern European descent and includes young families and homeschool children.

South Omaha Library can support community needs with tools for technology literacy, multicultural materials, job assistance, social service support, and bilingual programming and staff. Beyond this, the branch has the opportunity to drive greater community engagement with responsive, creative programming such as bilingual services, an urban gardening program, cultural heritage support, and robust technology programming. A distributed service model with pop-ups may help the branch overcome the perception that some view the facility as removed from the neighborhood.





Storytime at W. Clarke Swanson Branch.

**Willa Cather Branch** has outgrown its building size and needs expanded parking. However, the limited size of the site may prohibit rebuilding and expanding at its current location. A potential new site would need to be as close as possible to the current branch location on Center Street, which provides a much-needed community hub for the neighborhood and critical access for those who utilize the nearby U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

With diverse users, OPL staff creatively devise places for community members to have private interactions, such as phone calls, case worker visits, and family visitations. A new building could better accommodate these needs, as well as provide study rooms, an intergenerational meeting space, more parking, and flexible spaces to support adult programs and an adult learning lab.

## Southwest Omaha

**Millard Branch's** building is adequate in size, but since the location covers a large service area and situated on that area's border, usage of the branch is overwhelming. A potential solution is a new branch in Southwest Omaha to offset the volume of users. This would enable a redesign of the Millard Branch interior space to increase the number and types of meeting areas that are already in high demand. With limited public transportation in the southwest part of the city, most users drive to the location.

The community's needs include a variety of spaces for private meetings, work, and study; technology such as video conferencing capabilities in meeting rooms; computers and printers; and spaces to gather for a variety of activities. Specific strategies to respond to community needs could include expanded family programming, enhanced gardening programs and collections with a seed library and greenhouse, providing stronger Wi-Fi, and creating a spectrum of loud and quiet spaces.

**W. Clarke Swanson Branch's** size is well-suited to its usage, but a realigned interior could better provide services for its loyal patrons. Its patrons are from the surrounding neighborhoods but many also come from outside the service area, especially from the north and west regions as they stop by in the course of their travels. The community is socioeconomically diverse, comprising both homeowners and renters, and their needs include services for affordable housing, child care, social connection, study rooms, and equitable transit/walkability.

Swanson Branch has the opportunity to strengthen digital resources such as newspaper archives, historical maps and images, and genealogy databases as well as further curate its collections with fiction, mysteries, historical fiction, children/teen/adult collections, games and puzzles to honor what the community already enjoys. Programming for storytelling and writing about Omaha and family history, with a specialized hub for genealogy and local history, could help promote social cohesion.



Penelope Rex Storytime at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch.

## Northwest Omaha

**Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch** is the second busiest library in Omaha's system yet its building is OPL's third smallest in square footage. The branch could benefit from being rebuilt and expanded, which the current site would allow.

In addition to a demand for increased space, Elkhorn Branch's programs are over-capacity and library services could expand to meet existing and growing needs, particularly places for people to meet, socialize, work, study, and tutor.

Elkhorn Branch has the opportunity to become a true hub for community gathering. In response to its creative community, the branch could provide a DIY maker space, arts studio, and performance space. Providing more parking could improve access to the library, and collaboration with Omaha Parks and Recreation could increase activities using outdoor space.

**Milton R. Abrahams Branch's** building size is well-suited to its community, though the library interior needs to be realigned to better serve its patrons. Its community is composed of working-class members from diverse backgrounds, job seekers, families, people needing technology help, those experiencing homelessness, and clients and caregivers from the nearby Developmental Disability Center of Nebraska.



*Music Evoking Stories at Milton R. Abrahams Branch.*

The community especially needs basic technology access and literacy support, innovative creation space, programs related to healthy aging and food insecurity, as well as social and governmental services help. The addition of Do Space at this location will activate and engage all ages in community co-creating. Additional changes might include a playground for technologies and new ideas, family and adult programming, an expanded seed library, innovative community co-creation spaces, career preparation and outdoor space for community.



*Music and Movement at Saddlebrook Branch.*

**Saddlebrook Branch's** partnership with Omaha Public Schools and Parks and Recreation brings both challenges and benefits. The branch is not able to expand on its site due to its partnerships, even though its high circulation and program attendance would suggest doing so. Public transportation and access to the building is poor, and utilization outside of the Saddlebrook neighborhood users needs to continue to be evaluated. Saddlebrook Branch's community includes young families, including new immigrant families, many from India and Southeast Asia. The Library could better provide places for the community to gather and host events, for senior socializing, and for positive experiences for teens/tweens.





WELCOME  
HOME TO THE  
THIRD SPACE!

Have you checked out something that is  
**OUT OF THIS WORLD?**  
Ask at the front desk to make your star recommendation!

DINOSAURS ARE LOOSE IN THE CHILDREN'S AREA!  
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ALL 9 DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS TO DISCOVER WHICH DINOSAUR MADE EACH ONE!  
(ASK AT THE DESK FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT SHEET)

# Do Space Integration



# Do Space Integration

Do Space is the first of its kind in the nation: a free community technology library, digital workshop, and innovation playground designed to foster digital equity and literacy, catalyze innovation and entrepreneurship, and provide exposure to technology. Opened in 2015, Do Space has worked to address some of Omaha's most urgent challenges surrounding digital equity from its easily accessible location at 72nd and Dodge streets.

Do Space's more than 90,000 members enjoy access to resources, technologies, programs, classes, and events. They have free access to powerful fiber Wi-Fi internet, high-end computer stations and software, 3D printers, laser printers, and additional state-of-the-art technologies. Programs, classes, and events appeal to all ages and are focused on project-based experiential learning, such as Little's Lab, Kid Coders, Make.Hack.Build., #MakersGonnaMake, Cyber Seniors, Hello Code, Excel-erate, Summer Passport Program, mentorship programs, and the Tech Pack program.



*Tech Playground with Omaha Public Schools at Do Space.*

Do Space's impact in Omaha has been tremendous. With a primary focus on serving under-connected, low-income individuals, Do Space has provided access to hardware, software, Wi-Fi, and technology classes to ensure the tens of thousands of those in the Omaha area without access to adequate technology have opportunities for education and resources needed to stay competitive in the job market, fully participate in school, and connect with others through technology.

With a secondary focus on fostering innovation, ingenuity, and progress, Do Space supports entrepreneurs, inventors, and creators - providing opportunities for individuals to fully participate in and contribute to Omaha's creative economy. For these members, Do Space provides coworking and networking events, spaces for client meetings, and a venue for passion projects, prototyping, and design thinking.

This impact has garnered national accolades for Do Space, including an award in innovation for racial and social equity from the Urban Libraries Council, and features on NPR's All Things Considered and in American Libraries Design Showcase.



*Tech Playground with Omaha Public Schools at Do Space.*

The Library Facilities Plan takes the success of Do Space and creates a pathway for rapid expansion to OPL's network of anchor institutions to reach all Douglas County residents. The Do Space integration will provide unparalleled access and exposure to technology for all styles of learners and it will also play a key part in enhancing storytelling in all its vibrant forms. Do Space's planned integration throughout the OPL system will enhance and complement the programming and trusted relationships OPL has enjoyed with its community for over 150 years.

Do Space's success also informs and confirms the placemaking recommendations of this plan: provide the conditions for experiential learning; create spaces that continually evolve in response to developing technologies and community demands; and design physical spaces that foster creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical inquiry.

### Activating Do Space at OPL

To envision a distribution of the Do Space experience throughout the OPL system, the plan studied both of the institutions' programs and activities and aligned them with general space types. The analysis shows overlap and gaps that can be filled where programs can be integrated or added to optimize and support the OPL mission. Six exemplary programs of OPL and Do Space are described to show cross pollination.

## Exemplary OPL Programs

### Storytime

OPL offers various storytimes for youth across the system. There is a storytime program that uses music and movement to promote literacy through song, dance, and play. OPL also does Out and About storytimes in different non-library locations throughout the Omaha metro area. South Omaha Library offers a weekly storytime for Spanish-speakers.

### Arts & Crafts Makerspace

OPL offers various opportunities for children and teens to make different craft projects for a hands-on learning experience.

### Spark Your Story

Charles B. Washington Branch hosts community members such as artists, activists, and business leaders to share their stories, providing examples for teens to explore storytelling and feel empowered to explore new ways to express themselves.

### Common Soil Seed Library

This program shares open-pollinated seeds to spread awareness and information about gardening and seed saving. In addition to the seeds, OPL offers related books, DVDs, and online and in-person classes to supplement learning around gardening.

### Book Club Bags

Book club bags are available to all ages and contain seven to twelve copies of a specific book, a notebook for discussion questions, author information, and other materials. Some kits may also contain a spoken CD and a large-print copy.

### Partnership Passes

Patron's OPL cards give them access to Omaha-area educational, entertainment and cultural destinations, such as Fontenelle Forest, Heartland Bike Share, Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha's Children Museum, the Durham Museum, and Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.



Tech Playground with Omaha Public Schools at Do Space.







## Exemplary Do Space Programs

### Little's Lab

Do Space offers children two to five years old the opportunity to tinker with projects that engage fine motor skills and a planning-revision process.

### Kid Coders

This program fosters coding and computer science interest by focusing on different coding-related and hands-on projects. It is best for elementary-aged children.

### Mentor Programs

Do Space offers one-on-one sessions with a mentor to help strengthen basic to advanced technology skills and improve hardware and software understanding.

### Cyber Seniors

One of the most popular programs at Do Space, which offers one-on-one help for seniors looking to improve their technology skills.




### Tech Kits

Tech Kits are checked out for in-building or at-home use to learn and explore technology on your own. Kits include tech toys, robots, mini programmable computers and simple how-to instructions. These are offered to all age groups.

### Lunch and Learns

Do Space hosts various types of sessions to aid technology literacy and workforce development.

There are infinite ways for OPL and Do Space programs to flourish together. The Common Soil Seed Library can provide Little's Lab with a sustainability-focused project. Spark Your Story and Lunch and Learns can become creative networking events. Book club bags can be adapted to include Tech Kits that community members can try in the library or at home. Integrations like these steward OPL's vision to be an essential catalyst, connector, and collaborator for the community.

SMALL [\$]	MEDIUM [\$]	LARGE [\$\$\$]
 <p><b>DO SPACE POP-UP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary installation or event offering Do Space programs and services</li> </ul>	 <p><b>DO SPACE PROGRAMMING AND/OR REFRESHED, MODERN TECHNOLOGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activating spaces with program or new technology</li> </ul>	 <p><b>DEDICATED DO SPACE LOCATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within library space with specialty equipment and experimental technology</li> </ul>

This matrix illustrates scenarios for successful integration of the Do Space experience into the OPL system through small, medium, and large projects that all create high impact.

## OPL EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS

## DO SPACE EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS

STORYTIME



ARTS & CRAFTS  
MAKERSPACE



SPARK  
YOUR  
STORY



COMMON  
SOIL SEED  
LIBRARY



BOOK CLUB  
BAGS



PARTNERSHIP  
PASSES



LITTLES LAB



TECH KITS



KID  
CODERS



CYBER  
SENIORS



LUNCH &  
LEARNS



MENTOR  
PROGRAMS





# Community Inputs

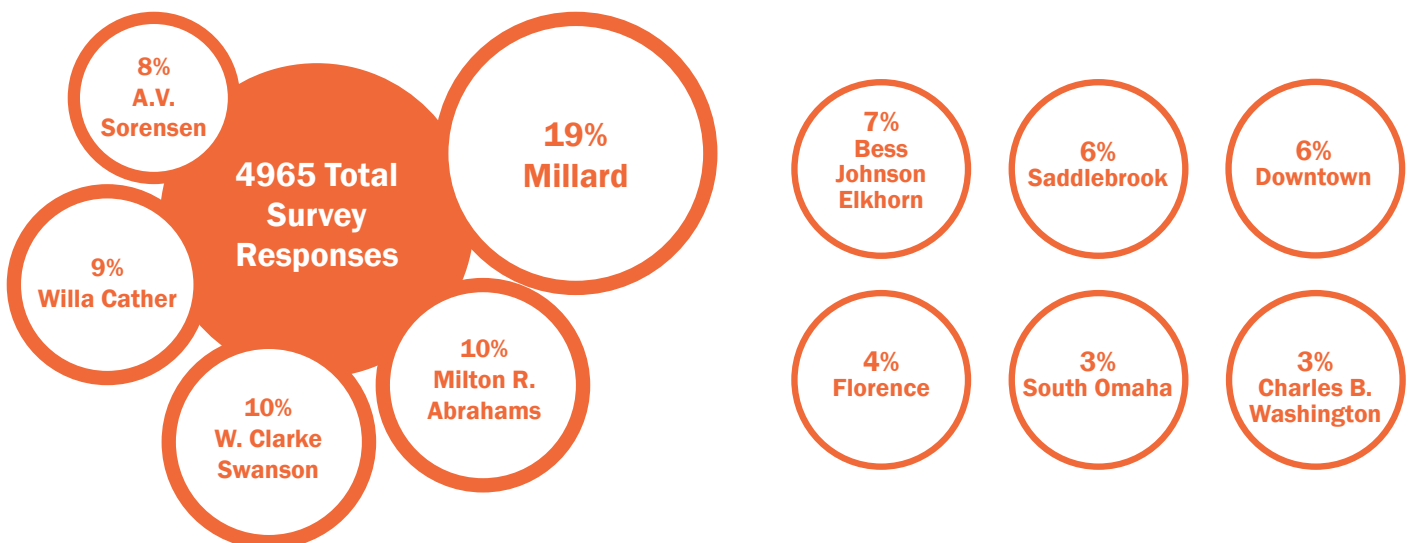
# Community Inputs

The ambitious Library Facilities Plan community engagement process produced a tremendous amount of inputs and insights that will help inform OPL and the City of Omaha in prioritizing Library decisions and creating a mechanism for the City

to apply these learnings when considering future citywide library investments. The following pages represent systemwide results of the community survey. The Branch Profiles provide localized details and differentiators for each community.

## Citywide Library Survey (February 15th - May 1st)

### Survey Response Rate by OPL Branch



A Citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

**Literate**  
**Curious**  
**Innovative**  
**Equitable and Inclusive**  
**Accessible**

...Omaha!

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Community Member (Meeting Space)

**Family or Individual** **Professional**  
**Caregiver** **Reader** **Maker or Creative**  
**Volunteer** **Researcher or Family History Enthusiast**  
**Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)**  
**Gardener**

1. **Reader** looking to borrow books, attend author readings and book clubs, and / or receive reading recommendations.
2. **Family or Individual** looking for free educational / cultural activities through OPL's Partnership Pass.
3. **Caregiver** looking for books, programs, and technologies, for those in my care.
4. **Gardener** looking for resources or access to OPL's Common Soil Seed Library.
5. **Maker or Creative** looking for access to crafting, laser cutting, 3D Lab tools, software, or studio space.
6. **Professional** looking for a place to network and/or work remotely.
7. **Community Member** looking for meeting space.
8. **Researcher or Family History Enthusiast** looking to access OPL's extensive archive or genealogical collections.
9. **Community Member** looking for internet and/or computer access.
10. **Volunteer** looking for opportunities with OPL, Do Space, and/or other community organizations.

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your library?



Community Garden



Vibrant Cafe



Outdoor Reading Garden



Outdoor Community Space



Art Gallery



Quiet Room



Tool Library



Reading Nooks



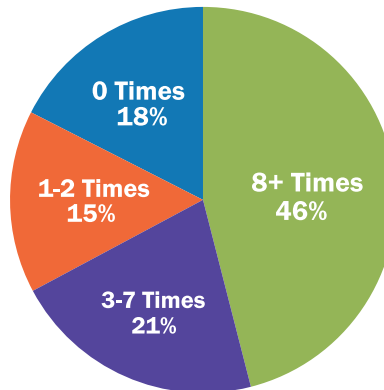
Food Truck Zone



Early Childhood Play Space

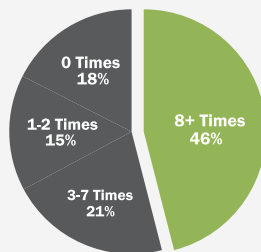


## How frequently have you visited OPL in the last 12 Months?



VISITS TO OPL

### MOST FREQUENT VISITORS TO OPL:



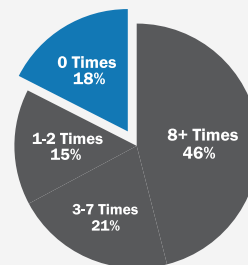
### How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL?

**Gardener** **Researcher or Family History Enthusiast**  
**Maker or Creative** **Technology Learner**  
**Caregiver** **Reader** **Family or Individual**  
**Community Member (Internet/Computer access)**  
**Professional** **Community Member (Meeting Space)**

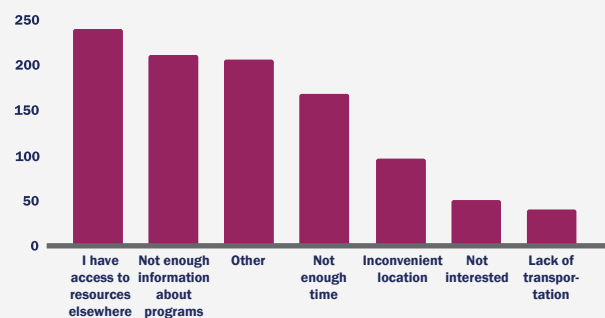
### What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your library?



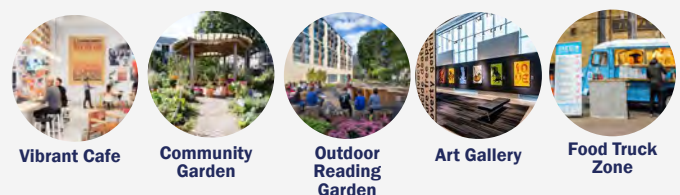
### LEAST FREQUENT VISITORS TO OPL:



### What, if anything, currently discourages you from visiting OPL?



### What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your library?



# A Living Document for Citywide Development & Impact

The Citywide Library Facilities Plan is designed as a living document that will deliver investment strategies for realignment and a roadmap for development opportunities and facilities expansion for the next 20 years. Instead of a set of prescriptive recommendations, the plan provides a flexible framework with a dynamic set of tools, models, and funding strategies to position OPL to proactively plan, make informed decisions, understand a spectrum of options and levels of investment, and implement changes over time. These mechanisms are designed to advance overarching service goals for OPL, as well as ways the library's neighborhood locations can better serve their communities.

The plan's flexible frameworks are designed to anticipate and support micro and macro issues across the facilities planning process and to grow and adapt to evolving conditions throughout the city over time.

1

Omaha Public Library's Citywide Development Typologies is a structured guide to citywide service growth and development that takes advantage of a variety of operating and funding strategies.

2

Omaha Public Library's Branch Profiles incorporate a flexible set of placemaking components and culturally-responsive designs for each location's neighborhood.

3

An Investment to Impact Strategy based on small, medium, large projects all designed to achieve high impact, with a recipe of funding strategies.

4

Decision-Making Framework for the City of Omaha, community partners, and library leaders to work collectively to identify and recommend capital investments annually.







# Recommendations

# Recommendations

This plan calls for a citywide expansion and investment strategy for the next 20 years that is inherently flexible and responsive. It provides facility investment options, decision-making and implementation frameworks, tools for achieving equitable growth and partnership activation, and branch-specific recommendations.

## Facilities Strategies

The investment strategies support capital projects that could transform each library location over the next 20 years. These **Facility Strategies** are based on opportunities to realign services, respond imaginatively to community and partner growth and measure success through utilization and positive community experiences. Each location is assessed against seven levels of growth based on readiness and opportunities. In some cases, locations receive a combination of recommendations.

**New Build:** A new library location building.

**Rebuild:** Facilities that cannot be renovated to meet the needs of the community yet need to be replaced at the same location.

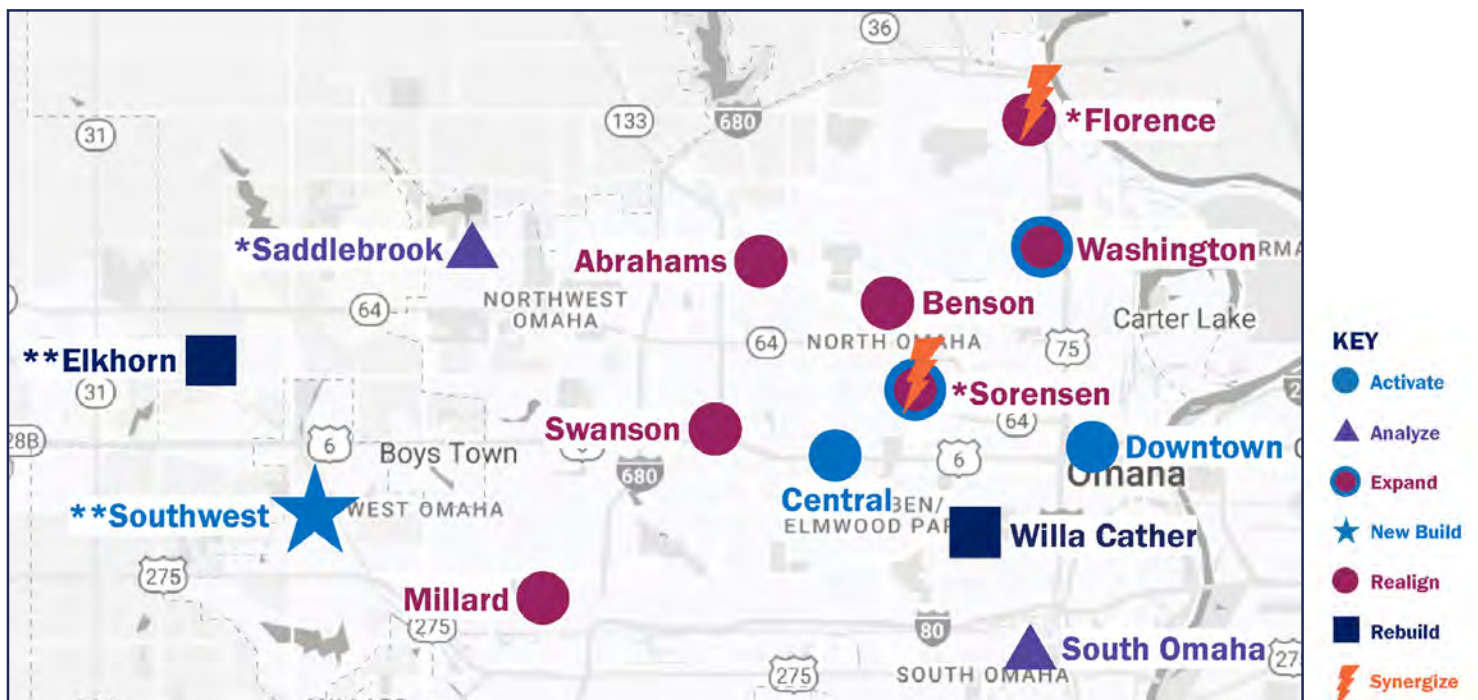
**Realign:** The renovation of existing facilities to create ideal conditions for successful services with a culturally relevant aesthetic.

**Expand:** Existing facilities that could be expanded to serve the growth and demand of the community.

**Activate:** Locations that already provide OPL's 21st century service model yet need tools and further development to fully realize their potential.

**Synergize:** Colocated facilities that can expand on family-centered experiences by capitalizing on shared spaces and operational partnerships.

**Analyze:** Facilities that will continue to be evaluated to confirm the long-term plan in support of future services and programs.



Colocation with Parks and Recreation (Saddlebrook is collocated with Parks and Recreation and Omaha Public Schools)

\*Current

\*\*Potential

# Development Typologies

## Omaha Public Library's Citywide Development Typologies

To help OPL and the City of Omaha plan for place-based programming in growing and transforming neighborhoods, the plan outlines facility types and development concepts, or **Development Typologies**, for pursuing creative growth opportunities across the OPL system.

**The Omaha Central Public Library** will serve as a destination and a demonstration of the comprehensive services and partnerships OPL offers all residents. This is where OPL will showcase systemwide services in a world-class design, and community members can enjoy a library experience that complements their neighborhood libraries.

**Neighborhood Anchor Locations** provide customized services based on community needs. Reflecting the character of each community, neighborhood locations anchor programs and partnerships to activate experiences for community members to enjoy both at the library and in the community.

**Colocation / Campus** are neighborhood library locations that function as joint-use facilities with other organizations to deliver a family-centered experience of learning, recreation, arts and culture, social services, career and workforce, and health and wellness. In the future, these models will be synergistic and may even include cross-training staff to holistically integrate experiences in service of families and community members.

**Mixed-Use Development** is a neighborhood library located in a mixed-use development that blends multiple uses, such as residential, commercial, and cultural into one location. In recent years, public libraries have employed mixed-use development to secure innovative funding sources.

**Retail/Storefront** are leased locations that allow a public library to provide services in a location for a limited amount of time, serving as a means to cultivate new audiences, strengthen strategic partnerships, and quickly embed services in a community. They allow public libraries to increase service reach before a significant capital investment is required.

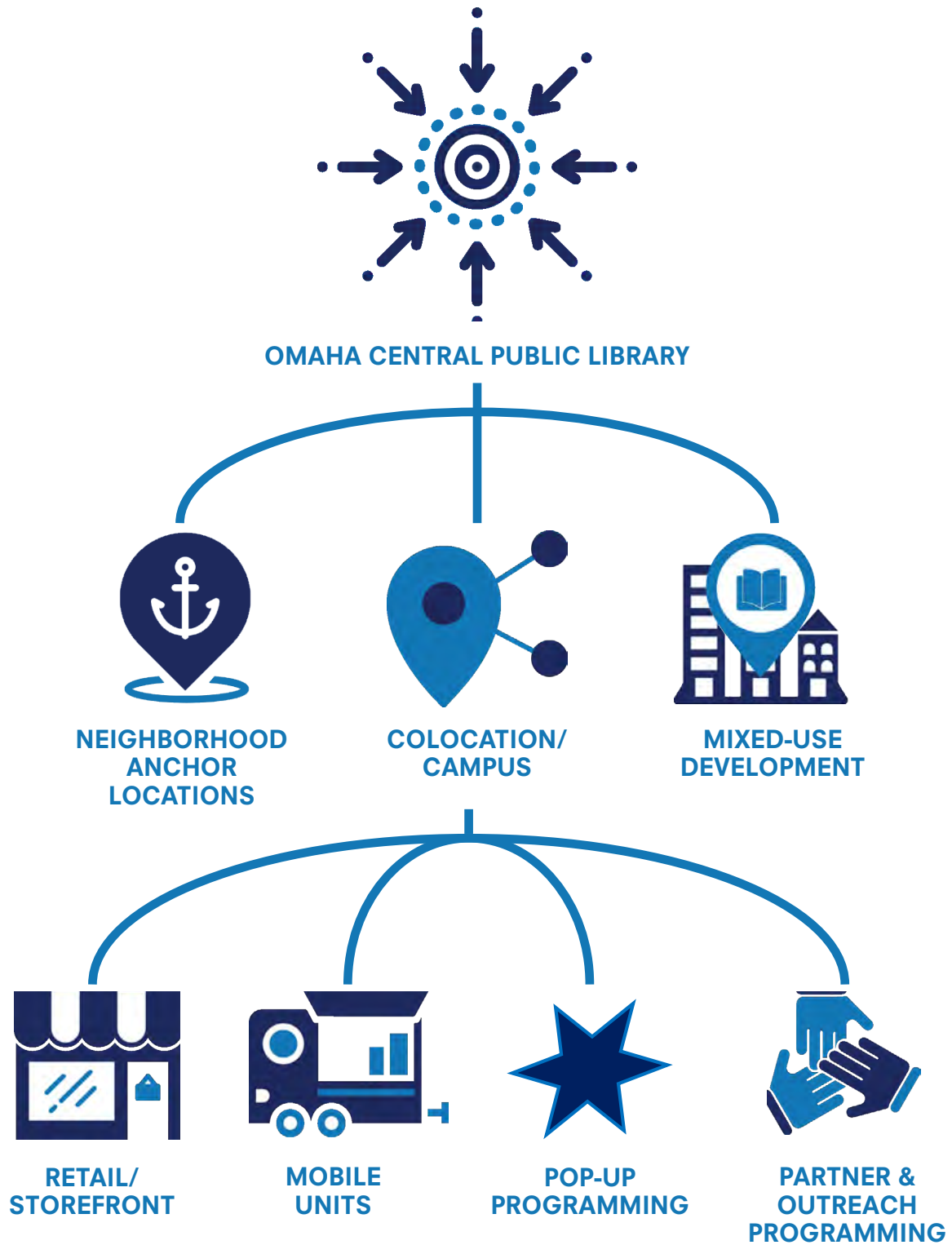
**Mobile Units** provide library services to community members where they live, work, and play. Mobile library units are evolving to offer collections offerings, Wi-Fi access and creative programming. OPL will launch a mobile unit in summer 2023 for outreach to community members throughout Douglas County.

**Pop-up Programming** enables small-scale, movable outreach, and provides one or two programs to the community at a time. Pop-ups could be library pickup lockers or program kiosks in partner locations where a library building or a colocation isn't a good fit, but where the area still needs library services.

Pop-ups can be stationed in any neighborhood for a short period of time or can be regularly moved throughout Omaha at community events and festivals, enabling OPL to meet community members where they are, take advantage of citywide events, and prototype future partnerships.

**Partner & Outreach Programming** is place-based experiences that OPL delivers at partner and outreach locations.





# An Equitable Approach

## An Equitable Approach to Citywide Library Facilities Growth

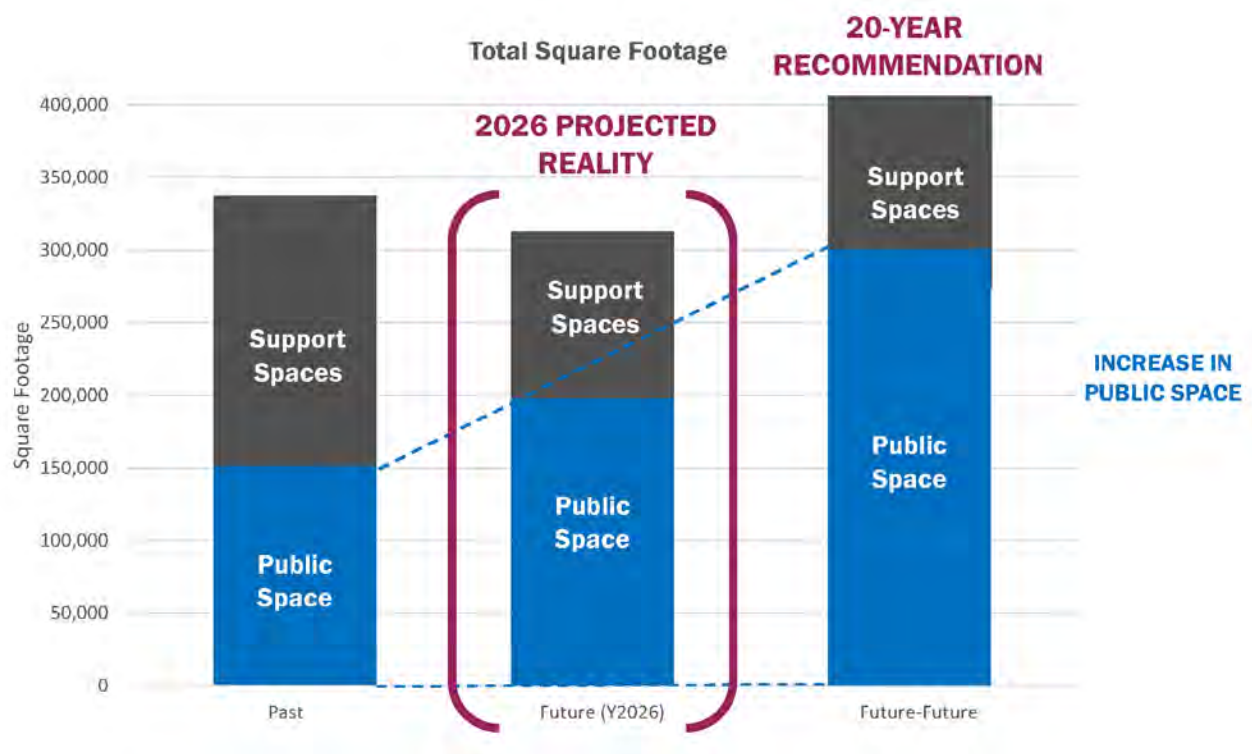
This plan provides the following systemwide expansion recommendations for the next 20 years. The plan looks at each library location's transformation from the perspective of the Facilities Strategies as well as the Branch Profiles and their individualized recipes of programs and placemaking components derived from community inputs. Note that where expansion is recommended, this plan calls for a range, and expansion plans should be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis to respond to community needs, OPL organizational capacities, and funding sources.

The plan recommends an overall increase in the library's real estate portfolio of a range of 80,000 –

100,000 additional square feet over 20 years, with the majority of this additional footprint intended for Southwest and Northwest Omaha, where demographic growth is the highest.

Additionally, as a result of the efficiencies realized with the Collections Hub and the related realignment of space throughout the system, OPL will be able to realign up to an additional 50,000 square feet of public space.

This realignment of public space throughout the system will catalyze equitable neighborhood development where all communities benefit from an aspirational vision for growth and impact as summarized below and elaborated upon in the **Branch Profiles**.



*Realignment of public space.*







# Branch by Branch Strategies

## Branch by Branch Future Investment Strategies

This plan recommends that **Benson Branch** be realigned to incorporate the spaces and programs to better serve their communities such as dedicated creative and event spaces as well as a social services space.

The recommendation for **Charles B. Washington Branch** is a renovation and expansion on the current site to meet the community aspirations and needs. The zoning can be evaluated to understand where best to carve out space for expansion. The realigned spaces can be retrofitted with technology and creative equipment to support this community's entrepreneurial spirit.

For **Florence Branch**, the plan recommends a renovation with a call to synergize the library services and spaces more intentionally with the recreation center. Both entities can mutually benefit from shared indoor and outdoor spaces and a vibrant shared entry to support more dedicated programming and activities. The renovated spaces would allow for loud and quiet zones where the community can best express themselves.

Similarly the recommendation for **A.V. Sorensen Branch** is to realign its spaces and, by synergizing with the recreation center downstairs, the entities can mutually benefit from traditional library services and more active, engaged activities that require dedicated space. If feasible, A.V. Sorensen Branch can be expanded on-site to better accommodate its neighborhood usage and offer more needed meeting space.

The new **Central Public Library** and **Downtown Branch** will be activated with their already designed 21st century service model.



*Rainbow Fish visit at Milton R. Abrahams Branch.*

**South Omaha Library** will be further analyzed to better understand its relationship to the surrounding neighborhood regarding its physical footprint and its partnership within a shared facility.

The plan suggests that **Willa Cather Branch** will need to be rebuilt and expanded, preferably onsite. If the current lot cannot accommodate a large footprint and added parking, the building should be rebuilt as close as possible to its current location. Its current location provides a community hub in the neighborhood that lacks an intimate main street feel and its proximity to the Veterans Affairs campus is crucial.

A new southwest location in the future would alleviate pressure on **Millard Branch** and give it the room to explore new programming that the community wants. As a result, Millard Branch's interior can be realigned with more meeting spaces and dedicated children and family spaces to best serve its community aspirations and needs.

A new **Southwest Branch** location continues to be a priority to meet the demands of the population growth in that area. The program vision, "Storytelling in all its Vibrant Forms" developed in 2019, remains the guide for this development. A colocation with Parks and Recreation should be explored.

This plan calls for **W. Clarke Swanson Branch** to be realigned on the main floor to provide dedicated spaces for community meeting, a quiet reading room, and dedicated family play space. On the lower level, the space can be designed to be a merchandising area for the Friends of Omaha Public Library.

This plan recommends that **Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch** be rebuilt onsite with expanded parking. The larger building would allow the location to expand its programming and allow for more dedicated spaces for creativity, as well as communal spaces for the community's expressed need for social gathering. This plan recommends a colocation with Parks and Recreation.

**Milton R. Abrahams Branch** is currently being realigned to create a model for how the Do Space integration can be dispersed throughout the Library system. Learning of this prototype will inform the future investment and interior renovations.

**Saddlebrook Branch** will be analyzed to determine the benefits and trade-offs of its location embedded in a subdevelopment and within a shared facility.

BRANCH	YEAR BUILT	LAST RENO	RECOMENDATION	CURRENT SF	NEW SF	TOTAL SF
BENSON	1946	1998	Realign	20,300		20,300
WASHINGTON	1972	2006	Realign/Expand	16,675	8-12,000	24-28,000
FLORENCE	1976	2010	Realign/Synergize	7,412		7,412 *
SORENSEN	1976	2009	Realign/Expand/Synergize	6,495	4-6,000	10-12,000 *
CENTRAL	2026	-	Activate	96,000		96,000
DOWNTOWN	2023	-	Activate	30,000		30,000
SOUTH OMAHA	2008	-	Analyze	21,050	4-10,000	25-30,000
WILLA CATHER	1956	-	Rebuild	11,477	7-13,000	18-24,000
MILLARD	1981	1999	Realign	31,360		31,360
SOUTHWEST	-	-	New Build	-	28-40,000	28-40,000 **
SWANSON	1966	2010	Realign	24,495		24,495
ELKHORN	1996	-	Rebuild	7,893	16-22,000	24-30,000 **
ABRAHAMS	1988	2011	Realign	20,450		20,450
SADDLEBROOK	2009	-	Analyze	14,155	2-8,000	16-24,000 *
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>307,762</b>	<b>69-111,000</b>	<b>375-418,017</b>

Colocation with Parks and Recreation (Saddlebrook is colocated with Parks and Recreation and Omaha Public Schools)

\*Current

\*\* Potential

# Partner Activation Strategy

This Library Facilities Plan is designed to exponentially increase the impact of Omaha's robust community-based network of services. By strategically connecting with existing community resources, place-based social-impact programming, and the talented workforce of community partners, OPL can optimize facilities utilization and grow organizational capacity.

The plan promotes facilities investments that support strategic partnerships with neighborhood-based organizations and activate public library spaces for shared outcome goals. It recommends partner-ready facility designs that provide flexible, adaptable meeting and community spaces.

To help OPL tap into resources more synergistically, this plan provides models for three levels of partner engagement: program partners, place-based partners, and long-term strategic partners.

To encourage proactive partner opportunities, the plan also furnishes OPL locations with a "partner recipe" based on community assets, needs, and existing partner relationships. Branch locations have a partner readiness score based on the following criteria:

1. Can facility utilization be increased?
2. How well organized is the community of partners?
3. Does OPL already enjoy synergistic relationships with community partners?
4. Are there opportunities to increase OPL capacity and staff skills and talents in response to community needs and requests?
5. Are there opportunities to increase diversity and representation in OPL's workforce to reflect the community's diversity?
6. Are there opportunities to catalyze the workforce development pipeline for the library profession and Omaha's inclusive economic development goals?

## PARTNER ACTIVATION ASSESSMENT (HIGHEST POTENTIAL TO WORK WITH PARTNERSHIPS IN NEW WAYS)



*\*Partner activation assessment for the following locations will be reevaluated in later phases: Central, Downtown, Elkhorn, Millard, Saddlebrook, and Southwest. Program Partnerships will continue to flourish in all locations.*



## IMPACT STATEMENT

We are developing a **ESL course** for tech learners to help ESL students of all ages learn english in the tech world using a **tech space for learning** to support **DEI and Educational Health**.

## PARTNERS

Technology Partner

Educational Partner

Language Partner

Community Organization Partner

## LIBRARY JOURNEY

Tool Library



Language Center



Innovative Technology Space



Tech Arts Lab



Storytelling Lab



## IMPACT STATEMENT

We are developing a **playful learning space** to help create opportunities for parent-child interaction to enhance early literacies and lifelong success using **learning embedded playspaces, play dates with families** to support the concept that **parents and caring adults** are the most important aspect of a child's life and learning and success.

## PARTNERS

Educational Partner

Early Childhood Partner

Social Services Partner

Community Organization Partner

## LIBRARY JOURNEY

Early Childhood Play Space



Reading Nooks



Outdoor Play Space



Homework Help Station



Community Kitchen



At the February 2023 Community Partner Breakfasts, community partners generated about fifty impact statements that they could imagine accomplishing with the library. The diagrams above are two examples of partner impact statements illustrated by a possible journey through the library and the spaces and places that would support the impact.

# Branch Profiles

**Branch Profiles** are customized descriptions of each location's strengths, assets, and future opportunities with corresponding recommendations for how they can better connect community members and partners and optimize their facilities for community impact. They recommend a selection of placemaking strategies, interior renovations, and neighborhood development opportunities to help specific branch locations better activate programs and partnerships. Each Branch Profile consists of:

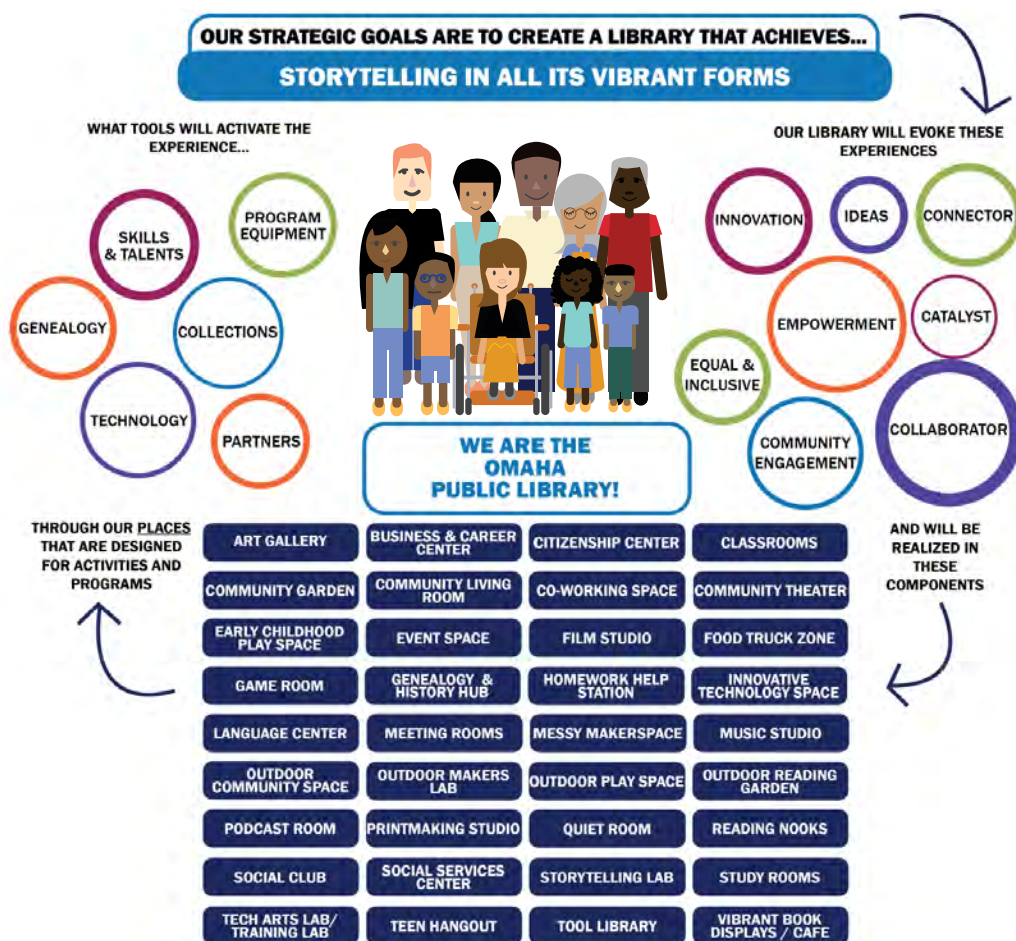
1. **Community Served:** a description of the branch location's current character and community served derived from community and staff inputs.
2. **Facilities Utilization:** identification of the branch's current usage.
3. **Community Inputs:** community data from community surveys, open houses, and NSC conversations.
4. **Concept Plan:** a proposed concept plan derived from community-driven placemaking components.
5. **Exemplary Programs:** examples of community-driven programming to activate the spaces.
6. **OPL, Do Space, and Outreach Integration:** experiences for concept plan activations.
7. **Prioritization Matrix:** a recommendation of small, medium, and large projects aligned with community inputs.
8. **Feels like...:** a page of reference and case study imagery.



## Placemaking Components

Each Branch Profile's concept plans are derived from a flexible set of placemaking components designed to engage communities and provide culturally-responsive designs that are customizable for each location. These placemaking components, defined as both spaces and programs, are requests derived directly from the community inputs. For each community, they translate into programs, services, spaces, and resources depending on the library's size, community demand, and partnership activation strategies.

In the concept plans, all library locations are composed of a mix of open spaces that include vibrant book displays, an intergenerational living room, an art gallery, a digital learning zone, a messy maker space, a youth and family zone, and community gardens. This is augmented by a variety of flexible meeting spaces that can be modified for specialty programs and partnerships. All locations also have a variety of customized specialty spaces derived from community inputs. Examples include a citizenship center at locations with larger immigrant communities, an early childhood play space for neighborhoods with many families, and co-working spaces for those seeking opportunities to work together.





# Implementation Framework

# Implementation Framework

## Funding and Budgeting

Historically, funding for OPL facilities has come from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The majority of this funding has been from a CIP fund that is allocated by the City of Omaha on an annual basis to priority projects. Douglas County contributes annually and the OPL Foundation also funds small projects and facility refreshes.

This plan recommends incorporating these conventions with a comprehensive approach to leveraging partnerships with Omaha's philanthropic community, exploring innovative community economic development funding sources, and incorporating strategic partner opportunities. Douglas County residents and the OPL system will benefit from this strategy and variety of programming and capital monies, optimizing facilities utilization.

This recipe of funding strategies is illustrated on the following page.

At the time of this plan's publication, the City of Omaha has demonstrated a significant investment in Library facilities in the past two years, with a commitment to the new Central Public Library, the new Downtown Branch, and the Library Administration Building (LAB). Additionally, the large philanthropic investment in the new Central Public Library shows the commitment Omaha residents have to OPL.

At the time of this plan's publication, the City of Omaha's current CIP has funding earmarked for a new southwest location. Although this plan does not represent a specific request for funding or implementation, it does advise that these monies be allocated to a new southwest location, as intended.



*Grand opening of the Downtown Branch.*

## Funding and Investment Models

Capital funding for public library projects in Omaha has historically been paid for through the following sources:

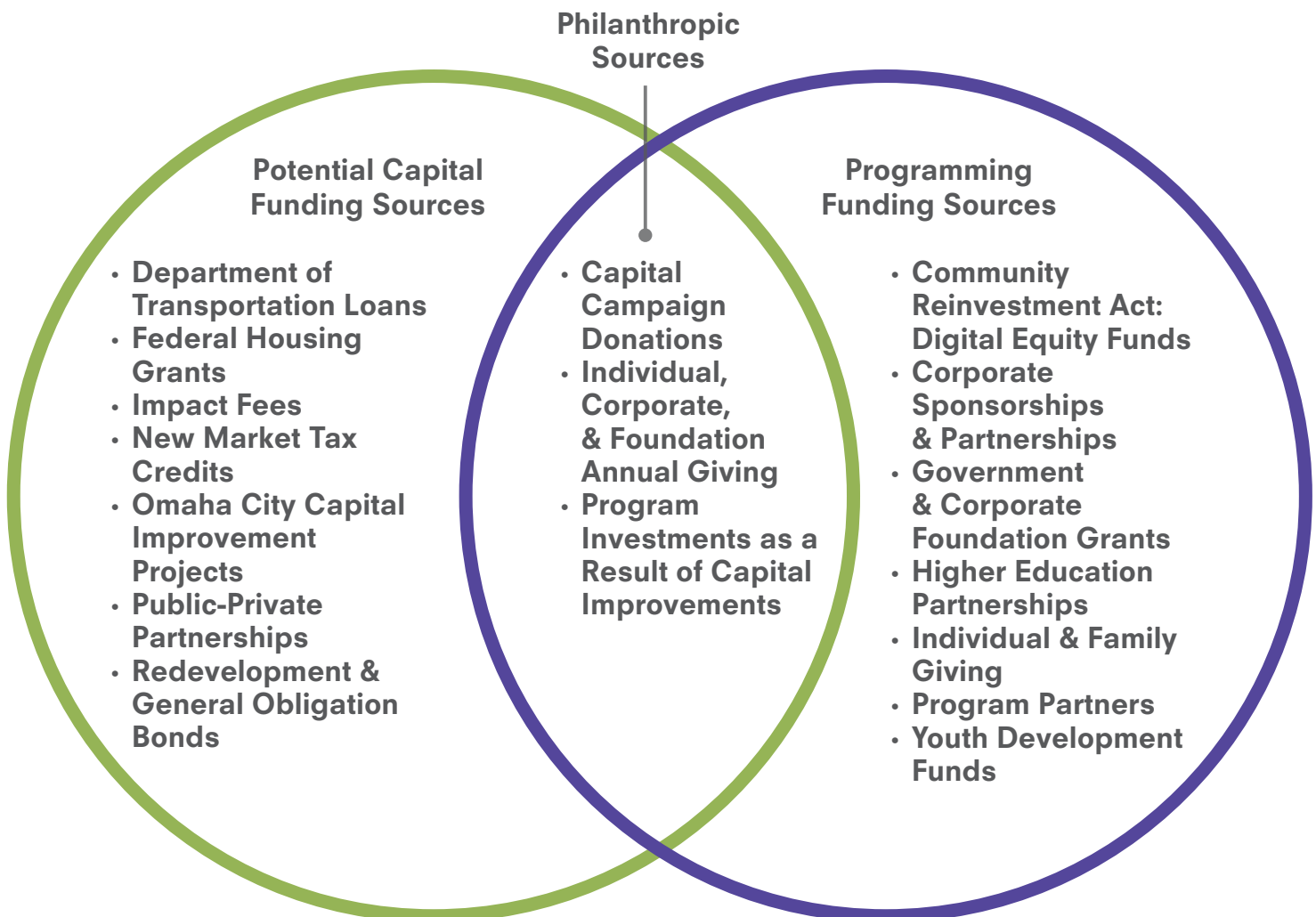
- Competitive Federal Grants
- Philanthropic Donations
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Redevelopment and General Obligation Bonds
- State and Federal Grant Funds (Formula-Based)

In addition, nationally and locally, innovative and non-traditional funding opportunities for capital projects are being applied successfully. This plan will enable a synergistic approach to leveraging a variety of funding sources for capital and

programmatic funding by leveraging the variety of sources to create a sustainable model of increased funding opportunities, as illustrated in the diagram below.

## Innovative Partnership and Development Opportunities

- Economic Development in the Neighborhood
- Federally Funded Improvement Subsidies
- Incubator Start-Up Models
- Innovative Public-Private Partnership Opportunities
- Mixed-Use Housing Development
- Mixed-Used Commercial Development
- Purpose Built Communities
- Sales Tax for Park Improvements









## Investment to Impact Strategy

To give OPL a spectrum of budgetary options for systemwide growth, the plan's evaluation of each branch location includes small, medium, and large project investment scenarios, providing a framework for implementation that takes advantage of investment opportunities for the greatest impact.








This revolutionary approach provides a set of impactful, innovative prototype projects to align with attractive philanthropic investments, and it enables an equitable systemwide approach to facilities projects rooted in community needs, partner activations, and OPL organizational capacity. The approach is also a resource for future funding opportunities that the City of Omaha may incorporate at the economic development level. The purpose of these target budgets is not intended to be a mandated recommendation, but rather to be used as a reference for the 20-year facilities investment strategy.

Each Branch Profile provides a snapshot of what kinds of interventions can be achieved at each

level. Small projects for large impact represent an investment of \$2 million or less and are intended to activate a location and generate systemwide applications. A small scenario might include a renovation for a new space, such as the addition of a vibrant book display and intergenerational living room for social connections, a new state-of-the-art podcast studio for content creation, a community garden to build on the success of the Common Soil Seed Library, or the addition of a Tech Arts Lab to integrate Do Space programs.

Medium projects with large impact would include a comprehensive interior renovation to better activate programs and partners of the existing facilities and an investment in specialty program spaces, such as a culinary kitchen, which comes at a higher price tag than most small project interventions. Project budgets range from \$2 million - \$12 million.

Large projects for large impact are the 20-year recommendations for capital improvements as recommended in this plan.

SMALL [\$]	MEDIUM [\$\$]	LARGE [\$\$\$]
 <p><b>Podcast Room</b></p>  <p><b>Co-Working Space (Family Career Studio)</b></p>  <p><b>Innovative Tech Space with Do Space Technology</b></p>  <p><b>Community Garden</b></p>	<p><b>*Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></p>  <p><b>Community Kitchen</b></p>  <p><b>Do Space Lab</b></p>	 <p><b>Expansion To Foster...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Equity and Literacy</li> <li>• Youth and Family Support</li> <li>• Mentorship Development</li> <li>• Small Businesses</li> <li>• Social Connections</li> <li>• Partnership Impact</li> <li>• Cultural Celebrations</li> </ul>

Example from the Charles B. Washington neighborhood profile of small, medium, and large projects that all create high impact.

BRANCH	SMALL	MEDIUM \$400/SF	LARGE \$600/SF & \$800/SF
BENSON	\$2M	\$8M-\$10M	\$12M
WASHINGTON	\$2M	\$6M-\$8M	\$16M-\$19M
FLORENCE	\$2M	\$3M-\$5M	\$5M*
SORENSEN	\$2M	\$3M-5M	\$7M-\$8.5M*
CENTRAL	-	-	-
DOWNTOWN	-	-	-
SOUTH OMAHA	\$2M	\$9M-\$11M	\$15M-\$21M
WILLA CATHER	\$2M	\$5M-\$7M	\$12M-\$17M
MILLARD	\$2M	\$13M-\$15M	\$19M
SOUTHWEST	-	-	\$22-32M
SWANSON	\$2M	\$10M-\$12M	\$15M
ELKHORN	\$2M	\$3M-\$5M	\$23M-\$29M
ABRAHAMS	\$2M	\$8M-\$10M	\$12M
SADDLEBROOK	\$2M	\$6M-\$8M	\$21M-\$28M
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$22M</b>	<b>\$74M-\$96M</b>	<b>\$180M-\$215M</b>

Small projects represent investment of \$2 million or less, medium projects budgets range from \$2 million - \$12 million, and large represent capital improvement projects.

\*Considered large due to nature of project.



## Decision-Making Framework

The plan's methodology — from its robust engagement process, to its guiding principles, locally-relevant data-centric inputs, and best practice applications — establishes a process and provides a set of decision-making frameworks for OPL and its communities to continue to collaborate as they advance and evolve the plan over time. The overall framework includes mechanisms for prioritizing decisions for collective impact including the dynamic Library Socio-Economic Needs Index, sustaining engagement with the Neighborhood Steering Committees structure, maintaining a community-centric focus, and leveraging the Library's trusted relationships with community members and partners. With an inherent community feedback structure, the plan ensures the process, research, engagement, and alignment is continually self-generated, providing an ongoing framework for investment and growth over the next 20 years.

## Measuring Success, Capturing Feedback

The 2023 Library Facilities Plan incorporates the latest social impact and upward mobility assessment tools, positioning OPL to apply a more sophisticated and relevant approach to assessing the success of facility transformations. The plan's assessment approach is guided by the work of Opportunity Insights, the research and policy institute focused on improving economic opportunity, and is supported by the evidence to date from Reimagining the Civic Commons, a collaboration of national foundations and local civic leaders.



Common Soil Seed Library 10th anniversary Open House at Benson Branch.

A key indicator of successful facility transformations will be the Library's ability to foster socio-economic mixing and generate sustained dialogue with community leaders, partners, and community members to achieve the initial conditions that activate upward mobility and inclusive economic development: cohesiveness, economic connectedness, and civic engagement.<sup>2</sup>

## Implementation Framework

Annually, OPL, in strategic collaboration with the City of Omaha, will engage community members and community-based organization partners to evaluate community needs and opportunities. The Neighborhood Steering Committees will continue to be a resource for supporting the Investment to Impact to Strategy by assessing citywide social impact goals that align with demographic growth. The Library Socio-Economic Needs Index tools will support the ongoing implementation of the community-driven, city-aligned Decision-Making Framework applied in this process.

## Next Steps

1. Develop an implementation and prioritization strategy based on current and future funding and development opportunities, OPL capacity, and community needs.
2. At least annually, review and set goals to identify facilities projects and local funding sources.
3. Further develop success metrics as a City of Omaha and Library team.
4. Continue to develop the Neighborhood Steering Committee (NSC) / Community Partner structure for facilities development.
5. OPL leadership, in partnership with the City of Omaha, evolve the branch profiles in response to ongoing community, partner, and neighborhood development learnings and opportunities.

<sup>2</sup> Chetty, R., Jackson, M. O., Kuchler, T., Stroebel, J., Hiller, A., Oppenheimer, S. (2022). Social Capital Atlas. Opportunity Insights. <https://socialcapital.org/>

# Conclusion

The critical need for the public library is, and has always been, a humanitarian one. The public library is an embodiment of a collective vision of the American dream, providing places and programs where people can engage in the pursuit of knowledge and happiness together. The library both taps into and builds on its community's civic infrastructure. It is foundational for generating trust and cooperation, which are crucial ingredients of inclusive and effective local economic development, elementary to a strengthened civic fabric. In this way, a world-class library system can elevate and transform communities.

Omaha Public Library's capital funding model is designed to leverage, scale, and amplify community contributions. By pooling resources through local taxes, philanthropic contributions, and strategic partnering, the Omaha Public Library enacts a collective impact construct. This enables residents to benefit from a return on investment greater than the sum of its parts. As an active component of its communities, Omaha Public Library is integral to fostering inclusivity and equity for Douglas County residents. When optimally activated for public good, its places will strengthen community and generate powerful, positive social impact.

This is the principle of this plan. With the implementation of this model, Omaha Public Library will be an essential contributor to the social and economic well-being of the City of Omaha itself.

# Glossary

## Anchor Institution

Entities having large stakes in a city, usually through a combination of internal missions and land ownership. These valuable institutions provide services for the communities they serve.

## Asset-Based Community Design

A methodology to identify individual, organizational, and institutional community assets and demonstrate how to engage these community assets to create vital and sustainable communities. It highlights communities' strengths and potentials.

## Civic Infrastructure

The combination of places, policies, programs, and practices that enable people to participate in civic life.

## Coalition Building

The process in which the diverse interest groups join their human and material resources to produce a specific change that they cannot deliver as independent individuals. When members share responsibility, goals, decisions, and leadership and energetically and enthusiastically work toward a common goal, the coalition has the potential for great success.

## Collective Impact

The commitment of a group of community agents from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a complex social problems, using a structured form of collaboration.

## Community Aspirations

Community aspirations reflect the shared hopes that many individuals have for the future of their community. It is a statement of the future we are striving for that is based on common values and narratives.

## Community Co-Creation

Community engagement to build resilient neighborhoods, achieved through sustained, coordinated, active, and scaled community participation.

## Community Economic Development

Economic development is the creation of wealth from which community benefits are realized. It's an investment in growing your economy and enhancing the prosperity and quality of life for all residents.

## Community Needs

Community needs are gaps between what services currently exist in a community and what should exist. It may be helpful to categorize gaps based on these four types of community needs—perceived needs, expressed needs, absolute needs, and relative needs.

## Community Vitality

The ability of a community to sustain itself into the future as well as provide opportunities for its residents to pursue their own life goals and the ability of residents to experience positive life outcomes.

## Economic Mobility

Economic mobility is the ability of an individual, family or some other group to improve their economic status—usually measured in income.

## Healthy Community Framework

A healthy community is one that strives to meet the basic needs of all residents; it is guided by health equity principles in the decision-making process; it empowers organizations and individuals through collaboration, civic and cultural engagement for the creation of safe and sustainable environments. Vibrant, livable and inclusive communities provide ample choices and opportunities to thrive economically, environmentally and culturally, but must begin with health.

## Human Capital

The knowledge, skills, competencies and other attributes embodied in individuals or groups of individuals acquired during their life and used to produce goods, services or ideas.

## Human-Centered Experiences

A creative approach to problem-solving that starts with people and ends with innovative solutions that are tailor-made to suit their needs.

## Human Development

Human development focuses on improving the lives people lead through freedom and self expression. Human Development develops people's abilities and provides the opportunities to use them. Three foundations for human development are to live a long, healthy and creative life, to be knowledgeable, and to have access to resources needed for a sustainable standard of living.



### **Inclusive Design**

Inclusive design ensures that places and experiences are open to all people, regardless of age, disability and background. It benefits everyone.

### **Land Use Development**

Land use development refers to the process by which land is allocated between competing uses in order to secure the rational and orderly development of land in an environmentally sound manner to ensure the creation of sustainable human settlements.

### **Opportunity Insights**

A non-partisan, not-for-profit organization based at Harvard University and directed by Raj Chetty. They conduct scientific research using data-driven tools on how to improve upward mobility and work collaboratively with local stakeholders to translate research findings into policy change. They also train the next generation of social scientists and practitioners to improve opportunity for all.

### **People-Based**

Community economic development strategies that focus on implementing systems to strengthen education, workforce, and financial outcomes in order for individuals to realize their economic potential.

### **People, Places, and Platforms**

The public library's human-centered business model that capitalizes on the strengths of the public library's mission to build human capital, activate place-based initiatives (facilities, outreach and virtual) and be an adaptable, active platform for customized, participatory experiences in support of the unique learning needs of all community members.

### **Place-Based**

Community economic development strategies that focus on addressing place-based inequities that constrain residents opportunities because of the zip code in which they live. Place-based strategies result in safe neighborhoods and public assets (schools, libraries, recreation centers) that ensure equitable access to the place-based institutions that build economic mobility.

### **Placemaking**

A multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, and management of public spaces. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration, and potential, with the intention of creating public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and wellbeing.

### **Placekeeping**

The active care and maintenance of a place and its social fabric by the people who live and work there.

### **Prototype**

The prototype is an experimental process where designers implement ideas into tangible forms. It allows people to refine and validate ideas.

### **Social Capital**

Acting on and valuing interdependence and a person's sense of belonging. It is measured by how much people trust each other and how much they cooperate to make a place better.

### **Social Impact**

The effect on people and communities that happens as a result of an action or inaction, an activity, project, program or policy.

### **Socioeconomic Mixing**

Time spent face-to-face with people from different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. Being able to encounter people in a mixed-income and diverse built environment with low rates of racial and economic segregation promotes higher levels of economic mobility and improves trust, generosity, and cooperation between peoples.

### **20-Minute City**

Places where residents have easy, convenient access to all of the quality of life amenities that create an equitable and thriving place, without relying heavily on a car. They are characterized by a vibrant mix of commercial and residential uses all within a 20 minute walk. They have higher concentrations of people and are complete with the sidewalks, bike lanes and bus routes that support a variety of transportation options.

# Appendix



# Appendix

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80	Community Contributors
90	Participating Organizations
94	Branch Profiles



# Community Contributors

The Citywide Library Facilities Plan was made possible by the ambitious community engagement process that informed relevant needs, challenges, opportunities, and aspirations through direct inputs from a broad range of community members to support quantitative community evidence. This effort included over 200 individuals from over 100 organizations. A tremendous “thank you!” to all involved listed on the following pages and the 5,000 community members who participated in the citywide survey. Dozens of community members participated in the many opportunities for input. If you or your organization are not listed here, please know we appreciate and value your contributions.

## City of Omaha, City Council

**Pete Festersen**, District 1  
**Juanita Johnson**, District 2  
**Danny Begley**, District 3  
**Vinny Palermo**, District 4  
**Don Rowe**, District 5  
**Brinker Harding**, District 6  
**Aimee Melton**, District 7

## Omaha Public Library Board of Trustees

**John R. Barrett**, Trustee  
**Cameron Gales**, Trustee  
**Mike Kennedy**, President  
**Keegan Korf**, Vice President  
**Rochelle Mullen**, Trustee  
**DeJuan Reddick**, Trustee  
**Albert Varas**, Trustee  
**Jen Rae Wang**, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Bryan Wilson**, Trustee

## Advisory Committee

**Katie Bruno**, OPLF Board President

**Steve Curtiss**, City of Omaha Finance Director

**Elizabeth Johnson**, OPL Senior Manager of Operations

**Stacy Lickteig**, OPL Senior Manager of Branches

**Laura Marlane**, OPL Executive Director

**Rochelle Mullen**, OPL Board Trustee

**Carrie Murphy**, City of Omaha Deputy Chief of Staff

**Krystal Rider**, Do Space Director

**Deborah Sander**, City of Omaha Director of Human Resources

**Rebecca Stavick**, Do Space/Community Information Trust CEO

**Rachel Steiner**, OPL Assistant Library Director

**Chief Thomas Warren**, City of Omaha Chief of Staff

**Wendy Townley**, OPLF Executive Director

**Bryan Wilson**, OPL Board Trustee

## Library Facilities Plan Leadership Working Group

**Rachel Drietz**, Do Space, Operations and Marketing Manager

**Marco Floreani**, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff, Economic Development and Development Services

**Anna Gadzinski**, Heritage Omaha, Project and Development Officer

**Elizabeth Johnson**, Omaha Public Library, Senior Manager of Operations

**Amy Mather**, Omaha Public Library, Adult Services Manager

**Nancy Novotny**, Omaha Public Library, Youth and Family Services Manager

**Michael Sauers**, Do Space, Technology Manager

**Keith Station**, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

**Rebecca Stavick**, Do Space/Community Information Trust, CEO







# Community Contributors

## Library Facilities Plan Advisors

**Emily Getzschman**, Omaha Public Library, Marketing and Media Relations Manager

**Theresa Jehlik**, Omaha Public Library, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager

**Stacy Lickteig**, Omaha Public Library, Omaha Public Library, Senior Manager of Branches

**Linda Miles**, Omaha Public Library, Facilities Manager

**Deirdre Routt**, Omaha Public Library, Collections Manager

**Yesenia Valenzuela**, City of Omaha, Community Relations Coordinator

## Engagement Committee

**John Barrett**, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

**Rachel Drietz**, Do Space, Operations and Marketing Manager

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**Anna Gadzinski**, Heritage Omaha, Project and Development Officer

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**Rachel Jacobson**, Heritage Omaha, President; Community Information Trust, President

**Theresa Jehlik**, Omaha Public Library, Strategy and Business Intelligence Manager

**Elizabeth Johnson**, Omaha Public Library, Senior Manager of Operations

**Amy Mather**, Omaha Public Library, Adult Services Manager

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**Carrie Murphy**, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff - Communications

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**Annika Northland**, Margaret Sullivan Studio, Urban Placemaker

**Nancy Novak**, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, Partner

**Nancy Novotny**, Omaha Public Library, Youth and Family Services Manager

**Maggie Peterson**, Omaha Public Library, Partnership & Community Engagement Manager

**Krystal Rider**, Do Space, Director

**Michael Sauers**, Do Space, Technology Manager

**Keith Station**, City of Omaha, Deputy Chief of Staff - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

**Rebecca Stavick**, Do Space/Community Information Trust, CEO

**Margaret Sullivan**, Margaret Sullivan Studio, Principal

**Wendy Townley**, Omaha Public Library Foundation, Executive Director

**Tom Trenolone**, HDR, Design Director

**Yesenia Valenzuela**, City of Omaha, Community Relations Coordinator







# Community Contributors

## Neighborhood Steering Committees (NSC)

### North Omaha NSC

**Paul B. Allen IV**, 1st Sky Omaha/Benson Theatre, Director of Communications/ Co-Owner

**Kathy Buchanan**, Benson Neighborhood Association, Treasurer

**Clarice Dombeck**, SPARK, Urban Development Coordinator

**Pete Festersen**, City Council, District 1 (member of North Omaha NSC, Urban Core NSC & Northwest NSC)

**Rafel Hart**, Educare of Omaha, Inc., Executive Director

**Dr. Barbara Hewins-Maroney**, Ph.D., UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service Chair, Urban Studies Program

**Dasia Horne**, Well Read Women of Omaha, Founder

**Lois Imig**, Omaha Public Library, Florence Manager

**Juanita Johnson**, City Council, District 2

**Jennifer Jazynka**, Omaha Public Library, Benson Manager

**Mele Mason**, North Omaha Commercial Club, Florence Kiwanis, Florence Community Council, President

**Matt Mason**, Nebraska State Poet

**Liz Moldenhauer**, Benson Neighborhood Association, Vice President

**Nyaliep Nhial**, Youth for Greater Good, Executive Director (member of North Omaha NSC & South Omaha NSC)

**Davielle Phillips**, Urban League of Nebraska Young Professionals, Vice President

**Chris Rodgers**, Douglas County Commissioner, District 3

**Amy Wenzl**, Omaha Public Library, Charles B. Washington Manager

**Nancy Williams**, No More Empty Pots, Co-Founder & President/CEO

### Urban Core NSC

**Danny Begley**, City Council, District 3 (member of Urban Core NSC & South Omaha NSC)

**Bethany Barelman**, Omaha Public Library, A.V. Sorensen Manager

**Maria Brady**, Omaha By Design, Director of Strategic Partnerships

**Stuart Chittenden**, Squishtalks, Founder

**James Cavanaugh**, Douglas County, District 2 (member of Urban Core NSC, South Omaha NSC & Southwest Omaha NSC)

**Olajide Cooper**, UNO Service Learning Academy, Assistant Director for External Partnerships, Student Engagement, and Pipeline Programs

**Roger Garcia**, Douglas County Commissioner, District 1 (member of Urban Core NSC & South Omaha NSC)

**Marisa Hattab**, Douglas County, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

**Abby Hughes**, Nonprofit Association of the Midlands, Program Manager

**Matt Martin**, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc., Assistant Vice President of Refugee & Immigrant Programs

*\*Members in multiple groupings due to legislative district boundaries.*







# Community Contributors

**Alexzia Plummer**, Weitz Family Foundation, Program Associate

**Robia Qasimyar**, Weitz Family Foundation, Program Associate

**Nancy Round**, Joslyn Art Museum, Director of Education & Outreach

**Maggie Smith**, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Executive Director

**Natalie Struecker**, Omaha Public Library, Downtown Manager

**Steve Tamayo**, Bluebird Cultural Initiative, Native Indigenous Cultural Education, Cultural Specialist

**Monica Wells**, Buffett Early Childhood Institute, Family & Community Program Administrator

## South Omaha NSC

**Jan Benitez**, Completely KIDS, Director of Community Based Programs

**Terri Blackburn**, Lord of Hosts Church, Social Media Manager

**Langston Frison**, Norris Middle School, Principal

**Yuridia Igbokwe**, Lincua Academy, Founder & CEO, Immigrant Rights Advocate

**Keegan Korf**, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

**Itzel Lopez**, AIM Institute/Latino Economic Development Council, Vice President of Advancement/President (member of South Omaha NSC and Northwest Omaha NSC)

**Marvel Maring**, Omaha Public Library, South Omaha Manager

**Raymundo Montes**, Juan Diego Center - Catholic Charities of Omaha, Family Resource Coordinator

**Lori Nelson**, Omaha Public Library, Willa Cather Manager

**Ashley Salem**, AIM Institute, Tech Navigator & Outreach Coordinator

**Jennifer Rodriguez**, Heartland Workforce Solutions, South Omaha Affiliate Site Coordinator

**Yesenia Valenzuela**, City of Omaha Mayor's Office, Community Liaison

## Southwest Omaha NSC

**Susan Aguilera-Robles**, Associate Director of Program Development/Executive Board President, Buffet Early Childhood Institute/Omaha Public Schools Foundation

**Mary Ann Borgeson**, Douglas County, District 1 Commissioner

**Andrew Conzett**, Mayor's Millennial Advisory Board, Chair

**Matt Couch**, Omaha Public Library, W. Clarke Swanson Manager

**Dr. Angela Daigle**, Millard Public Schools, Library Services Department Head

**Wendy Goldberg**, Tri-Faith Initiative, Executive Director

**Jen Haggart**, ESU #3 Early Learning, Early Learning Connection PD Coordinator

**Autumn Hill**, Omaha Public Library, Millard Manager

**Richard Kinnischtzke**, Retired Business Owner

**Sara Kohen**, Friedel Jewish Academy, Director of Advancement

**Noah McClain**, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Senior Director, Product Development

*\*Members in multiple groupings due to legislative district boundaries.*





# Community Contributors

**Rochelle Mullen**, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

**Nathan Morgan**, Omaha Community Foundation, Donor Services Specialist

**Beth Ostdiek Smith**, Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue, Inc., CEO/President & Founder

**Connie Remkus**, Business Owner

**Don Rowe**, City Council, District 5

**Sarah Sjolie**, Meristem Consulting, Owner

**Katie Twit**, Mindfulness & Yoga Instructor, Wisdom House Collaborative, Latino Center of the Midlands, Great Plains Mental Health

**Bart Vargas**, Artist

**Casey Kralik**, Omaha Public Library, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Manager

**Katy Lofgren**, Omaha Public Library, Milton R. Abrahams Manager

**Colleen Nieland**, Northwest High School, Library Media Specialist

**Michelle Settlemyer**, Omaha Education Association, President

**Bryan Wilson**, Omaha Public Library Board, Trustee

## Northwest Omaha

**Meagan Bakhit**, Adams Elementary, Principal

**Jo Giles**, Womens Fund of Omaha, Executive Director

**Jill Guenther**, QLI, Director of Skill Development

**Julie Humphrey**, Omaha Public Library, Saddlebrook Manager

*\*Members in multiple groupings due to legislative district boundaries.*





# Participating Organizations

1st Sky Omaha	Completely KIDS	Lauritzen Gardens
Adams Elementary	Creighton University	Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties
Advancing With Purpose	Do Space	Lincua Academy
AIM Institute	Douglas County	Lord of Hosts Church
Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture	Durham Museum	Lozier Foundation
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - Nebraska	Educare of Omaha, Inc.	Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc.
Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center	Emspace + Lovgren	Mayor's Millennial Advisory Board
Benson Neighborhood Association	Empowerment Network	Meraki Montessori
Benson Theatre	ESU #3 Early Learning	Meristem Consulting
Blue Cross Blue Shield	Field Club Homeowners League	Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
Bluebird Cultural Initiative, Native Indigenous Cultural Education	FNBO	Metropolitan Community College
Buffett Early Childhood Institute	Florence Kiwanis	Millard Public Schools
Canopy South	Fontenelle Forest	Nebraska Cultural Endowment
Center for Holistic Development	Friedel Jewish Academy	Nebraska Enterprise Fund
City of Omaha	Greater Omaha Chamber - Leadership Omaha	No More Empty Pots
City of Omaha Parks and Recreation	Growing Hearts Collaborative	Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
City of Omaha Public Works	HDR	Norris Middle School
Collective for Youth	Heartland Bike Share	North End Teleservices
Community Health Development Partners	Heartland Workforce Solutions	North Omaha Commercial Club, Florence Kiwanis, Florence
Community Information Trust Board	Heritage Omaha	Northwest High School
	Intercultural Senior Center	Olsson
	Invisible Histories Visible	
	Joslyn Art Museum	
	Juan Diego Center - Catholic Charities of Omaha	
	Kiewit Corporation	







# Participating Organizations

Omaha By Design	South Omaha Neighborhood Alliance (SONA)
Omaha City Council	SPARK
Omaha Community Foundation	Squishtalks
Omaha Community Playhouse	Table Grace Ministries
Omaha Conservatory of Music	The Kim Foundation
Omaha Education Association	The Sherwood Foundation
Omaha Foundation	The Simple Foundation
Omaha Performing Arts	Three Rivers Library System
Omaha Public Library	Tri-Faith Initiative
Omaha Public Library Board	University of Nebraska Omaha
Omaha Public Library Advisory Committee	University of Nebraska Omaha - Criss Library
Omaha Public Power District	Urban League of Nebraska
Omaha Public Schools / Invisible Histories Visible	Young Professionals
One Omaha	Vic Gutman & Associates (VGA)
Open Door Mission	Weitz Family Foundation
Opera Omaha	Well Read Women of Omaha
PMP Omaha	Wheelhouse Collective
Prairie STEM	Women's Fund of Omaha
QLI	
Rainwood Development Partners	
Raise Me To Read	
Refugee Women Rising	
Saving Grace Perishable Food Rescue, Inc	
Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp	







# Benson

*Community Framework*



### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Benson community is ethnically and socio-economically diverse with a mix of long-time “Bensonites” and new Americans and refugees, particularly from Southeast Asia. The neighborhood has a strong identity that the community members feel proud of. The library serves all walks of life from seniors to young families, teens, students, working adults, and those experiencing homelessness. They are a creative and artistic bunch which is supported by the Benson creative community designation. They are interested in content creation and technology-related activities that spark creativity where they can be engaged in an educational and fun way. A popular program among adults is the book clubs

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**“Benson is diverse ethnically and socio-economically. There is a lot of pride and identity in the Benson neighborhood. This area has historic character with lots of small, unique businesses. It is also very pedestrian friendly.”**

*Jennifer Jazyuka,  
Benson Branch Manager*

where community members enjoy coming together and sharing stories. The needs of this community include family support, particularly for school-related demands. There are many community members needing resources for addiction struggles, housing support, mental health aid, and workforce development support. There is a major need for barrier-free access to technology as well as technology literacy to assist community members in filling out various applications or finding the resources they’re looking for.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime  
Adult Book Clubs  
Art & STEM Passive Programming  
Conversation Kits

#### Current Partners

Benson Neighborhood Association  
Douglas County Health Department  
Benson Creative District  
Charles Drew Health Center

#### Popular Collections

Children Collections  
Fiction, Adult Fiction  
Non-Fiction  
Audio books  
LIBBY

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Charging Stations  
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines  
Wi-Fi

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**FAMILY SUPPORT:** Library is a place for supervised visits, storytimes, and family friendly activities.



**PASSIVE PROGRAMMING:** Regularly rotated art and STEM activities.



**VIBRANT TEENS SPACE:** Place for teens to just be, interested in content creation and fun, educational activities.



**CREATIVE COMMUNITY:** Bustling arts community in Benson with artists and creatives.



**SOCIAL SERVICES RESOURCES:** "Community Resource Corner" set up with referrals due to high demand for addiction, homelessness, and mental health support.



**NEED BARRIER FREE ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY:** Basic computer literacy for social service, career, and college applications, and e-government services.



### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Rose Hill E.S., Benson H.S., Creighton Preparatory School, St. Bernard Catholic School



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** Charles Drew Health Center



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** Benson Community Center



**TRANSPORTATION HUBS:** Heartland Bike Share



**CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:** Benson Artist District, Benson First Friday, Masonic Temple Art Gallery, the Waiting Room, Benson Theatre



**OPEN SPACE/PARKS:** Gallagher Park, Grace Young Park, Benson Lions Park, Bowling Green Park, Metcalfe Park



### COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR BENSON BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

**Curious**  
**Equitable and Inclusive**  
**Literate**  
**Innovative**  
**Civically Engaged**

...Omaha!

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

**Maker or Creative**  
**Professional** **Community Member (Meeting Space)**  
**Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)** **Gardener**  
**Caregiver** **Reader** **Family or Individual**  
**Researcher or Family History Enthusiast**  
**Technology Learner**

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Outdoor Reading Garden



Vibrant Cafe



Art Gallery



Outdoor Community Space



Community Kitchen



Food Truck Zone



Tool Library

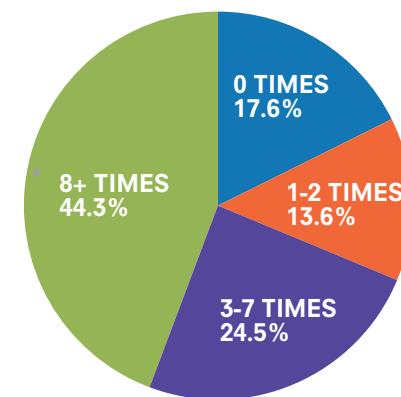


Quiet Room



Genealogy & History Hub

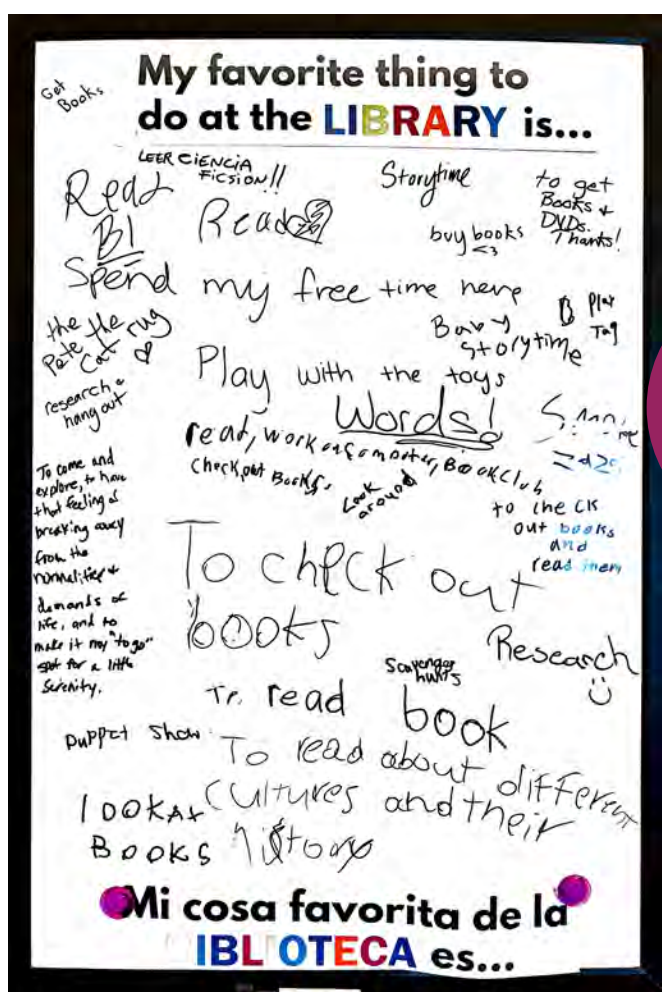
In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (BENSON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

**"My favorite thing to do at the library is to come and explore, to have feelings of breaking away from the normalities and demands of life, and to make it my "go to" spot for a little serenity."** - Community member from Benson Branch



COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT

CIVIC  
ENGAGEMENT

BOOKS &  
MEDIA  
COLLECTIONS

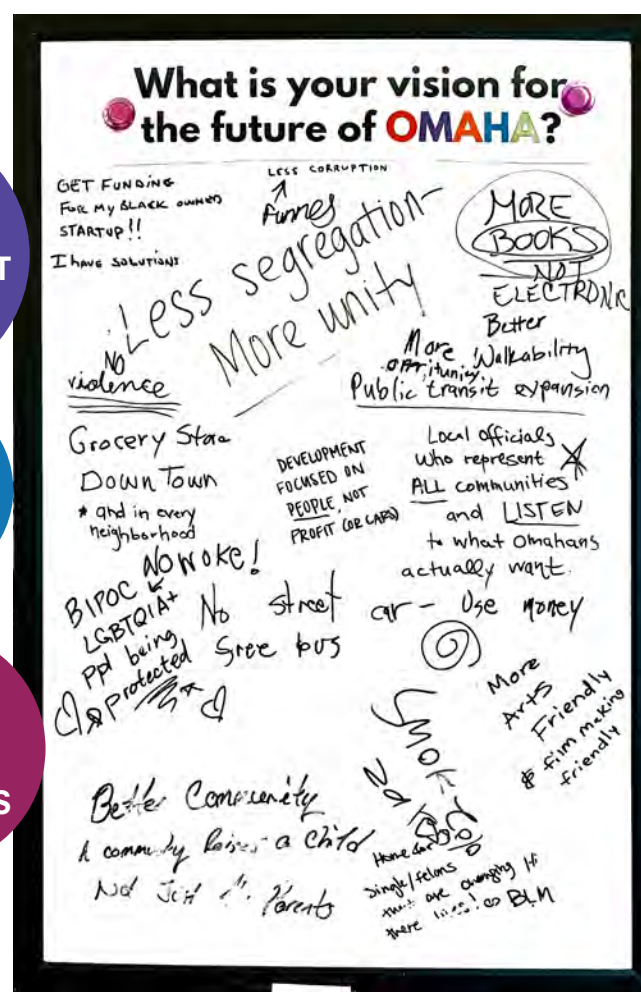
RESEARCH

BIPOC &  
LGTBQIA+  
SUPPORT

ACCESS  
TO BASIC  
NEEDS

LEARN  
ABOUT  
OTHER  
CULTURES

PLAY &  
EXPLORE



Staff at the Benson branch installed a white board with markers at the front desk of the branch as part of the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st. The boards prompted community members to share their thoughts for what their favorite thing to do at the library is and what is their vision for the future of Omaha. The bubbles to the left illustrate the sentiments of the community.

# Benson

## Community Framework

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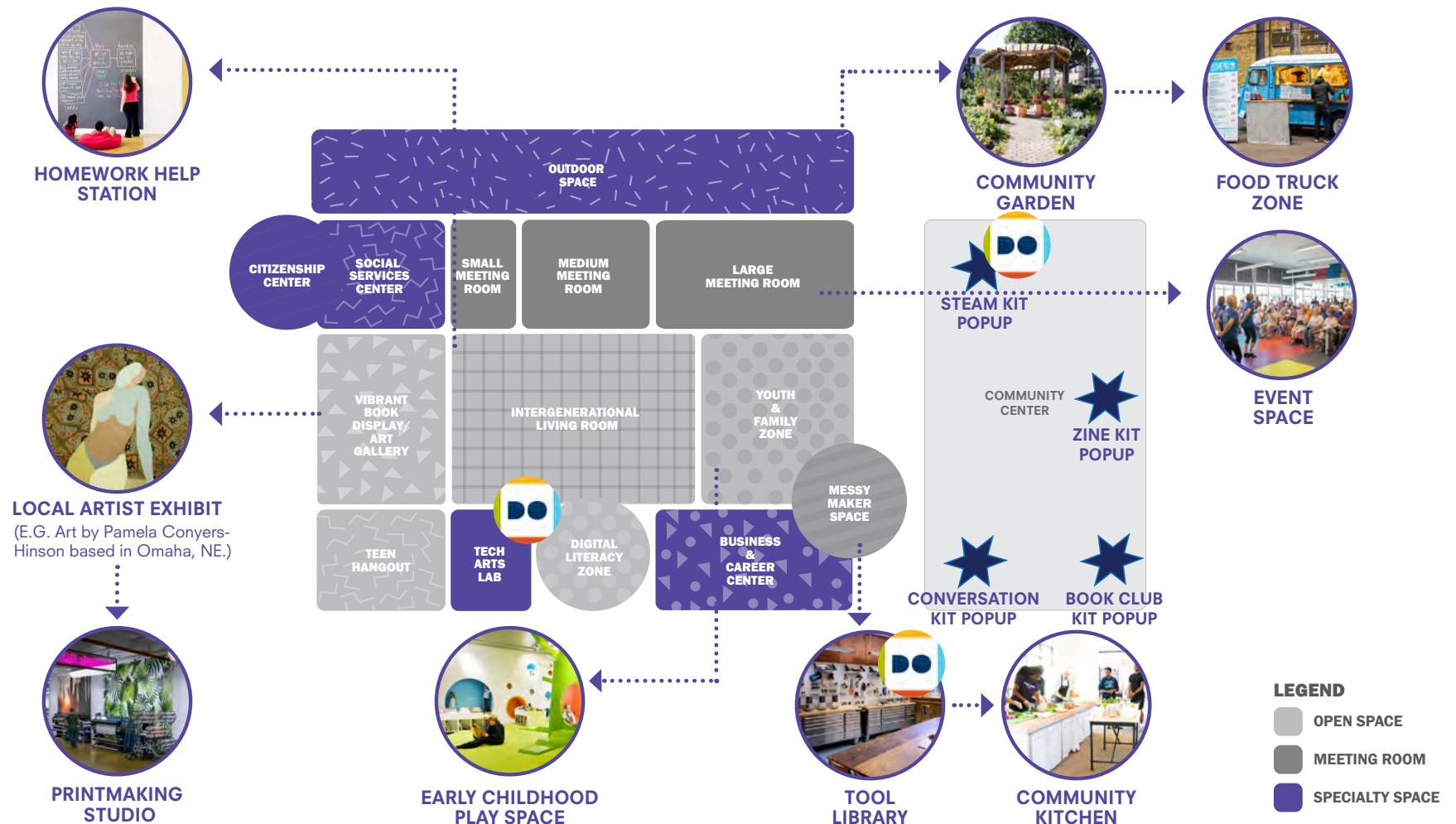
Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,300 SF**

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Benson Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

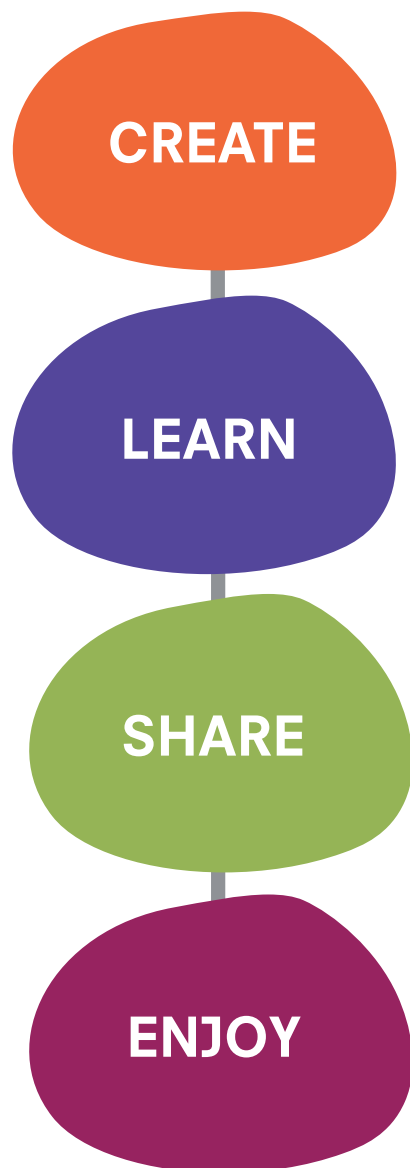
prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This inclusive

learning environment can support the families, teens, adults, and those who are vulnerable in the community with enriching, passion-based programs and spaces that promote empowerment to be their best self.





## DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



## EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

### Literacy

Imaginative Play  
Adult Book Clubs

### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Up-Skilling Programs  
Small Business Seminars  
Career Coaching

### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Barrier Free Access to Technology  
Basic Technology Help  
Digital Resource Checkout

### Community Health & Safety

Performance Programming  
Conversation Language Groups  
Cultural Programs & Fairs

### Neighborhood Development

Fun & Engaging Teen Programming  
Rotating Local Art Display

### Connection to Resources

Social Services Referral  
Citizenship Services  
School Support

## SPACES/SERVICES

### Current & Potential Partners\*

Benson Neighborhood Association  
Douglas County Health Dept  
Benson First Friday (BFF)  
Benson Theatre  
Charles Drew Health Center  
Creighton University's Department of Education  
Nebraska Department of Labor  
UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities  
The Salvation Army of Omaha

### Current & Potential Collections

Youth (i.e. Picture Books, Board Books)  
New Adult Fiction & Non-Fiction  
Vibrant Displays  
Art & Design  
Self-Help  
Seed Library

### Potential Technologies

More Computers  
More Printers/Scanners  
Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

# Benson

## Community Framework

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Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,300 SF**

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
Teen Support  
Social Service Referral

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Kid Coders  
Make.Hack.Build.  
Active Learning Lab  
Tech Kit Check Outs  
Lunch & Learns

#### Outreach Opportunities\*

Nebraska Department of Labor (Social Services Center)  
Creighton University Department of Education (Homework Help Station)  
Benson First Friday (BFF) (Event Space)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

### PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$8M-\$10M]	Large [\$12M]
 <p><b>Social Services Center</b></p>  <p><b>Tech Arts Lab</b></p>  <p><b>Early Childhood Play Space</b></p>  <p><b>Community Garden</b></p>  <p><b>Tool Library</b></p>  <p><b>Pop-ups</b></p>	<p><b>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></p>  <p><b>Community Kitchen</b></p>	 <p><b>Realign</b></p> <p><b>To Foster...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Equity</li> <li>• Family Support</li> <li>• Youth Development</li> <li>• Social Connections</li> <li>• Social Service Support</li> <li>• Partnership Impact</li> </ul>



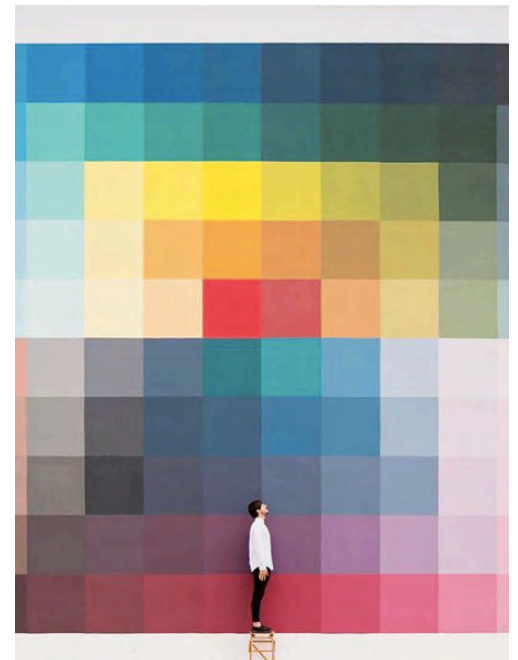
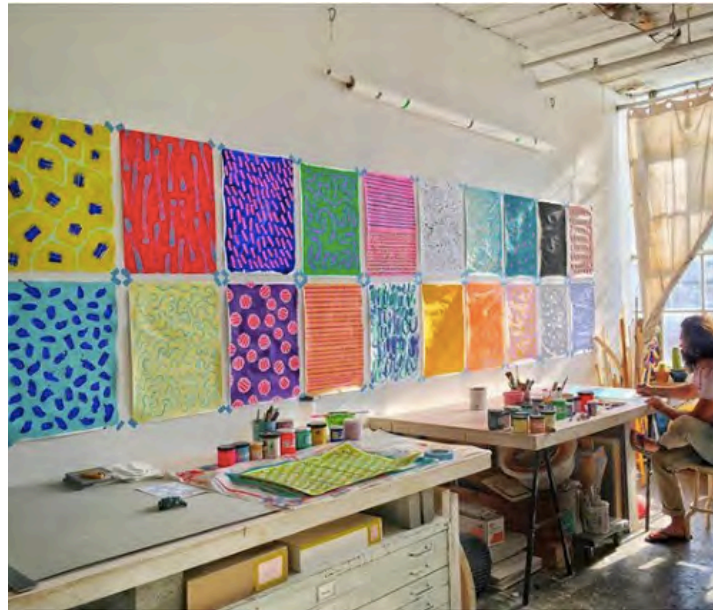
# Benson

*Community Framework*

104

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 20,300 SF

## FEELS LIKE...







# Florence

*Community Framework*



### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Florence Branch is a small library housed alongside the Florence Community Center, which is operated by Omaha Parks and Recreation. The two entities enjoy their colocated relationship, but could benefit from more synergized space and operations. The community center sees a lot of youth and teen members, whereas the library sees mostly families with young children, retirees and seniors. Teen participation at Florence Branch has decreased since Covid-19 but there has been an increase in youth services such as storytime; for example, the library is seeing double the attendance than past numbers. Florence Branch is a beloved place in the community, seen by the same community members who come

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**“In twenty years, I want someone to walk into the library and say, ‘Wow, you are carbon neutral!’”**

*Lois Imig,  
Florence Branch Manager*

in every day to talk and catch up with the staff. This contributes to the neighborhood’s small-town feel. There is a need for access to as well as education for computer and technology literacy and expanded youth programming. There has been an increase in family visitations at Florence Branch. The community’s interests include expanding the availability of print materials, educational and imaginative toys, and sustainable and innovative practices like robotics, electrical car charging stations, and education on carbon neutrality. The Florence Branch brings programs and services to the community outside the library walls with the Florence Branch youth librarian holding storytimes at Nelson Mandela Elementary.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime  
Out and About Storytime  
Read to a Dog  
Youth Programming  
Adult Omaha Symphony Program

#### Current Partners

Florence Community Center, Parks & Recreation  
Nelson Mandela Elementary School  
Florence Mill

#### Popular Collections

Print Material of All Genres

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Charging Stations  
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines  
Wi-Fi



### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Storytime and youth programming attendance has been increasing.



**ACTIVE SENIOR COMMUNITY:** Retired community members actively engage with the library. Several retirement communities are located nearby.



**HIGH NEEDS FOR TECH HELP:** Community members' needs range from basic to innovative.



**ACCESS TO THE LIBRARY:** Community members arrive by bus line 30, private vehicles, or walk.



**COLOCATED WITH COMMUNITY CENTER:** Shares a building with the Florence Community Center, could attract new community members to the library.

# Florence

## Community Framework

108

Recommendation **REALIGN & SYNERGIZE** | Size 7,412 SF

### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Nelson Mandela E.S., Florence E.S., Philip Neri E.S., Minne Lusa E.S., MCC Fort Omaha



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** CHI Health Clinic, CHI Health Rehab, Dept. of Health & Human Services, Florence Medical Center



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** Florence, Community Center, Notre Dame Housing, Immanuel Senior Living, Seven Oaks of Florence



**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Bus Line 30



**CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:** Florence Mill, Mormon Trail Center, Fort Omaha, General Cook House



**OPEN SPACE/PARKS:** Miller Park, Dodge Park, MUD Trail, Craigs Park, Hummel Park



### COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR FLORENCE BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

**Literate**  
**Accessible**  
**Curious**  
**Equitable and Inclusive**  
**Innovative**

...Omaha!

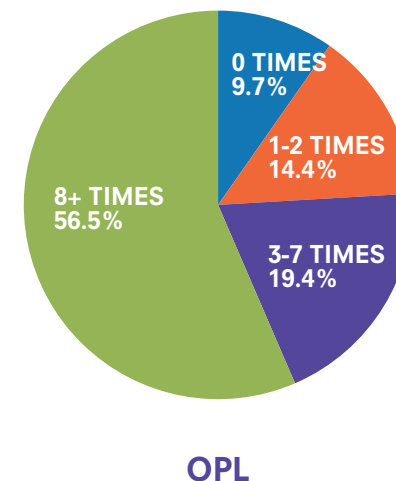
How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

**Maker or Creative** **Family or Individual**  
**Other (Senior, Adult looking for books & programs)**  
**Caregiver** **Reader** **Gardener**  
**Researcher or Family History Enthusiast**  
**Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)**  
**Professional** **Technology Learner**

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?





# Florence

## Community Framework

110

Recommendation **REALIGN & SYNERGIZE** | Size **7,412 SF**

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (FLORENCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY & NORTH OMAHA OUTREACH FINDINGS)

Kids games and reading area.



**Reading Nooks**

I don't have space for my own garden but still want to do it.



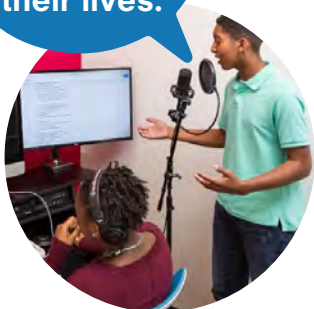
**Community Garden**

Socializing!



**Social Club**

Make songs and talk about their lives.



**Music Studio/ Podcast Room**

Language classes to teach languages other than English.



**Classrooms**

Analog to digital conversion.



**Tech Training Lab**



MSS workshoped with teens at a Omaha 360 Teen Leadership group meeting, their sentiments are captured in the graphics to the left.



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Florence staff installed beauty boards with photos of spaces and places and community members tagged what resonated with them with Post-its. These sentiments are illustrated to the left.

# Florence

## Community Framework

111

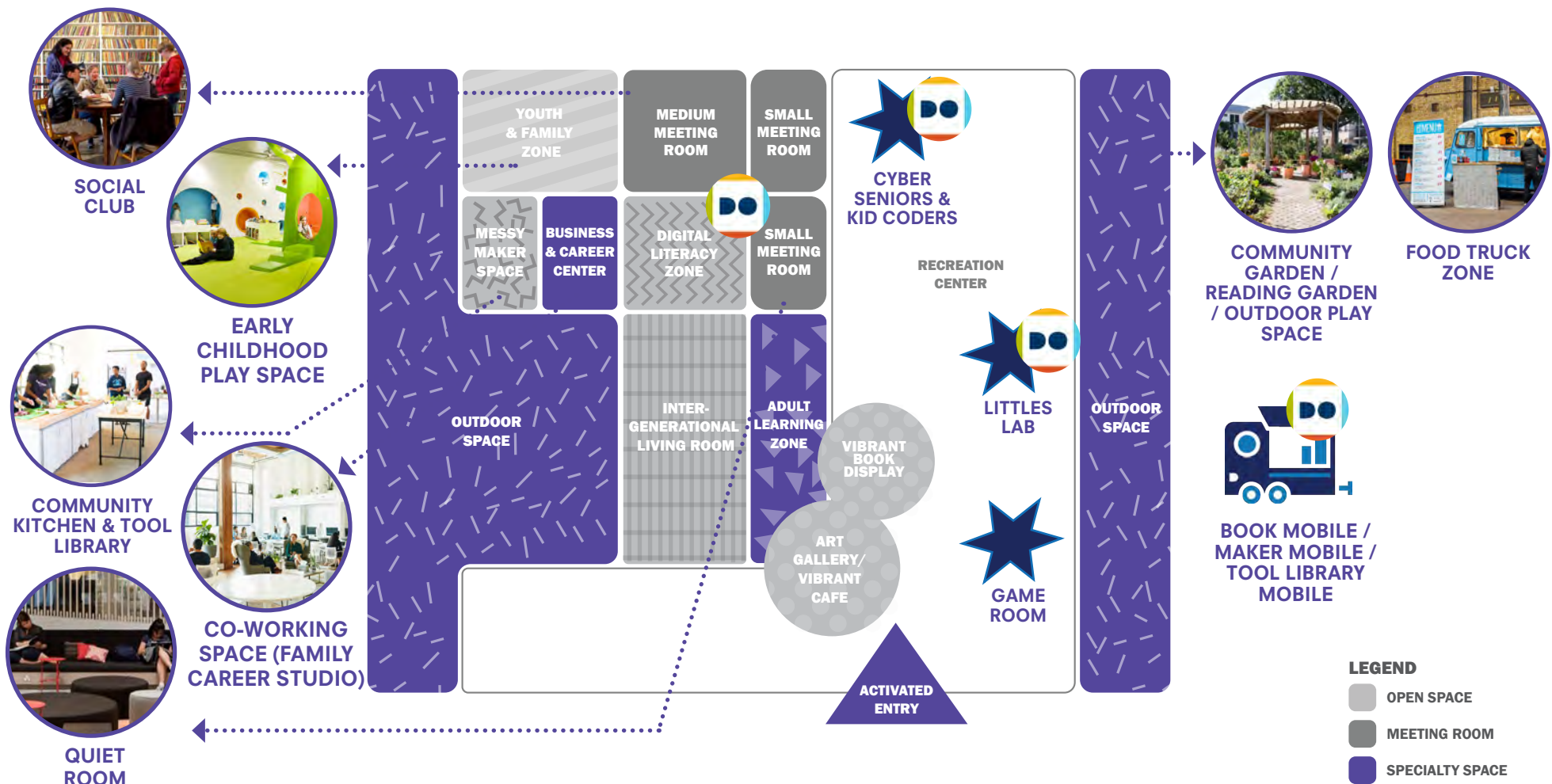
Recommendation **REALIGN & SYNERGIZE** | Size 7,412 SF

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

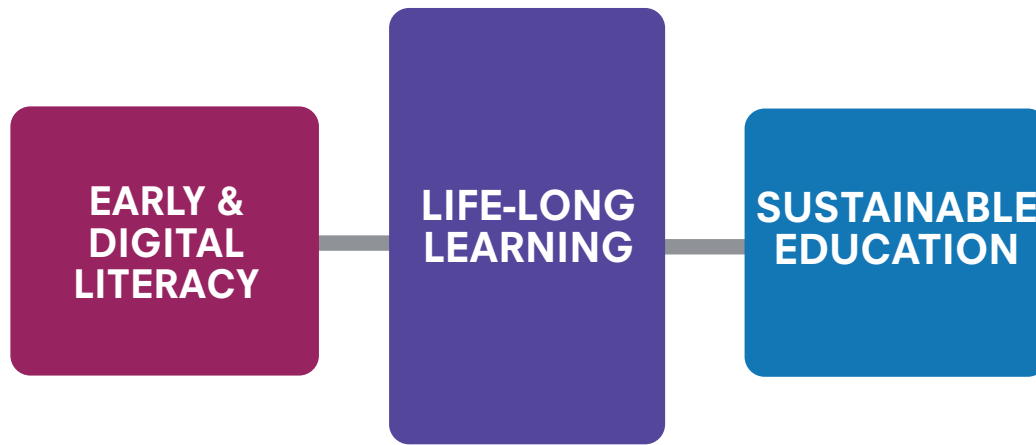
The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Florence Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This active learning

environment can support families, teens, and seniors' quality of life with programs that promote a healthy lifestyle, intergenerational connections, and empower people to be who they want to be by doing what they love.



### DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



### EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

#### Literacy

Educational Toys & Games  
Expanded Storytimes  
Youth Storytelling Lab

#### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Family Career Studio  
Tinker Lab

#### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Computer & Digital Programs Help  
STEAM Programming  
Maker & Creative Technology Equipment

#### Community Health & Safety

Food & Cooking Programs  
Outdoor Recreation  
Sustainability Programming

#### Neighborhood Development

Intergenerational Art/Entertainment  
Tool Check Out  
Local History Classes

#### Connection to Resources

Retirement Planning  
Parent Education  
Language Learning

### SPACES/SERVICES

#### Current & Potential Partners\*

Florence Community Center, Parks & Recreation  
Nelson Middle School  
Florence Mill  
No More Empty Pots  
Florence Historical Society  
Florence Boys & Girls Club  
Omaha Symphony  
Well-Read Women of Omaha

#### Current & Potential Collections

Print Material of All Genres  
Large Print Material  
References/Periodicals  
Biographies  
Increased Charging Stations

#### Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts  
Printing Resources  
Gaming Equipment  
Computer Access  
Business Software

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships



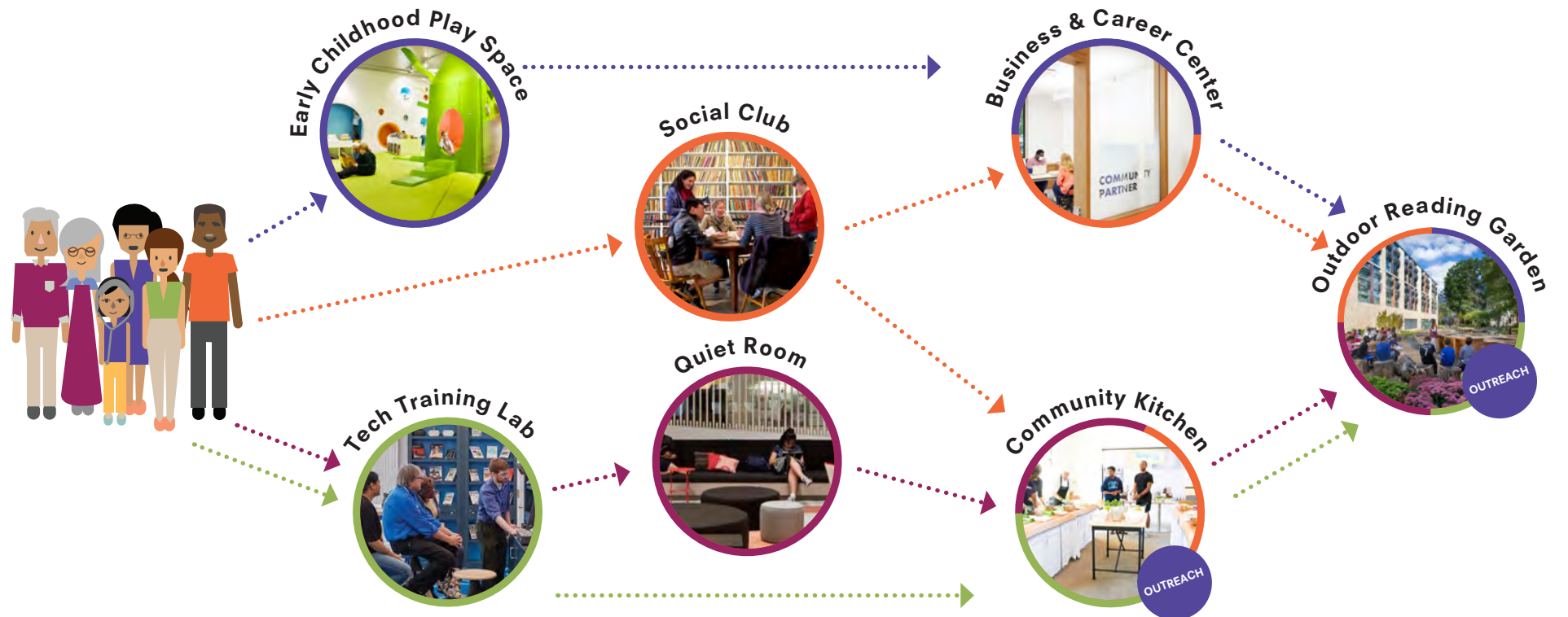
# Florence

## Community Framework

113

Recommendation **REALIGN & SYNERGIZE** | Size 7,412 SF

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Youth Programming & Literacy  
Senior Programming  
Digital & Technology Literacy

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Kid Coders  
Active Learning Lab  
Tech Kit Check Outs  
STEM Classes  
Cyber Seniors




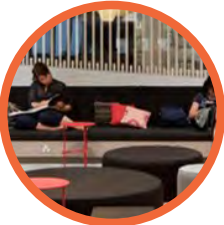



#### Outreach Opportunities\*

Parks & Recreation (Outdoor Reading Garden)  
No More Empty Pots (Community Kitchen)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

### PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$3M-\$5M]	Large [\$4.5M]
 <p><b>Littles Lab / Cyber Seniors / Kid Coders Pop-up</b></p>  <p><b>Game Room Pop-up</b></p>  <p><b>Early Childhood Play Space</b></p>  <p><b>Quiet Room</b></p>	 <p><b>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></p>  <p><b>Community Kitchen</b></p>	 <p><b>Realign &amp; Synergize</b></p> <p><b>To Foster...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Literacy</li> <li>• Senior Support</li> <li>• Youth Development</li> <li>• Social Connections</li> <li>• Partnership Impact</li> <li>• Integrated Services</li> </ul>



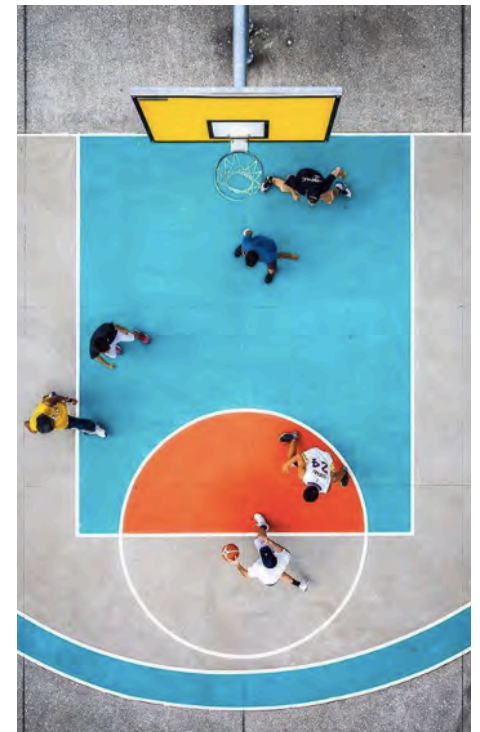
# Florence

*Community Framework*

115

Recommendation **REALIGN & SYNERGIZE** | Size 7,412 SF

FEELS LIKE...







# Charles B. Washington

*Community Framework*

# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

117

Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size **24-28,000 SF**

### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

Charles B. Washington Branch serves families, teens looking for a place to hang out and use technology, adults who work from home and need working space, seniors needing technology assistance, job and social service seekers, those experiencing poverty and homelessness, and families holding supervised visits. Due to the increase in supervised visits, staff has adapted study rooms to offer comfortable seating and added toys for imaginative play. Many families are single or working parents who need convenient service in a place where their children can also learn and connect with others. This means that many community members don't have a lot of expendable time and sometimes it is

### COMMUNITY MEMBER QUOTE

**"Washington is the side hustle corner, I started my business here."**

*Paul B. Allen IV,  
1st Sky, Benson Theatre*

the older children bringing in their younger siblings. The teen and tween community needs places where they can connect to mentors and foster positive role models. It has an expanding arts community and urban gardening community. Washington Branch has affectionately been coined the "side hustle corner" where the entrepreneurial spirit is strong and many community members utilize the meeting rooms for professional endeavors. They could benefit from more directed workforce development support. Community members also need barrier-free access to social services.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Spark Your Story  
Toys & Gaming  
Juneteenth Camp and Flag Raising Luncheon  
Book Clubs  
Kids Programming  
Summer Evening Programs

#### Current Partners

Miller Park Elementary  
Union for Contemporary Arts  
Juneteenth Nebraska Inc.  
Volunteer Income Tax Assessment (VITA)

#### Popular Collections

Urban Fiction  
Business Self-Help  
Personal Self-Help  
Mysteries

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Charging Stations  
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines  
Wi-Fi



# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

118

Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size 24-28,000 SF

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**HIGHLY USED FAMILY SPACE:** Family area is in high demand throughout the day.



**MAKER COMMUNITY:** Bustling North Omaha arts community. Quilters We Are meets here.



**HIGH NEEDS FOR TECH HELP:** Many community members' needs range from basic to innovative.



**HIGHLY USED PUBLIC TRANSIT:** Most community members arrive by foot, bike, or bus.



**HIGH CHECKOUTS OF BUSINESS & SELF-HELP:** Community members looking for a place to start their business.



**FAMILY CAREER STUDIO:** Many families come with children but also need a place to apply for jobs.



# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

119

Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size **24-28,000 SF**

### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** North H.S., King Science & Technology M.S., McMillan M.S., Belvedere E.S., Druid Hill E.S., Skinner E.S., MCC



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** Noah Clinic, Charles Drew



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** ENCAP, Adams Park Community Center, Heartland Family Service Generations Community Center.



**TRANSPORTATION HUBS:** North Omaha Transit Center, Heartland Bike Share



**CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:** The Union for Contemporary Art, Great Plains Black History Museum, Malcom X Center, North Omaha Music & Arts Academy, The Omaha Star, SPARK Fabric Lab



**OPEN SPACE/PARKS:** Miller Park, Adams Park

# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

120

Recommendation REALIGN & EXPAND | Size 24-28,000 SF

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR WASHINGTON BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

**Equitable and Inclusive**  
**Accessible**  
**Innovative**  
**Fun**  
**Walkable**

...Omaha!

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Community Kitchen



Outdoor Reading Garden



Vibrant Café



Quiet Room



Homework Help Station



Outdoor Community Space



Food Truck Zone



Game Room

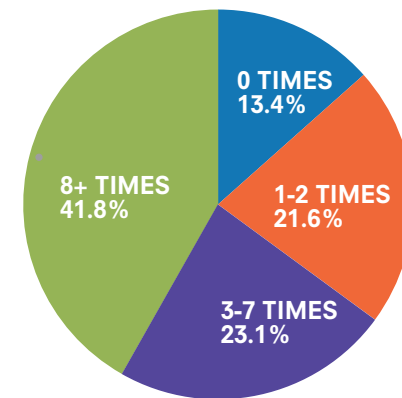


Art Gallery

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

**Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)**  
**Family or Individual**  
**Caregiver** **Reader** **Community Member (Meeting Space)**  
**Community Member (Basic Needs)** **Technology Learner**  
**Maker or Creative**  
**Gardener** **Professional**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

121

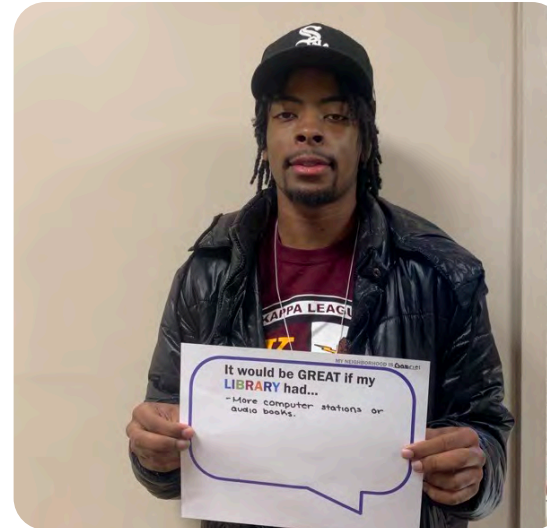
Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size **24-28,000 SF**

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (NORTH OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE & OUTREACH FINDINGS)

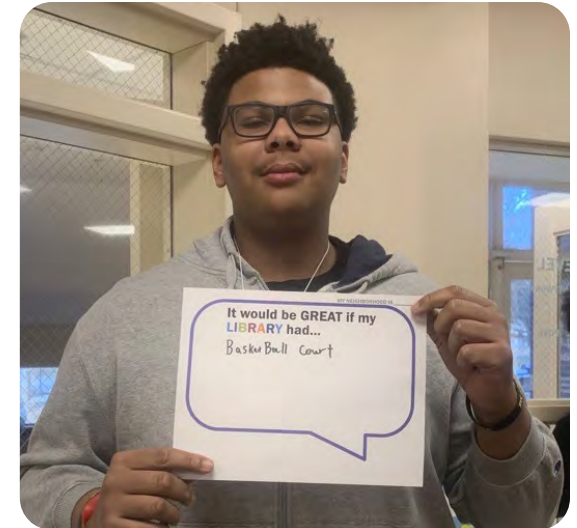
When I leave the library, I want to feel...

Accomplished  
Amazed  
Creative  
Empowered

Expressive  
Hopeful  
Joyful  
Optimistic

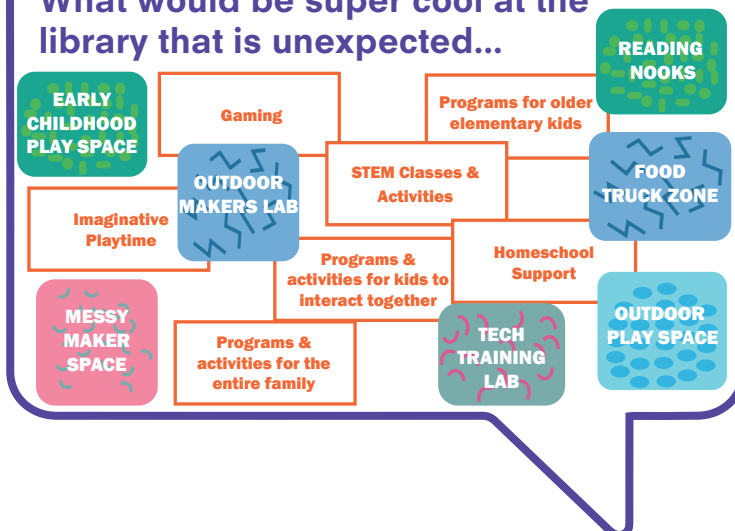


Teen from the Village Empowerment Center wants "more computer stations or audio books" at his library.

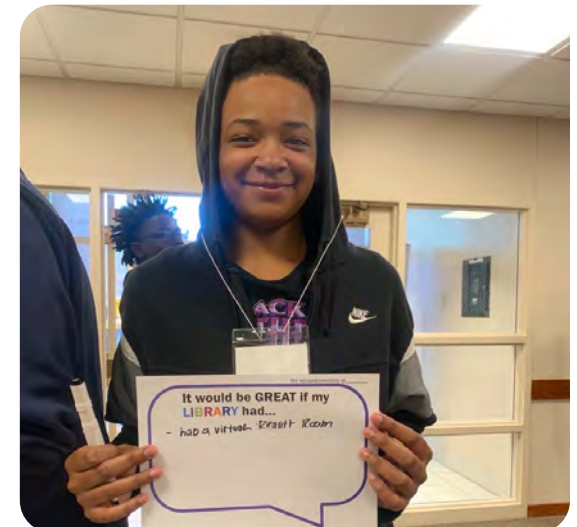


Teen from the Village Empowerment Center wants "a basketball court" at his library.

What would be super cool at the library that is unexpected...



Community member at the North Omaha Community Open House at the Village Empowerment Center completing the magnet ad-lib, exemplified in graphics to the left.



Teen from the Village Empowerment Center wants "a virtual reality room" at his library.



# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

122

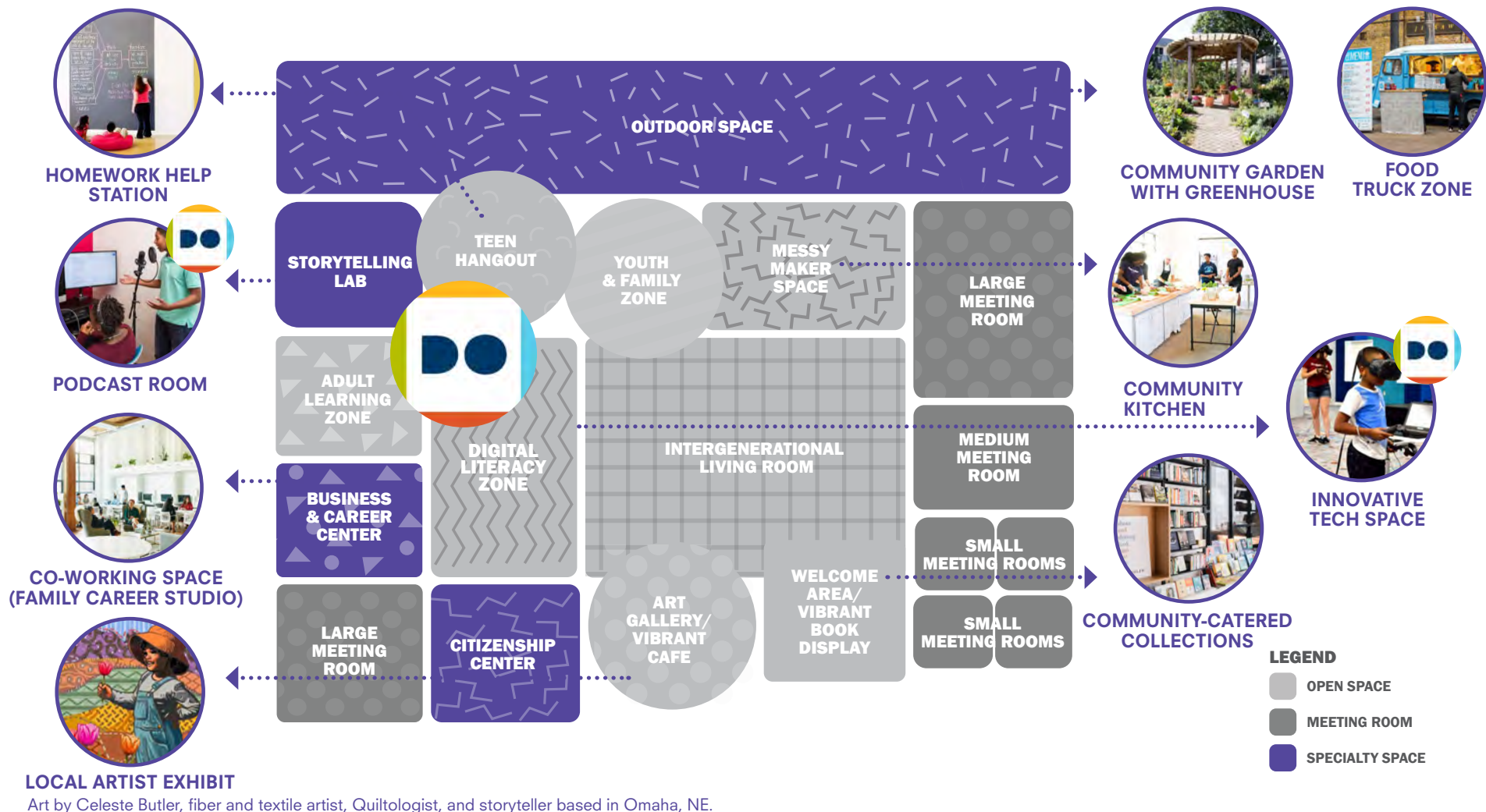
Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size 24-28,000 SF

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Charles B. Washington Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning

and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This energetic learning

environment for families, adults, and youth can be a community hub, supporting the community by providing passion-based programs, technology and spaces for an innovative and committed community of users.



# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

123

Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size **24-28,000 SF**

### DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



### EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

#### Literacy

Imaginative Play  
Book Clubs

#### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

DIY Programming  
Financial Literacy Classes  
Family Career Studio

#### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Gaming  
Basic Technology Help  
Digital Resource Checkout

#### Community Health & Safety

Mentorship program  
After-Hours Events for All Ages

#### Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening  
Rotating Local Art Display

#### Connection to Resources

Social Services Referral  
Public Transportation Information

### SPACES/SERVICES

#### Current & Potential Partners\*

House of Afros, Capes, & Curls  
SPARK Fabric Lab  
MCC Digital Express  
No More Empty Pots  
Empowerment Network  
Heartland Workforce Solutions  
Urban League of Nebraska

#### Current & Potential Collections

Urban Fiction  
Popular Children & Teen  
Culturally Diverse  
Self-Help (Personal, Parenting, Business)  
Video Game Checkouts

#### Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts  
Business Software  
Gaming Equipment  
Sewing Machines

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

124

Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size 24-28,000 SF

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
STEAM  
Local Workforce Development

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Make.Hack.Build  
Active Learning Lab  
Lunch & Learns  
Tech Kit Check Outs  
Innovative Tech Equipment

#### Outreach Opportunities\*

No More Empty Pots (Messy Maker Space)  
Urban League of Nebraska  
(Business & Career Center)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships



# Charles B. Washington

## Community Framework

125

Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size **24-28,000 SF**

### PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

#### Small [\$2M]



**Podcast Room**



**Innovative Technology Space**



**Co-Working Space  
(Family Career Studio)**



**Food Truck Zone**



**Community Garden**

#### Medium [\$6M-\$8M]

**Interior renovations to activate programs & partnerships**



**Community Kitchen**



**Do Space Lab**

#### Large [\$16M-\$19.5M]



**Realign and Expand**

#### To Foster...

- Digital Equity and Literacy
- Youth and Family Support
- Mentorship Development
- Small Businesses
- Social Connections
- Partnership Impact
- Cultural Celebrations

# Charles B. Washington

Community Framework

126

Recommendation **REALIGN & EXPAND** | Size 24-28,000 SF

## FEELS LIKE...







# A.V. Sorensen

*Community Framework*



### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The A.V. Sorensen Branch is very embedded in and directly serves the surrounding Dundee neighborhood. Although the branch is small, there are many regulars who come in daily and have relationships with staff and other community members. The branch serves many young families, parenting groups, teens and tweens, seniors and retirees, and lower income adults, many of whom have limited access to transportation. The socio-economic status of the neighborhood is at different spectrums, holding some of Omaha's wealthiest community members as well as those facing housing insecurity. Popular programming includes youth-focused events and activities, especially storytimes, as well as book clubs for adults. Even though

### COMMUNITY MEMBER QUOTE

**"A.V. Sorensen is a very neighborhood-y neighborhood branch, it's a beehive of activity."**

*Nancy Round,  
Joslyn Art Museum*

the square footage is limited, circulation numbers are comparable to surrounding neighborhood branches with more space. The library recently did a refresh during which they added new shelving, revamped the children's area and reorganized the business center. Even with a refresh, the space is very small and staff sometimes must refer community members to other spaces because there are not enough meeting and study rooms, computers and technology to meet the demand. A.V. Sorensen Branch shares a building with Omaha Parks and Recreation's A.V. Sorensen Community Center downstairs.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Storytimes  
Adult Book Clubs  
Youth Programming  
Book Bundles  
Reader's Advisory  
Partnership Passes

#### Current Partners

A.V. Sorensen Community Center,  
Parks & Recreation  
Dundee Community Garden  
Local Neighborhood Associations

#### Popular Collections

Youth Collections  
Adult Collections  
Newspapers  
Toys  
Seed Library

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Wi-Fi

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**HIGH CIRCULATION:** Circulation statistics are almost equal to larger branches; holds and pickups are utilized in this walkable neighborhood.



**HIGHLY ATTENDED YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Storytime receives community members in high numbers accommodating around 80 people at times.



**SPACE IS LIMITED:** Branch has very limited space, has to refer community members elsewhere for meeting space at times when branch is crowded.



**COLOCATED WITH RECREATION CENTER:** Being located on the second floor of the building has challenges but the branch appreciates the opportunities colocation brings.



**VERY MUCH A NEIGHBORHOOD BRANCH:** Branch is very embedded in Dundee, “beehive” of activity and conversations between community members and staff.



**HIGHEST NEEDS & INTERESTS INCLUDE:** Access to internet and basic technology, social services information/referrals, spaces to gather/study.



### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Dundee E.S., St. Cecilia E.S., Parish Alternative School, UNMC, Duchesne Academy, Clarkson College



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** CHI Health Clinic, Nebraska Medicine, CVS-Minute Clinic



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** A.V. Sorensen Community Center



**TRANSPORTATION HUBS:** Heartland Bike Share, ORBT Bus Route



**CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:** Joslyn Castle & Gardens, Karen Society of Nebraska, Film Streams' Dundee Theater



**PUBLIC PARKS & UTILITY:** Memorial Park, Elmwood Park, Gifford Park, Mercer Park, Clarkson Park



COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR A.V. SORENSEN BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

**Equitable and Inclusive**  
**Literate**  
**Curious**  
**Accessible**  
**Civically Engaged**

...Omaha!

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

**Maker or Creative** **Volunteer**  
**Community Member (Meeting Space)**  
**Reader** **Caregiver**  
**Family or Individual**  
**Researcher or Family History Enthusiast** **Gardener**  
**Technology Learner** **Professional**

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Outdoor Community Space



Outdoor Reading Garden



Vibrant Cafe



Art Gallery



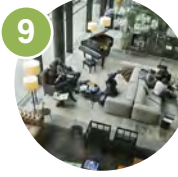
Vibrant Book Display



Quiet Room



Tool Library

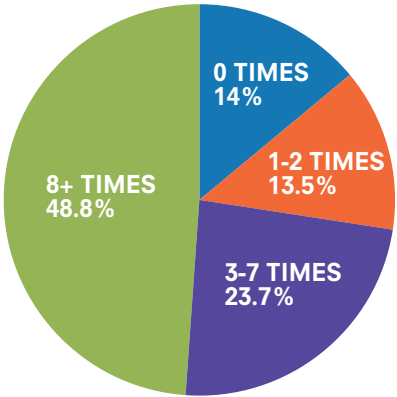


Co-Working Space



Early Childhood Play Space

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (URBAN CORE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)

**"It would be great if my community had a movie night or talent show, and arts and crafts."**

*Community Member's Quote from "It would be GREAT" if my "COMMUNITY" had... visioning activity sheet.*

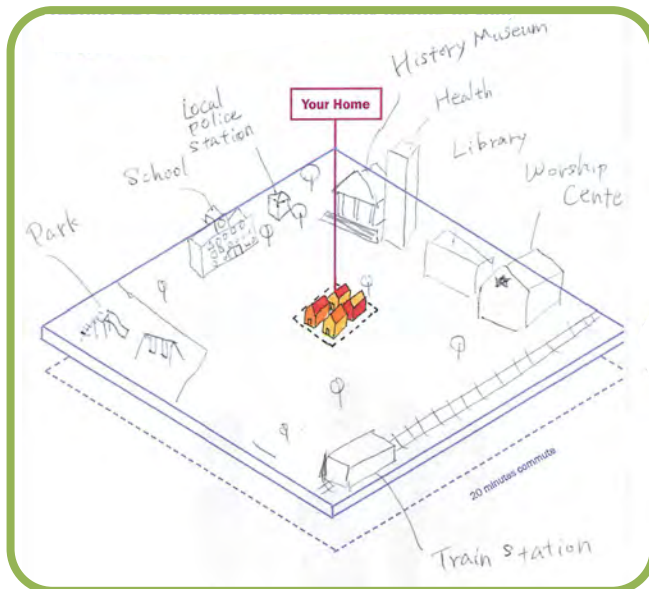
**It would be GREAT if my**

**COMMUNITY** had...

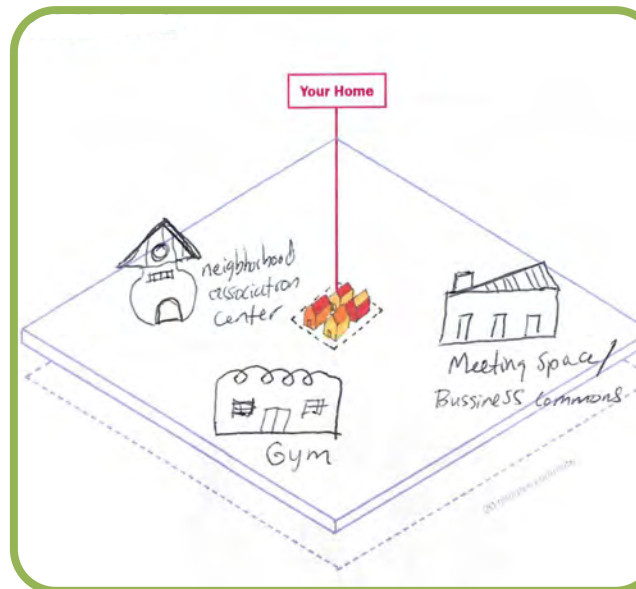
a playground and a outdoor pool and a cooking Academy and a cubby for when you read book's and Snacks maybe :) and a Movie night or a talent show and arts and crafts and a outdoor playground Photoshoot for Library



Your preferred mode of transportation is: Cycling  
Bus/Trains



Your preferred mode of transportation is: e-bike



### Community Assets:

- Library
- Meeting Spaces/Business Commons
- Park
- School
- Health Facility
- Gym
- Local Police Station
- Neighborhood Association Center
- History Museum
- Worship Center
- Train Station

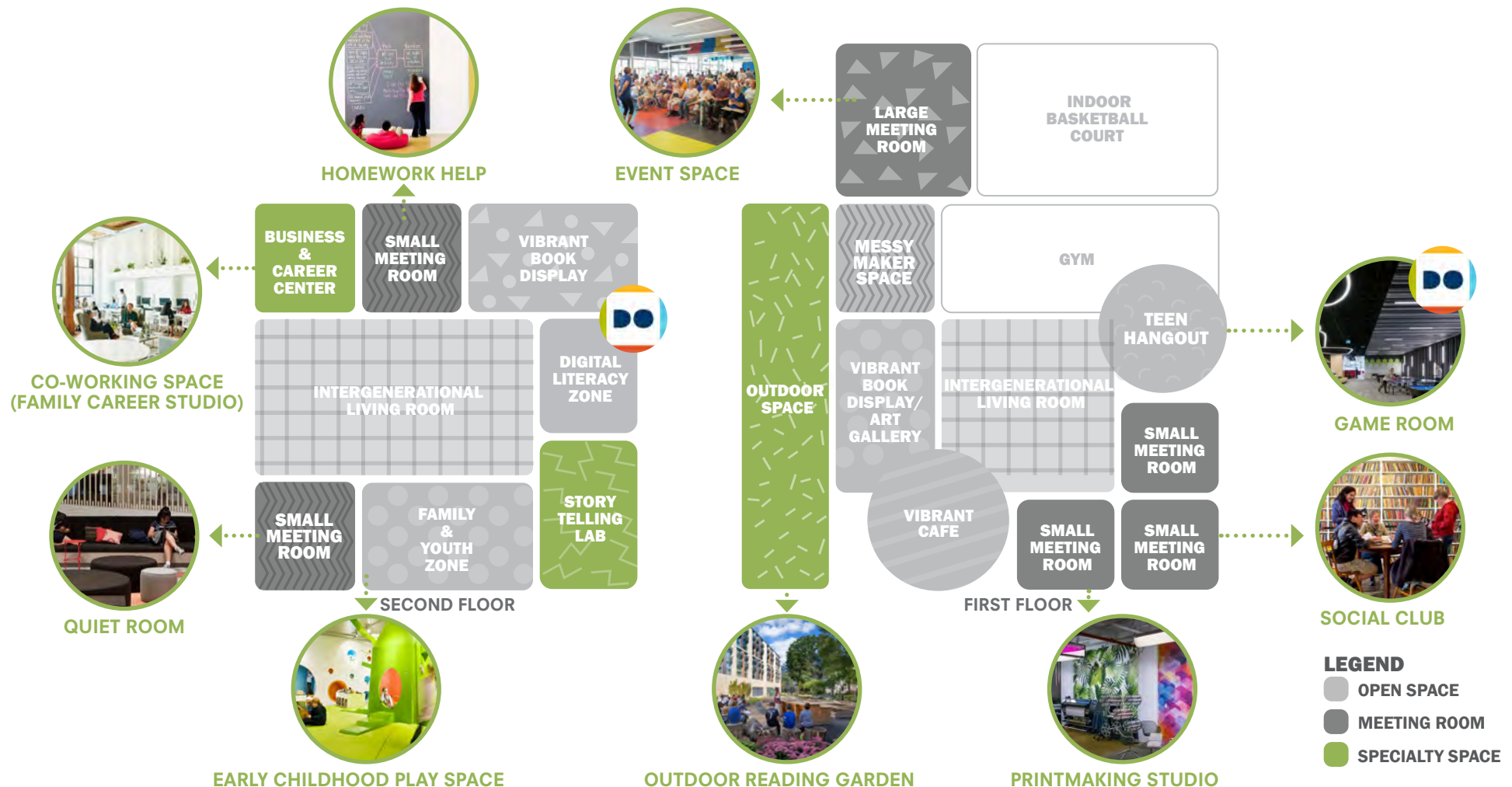
*Community members at the Urban Core Community Open House at Do Space completed activity zines to envision the community assets that they would benefit from having within 20 minutes of their homes. They also designated their preferred mode of transportation for getting around town.*

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at A.V. Sorensen Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development,

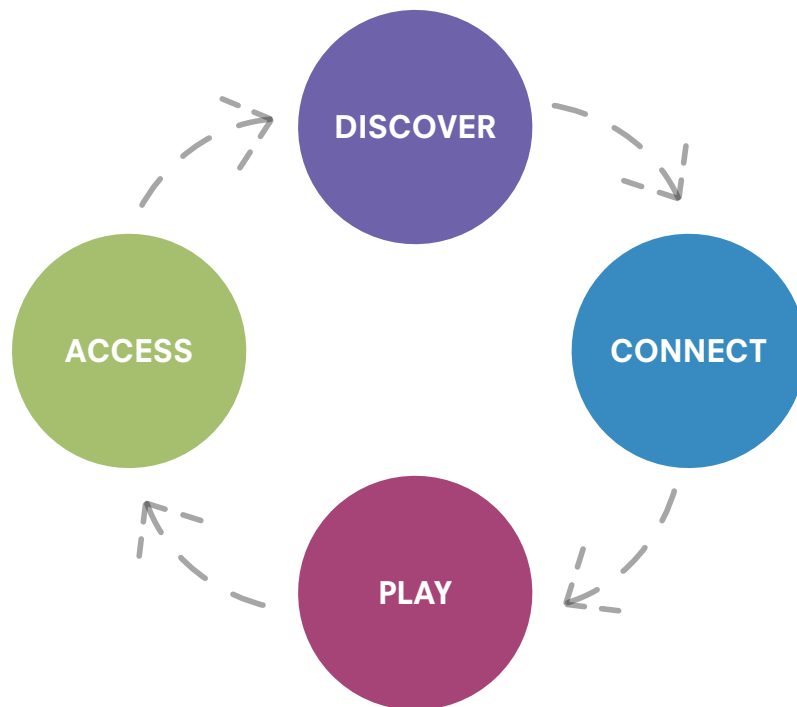
planning and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This active

learning environment can support families, teens, and seniors' quality of life with programs that promote a healthy lifestyle, intergenerational connections, and access to the resources they need by synergizing space utilizations.





## DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



## EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

### Literacy

Storytime  
Study & Meeting Spaces

### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building  
Family Career Studio

### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Technology Literacy  
Access to Technology Equipment  
Sensory Play Spaces

### Community Health & Safety

Youth programming  
Family-Centric Programming  
Cultural Heritage Programming

### Neighborhood Development

Community Gardening  
Local Art Display

### Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships  
More Heartland Bike Share Stations

## SPACES/SERVICES

### Current & Potential Partners

AV Sorensen Community Center  
Neighborhood Associations  
Dundee Community Garden  
Joslyn Castle & Gardens  
Joslyn Art Museum  
Neighborhood Schools  
Local Social Health & Senior Service Providers  
Omaha By Design  
Weitz Family Foundation  
Nonprofit Association of the Midlands  
Film Streams' Dundee Theater

### Current & Potential Collections

Expand Book Collection &  
Audiobooks  
Seed Library

### Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts  
More Computers  
Sensory Play Equipment

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
Youth Programming  
Social Service Referrals

### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Kid Coders  
Active Learning Lab  
Cyber Seniors  
Tech Kit Check Outs  
Excel-erate








### Outreach Opportunities\*

A.V. Sorensen Community Center, Parks & Recreation (Event Space & Game Room)  
Dundee Community Garden (Outdoor Reading Garden)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

### PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$3M-\$5M]	Large [\$7M-\$8.5M]
 <p><b>Early Childhood Play Space</b></p>  <p><b>Vibrant Cafe</b></p>  <p><b>Game Room</b></p>  <p><b>Homework Help Station</b></p>  <p><b>Outdoor Reading Garden</b></p>	<p><b>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></p>  <p><b>Community Kitchen</b></p>	 <p><b>Realign/Expand/Synergize</b></p> <p><b>To Foster...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Equity</li> <li>• Family and Youth Development</li> <li>• Community Hub</li> <li>• Social Connections</li> <li>• Partnership Impact</li> <li>• Integrated Services</li> </ul>



# A.V. Sorensen

*Community Framework*

137

Recommendation **REALIGN, EXPAND, & SYNERGIZE** | Size 10-12,000 SF

## FEELS LIKE...







# South Omaha

*Community Framework*

### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The South Omaha Library serves families and seniors who are linguistically and culturally diverse with a significant Latin and Hispanic community from Central America, refugees from South Sudan, as well as a community of Irish, Italian, and Eastern European descent. English and Spanish are the main languages spoken in South Omaha. Other languages include Arabic, Maay Maay, a dialect of the Somali language, and Kanjool, a spoken but not written language from Guatemala. This provides an opportunity to expand collections, services, programs, and signage beyond the English language, including expanding bilingual staff capacity. The community includes many needing social services including job assistance,

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**“The staff at the South Omaha Library are very committed to serving this community and find great joy in doing so.”**

*Marvel Maring,  
South Omaha Library Manager*

mental health resources, and family support. The branch serves community members from surrounding low-income housing developments as well as the Stephen Center homeless center which has a substance abuse treatment center. Many community members actively rely on technology from the branch as they don't have computers or smartphones at home. South Omaha Library can more intentionally support community members' basic technology literacy needs with help such as filing online applications and training to grow and learn new skills. The library also has the opportunity to foster community as a place for sharing and celebrating their fellow community members' identities and cultures.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Bilingual Storytime  
Traditional Storytime  
Urban Gardening  
Family Zumba  
Special Events  
Workshops

#### Current Partners

Metropolitan Community College  
The Simple Foundation  
Learning Community Center of South Omaha  
Latino Center of the Midlands

#### Popular Collections

Bilingual materials  
DVD

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Copier  
Scanner  
Fax Machine



# South Omaha

## Community Framework

140

Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **25-30,000 SF**

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**SUCCESSFUL TEEN AND FAMILY SPACES:** Recent reallocation of spaces optimizes the specific user experience.



**LINGUISTICALLY & CULTURALLY DIVERSE:** Refugee, New American, & immigrant populations from parts of Central America, Africa, & Asia.



**HIGH NEEDS FOR TECH HELP:** Many community members rely on the library for Wi-Fi and help with technology literacy.



**LIMITED VISIBILITY & ACCESS:** Library signage is limited from Q street, Q Street is major barrier to residential neighborhood, not walkable.



**PARTNERSHIP WITH METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (MCC):** shared facility and operations offers pros and cons.



**HIGHEST NEEDS INCLUDE:** Technology access, job assistance, social services referral, & bilingual programming.

### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Spring Lake E.S., Gateway E.S., Indian Hill E.S., Marrs M.S., Buena Vista H.S., MCC South Omaha Campus



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** One World Community Health Center, Stephen Center



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** The Simple Foundation, Latino Center of the Midlands, Learning Community Center of South Omaha



**TRANSPORTATION HUBS:** Metro Bus Terminal on the MCC South Omaha Campus, Heartland Bike Share



**CULTURAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:** El Museo Latino, Completely KIDS, Juan Diego Center, Lord of Hosts Church, Avenue Scholars, Lincua Academy



**PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY:** Metropolitan Community College Police Department



### COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR SOUTH OMAHA LIBRARY)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

**Accessible**  
**Innovative**  
**Equitable & Inclusive**  
**Literate**  
**Sustainable**

...Omaha!

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Vibrant Café



Outdoor Community Space



Outdoor Reading Garden



Art Gallery



Quiet Room



Food Truck Zone



Reading Nooks



Outdoor Play Space

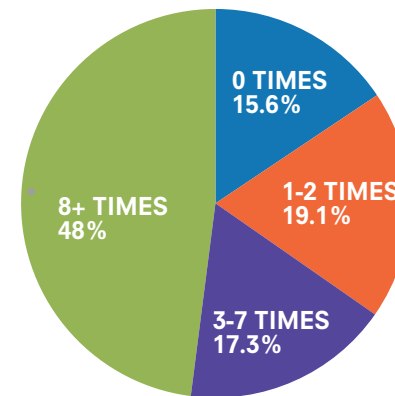


Tool Library

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

**Professional** **Community member (Internet/Computer Access)**  
**Family or Individual** **Technology Learner**  
**Caregiver** **Reader** **Gardener**  
**Researcher or Family History Enthusiast** **Maker or Creative**  
**Community Member (Meeting Space)**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL



# South Omaha

## Community Framework

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Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **25-30,000 SF**

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (SOUTH OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)

#### OUTDOOR SPACES

Looks fun!  
People are  
on it.



#### MAKERSPACES

Built by  
kids.



#### CATERED COLLECTIONS

Kids place  
with kids  
books.



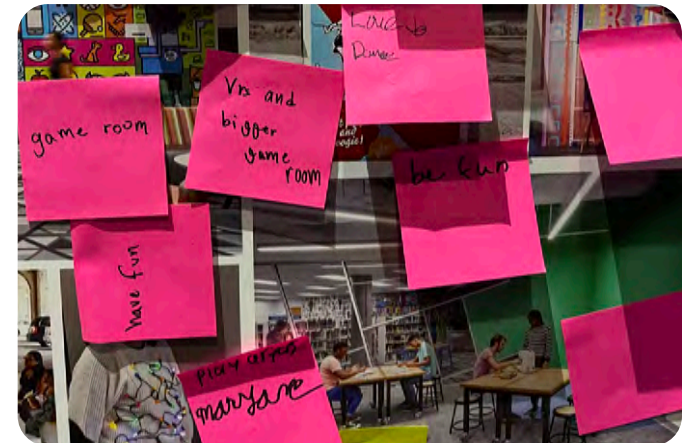
A place to  
take a break  
and hang out  
with friends.



#### SOCIAL SPACES



60 attendees participated at South Omaha Community Open House at the Simple Foundation.



Attendees tagged beauty boards with what resonated with them for a future library experience.

# South Omaha

## Community Framework

144

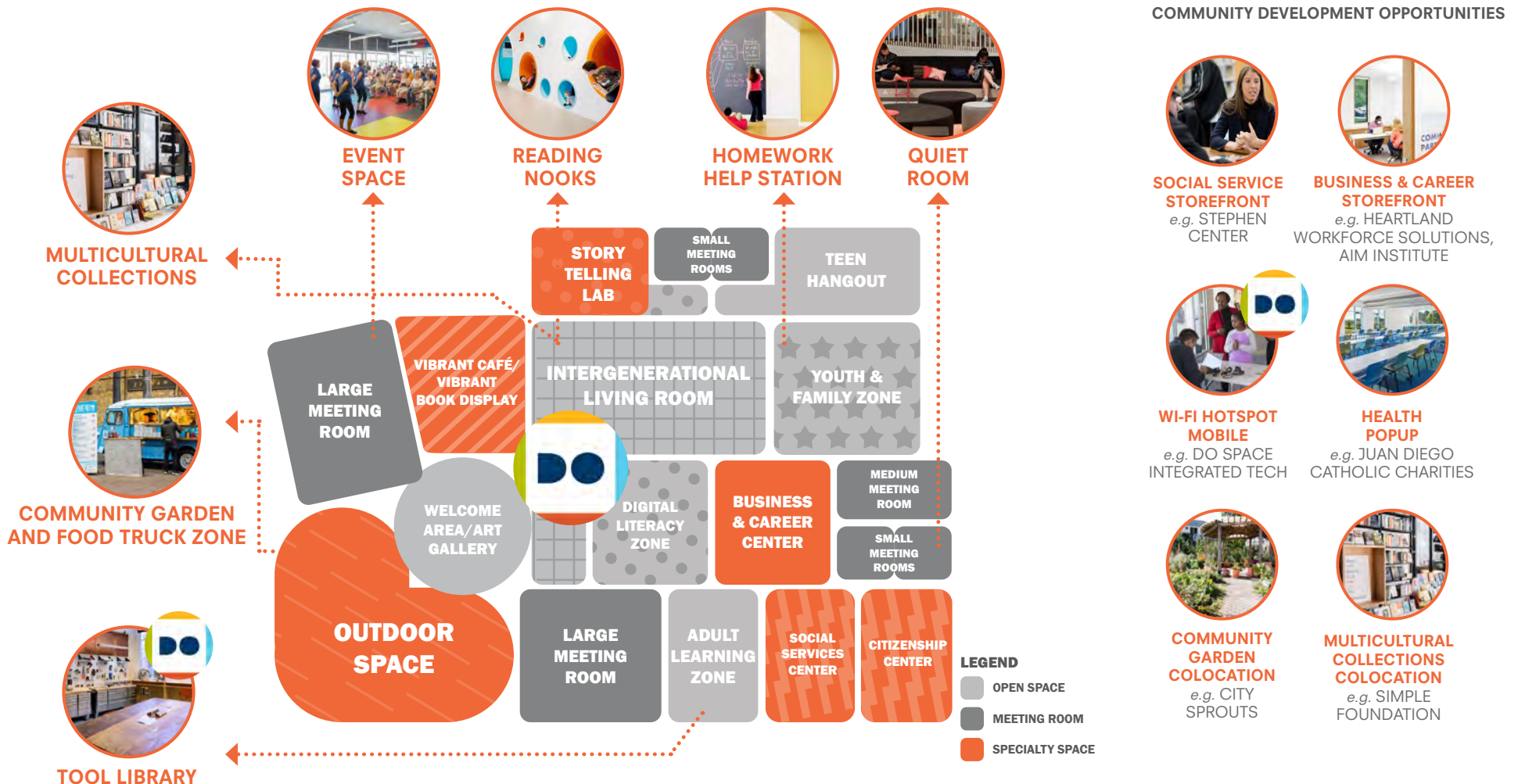
Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **25-30,000 SF**

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at South Omaha Library. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This enriching learning

environment for families and youth, especially those who are vulnerable, can support the community by providing programs and spaces that foster empowerment, identity, celebrations, and pride.



### DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



### EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

#### Literacy

Storytime in Even More Languages  
Sustained Dialogue Project (Storytelling)

#### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building  
Family Career Studio

#### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Sensory Play Spaces  
Technology Literacy  
Robust Technology Equipment

#### Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program  
Family-Centric Programming  
Cultural Heritage Programming

#### Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening  
Rotating Local Art Display

#### Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships  
Public Transportation Information

### SPACES/SERVICES

#### Current & Potential Partners

Metropolitan Community College  
The Simple Foundation  
Learning Community Center of South Omaha  
Latino Center of the Midlands  
Heartland Workforce Solutions  
AIM Institute  
Completely KIDS  
Lord of Hosts Church  
Stephen Center  
Local Consulates  
City Sprouts  
Canopy South

#### Current & Potential Collections

Expand World Collection Books & Audiobooks  
Seed Library

#### Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts  
Sensory Play

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships



### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
Social Services Referral  
Local Workforce Development

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Active Learning Lab  
Cyber Seniors  
STEM Classes  
Lunch & Learns  
Tech Kit Check Outs

#### Outreach Opportunities\*

Stephen Center (Social Services Center)  
Heartland Workforce Solutions (Adult Learning Zone & Business & Career Center)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

# South Omaha









## Community Framework

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Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **25-30,000 SF**

### PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$9M-\$11M]	Large [\$15M-\$21M]
 <p><b>Tool Library</b></p>  <p><b>Community Garden</b></p>  <p><b>Food Truck Zone</b></p>  <p><b>Business &amp; Career Center Pop-up</b></p>  <p><b>Health Pop-up</b></p>  <p><b>Wi-Fi Hotspot Mobile</b></p>	<p><b>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></p>  <p><b>Do Space Lab</b></p>	 <p><b>Analyze</b></p> <p><b>To Foster...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Equity</li> <li>• Family Support</li> <li>• Youth Mentorship</li> <li>• Small Businesses</li> <li>• Partnership Impact</li> <li>• Cultural Celebrations</li> </ul>



# South Omaha

*Community Framework*

148

Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **25-30,000 SF**

## FEELS LIKE...







# Willa Cather

*Community Framework*



### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

Willa Cather Branch has strong ties to the community members it serves including seniors and retirees, longtime residents of the area, young families, and those experiencing homelessness or near homelessness. The programs, collections, and activities that interest the community most include reading, the newspaper collection, author talks, a weekly knitting group, the seed library, access to the computers, printer and fax machines, and utilizing holds/pickups. This branch sees high adult circulation and usage which suggests the adult collections and programs could be expanded while also providing a dedicated family area for the many young families who utilize the branch. Willa Cather Branch is a quiet library and is the oldest non-

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**"The building has a small library feel and staff know their regular patrons by sight or name. The staff are continuously looking for better ways to serve them."**

*Lori Nelson,  
Willa Cather Branch Manager*

renovated branch; the building hasn't changed much over the years. Staff have to be creative with the space in order to provide the best service to its community such as finding private spaces for social service consultations and family visitations. The branch is important to the neighborhood because it serves as a community hub in a neighborhood that lacks an intimate main street feel. It is fairly walkable but lacks centralization. Parks, restaurants, grocers, and fast food restaurants are isolated from each other or far from the Willa Cather Branch. The branch's proximity to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Immigrant Legal Center and Refugee Empowerment Center provides an opportunity for the branch to further its reach and serve the community even better.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Read to a Dog  
Gardening Storytime  
Musician Storytime  
Symphony Musician Storytime  
Make A Sock Puppet  
Create Your Own Adventure

#### Current Partners

Paws for Friendship

#### Popular Collections

Seed Library  
Newspapers

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Printing  
Fax Machine

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



#### **SPACES FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS:**

Community served includes retirees, young families, long-time residents, and those at risk or currently experiencing homelessness.



**HIGH ADULT CIRCULATION:** Adult spaces, programs, and collections could be expanded.



**STAFF ARE CREATIVE WITH SPACE:** Find alternative spaces for privacy when needed by community members, such as for phone calls, case worker meetings, and family visitations.



**BUILDING NEEDS TO BE RENOVATED AND EXPANDED:** Oldest non-renovated OPL building that needs to be larger to accommodate high usage.



**BRANCH IS HUB FOR COMMUNITY:** The neighborhood lacks the feel of a main street and local amenities are spread out, library serves as main attraction.



**PARKING IS LIMITED:** Parking is limited on the lot and often at capacity.



### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Jackson E.S., Washington E.S., Field Club E.S., Norris M.S., Mercy Catholic H.S., Clarkson College



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Douglas County Health Department, University of Nebraska Medical Center



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** Hispanic Art Center of Omaha, We Are South Omaha, Intercultural Senior Center



**TRANSPORTATION HUBS:** Omaha Metro Bus Route 15, Heartland Bike Share



**CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:** Hanscom Church, Immigrant Legal Center & Refugee Empowerment Center



**OPEN SPACE & PARKS:** Field Club of Omaha, Hanscom Park

COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR WILLA CATHER BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Curious  
Literate  
Equitable & Inclusive  
Civically Engaged  
Innovative

...Omaha!

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Researcher or Family History Enthusiast  
Family or Individual Gardener  
Caregiver Reader Volunteer  
Technology Learner Professional  
Community Member (Meeting Space) Maker or Creative

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Outdoor Reading Garden



Vibrant Café



Art Gallery



Outdoor Community Space



Tool Library



Reading Nooks



Genealogy & History Hub

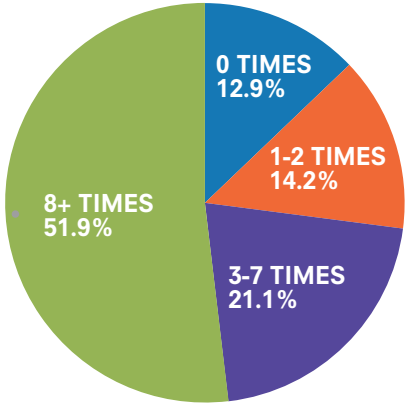


Food Truck Zone



Vibrant Book Displays

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL



### COMMUNITY INPUTS (SOUTH OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)



**Classrooms**

Learn about  
other cultures  
and get help  
with subjects I'm  
struggling with.



**Community Kitchen**

make food  
w/ community  
and support  
communities w/  
meals  
Seed Library  
Program



**Game Room**

Hang out  
Play minecraft  
and Nintendo  
Switch.



**Outdoor Community Space**

Play sports  
We need more  
adult programs.



**Vibrant Cafe**

Break talk  
with friends.  
Have fun  
with kids.



**Study Room**

Space to do my  
homework.  
Use tablets to  
do my  
homework.



About 60 community members attended the South Omaha Community Open House at the Simple Foundation. Their sentiments are captured in the graphics to the left.

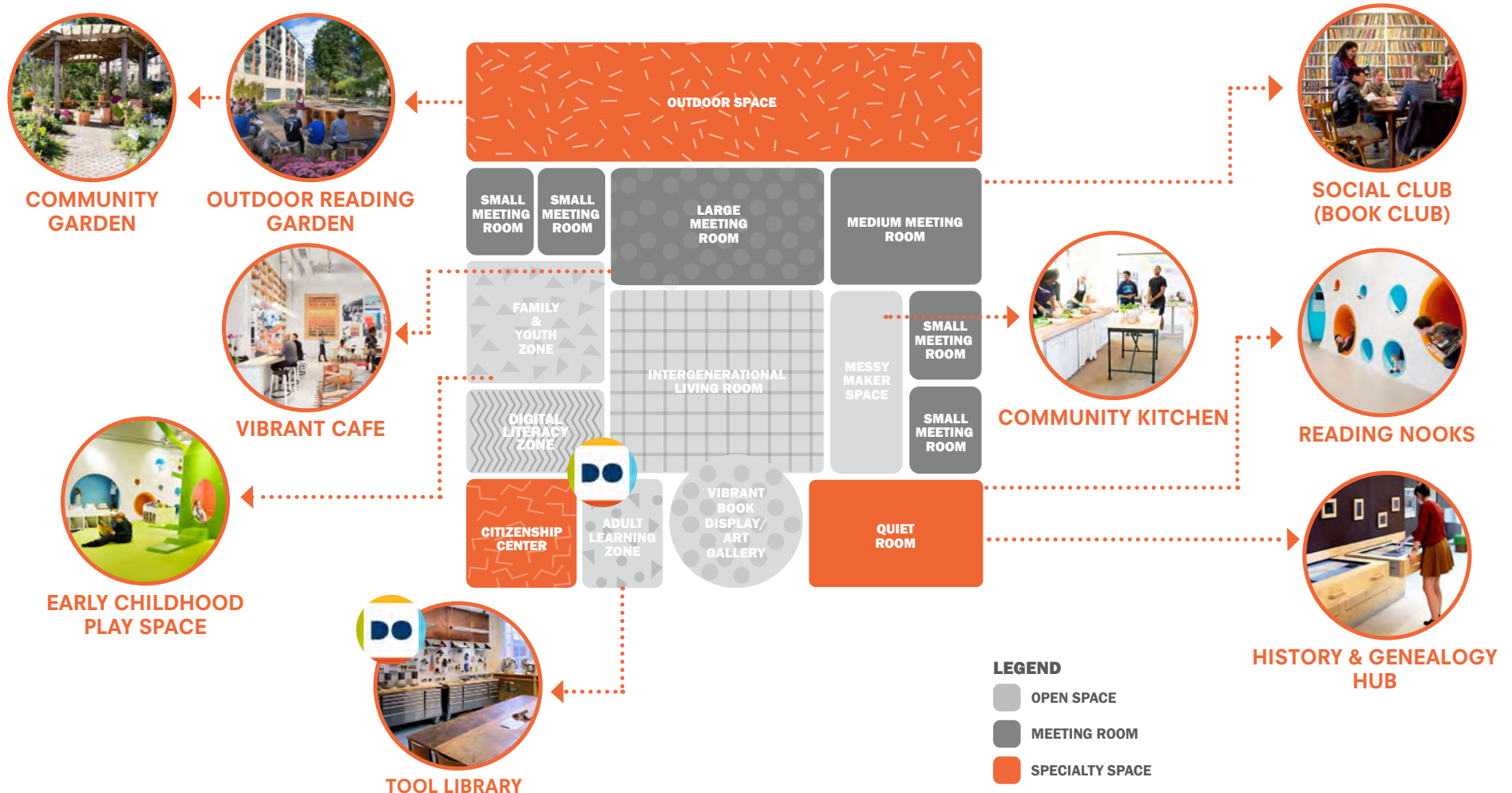


### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

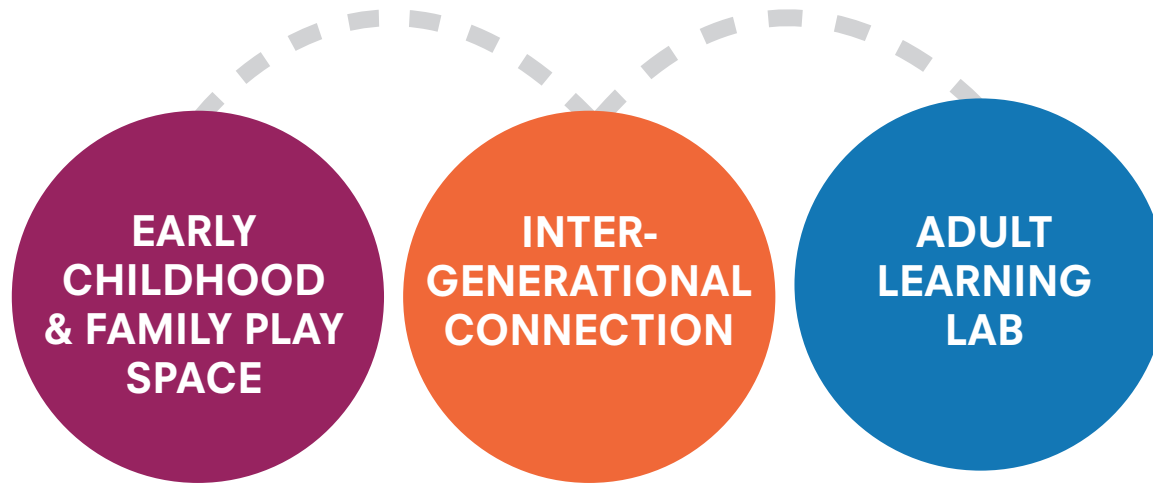
The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Willa Cather Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary

approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This environment can foster the community gathering spaces that the neighborhood needs, provide enriching

experiences for both youth and adults, empower those who are vulnerable with access to resources and information, and spark more creative outlets that the community currently enjoys.



## DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



## EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

### Literacy

Book Clubs  
Collaborative Learning

### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Computer Lab  
Study Rooms  
Financial Literacy Programs

### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Basic Technology Help  
Digital Resource Checkout  
Innovative Technology Resources

### Community Health & Safety

After-Hours Events for All Ages  
Community Garden

### Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening  
Intergenerational Arts/Entertainment  
Hands-On Learning

### Connection to Resources

Social Services Referral  
Immigration Support

## SPACES/SERVICES

### Current & Potential Partners

Paws for Friendship  
Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital  
Immigrant Legal Center & Refugee  
Empowerment Center  
Hanscom Park United Methodist  
Church's Food Pantry  
Local Consulates

### Current & Potential Collections

Mystery Titles  
Best Sellers  
Gardening  
Cooking  
Popular Movies  
Poetry

### Potential Technologies

Business Software  
Game Room  
Tool Library  
Music/Podcast Studio

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

# Willa Cather

## Community Framework

157

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **18-24,000 SF**

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Early Childhood Programs  
Adult Programs  
Social Service (Homelessness & Immigrant Support)

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Cyber Seniors  
Active Learning Lab  
STEM Classes  
Computer Literacy Classes  
Mentorship Classes

#### Outreach Opportunities\*








Veterans Affairs Medical Hospital (Social Club)  
Immigrant Legal Center & Refugee Empowerment Center (Citizenship Center)  
Hanscom Park United Methodist Church's Food Pantry (Community Kitchen)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships



PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$5M-\$7M]	Large [\$12M-\$17M]
<div><div>Tool Library</div></div> <div><div>Community Garden</div></div> <div><div>Early Childhood Play Space</div></div> <div><div>Vibrant Cafe</div></div> <div><div>Social Club</div></div>	<div><div>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</div><div><div>Community Kitchen</div></div></div>	<div><div>Rebuild</div></div> <div><div>To Foster...</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community Hub</li><li>Digital Equity</li><li>Family Support</li><li>Youth Development</li><li>Social Connections</li><li>Partnership Impact</li></ul></div></div>

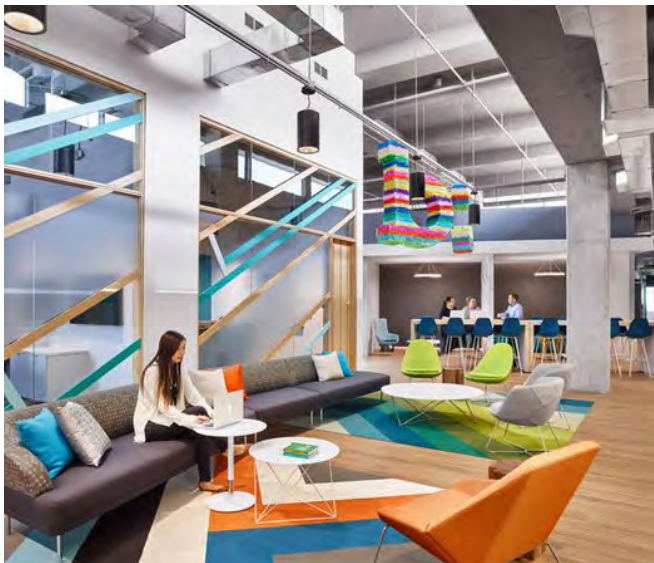
# Willa Cather

Community Framework

159

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **18-24,000 SF**

## FEELS LIKE...







# Millard

*Community Framework*



### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Millard Branch is the largest branch in the Omaha Public Library (OPL) system with the highest circulation. It's a bustling branch that is well-loved and sees many of the same loyal and consistent community members every day. It currently serves a larger portion of Douglas County residents than any other OPL library branch. Millard Branch serves families with children, adults with developmental disabilities, people needing areas for work or study, and those needing access to a computer and/or printer. In surveys, the Millard Branch community reports they enjoy

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**"We are well-loved by our community who are loyal and consistent."**

*Autumn Hill,  
Millard Branch Manager*

the OPL Partnership Pass program, storytimes, the seed library, book clubs, having spaces to relax or work, their relationships with the staff, and utilizing the self-service options. Millard Branch could benefit from programming for the whole family with intergenerational opportunities, a larger variety of meeting room options with video conferencing technologies and the addition of both quieter and noisier areas to gather.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime  
Seed Library Program  
Book Clubs & Book Club Bags  
Kids Programming  
Board Game Check Out  
Relaxing, Studying or Working

#### Popular Collections

Children and Youth Collections  
Board Games  
Seed Library

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Charging Stations  
Printers  
Wi-Fi

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Storytimes are very popular as the branch serves many young families.



**MEETING ROOMS IN HIGH DEMAND:** Community groups, working adults, and students looking for more variety of meeting spaces.



**QUIET VS. LOUD SPACES:** Community members looking for a variety of gathering spaces that cater to different uses.



**SELF-SERVICE:** Community members usually arrive by car and enjoy self-services when available.



**TECHNOLOGY USAGE:** Computers and printers are in high demand, community would benefit from video conference software.



**LARGE SERVICE AREA:** Although Millard is a highly used branch, there are gaps in service in west Omaha where commute to a OPL branch is far.



## CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Portal E.S., Cather E.S., Meadows E.S., George Russell M.S., Millard High Schools



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** CHI Health Clinic Women's Health, One World West



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** Montclair Community Center, Hillcrest



**TRANSPORTATION HUBS:** West Papio Trail, most community members drive to the branch



**CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:** Tri-Faith Initiative



**OPEN SPACE/PARKS:** Zorinsky Lake, Chalco Hills



### COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR MILLARD BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

**Literate**  
**Curious**  
**Innovative**  
**Equitable & Inclusive**  
**Fun**

...Omaha!

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Outdoor Reading Garden



Vibrant Café



Outdoor Community Space



Early Childhood Play Space



Genealogy & History Hub



Outdoor Play Space



Tool Library



Quiet Room

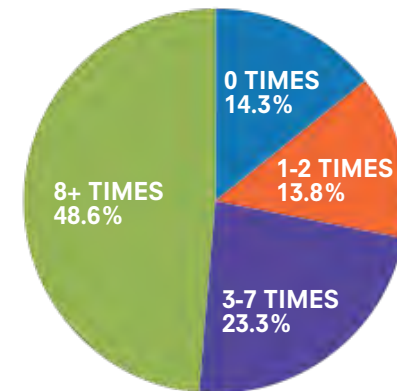


Community Kitchen

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

**Family or Individual**  
**Caregiver** **Reader**  
**Gardener**  
**Maker or Creative**  
**Community Member (Meeting Space)**  
**Volunteer**  
**Professional**  
**Technology Learner**  
**Researcher or Family History Enthusiast**

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (SOUTHWEST OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS & MILLARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY FINDINGS)



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Millard staff installed beauty boards with photos of spaces and places. The community was prompted to tag what resonated with their aspirations for a future library. At the Southwest Community Open House at Millard, community members created vision boards based of what they wanted their future library to look and feel like. They also tagged beauty boards and filled in ad-libs with ideas for their future library experience. The items with most mentions in the feedback experiences are illustrated above.

# Millard

## Community Framework

166

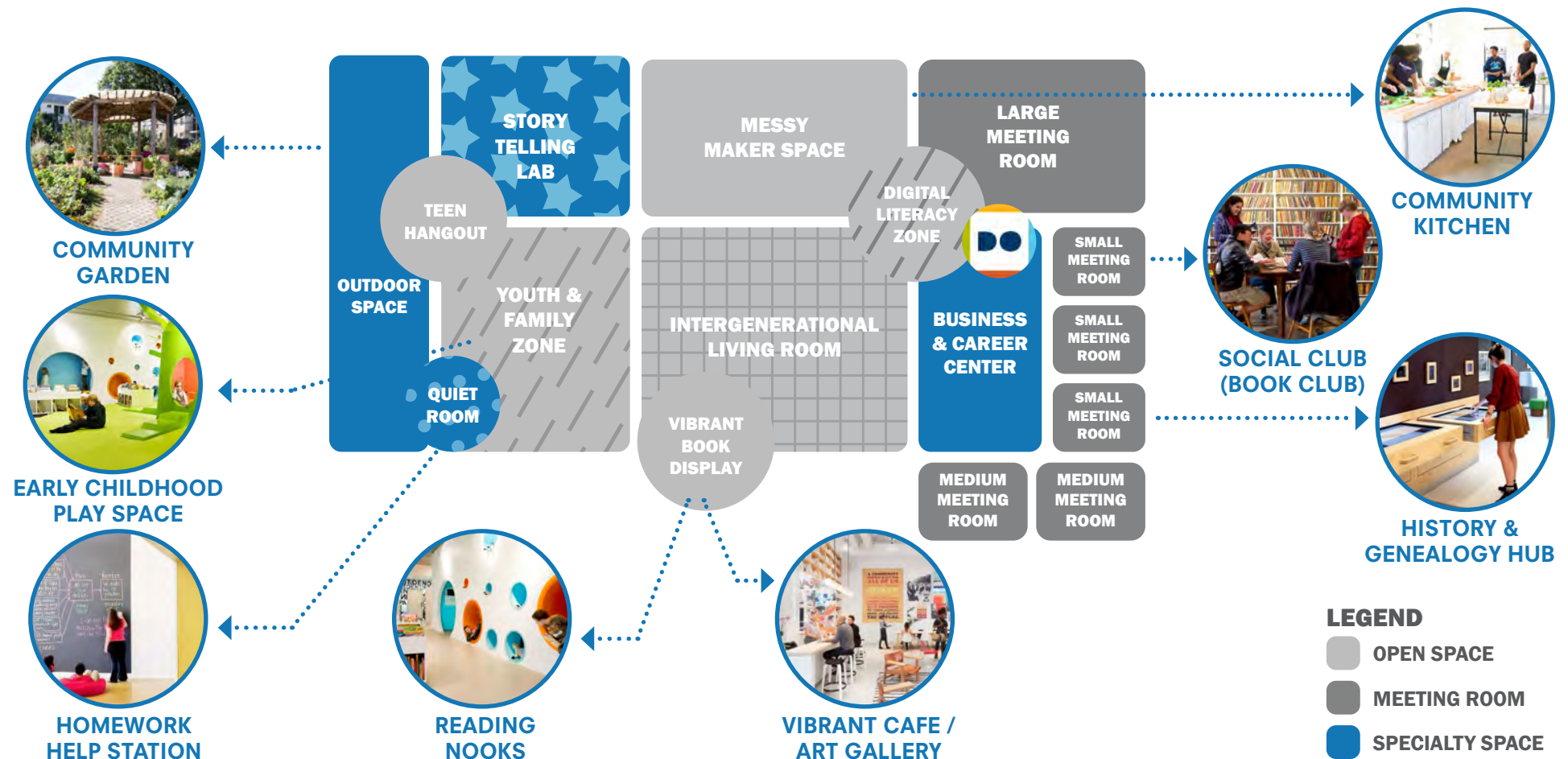
Recommendation | **REALIGN** Size | **31,360 SF**

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Millard Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This environment can foster

different types of learning in spaces that cater to different needs and aspirations. The following spaces can host programs and activities that young families, professionals, and all community members can feel empowered in their autonomy and growth.





### DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



### EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

#### Literacy

Sensory Play Spaces  
Book Clubs  
Homework Help

#### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Life Skills Classes  
Family Career Studio  
Community Work Spaces

#### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Basic Technology Help  
Digital Resource Checkout  
STEAM Programming

#### Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program  
After-Hours Events for All Ages  
Wellness Programs

#### Neighborhood Development

Community Gathering Programs  
DIY Programming for All Ages  
Learning Incubator

#### Connection to Resources

Local Trail Connections  
Financial Literacy Classes  
Parent Education Classes

### SPACES/SERVICES

#### Current & Potential Partners\*

Boys Town  
Senior Centers and Retirement Homes  
Organizations for Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities  
Friedel Jewish Academy

#### Current & Potential Collections

Gardening Related Collections  
Seed Library  
Study Books  
Self-Help (Personal, Parenting, Business)  
Video Game Checkouts

#### Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts  
Business Software  
Gaming Equipment  
Printers and 3D Printers  
Laptops  
Digital Check Outs

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
Community Gathering  
Local Workforce Development

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Make.Hack.Build  
Tech Kit Check Outs  
Lunch & Learns  
Excel-erate  
Cyber Seniors







#### Outreach Opportunities\*

Boys Town (Teen Hangout)  
Senior Centers & Organizations for Children  
& Adults with Developmental Disabilities  
(Community Garden & Messy Maker Space)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community  
but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

### INVESTMENT MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$13M-\$15M]	Large [\$19M]
<div>  <p><b>Early Childhood Play Space</b></p> </div> <div>  <p><b>Reading Nooks</b></p> </div> <div>  <p><b>Homework Help Station</b></p> </div> <div>  <p><b>Community Garden</b></p> </div>	<div> <p><b>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></p> </div> <div>  <p><b>Community Kitchen</b></p> </div>	<div>  <p><b>Realign</b></p> <p><b>To Foster...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Equity</li> <li>• Family Connections</li> <li>• Early Literacy</li> <li>• Social Connections</li> <li>• Youth Development</li> <li>• Partnership Impact</li> </ul> </div>



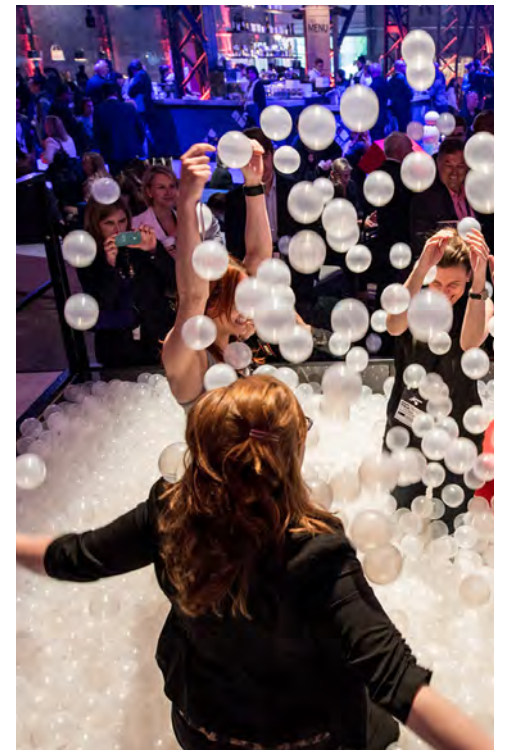
# Millard

*Community Framework*

170

Recommendation | **REALIGN** Size | **31,360 SF**

## FEELS LIKE...







# W. Clarke Swanson

*Community Framework*

# W. Clarke Swanson

## Community Framework

172

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **24,495 SF**

### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The W. Clarke Swanson Branch serves a community of families with young kids, students and tutors, seniors, and computer and technology users. In surveys, they report their favorite things about the Swanson Branch include the books and vibrant displays, the storytimes, passive programming like fun worksheets for kids, and the relationships they have with staff. Swanson Branch is tucked in a residential neighborhood situated on a major commercial and transportation corridor, which contributes to it feeling like a hybrid between a cozy neighborhood branch and a busy regional hub. The library sees community members not only from its surrounding neighborhood but also from beyond the immediate vicinity. Due to its

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**"Swanson's motto is warmly welcoming to all; helping our community members conquer today's hurdle; sparking and sharing a love of books and reading."**

*Matt Couch,  
Swanson Branch Manager*

location on major roads, the library is a good place for community members to stop in on their commute to work or on their way to a movie. The library sees more returns than checkouts, possibly because of this convenience. Swanson Branch shares the space with Friends of Omaha Public Library, whose book sales benefit the whole OPL system. Swanson Branch would benefit from more study rooms for the students, tutors, and professionals who frequent this branch and are looking for quiet space to study or work. Swanson Branch would also benefit from communal areas where people can connect with others, promoting more social cohesion by having spaces that provide the opportunity for personal and historical storytelling.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime  
Youth Programming  
Passive Programming  
Reader's Advisory

#### Current Partners

Friends of the Omaha Public Library  
(systemwide partner for OPL)  
Master Gardeners - University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln Extension  
Public Works  
Parks & Recreation

#### Popular Collections

Book Displays  
Newspaper Archives  
Genealogy Databases

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Copier  
Scanner  
Fax Machine



# W. Clarke Swanson

## Community Framework

173

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **24,495 SF**

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY CONDITIONS



**REFRESHED CHILDREN'S AREA:** Recently refreshed children's area with activity wall and shelving with book displays.



**NEED STUDY ROOMS:** Currently Swanson has two meeting rooms which can be reserved but does not have any study rooms for drop-in use by patrons.



**MANY HOLDS:** Because Swanson is centrally located, it is part of the community's commute resulting in many holds.



**NEIGHBORHOOD/REGIONAL HUB:** Branch is easily accessible by foot, car, or public transportation and is visited by near and far community members.



**FRIENDS OF OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY:** The branch hosts the Friends on the lower level, they bring new members to the branch who wouldn't otherwise visit.

# W. Clarke Swanson

## Community Framework

174

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **24,495 SF**

### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Westbrook E.S., Loveland E.S., Westside M.S. & H.S., Nebraska Methodist College, University of Nebraska Omaha



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Methodist Hospital, Creighton University Medical Center-Bergan Mercy



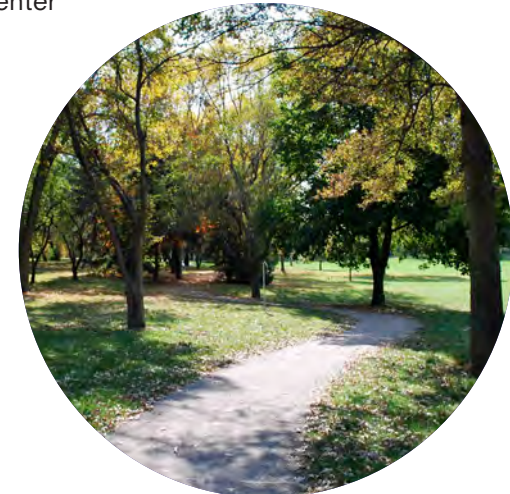
**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** New Cassel Retirement, Astoria Senior Living, Arboretum Village, St. John Vianney Residence, Pipal Park Community Center



**TRANSPORTATION HUBS:** Westroads Transit Center, ORBT Bus Stops



**CULTURAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:** Community Playhouse, Conservatory of Music, Academy of Ballet



**PARKS & OPEN SPACE:** Keystone & Big Papio Trails, Swanson Science Park Arboretum, & several parks



COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR W. CLARKE SWANSON BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate  
Innovative  
Curious  
Equitable & Inclusive  
Accessible

...Omaha!

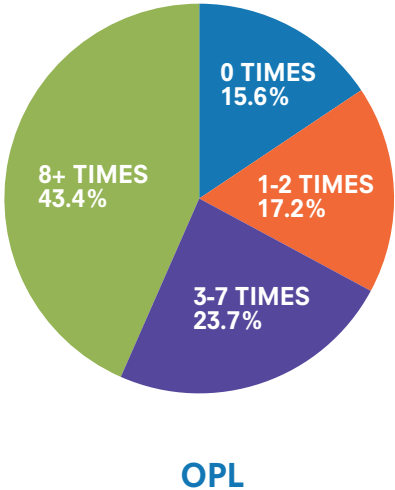
How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Technology Learner  
Family or Individual  
Community Member (Meeting Space)  
Caregiver  
Reader  
Volunteer  
Researcher or Family  
History Enthusiast  
Gardener  
Professional  
Maker or Creative

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?





### COMMUNITY INPUTS (SWANSON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

When I leave the library, I want to feel...

Calm  
Creative  
Excited

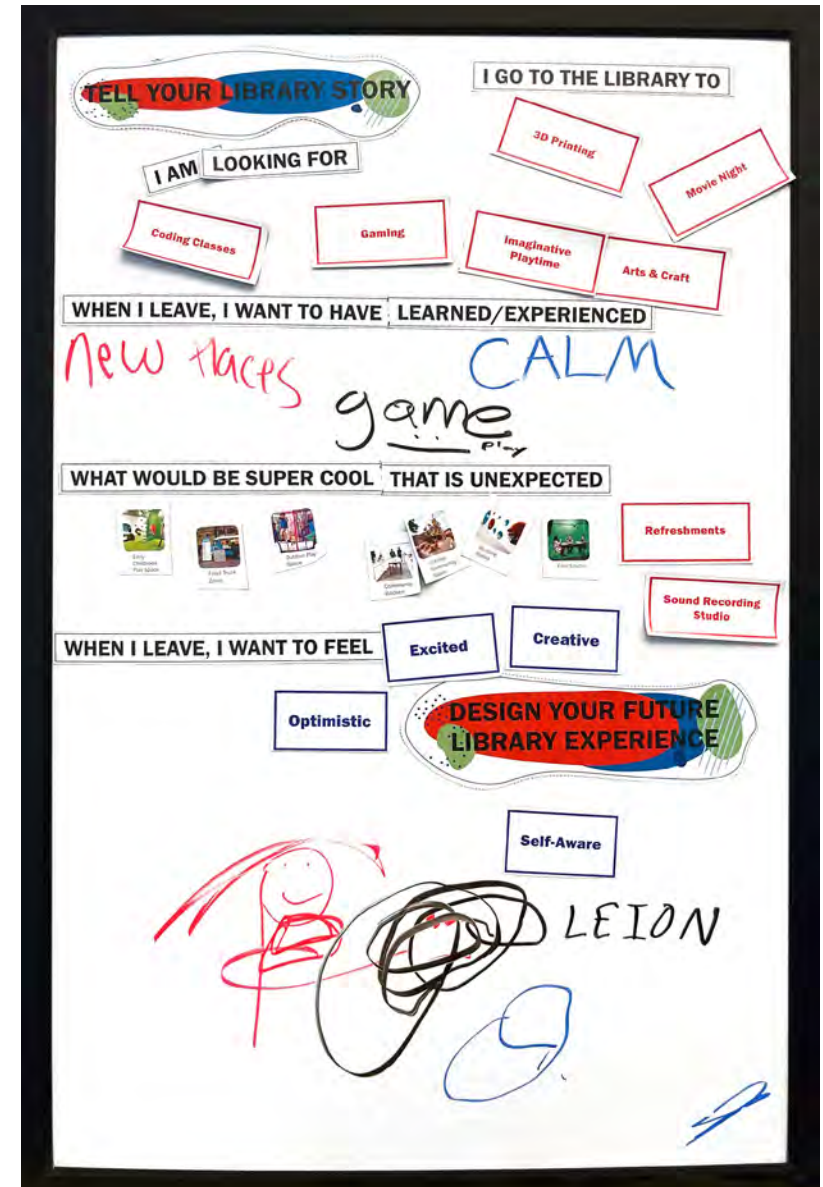
Optimistic  
Self-Aware

#### SPACES & PLACES

- CHILDREN-FRIENDLY BATHROOMS
- COMMUNITY KITCHEN
- EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAY SPACE
- FILM STUDIO
- FOOD TRUCK ZONE
- NEW PLACES
- OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE
- OUTDOOR PLAY SPACE
- OUTDOOR READING GARDEN
- PRINTMAKING STUDIO
- QUIET AREAS
- READING NOOKS
- SOUND RECORDING STUDIO
- STUDY ROOMS
- TEEN HANGOUT

#### PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- 3-D PRINTING
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- CODING CLASSES
- CONCERT SERIES
- DANCING
- GAMING
- IMAGINATIVE PLAYTIME
- MOVIE NIGHT
- PROGRAMS FOR KIDS TO INTERACT TOGETHER
- REFRESHMENTS
- STORYTIME



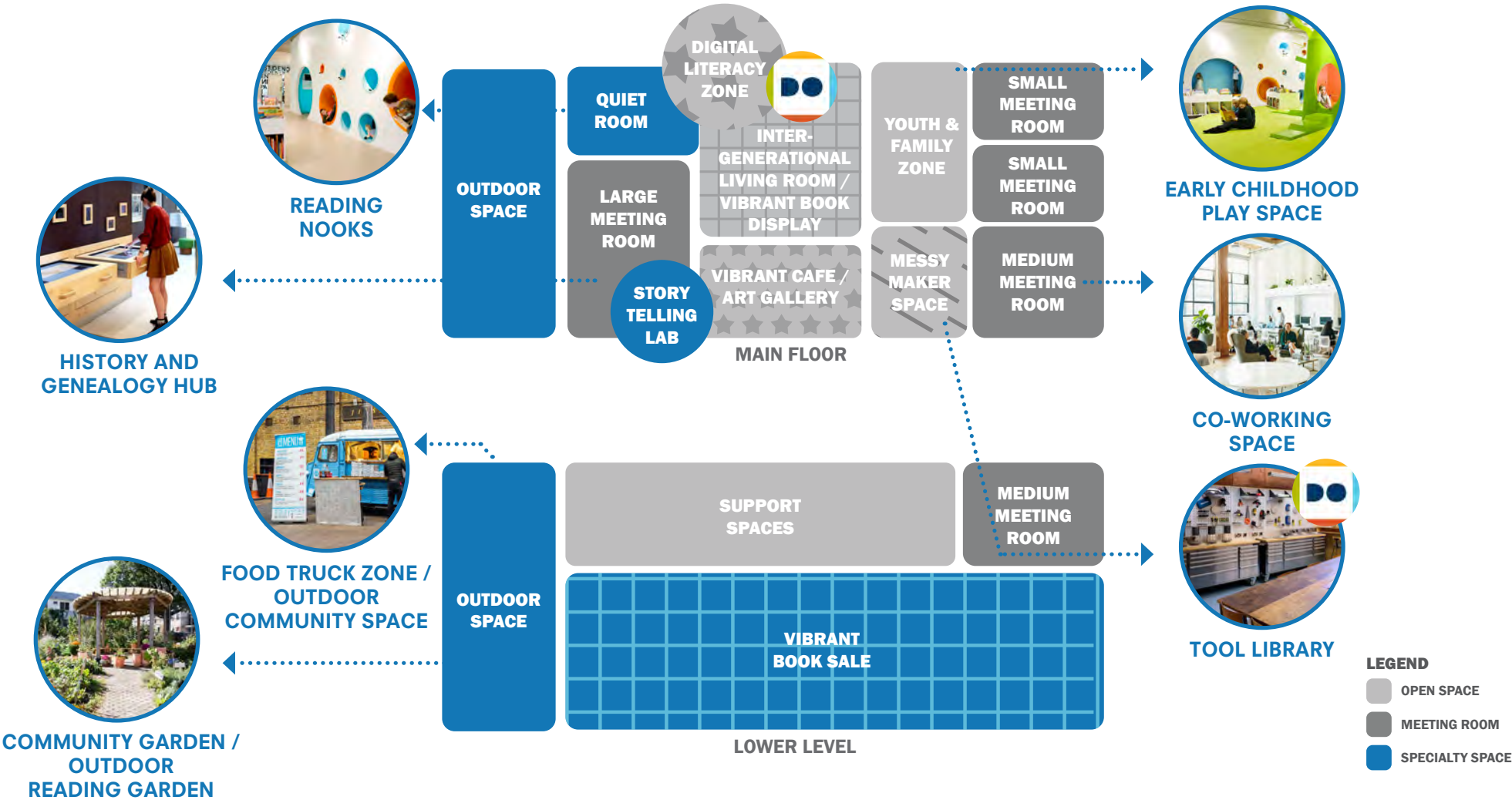
During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Swanson staff installed a magnet board with ad-lib prompts for the community to fill in. There were magnets separated into categories like spaces and places, programs and activities, and feelings. Over time, the community filled in the ad-lib to complete the sentences. This is illustrated above.

FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at W. Clarke Swanson Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This learning environment for

young families, students and tutors, seniors, and technology users can support the community by providing programs and spaces that foster literacy, play, storytelling, identity, community, and pride.



### DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



### EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

#### Literacy

Vibrant Book Displays  
Storytelling Lab

#### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building  
Family Career Studio

#### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Sensory Play Spaces  
Technology Literacy  
Content Creation Equipment

#### Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program  
Family Support Programming  
Social Services Referral

#### Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening  
History & Genealogy Programs

#### Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships  
Public Transportation Information

### SPACES/SERVICES

#### Current & Potential Partners\*

Friends of the Omaha Public Library  
(systemwide partner for OPL)  
Master Gardeners - University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln Extension  
Public Works  
Parks & Recreation  
Inclusive Communities  
Nebraska Writers Collective

#### Current & Potential Collections

Expanded History & Genealogy  
Fiction (Mysteries, Romance, Historical  
Fiction)  
Youth Collections (Picture Books,  
Children's Novels)  
Graphic Novels for Children, Teens, &  
Adults  
Board Games & Puzzles  
Bestsellers for all ages

#### Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts  
Sensory Play Toys  
Zoom Technology in Study Rooms

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships



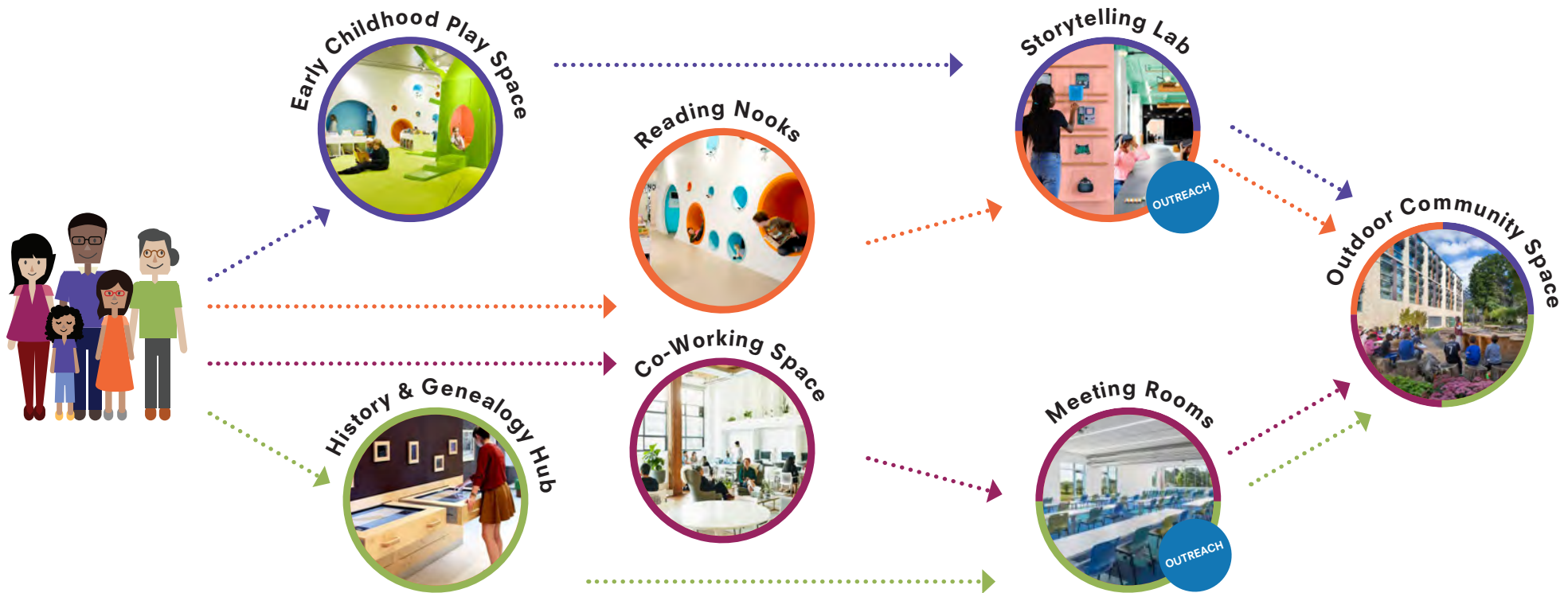
# W. Clarke Swanson

## Community Framework

179

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **24,495 SF**

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
Social Services Referral  
Local Workforce Development

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Kid Coders  
Cyber Seniors  
Lunch & Learns  
Tech Kit Check Outs  
Summer Passport Program

#### Outreach Opportunities\*

Inclusive Communities (Lunch & Learns)  
Nebraska Writers Collective (Storytelling Lab)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$10M-\$12M]	Large [\$15M]
<div><div>History &amp; Genealogy Hub</div></div> <div><div>Tool Library</div></div> <div><div>Art Gallery</div></div> <div><div>Community Garden</div></div>	<div>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</div>	<div><div>Realign</div></div> <div>To Foster...</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Digital Equity</li><li>Family Support</li><li>Youth Development</li><li>Social Connections</li><li>Partnership Impact</li></ul></div>



# W. Clarke Swanson

*Community Framework*

181

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 24,495 SF

## FEELS LIKE...







# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

*Community Framework*

# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## Community Framework

183

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The creative and passionate Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch community comprises families of all ages, including teens and tweens, older retired couples, students and remote workers. The branch has touches of the flair of its community, which adds an artistic spark and makes the library feel welcoming and personal to all community members. Because West Omaha is spread out and lacks public meeting spaces, the library is a place where the community enjoys coming together to meet each other to work, study, tutor, and socialize. Interests include art, music, performances, books (especially the Reader's Advisory), and access to technology. The roads and public transportation system surrounding

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**"Our patrons love their community, library, schools, and nearby community center!"**

*Casey Kralik,  
Elkhorn Branch Manager*

the Elkhorn Branch need to be improved to provide better access to the library. Downtown Elkhorn has a small town feel but is growing rapidly with local businesses, an expanding school district, and attractions such as the UBT Sports Complex. Elkhorn Branch offers outdoor programs when possible as there is more space outside than inside. Elkhorn Branch could easily host more programs if it had the space to do so, as their programs are very well-attended and beloved. This speaks to how the community wants to come together in a fun and engaging way. Elkhorn Branch has the opportunity to be a gathering place that is a true hub for the community.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime  
Music and Movement Storytime  
Special Guest Storytime  
Outdoor Programs  
Partnership Passes

#### Popular Collections

Mystery  
Animals  
Family Books  
Non-Fiction  
Fiction  
Romance

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Printers/Copiers/Fax Machines  
Wi-Fi



# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## Community Framework

184

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**OUTGROWN THE BUILDING:** Elkhorn is the second busiest branch in the library system yet its building is OPL's third smallest.



**STORYTIME AT CAPACITY:** Storytime is consistently highly attended and could benefit from a bigger space to better accommodate.



**OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE PROGRAMMING:** Elkhorn community members want more library programs and activities.



**STRONG MAKER COMMUNITY:** Elkhorn serves a flourishing artistic and creative community.



**OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTDOOR PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:** The lot is large enough for fun outdoor programming that the community would enjoy and benefit from.



**OPPORTUNITY TO BE A COMMUNITY HUB IN THE WEST:** Community members want spaces to meet, socialize, work, study, tutor, and build community.



# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## Community Framework

185

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Arbor View E.S., Hillrise E.S., Skyline E.S., Elkhorn North Ridge M.S., Elkhorn H.S., St. Patrick's Catholic School



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** Methodist Women's Hospital, CHI Lakeside, Boys Town National Research Hospital



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** Common Ground Community Center, Holiday Rolling Hills Ranch, Marquis Place of Elkhorn



**GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES:** U.S. Post Office



**PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY:** Omaha Police Department West Precinct, Omaha Fire Station #71, OPPD Elkhorn Service Center, M.U.D.



**OPEN SPACES:** Ta-Ha-Zouka Park, Lawrence Youngman Boat Ramp & Park, UBT Sports Complex, Pacific Preserve

# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

Community Framework

Recommendation REBUILD | Size 24-30,000 SF

## COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR ELKHORN BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Innovative  
Curious  
Literate  
Fun  
Equitable & Inclusive

...Omaha!

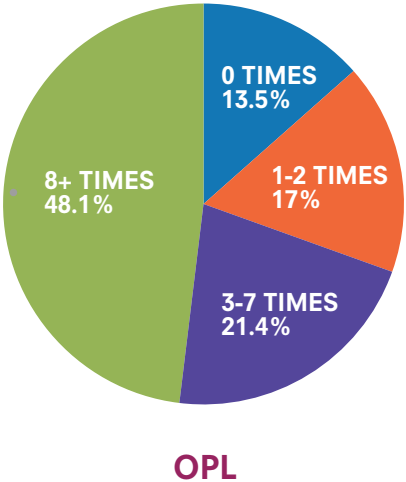
How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Family or Individual  
Caregiver  
Reader  
Professional  
Technology Learner  
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast  
Gardener  
Maker or Creative  
Community Member (Meeting Space)  
Volunteer

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?





# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## Community Framework

187

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (NORTHWEST OMAHA COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS)

**"I want my library to be filled with all kinds of art when I walk in!"**

*Elementary School Age Community Member,  
Northwest Omaha Community Open House*

I would like this for me and others.



**MESSY MAKERSPACE**

I would like to learn.



**PRINTMAKING STUDIO**

So we can play around!



**OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE**

SEATING AREA FOR RELAXING

DOG NOOK

CAT NOOK

READING NOOK JUST FOR KIDS

BOOKSHELVES

Love it, it is quiet.



**OUTDOOR READING GARDEN**

READING NOOKS



Would be fun to read up high!



Attendees at Northwest Omaha Community Open House at the OPL Elkhorn branch building their dream future library, as exemplified to the left.



Attendees tagged beauty boards with what resonated with them for a future library experience, exemplified in bubbles to the left.



# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## Community Framework

188

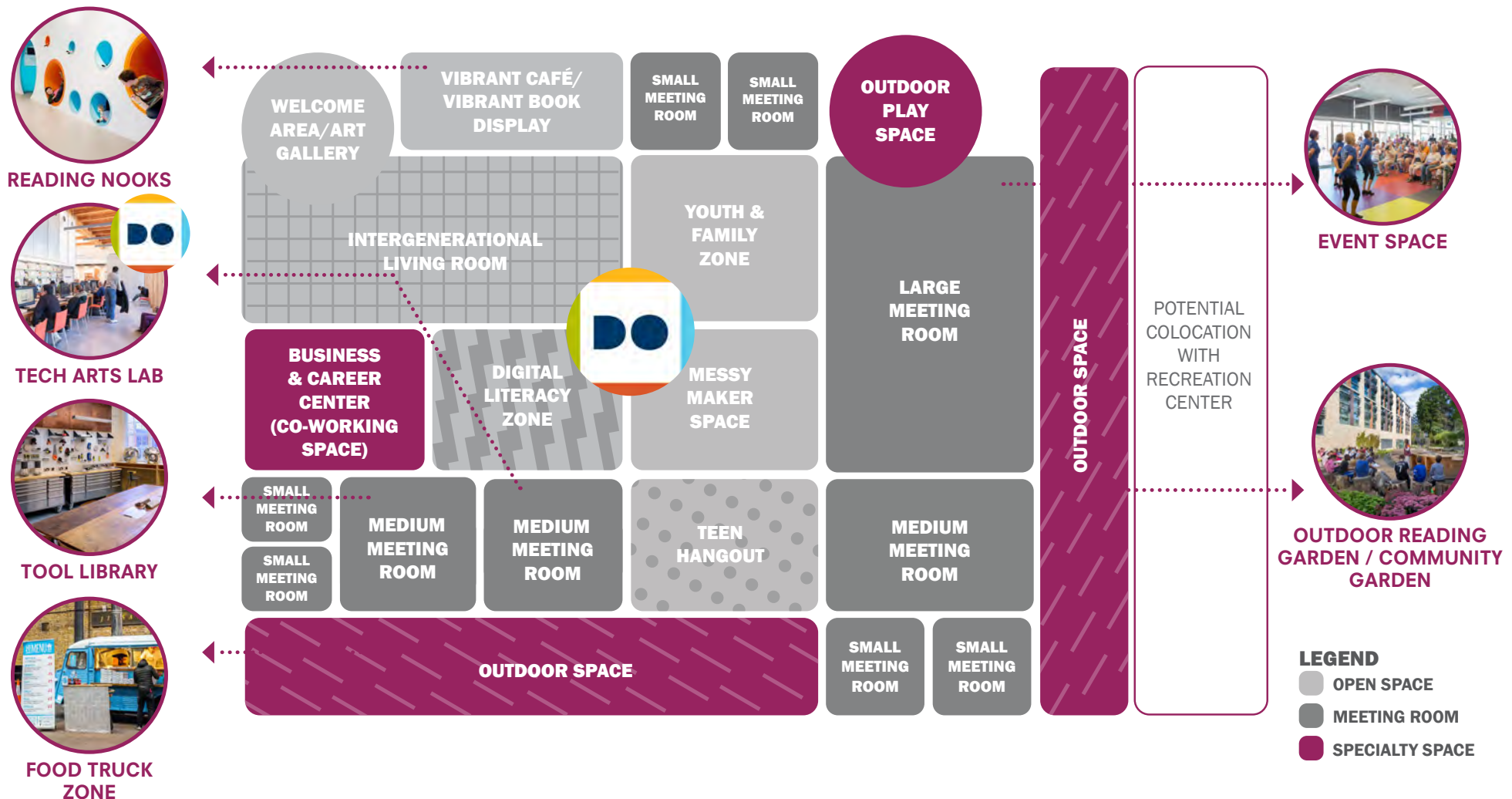
Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning

and prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This creative learning

environment for youth, families, and adults can support community gathering and creative aspirations by providing programs and spaces that foster literacy, hands-on learning, the arts, job support, and healthy living.



# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## Community Framework

189

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



### EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

#### Literacy

Storytime  
Music and Movement

#### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

Building Better Babysitters  
Resume Writing

#### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Arts & Crafts Makerspace for Various Age Groups

#### Community Health & Safety

Family Zumba Music & Movement  
Outdoor Activities

#### Neighborhood Development

Elkhorn Eclectics Book Club  
Jolly Neighbors Book Club  
Civic Engagement Programming

#### Connection to Resources

Public Transportation Advocacy  
Heartland Bike Share

### SPACES/SERVICES

#### Current & Potential Partners\*

Common Ground Community Center  
Parks and Recreation

#### Current & Potential Collections

Mystery  
Animals  
Family Books  
Non-Fiction  
Fiction  
Historical Fiction  
Science  
Graphic Novels  
Large Print  
Romance  
Bestsellers

#### Potential Technologies

Free Wi-Fi Hotspots  
Imaginative Play and Storytime Space  
Laptops and Chromebooks  
Maker Equipment  
Video Conference Capabilities

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships



# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## Community Framework

190

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
 Maker and Artistic Support  
 Gathering & Social Programs

### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
 Active Learning Lab  
 Lunch & Learns  
 Summer Passport Program  
 Senior Makers Club

### Outreach Opportunities\*

Common Ground Community Center (Event Space)  
 Parks & Recreation (Community Garden & Outdoor Play Space)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

# Bess Johnson Elkhorn





## Community Framework

191

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

### PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$3M-\$5M]	Large [\$23M-\$29M]
 <p><b>Tech Arts Lab</b></p>  <p><b>Business &amp; Career Center (Co-Working Space)</b></p>  <p><b>Food Truck Zone</b></p>  <p><b>Community Garden</b></p>	 <p><b>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></p>  <p><b>Do Space Lab</b></p>	 <p><b>Rebuild</b></p> <p><b>To Foster...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Hub</li> <li>• Community Gathering</li> <li>• Social Connections</li> <li>• Partnership Impact</li> <li>• Content Creation</li> <li>• Family Support</li> <li>• Youth Development</li> </ul>



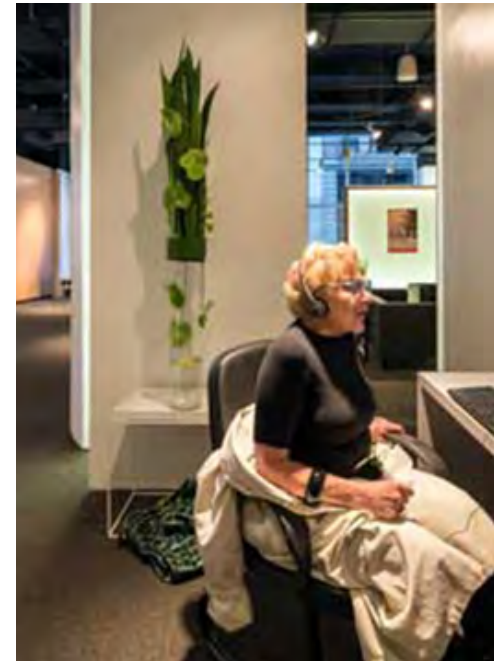
# Bess Johnson Elkhorn

## *Community Framework*

192

Recommendation **REBUILD** | Size **24-30,000 SF**

FEELS LIKE...







# Milton R. Abrahams

*Community Framework*

# Milton R. Abrahams

## Community Framework

194

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Milton R. Abrahams Branch serves several diverse communities including families, job seekers, clients and caregivers from the Developmental Disability Center of Nebraska (DDCN), and people who need places to study, hold visitations, and access to and help with technology. The neighborhood surrounding the branch sees a family-centric community with large religious communities nearby. The community members whom the branch serves enjoy the open and bright space the library provides, the friendly staff, the “sun burst” art installation in the library, the large selection of print material and collections, and utilizing holds and pickups. The book clubs at Abrahams Branch have grown very

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**“In 20 years, I want people to walk in and say ‘What a beautiful and welcoming library! I see myself here.’”**

*Katy Lofgren,  
Abrahams Branch Manager*

popular and continue to bring new members to the library, as do storytimes and the seed library. The Abrahams Branch community enjoys creating together, which is supported by the relocation of Do Space to the branch. With the dedicated Do Space area, Abrahams Branch members have access to a design studio, 3D Lab, Active Learning Lab, plenty of computers and printers, and one of Omaha’s only free podcast studios. The Abrahams Branch community also sees a need for social services such as support for homelessness, families, food insecurity, healthy aging, and social and government services.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Book Clubs  
Storytime  
Technology Help

#### Current Partners

Joslyn Art Museum  
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)  
Omaha Public Schools

#### Popular Collections

Seed Library  
Movies  
Mystery

#### Popular Technologies

Computers  
Wi-Fi  
Printing & Scanning



# Milton R. Abrahams

## Community Framework

195

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 20,450 SF

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**DO SPACE PILOT:** Integrated programs include podcast and design studio, the 3D Lab, Active Learning Lab, and plenty of computers and printers.



**HIGH TECH CIRCULATION:** The community needs more access to technology as well as help with technology literacy.



**STORYTIME & BOOKCLUBS:** Storytime is popular, as well as book clubs, which continue to draw in new community members.



**SOCIAL SERVICES NEEDED:** Community members need help on issues like homelessness, food insecurity, healthy aging, and accessing social security and government services.



**BRIGHT SPACE:** Design of space is favorable, with big bright windows, colorful elements, and art and plant installations.



# Milton R. Abrahams

## Community Framework

196

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Pinewood E.S., Springville E.S., Masters E.S., Hale M.S., Marian H.S., St. James Seton Catholic School, MCC



**PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES:** Skyline Health Center, Good Hope Healthcare, Physicians Health Clinic, One World Northwest



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** Keystone Villas, Skyline Retirement Community, Kings Gate Senior Living



**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Omaha Metro Bus Route 5



**PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY:** Omaha Fire Station #42 and #43, Irvington Volunteer Fire Department



**OPEN SPACES:** Democracy Park, Esther Pilster Park, Palomino Hills Park, North Oaks Park, Tomahawk Hills Park

# Milton R. Abrahams

Community Framework

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 20,450 SF

## COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR ABRAHAM'S BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate  
Curious  
Accessible  
Innovative  
Equitable & Inclusive

...Omaha!

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Vibrant Café



Outdoor Reading Garden



Outdoor Community Space



Art Gallery



Quiet Room



Tool Library



Genealogy & History Hub



Food Truck Zone

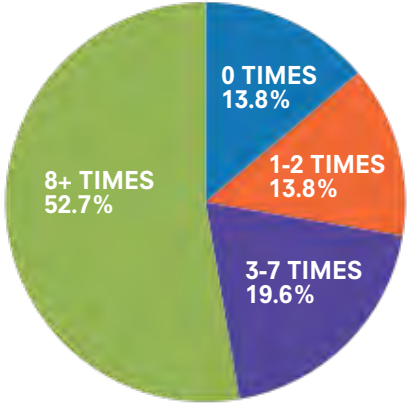


Early Childhood Play Space

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Family or Individual  
Caregiver  
Technology Learner  
Community Member (Meeting Space)  
Gardener  
Maker or Creative  
Professional  
Reader  
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast  
Community Member (Internet/Computer Access)

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

# Milton R. Abrahams

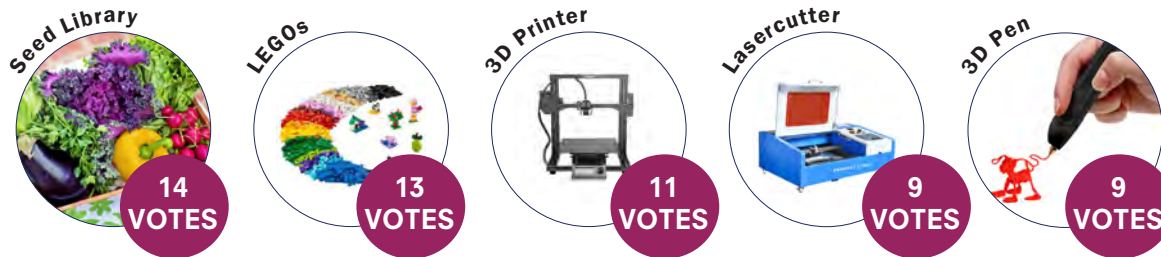
## Community Framework

198

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size 20,450 SF

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (ABRAHAMS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

#### TOP 5 SELECTED TOOLS & COLLECTIONS



#### When I leave the library, I want to feel...

Accepted	Energized	Joyful
Accomplished	Excited	Optimistic
Amazed	Expressive	Playful
Confident	Gratitude	Self-Aware
Creative	Hopeful	Surprised
Curious	Inspired	Wonder
Empowered		

#### TOP SELECTED TOOLS & COLLECTIONS

##### CREATIVE LEARNING

- DESIGN SOFTWARE
- KEYBOARD
- LEGOS
- NINTENDO
- PAINTING MATERIALS
- SEWING

##### STEM LEARNING

- 3D PEN
- 3D PRINTER
- LASER CUTTER
- ROBOTICS
- VR EQUIPMENT

##### RESOURCES

- CAREER PREP
- JOB SEARCH TOOLS
- TOOL SET

##### COLLECTIONS

- ANCESTRY
- CLASSICS
- GENEALOGY
- LOOK BOOKS
- PICTURE BOOKS
- POETRY
- SEED LIBRARY



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Abrahams staff installed beauty boards with photos of tools and collections and community members tagged what resonated with them with stickers. These sentiments are illustrated to the left. Also during this process, community members filled in ad-libs, one of which is illustrated above.



# Milton R. Abrahams

## Community Framework

199

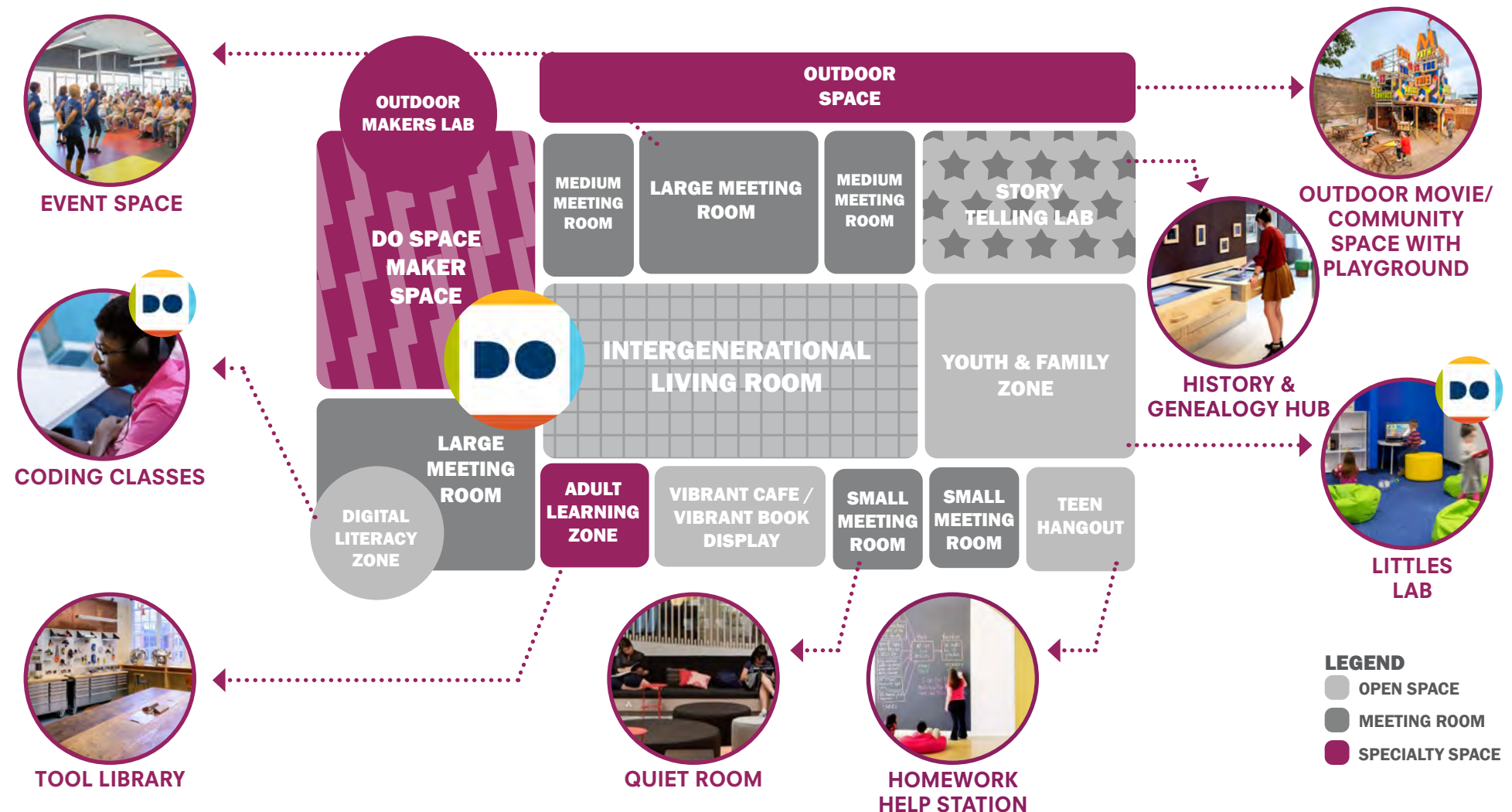
Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Milton R. Abrahams Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This creative and innovative

learning environment can support the community by providing programs and spaces that foster literacy, hands-on learning, creative passion-based projects, job support, and empowerment.



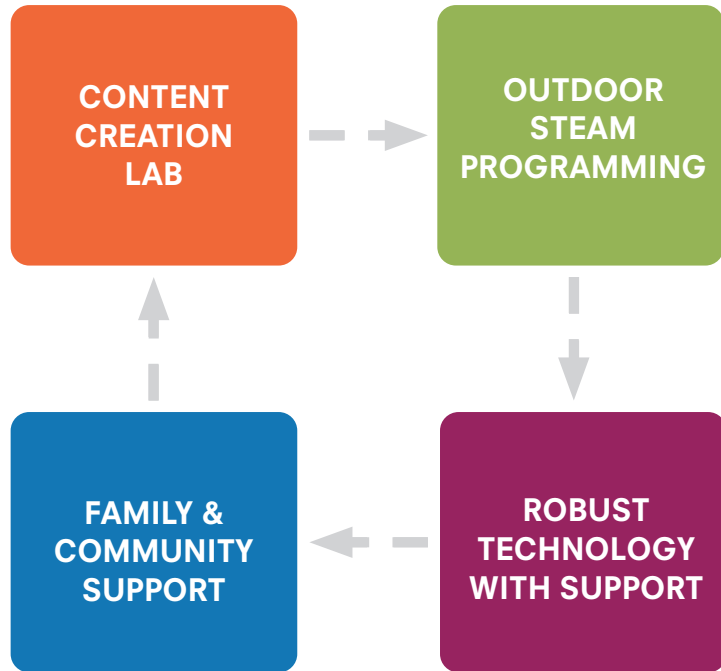
# Milton R. Abrahams

## Community Framework

200

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

### DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



### EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

#### Literacy

Poetry Night  
Book Club

#### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

GED, Certificate Classes, & Skill-Building  
Job Fair/Workforce Connections

#### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Technology Literacy  
Robust Technology Equipment  
STEAM Classes

#### Community Health & Safety

Mentorship Program  
Art Meet Up/Family Game Afternoon  
Cultural Programming

#### Neighborhood Development

Urban Gardening  
Rotating Local Art Display

#### Connection to Resources

Strong Social Services Partnerships  
Public Transportation Information

### SPACES/SERVICES

#### Current & Potential Partners\*

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)  
Omaha Public Schools  
Nebraska Humane Society  
Metropolitan Community College  
Master Gardener Program  
QLI  
Women's Fund of Omaha  
Do Space

#### Current & Potential Collections

Seed Library  
Movies  
Mystery  
Inspirational  
New/Popular Titles  
Career Prep

#### Potential Technologies & Current Do Space Technologies\*\*

Sensory Play Equipment  
Computers & Printers  
Podcast Studio  
Design Studio  
3D Lab  
Active Learning Lab

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

\*\*Technologies to be implemented as part of Do Space pilot, June 2023

# Milton R. Abrahams

## Community Framework

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Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Digital Literacy & Equity  
Social Service Referral  
Workforce Development

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Cyber Seniors  
Podcast Studio  
Design Studio  
3D Lab  
Active Learning Lab

#### Outreach Opportunities\*

American Association of Retired Persons  
(Event Space)  
Metropolitan Community College (Adult  
Learning Zone/Tool Library)  
Master Gardener Program (Outdoor  
Reading Garden)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community  
but not inclusive of all potential partnerships



# Milton R. Abrahams

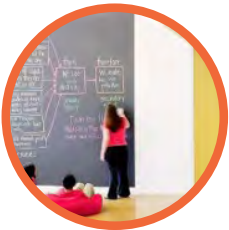





## Community Framework

202

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

### PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$8M-\$10M]	Large [\$12.5M]
<div></div> <div><b>Do Space Programming</b> <b>Homework Help Station</b></div> <div></div> <div><b>Outdoor Community Space</b> <b>Outdoor Makers Lab</b></div>	<div><b>Interior renovations to activate programs &amp; partnerships</b></div> <div></div> <div><b>Do Space Maker Space</b></div>	<div></div> <div><b>Realign</b></div> <div><b>To Foster...</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Equity and Literacy</li><li>• Content Creation</li><li>• Early Literacy</li><li>• Family Support</li><li>• Youth Development</li><li>• Social Connections</li><li>• Partnership Impact</li></ul></div>

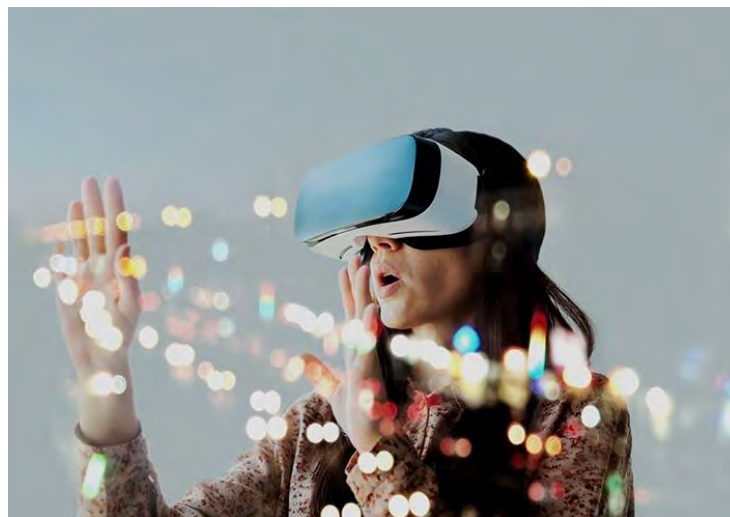
# Milton R. Abrahams

## *Community Framework*

203

Recommendation **REALIGN** | Size **20,450 SF**

FEELS LIKE...







# Saddlebrook

*Community Framework*



### ABOUT THE BUILDING



### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY SERVED

The Saddlebrook Branch is situated in a fast-growing residential neighborhood with active Homeowners Association groups. The branch shares a facility with Omaha Public Schools' Saddlebrook Elementary and Omaha Parks and Recreation's Saddlebrook Community Center. The branch serves homeschoolers, private school students, Saddlebrook elementary students, middle and high school students, young families (including new-immigrant families), and seniors. The Saddlebrook Branch's community members enjoy family-centered programs like storytime and senior programs like senior coffee hangouts, book clubs, and pickleball at the adjacent Saddlebrook Community Center. Community members

### BRANCH MANAGER QUOTE

**"Saddlebrook serves a fast-growing community with lots of neighborhood pride."**

*Julie Humphrey,  
Saddlebrook Branch Manager*

also enjoy the parks and walking trails around the nearby lake. Some of their needs include social spaces for seniors, more gathering spaces for celebrations, quiet spaces and study rooms for adults, and fun and engaging youth and teen programming. Saddlebrook's location caters to the directly connected residential neighborhood but limits others from accessing it. Saddlebrook Branch's entrance in the joint facility can be confusing and it also shares physical library space with Saddlebrook Elementary for certain parts of the day, which is great for connecting students with the library but can inhibit access to the space and certain materials.

### THE BRANCH

#### Popular Programs & Activities

Storytime  
Programs for Large Families  
Adult Book Club  
Senior Hangouts  
Partnership Passes  
Book Bundles  
Grab and Go Bags  
Curbside Pickup

#### Current Partners

Omaha Public Schools  
Omaha Parks & Recreation

#### Popular Collections

Youth Collections  
Adult Collections  
Seed Library

#### Popular Technologies

Wireless Printing  
Wi-Fi

### CURRENT LIBRARY FACILITY UTILIZATION



**YOUTH PROGRAMMING:** Branch serves many families and young students who could benefit from expanded programming that is fun and engaging.



**ADULT PROGRAMMING:** Branch serves many adults and seniors who could benefit from more book club, quiet spaces, and social spaces.



**PLACES TO GATHER:** More free places needed for social gatherings such as small playdates and senior socials.



**ACTIVE LIFESTYLES:** Community members enjoy sports and recreation, utilizing the nearby parks and walking trails around the lake



**JOINT FACILITY:** Shared space with elementary school and community center offers pros and cons.

# Saddlebrook

## Community Framework

207

Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **16-24,000 SF**

### CURRENT COMMUNITY ASSETS



**SCHOOLS:** Saddlebrook E.S., Prairie West E.S., Fullerton E.S., Standing Bear E.S., St. Vincent de Paul E.S., Davis M.S., Concordia Lutheran H.S.



**GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES:** Douglas County Treasurer, U.S. Post Office



**SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTERS:** Saddlebrook Community Center, YMCA Westview, Larimore Apartments



**PUBLIC SAFETY & UTILITY:** Omaha Fire Station 78, Douglas County Dispatch, Bennington Police



**OPEN SPACES:** Standing Bear Lake, Heron Haven Nature Center, Stone Ridge Splash Park, Glacier Creek Preserve, Tranquility Park, Kelley Fields



COMMUNITY INPUTS (CITYWIDE SURVEY RESULTS FOR SADDLEBROOK BRANCH)

A citywide Library Facilities Plan to foster a more...

Literate  
Innovative  
Curious  
Equitable & Inclusive  
Accessible

...Omaha!

What other spaces and places would help you achieve your personal, family, and community goals at your neighborhood library?



Community Garden



Vibrant Café



Outdoor Reading Garden



Early Childhood Play Space



Outdoor Community Space



Outdoor Play Space



Reading Nooks



Quiet Room



Game Room

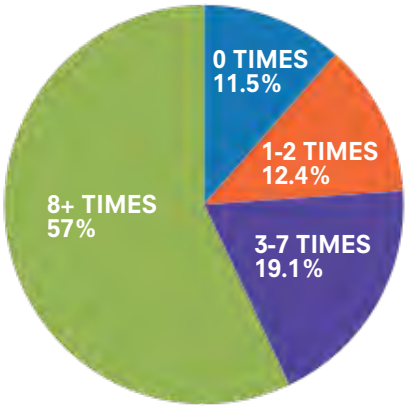


Community Kitchen

How would you describe yourself and your interest in OPL and/or Do Space?

Family or Individual  
Caregiver  
Reader  
Professional  
Technology Learner  
Researcher or Family History Enthusiast  
Gardener  
Maker or Creative  
Community Member (Meeting Space)  
Volunteer

In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited an OPL branch?



OPL

# Saddlebrook

## Community Framework

209

Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **16-24,000 SF**

### COMMUNITY INPUTS (SADDLEBROOK COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PASSIVE ACTIVITY FINDINGS)

#### TOP 4 SELECTED SPACES & PLACES



#### TOP SELECTED TOOLS & COLLECTIONS

##### SOCIAL SPACES

- COMMUNITY SKETCHBOOK EXCHANGE
- EVENT SPACE
- GAME ROOM
- MEETING ROOMS
- VIBRANT CAFE

##### OUTDOOR SPACES

- COMMUNITY GARDEN
- FOOD TRUCK ZONE
- OUTDOOR COMMUNITY SPACE
- OUTDOOR MAKERS LAB
- OUTDOOR READING GARDEN

##### CREATIVE & TECH SPACES

- ART GALLERY
- INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY SPACE
- MESSY MAKERSPACE
- MUSIC STUDIO
- PODCAST ROOM
- PRINTMAKING STUDIO
- STORYTELLING LAB

##### RESOURCES & LEARNING

- CITIZENSHIP CENTER
- CLASSROOMS
- EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAY SPACE
- GENEALOGY & HISTORY HUB
- HOMEWORK HELP STATION
- MAP EXPLORATION WALL
- QUIET ROOM
- TOOL LIBRARY

#### SPACES AND PLACES :: ESPACIOS Y LUGARES



During the community engagement process from February 15th-May 1st, the Saddlebrook staff installed beauty boards with photos of spaces and places and community members tagged what resonated with them with stickers. These sentiments are illustrated to the left.

# Saddlebrook

## Community Framework

210

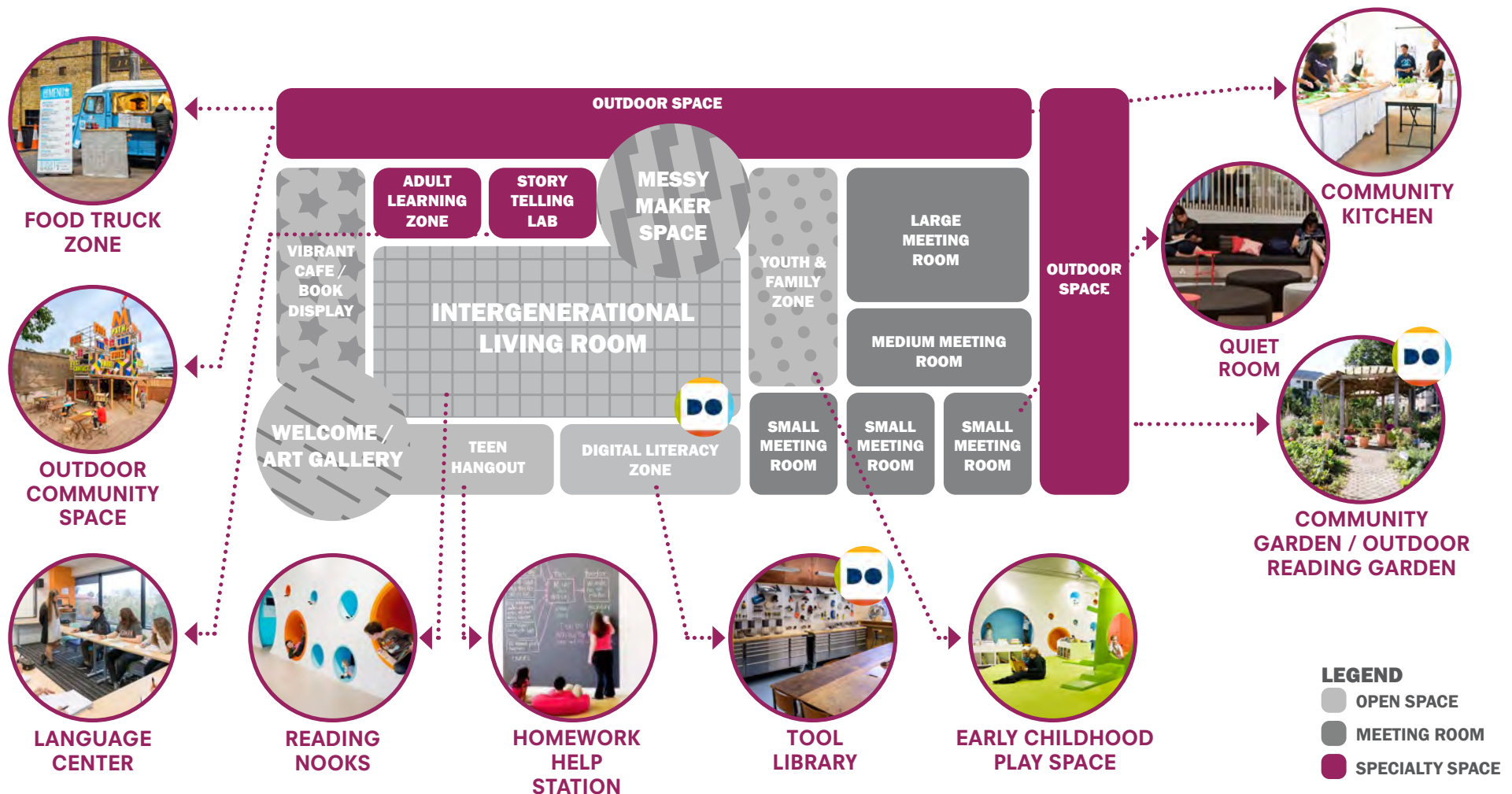
Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **16-24,000 SF**

### FLEXIBLE/ADAPTABLE FRAMEWORK READY FOR COMMUNITY CO-CREATION

The program diagram below illustrates a conceptual approach to the services needed at Saddlebrook Branch. It is not intended to be a literal program diagram but to be used as a guide for future design development, planning and

prioritization. The diagram shows a preliminary approach to adjacencies that represent centrally located intergenerational gathering spaces with distinct areas that focus on youth and adult learning activities. This environment can foster

literacy, social gathering, life-long learning, creativity, and healthy living for families, young students, and seniors to support social, enriching, and active lifestyles.





## DESTINATION FEATURE & FLAVOR



## EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS/SERVICES

### Literacy

Learning Incubator  
Youth Story & Activity

### Workforce & Entrepreneurship

DIY Programming for Adults  
Expanded Volunteer Program

### Digital Equity & Inclusion

Sensory Play  
Content Creation  
STEAM Programs

### Community Health & Safety

Trail Connections  
Wellness Programs  
Third Spaces

### Neighborhood Development

Community Gardening  
Family Play Dates  
Senior Socials

### Connection to Resources

Heartland Bike Share  
Community Cooking & Food Share

## SPACES/SERVICES

### Current & Potential Partners\*

Omaha Public Schools  
Omaha Parks & Recreation  
Local Senior Groups  
Local Tween/Teen Empowerment Groups  
Women's Fund of Omaha

### Current & Potential Collections

New Release Books  
New Release Movies  
Children's Picture Books  
Children's Non-Fiction  
Cookbooks for All Ages  
Large Print Collections  
More Variety of Partner Passes  
Expanded Seed Library

### Potential Technologies

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Checkouts  
Sensory Play Equipment  
Gaming

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

# Saddlebrook

## Community Framework

212

Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **16-24,000 SF**

### OPL, DO SPACE, & OUTREACH INTEGRATION



#### 3 Critical Programs

Early Literacy & Family Literacy  
Youth Programming  
Gathering & Social Programs

#### Do Space Programs & Technologies

Littles Lab  
Kid Coders  
Make.Hack.Build  
Cyber Seniors  
Senior Makers Club  
Summer Passport Program







#### Outreach Opportunities\*

Local Senior Groups (Social Club)  
Local Tween/Teen Empowerment Groups  
(Homework Help Station & Teen Hangout)

\*Examples of potential partnerships in the community but not inclusive of all potential partnerships

PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The matrix identifies investment recommendations to meet community needs, interests, and aspirations based on community inputs. It is intended to be a tool to reference when opportunities arise.

Small [\$2M]	Medium [\$6M-\$8M]	Large [\$21.5M-\$28M]
<div><p>Tool Library</p></div> <div><p>Homework Help Station</p></div> <div><p>Early Childhood Play Space</p></div> <div><p>Outdoor Community Space</p></div>	<div></div>	<div><p>Analyze</p></div> <div><p>To Foster...</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Equity</li><li>• Early Literacy</li><li>• Family Connections</li><li>• Youth Development</li><li>• Social Connections</li><li>• Partnership Impact</li></ul></div>



# Saddlebrook

Community Framework

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Recommendation **ANALYZE** | Size **16-24,000 SF**

FEELS LIKE...

